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Sunday, 20 May, 2012

**Our Three Main
National Causes**

* Non-disintegration of
the Union

* Non-disintegration of
National Solidarity

* Perpetuation of
Sovereignty

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon attend ceremony to honour monks who passed Tipitaka Examination

YANGON, 19 May—A ceremony to honour one Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida monk, one Tipitakadhara monk, two Mula Abhidhammika monks, two Digha Nikayakovida monks, four Dighabhanaka monks, two Vinayakovida monks, 27 Vinayadhara monks, 10 Ubhato Vibhangakovida monks and 44 Ubhato Vibhangadhara monks, totalling 93 was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, here, this morning, attended by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Mandalay Bhamo Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and member Sayadaws, Ovadaçariya Sayadaws

of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination, supervisor Sayadaws, members of the Sangha, Union ministers and their wives, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region and wife, deputy ministers, Yangon Region ministers, departmental heads, social organization members, disciples and wellwishers.

The congregation led by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon took the Five Precepts from Presiding Nayaka of Hlinethaya Township Sasana Gonyi Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Paññissarabhivamsa.

The Chairman Sayadaw read the Saraiya Ovadaçakatha of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

Next, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung supplicated on the religious affairs. He supplicated that



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham offers title, certificates and Sasana Pennant to Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indacariya of Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery on Momeik Hill of Sagaing.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon offer alms to members of the Sangha who passed the examination.—MNA

Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is the highest standard in Pariyatti literature field and the longest days in examinations. The examination has been held for the 64th time from 1948 to 2012. During the period, a total of 13 Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida monks and three Tipitakadhara monks have emerged, he said. Today's ceremony was to honour Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient Sayadaws namely Bhaddanta Indacariya of Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery on Momeik Hill of Sagaing, and Bhaddanta Paññasirilankara of Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery from Dagon Township of Yangon Region.

Moreover, he noted that a total of 93 members of the Sangha passed the 64th exam. In conclusion, he said that disciples will honour the monks who passed the exam and donate alms to the Sayadaws.

(See Page 8)

Turtles' epic long-distance journeys eyed



US scientists say they've been studying how baby loggerhead sea turtles embark alone on a migration that takes them around the entire North Atlantic basin.

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Study: Coffee may lower death risk



A Chinese woman walks past a giant coffee shop advertisement in downtown Beijing. A new study shows that coffee drinkers had a lower risk of death.

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Japan eye women's volleyball Olympic berth

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PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 20 May, 2012

Lethargy has no place among us

Nowadays, the country is in the process of democratization with reform high on its agenda. It is witnessing a time of high spirits and cheerful occasion. The new government and its people now have the chance to prove themselves in a formidably difficult role. And all the people are looking forward to improving quality of life through hard work. At such a crucial time, we have no room for lethargy.

Whatever projects, programmes or works we are undertaking—either government or cooperative, private business or family farmland—there is no fixed and ready formula which could bring full desired result. We must try to think calmly and dispassionately in advance and arrive at a decision well in time and start implementing it with enthusiasm. One who works with heart and soul will not meet with major or total failures.

If we worry about failures, it will surely lead us to lethargy. Works and programmes will be delayed and dropped out of order. One way or another it will have adverse effect. In reality, the ability to take a correct decision is not achieved by being sloth and inactiveness. All successful and smart people have one thing in common. They firmly believe and accept that even a bad or erroneous decision is usually better than an indecision.

Whatever the result may be, even a bad decision often teaches us more lessons than an indecision, and it pushes up our ability much more ahead to take better decision. Next time when one takes a decision, he or she usually finds a clearer view and the tendency for lethargy is deeply reduced.

Today, the world is moving in a faster pace and speed, and that we all must work day and night, along the tune with an up-beat. The clock has been set forward for prosperity. If we move in top gear, lethargy finds no significant place among us, and with this we, sooner or later, will surely reach the goal set by the new government.

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—230 KV Shweli-Mansan national grid tower No 73 near Pankanai Village, Nankham Township, Shan State (North) was slightly damaged in the bomb blast by KIA armed group around 8 pm yesterday.

The blast blew off about two inches of a post three inches above the plinth leaving about three-inch-deep holes in other two six inches above the plinth.

Likewise, tower Nos. 206, 207 and 208 were blown up at 2.47 am on the same day. In the blasts, tower Nos 206 and 207 were collapsed and tower bending No. 208 half. The blasts had disrupted the power distribution, and power supply was reduced by 200 megawatts with power cut as the consequence.

So, electric power supply will be reduced for a while across the nation as

Four towers from Shweli-Mansan national grid damaged in KIA's mine blast



personnel concerned are trying to repair the towers as possibly quick as they can.

MNA

Tower No. 206 of 230 KV Shweli-Mansan national grid damaged in the blast by KIA armed group.—MNA

Union Information and Culture Minister meets Myanmar Historical Commission members



Chairman of Myanmar Historical Commission Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan speaks to members of Myanmar Historical Commission.—MNA

YANGON, 19 May—Chairman of Myanmar Historical Commission Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan met the commission members at the meeting hall of National Museum (Yangon) on Pyay Road, here at 1.30 pm today.

Present on the occasion were departmental heads and officials of the Ministry of Culture, Vice-Chairman of the commission Dr Toe Hla, Secretary Dr Kyaw Win and members Daw Ohn Kyi, U Kyaw, U Kyaw Nyein, Dr Chit San Win, Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, U Thet Tun and Dr Thaw Kaung.

In meeting with the commission members, the Union Minister spoke of the need for modern and scientific compilation of Myanmar's history in collaboration with Historical Research Department, Myanmar Historical Commission, National Archives, history departments from universities under the Ministry of Education and historians, compilation of complete history of Myanmar, collecting of inside and outside data and findings in compiling history, compilation of Myanmar's history period-wise based on

historical research, compilation and publishing of treatises, periodicals and papers, giving lessons on moral norms and standards in coping with social problems by revealing Myanmar's fine traditions through Myanmar's history, showing Myanmar's high national prestige and integrity and cultural heritage through history, helping maintain the national character, turning out historians of new generation and teaching historians research technology, emergence of history-related NGOs like historical association, cooperation with such organizations and enlisting cooperation with international organizations including UNESCO and UNDP in compiling Myanmar's history and research work. After making coordination with discussions, the Union Minister stressed the need for the above-mentioned points in future work programmes of Historical Research Department.

Then, Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, Dr Thaw Kaung, U Thet Tun, Dr Toe Hla, Dr Kyaw Win, Daw Ohn Kyi, Dr Chit San Win and U Kyaw took part in the round of discussions and the meeting ended in the evening.—MNA

Sagaing Region Chief Minister attends launch of water distribution to Sagaing

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—Water distribution to Shawminwun and Pattanya Wards was launched at Shweminwun Ward, Sagaing on 17 May, attended by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye.

The project was implemented by local authorities, Honda Myanmar Co, Sagaing Township Development Affairs Committee and local people with the contribution of K 20.88 million by the

Township Development Affairs Committee and K 49.92 million by local people.

This was followed by the cash donation ceremony at which family of Shine Hope Co presented K 40 million and member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pannasiri delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister inspected the construction of Mahasikhongyi Pagoda's

Sasana Beikman, the thriving Palethwe paddy of farmer U Hla Maung of Pyaw Village, the paving of a road section along Myinmu-Ayadaw-Naunggyaing road and asked after warded patients at Khwethkwin Station Hospital.

Next, the Region Chief Minister met with local people and inspected the construction of two-storey BEPS in Minywa Village, extension of Ayadaw-Wadawma road and the construction of Wadawama Village BEHS (Branch) building.

MNA

MOC General Secretary meets swimmers

YANGON, 19 May—General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik met members of Myanmar swimming contingent that will take joint training with

Singaporean swimmers at Speediswim Aquatic Centre of Singapore and take part in the First SEA Invitational Swimming Championship from 23 to 17 June, at the hall of the department in Kyaikkasan Grounds in Tamway Township.

MNA

Donate blood

Obama, Hollande agree on much - but not Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 19 May—New French President Francois Hollande told President Barack Obama on Friday that he will stick by his pledge to withdraw France's troops from Afghanistan at year's end, a note of discord in an otherwise convivial first meeting between the two leaders.

"I reminded President Obama that I made a promise to the French people to the effect that our combat troops would be withdrawn from Afghanistan by the end of 2012," Hollande said after Oval Office talks with Obama.

"That being said, we will continue to support Afghanistan in a different way," he said.

Hollande's remarks, while not a surprise,



US President Barack Obama (R) and French President Francois Hollande button their jackets following their bilateral meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on 18 May, 2012.—INTERNET

underscore the challenge Obama faces in keeping NATO allies on board as he tries to chart a gradual course out of Afghanistan. The

alliance agreed two years ago to a 2014 deadline for withdrawing most of its combat troops.

The Afghan war will be

the central topic when NATO leaders meet in Chicago, Obama's home town, on Sunday and Monday.

The United States may seek at the NATO summit to nudge France to rethink its Afghanistan troop withdrawal timetable, which differs from the alliance's 2014 timetable.

Hollande's main foreign policy pledge is popular at home, even if French defence ministry officials believe it may prove technically complicated without putting troops in danger.

That may not be easy. "The exit is non-negotiable. The withdrawal of French combat troops is a French decision and it will be implemented," Hollande said.—Reuters

Obama nominates ambassador to Myanmar

WASHINGTON, 19 May—US President Barack Obama on Thursday nominated Derek Mitchell as its first ambassador to Myanmar in 22 years, following the country's historic election in April.

"Today, I am nominating our first US Ambassador to Burma in 22 years, Derek Mitchell, whose work has been instrumental in bringing about this new phase in our bilateral relationship," Obama said in a White House statement. Mitchell has been serving as the special representative and policy coordinator for Myanmar in the Obama Administration.

Obama also announced that his government will ease its bans on the "exportation of financial services and new investment" in the Southeast Asian country. He said that greater economic engagement between the two countries is critical to supporting reformers in Myanmar and bringing the country out of isolation.

A framework will be established to ensure "that those who abuse human rights, engage in corruption, interfere with the peace process, or obstruct the reform process" do not benefit from the investment from the United States, Obama said in the statement.

The announcement by the Obama Administration was viewed as a reward to the recent democratic reforms in Myanmar.

Also on Thursday, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met with visiting Myanmar Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin in Washington.

Meanwhile, Britain is proposing the creation of an international commission to encourage "responsible" trade and investment in Myanmar, now that sanctions on the country are being lifted, British officials said.

The plan is designed to help make sure trade benefits all Myanmar's people, rather than a "select few", a British official said.

The United States, the European Union, Japan, Canada and Australia have all moved in recent weeks to ease or suspend sanctions on Myanmar, as the nation embarks on democratic reforms and seeks engagement with the world.

British officials said Prime Minister David Cameron would outline proposals at the G-8 for a Commission for Responsible Investment in Myanmar that could bring together representatives from the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, international companies and human rights campaigners.

The panel would establish principles that businesses would be encouraged to sign up to when trading with or investing in Myanmar, the officials said.

MNA/Xinhua/Reuters

Iran may seek "tactical gain" with UN nuclear deal

VIENNA, 19 May—Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog are making headway towards a framework deal on how to tackle concerns about its atomic activity, diplomats say, a potential bargaining chip for Teheran in next week's negotiations with world powers.

Iran says such an agreement is needed before it can consider a request by UN inspectors to visit the Parchin military site where they believe explosives tests relevant for developing nuclear weapons may have been carried out.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran held talks this week in Vienna and are due to meet again on 21 May, two days before Teheran and the six global powers discuss

the future of its disputed nuclear programme in Baghdad. Western diplomats accredited to the UN agency said Iran seemed keen to agree a so-called "structured

approach" — an outline of how to address the IAEA's questions — ahead of Baghdad in the apparent hope of gaining leverage there.

Reuters



A view of the reactor at the nuclear power plant in Bushehr, 1200 km (746 miles) south of Teheran on 25 Feb, 2009.

REUTERS

Police nab airline pilot with loaded gun in luggage

BUFFALO, 19 May—An airline pilot was arrested Friday morning at Buffalo Niagara International Airport after security screeners discovered a loaded revolver in his baggage.

Brett Dieter, 52, of Barbersville, Virginia, arrived at the upstate New York airport Friday to pilot a flight to New York City's

LaGuardia International Airport for Piedmont Airlines, a passenger airline that subcontracts under US Airways.

While at a security checkpoint, a scan of Dieter's bag revealed a .357 magnum revolver loaded with five rounds. It was not immediately clear if the pistol was in his carry-on luggage.

Federal prosecutors in Buffalo allege he began travelling with the weapon when he reported for work on 16 May on a flight from Charlottesville, Virginia, to LaGuardia, but skipped a security screening of his baggage.

"The defendant did not submit this bag to X-ray screening at the Charlottesville airport," the federal indictment states.

Reuters



An empty stretcher is seen at the Qisi Coal Mine in Xinshao County, central China's Hunan Province, on 17 May, 2012. Six miners were killed in a gas outburst at the colliery early Thursday morning, according to local authorities.

XINHUA

Hamas premier says no future for Israel on Palestinian lands

GAZA, 19 May—Head of the deposed government of Islamic Hamas movement, which rules the Gaza Strip, said on Friday that Israel has no future on the Palestinian lands.

"We should promote our slogan. We won't recognize Israel to our old principle, no future for Israel on our lands," Ismail Haneya said when addressing activists of two foreign aid convoys which arrived in the Gaza Strip on Thursday.

He said the arrivals of aid convoys to the besieged Gaza Strip "would contribute to easing the Israeli blockade that has been imposed on our people

and would reveal the ugly face of Israel to the entire world."

The Hamas leader welcomed all the solidarity movements in Europe and the world on the issue of the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

"This support has obliged the Zionist enemy to accept the prisoners' demands and to be committed to the terms of Shalit's swap deal," said Haneya.

Around 1,500 Palestinian prisoners agreed Monday to suspend their hunger strike, which was started on 17 April, after reaching an Egypt-brokered agreement with

Israel, as the latter responded to the prisoners' demands.

The two aid convoys to Gaza include one called Ansar 2 convoy, which consists of 90 activists from Jordan, and another called Miles of Smiles, which has 43 activists from various countries.

Wa'el Saqqa, chief of Ansar 2 convoy, told reporters that the convoy would help reduce unemployment and build up a hospital for children in Gaza. The convoys also brought cars for handicapped, medical equipment and medicines to the Gaza Strip, mainly for treating cancers.—Xinhua

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology



The communal building in Klimonas partially excavated. INTERNET

Oldest Mediterranean island farm uncovered

KLIMONAS, 19 May—Researchers say the remains of the oldest known agricultural settlement in the Mediterranean islands have been found on Cyprus. Previously, the team of French archaeologists said, it was believed that due to the island's geographic isolation the first Neolithic farming societies did not reach Cyprus until a thousand years after the birth of agriculture in the Middle East around 9500 to 9400 BC.

The discovery of Klimonas, a village that dates to around 9000 BC, proves

early cultivators migrated to Cyprus from the Middle Eastern continent just shortly after the emergence of agriculture there, bringing with them wheat as well as dogs and cats. Archaeological excavations at Klimonas yielded the remnants of a half-buried mud brick communal building, 100 feet in diameter and surrounded by dwellings, that must have been used to store the village's harvests, researchers said.

The findings were reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.—*Internet*

Satellite takes most detailed Earth photo

MOSCOW, 19 May—A Russian weather satellite has taken the highest-resolution photograph ever captured of Earth in its entirety, astronomers say. The *Elektro-L* is orbiting Earth on a geostationary orbit more than 22,000 miles above the equator, sending photographs of the entire planet every 30 minutes, Gizmodo.com reported. The images combine multiple light wavelengths, both visible and infrared. "The images posted ... are a combination of visible and near-infrared wavelengths, so they show the Earth in a way not visible to human eyes," Robert Simmon, a scientist at the NASA Earth Observatory at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Md., said.

The highest resolution image of our home planet consists of 121 megapixels, a resolution of 0.62 miles per pixel, Gizmodo reported. The *Elektro-L* is similar to NASA's GOES satellites, but *Elektro-L* uses three bands in reflected light — red and two near infrared bands — while GOES does not scan in near-infrared.—*Internet*



US scientists say they've been studying how baby loggerhead sea turtles embark alone on a migration that takes them around the entire North Atlantic basin.—INTERNET



Turtles' epic long-distance journeys eyed

CHAPEL HILL, 19 May—US scientists say they've been studying how baby loggerhead sea turtles embark alone on a migration that takes them around the entire North Atlantic basin.

After emerging from their underground nests on the beaches of eastern Florida, the turtles begin an epic migration that eventually returns them to North American coastal waters.

Researchers looking at precisely how young loggerheads navigate their transoceanic migration say the 2-inch-long hatchlings likely advance along their open-sea routes through a combination of strategic swimming interspersed with passive drifting on favourable ocean currents that allow the young turtles to migrate long distances on limited energy stores.

"Young turtles probably rely on a strategy of 'smart swimming' to optimize their energy use during migrations," University of North Carolina marine biologist Kenneth J Lohmann said. "The new results tell us that a surprisingly small amount of directional swimming in just the right places has a profound effect on the migratory paths that turtles follow and on whether they reach habitats favourable for survival." Once in the open ocean, rafts of plants often provide young loggerheads with food, resting places and camouflage from large fish and birds, the scientists said.

"Most researchers have assumed that, because ocean currents in some places move faster than young turtles can swim, the turtles cannot control their migratory paths," Lohmann said. "This study shows otherwise."—*Internet*

Investors brace for Facebook debut on Wall Street

MENLO PARK, 19 May—Investors are bracing for Facebook's Wall Street debut on Friday after the world's No 1 online social network raised about \$16 billion in one of the biggest initial public offerings in US history.

Valued at \$104 billion, Facebook is larger than Starbucks Corp and Hewlett-Packard combined, sparking intense speculation on how much higher its valuation will rise once shares start trading.

"A 15 to 20 percent pop is in the realm of possibility," said Tim Loughran, a finance professor at the University of Notre Dame. "Given they already moved their IPO range up and increased the size, that's bullish to begin with."

Facebook priced its offering at \$38 a share on Thursday, but the price could be higher when shares begin trading under the FB symbol on the Nasdaq at around 11 am Eastern Time.

Some expect shares could rise 30 percent or more on Friday, despite ongoing concerns about Facebook's long-term money-making potential. An average of

Morningstar analyst estimates puts the closing price for Facebook shares tomorrow at \$50.

The IPO, expected to mint more than a thousand paper millionaires at the company, has received wall-

starting on Thursday evening, a tradition in which programmers work on side projects that sometimes turn into mainstream offerings.

Facebook's 28-year-old founder and Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg was

At \$38 a share, Facebook would trade at over 100 times historical earnings versus Apple Inc's 14 times and Google Inc's 19 times.

For all the high expectations surrounding Facebook, the company faces challenges maintaining its growth momentum.

Some investors worry the company has not yet figured out a way to make money from the growing number of users who access Facebook on mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones. Meanwhile, revenue growth from Facebook's online advertising business, which accounts for the bulk of its revenue, has slowed in recent months.

"With mobile usage growth exceeding desktop, monetization in the near term could be reduced given little-to-no ad coverage on mobile, challenged by limited screen sizes," said a report last week from Susquehanna Financial Group.

GM said on Tuesday it would stop placing ads on Facebook, raising questions about whether display ads on the site are as effective as traditional media.—*Reuters*



News vans park outside Facebook's headquarters in Menlo Park, California, the night before the company's IPO launch, on 17 May, 2012.—REUTERS

to-wall media coverage and sparked hopes of a boom in sales of everything from San Francisco Bay Area real estate to automobiles.

Facebook employees marked the event with an all-night "hackathon" at the company's Menlo Park, California headquarters

expected to ring a bell at the company's Silicon Valley headquarters on Friday morning to kick off trading on the Nasdaq.

Founded in a Harvard dorm room in 2004, Facebook has grown into the world's dominant social network with 900 million users.

Cosmic dust rings no guarantee of planets

PASADENA, 19 May—Dust rings around distant stars, considered by many as "smoking gun" evidence of orbiting planets, can form on their own, US research suggests.

The finding is possible bad news for those who use the structures to guide them to stars in their search for distant planets, and may raise questions about the existence of a controversial candidate exoplanet.

Sharply defined or

elongated rings seen in the disk of dust and gas around stars had been assumed to be caused by unseen planets carving paths through the disk.

"I call it the dark matter argument," Vladimir Lyra at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., told NewScientist.com. "There is something you are seeing that you cannot explain, and you blame the gravity of something you cannot see."

Now Lyra, with NASA colleagues, has shown interactions between dust and gas alone can account for the rings.

Dust concentrates in regions of high-pressure gas that when heated by the star expands, creating higher pressure which then concentrates more dust, the researchers said.

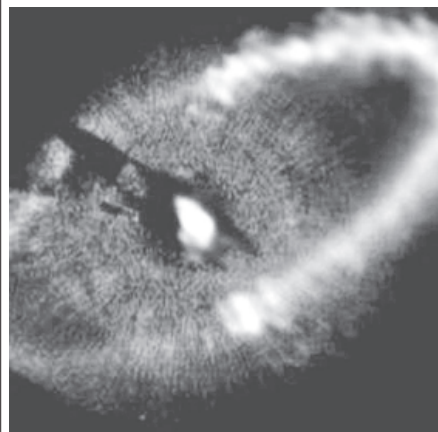
Lyra and his colleagues simulated this feedback process and, with no planets in their computer model, created several types of structure, including elongated rings and clumps.

The work calls into question a bright dot in the disc around the star Fomalhaut thought to be a planet, but which could be due to the dynamics of dust and gas alone, the researchers said.

Markus Janson of Princeton University in New Jersey, who has studied the Fomalhaut system, says it's still too soon to tell what the bright dot is and why the nearby dust ring appears so sculpted.

"I'm now more open to the idea that maybe there are no planets [around Fomalhaut] at all," he said.

Internet



The bright dot in the disc around Fomalhaut may be a structure of dust and gas, not a planet, research suggests.

INTERNET

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Study: Coffee may lower death risk

BETHESDA, 19 May—A study of 400,000 US men and women ages 50-71 found those who drank coffee — caffeinated or decaffeinated — had a lower risk of death, researchers say.

The study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, found those who drank coffee were less likely to die from heart disease,

respiratory disease, stroke, injuries, accidents, diabetes and infections, although the association was not seen for cancer.

Neal Freedman of the National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, and colleagues at the NCI and AARP tracked the study participants from 1995-1996 until the date they

died or 31 Dec, 2008, whichever came first.

The researchers also found the association between coffee and reduction in risk of death increased with the amount of coffee consumed — those who consumed three or more cups of coffee per day had approximately a 10 percent lower risk of death.

Coffee drinking was not associated with cancer mortality among women, but there was a slight and only marginally statistically significant association of heavier coffee intake with increased risk of cancer death among men, the researchers said.

"Although we cannot infer a causal relationship between coffee drinking and lower risk of death, we believe these results do provide some reassurance that coffee drinking does not adversely affect health," Freedman said in a statement.

Internet



A Chinese woman walks past a giant coffee shop advertisement in downtown Beijing. A new study shows that coffee drinkers had a lower risk of death.—INTERNET

Jobless claims unchanged in week



WASHINGTON, 19 May— The number of first-time jobless claims was unchanged in the week ended Saturday, the US Labour Department said.

The four-week rolling average of first-time claims fell to 375,000, down 4,750 from the previous week, but the number of claims filed in the week, 370,000, was unchanged from the previous week's revised figure.

The largest increases in initial benefits claims for the week ending 5 May were in Missouri (up by 2,569), New York (which gained 2,276), Pennsylvania (up 1,674) and California (up by 1,613). The largest decreases were in Florida (down by 2,599), Indiana (down 1,735), Connecticut (down 1,038) and New Hampshire (down 836).

The US unemployment rate is 8.1 percent, falling 0.1 percentage points from March to April.

Internet

Health Tip: How to wash your hands properly

Got germs? Everyone does. So you need to wash your hands properly to prevent the potential spread of infection.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention offers these guidelines for proper hand washing:

- * Rinse your hands under warm or cool running water, then apply soap.
- * Lather the soap between your hands, scrubbing your fingers, the fronts and backs of your hands and under your nails.
- * Wash for at least 20 seconds. That's about how long it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" to yourself.
- * Thoroughly rinse under clean running water, then dry your hands on a dry towel or let them air dry.—Internet



A trader reacts on the floor at the Madrid Bourse on 16 May, 2012. European shares sank to new 2012 lows on Wednesday in a broad-based sell-off as concern over contagion from Greece gripped investors.

INTERNET

Breastfed babies may gain less weight

against obesity later in life.

Lead author Ruowei Li of the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said the difference may come down to how much a role babies play in deciding when to stop feeding instead of mothers or fathers forcing them to finish a bottle.

"If the babies are fed by the breast, the baby plays a very active role, because they are the ones who decide when to suckle and when to stop," she said.

Li and her fellow researchers followed about 1,900 babies from across the United States who were born in the mid-2000s.

Through a series of surveys sent to their mothers, the researchers asked for, among other things, babies' weights at different ages and how often women breastfed, pumped their breast milk or used formula.



Mothers participate in a demonstration in front of a clothing store in a shopping mall in Montreal on 19 January, 2011.—REUTERS

Babies who were fed from a bottle, either with only breast milk or only formula, gained about 85 grams (three ounces) more per month compared to those who were solely breastfed.

After that, the findings became a bit more complicated. When mothers combined breastfeeding and bottle feeding with human milk only, babies didn't gain any extra weight. But if the babies were fed both breast milk and formula, they grew similarly to babies who were solely breastfed.

It's not clear why those babies fed a combination of breast milk by bottle as well as formula may not have gained additional weight, the researchers said.

But "the key message out of this study is that breastfeeding really is the first feeding choice for the babies," said Li, adding that supplementing breastfeeding with breast milk from

a bottle is a good second option.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that mothers exclusively breastfeed for six months and continue breastfeeding as foods are introduced until at least 12 months. But experts acknowledged that care needs to be taken not to put mothers under pressure about breastfeeding, acknowledging that it just may not be possible for a number of reasons.

"There were millions of babies raised on formula well before the obesity epidemic started," said Jeffrey Wright, a pediatrician from the University of Washington School of Medicine, who wrote an editorial linked to the study.

"Each family should weigh the benefits they see against the hassles they take to get there, and the father should be involved in that discussion." —Reuters

Crude oil holds under \$93

NEW YORK, 19 May— Crude oil prices slid back under \$93 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Thursday as the government reported a weekly gain in US stockpiles.

Total supplies reached 381.6 million barrels after eight consecutive weeks of inventory increases, the Energy Information Administration said.

With supplies at a 22-year high, the price of crude fell on Thursday in New York, with West Texas Intermediate crude oil for June delivery giving up 8 cents to \$92.64 per barrel. Natural gas for June delivery added 4.1 cents to hit \$2.635 per million British thermal units.

Home heating oil was down 0.62 cents to \$2.8428 per gallon. Gasoline lost 0.25 cents to reach \$2.8757 per gallon.

At the pump, the national average price of unleaded gasoline fell on Thursday from \$3.728 per gallon to \$3.722, AAA said.—Internet



Gas sales seem to be paid for evenly between credit cards and cash in Denver on 15 April, 2011. Consumers paid an average price of \$3.72 a gallon nationwide on Thursday according to the travel group AAA.

INTERNET

Pamphlets on traffic rules distributed on Yangon-Pyay Highway

Pyay, 19 May—Under the supervision of the Bago Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee, a combined team comprising Commander of Paungde Township Police Force Police Captain San Wai, Station Commander IP Hla Tun and members, together with traffic

police force members, distributed pamphlets on traffic rules to vehicle drivers and motorbike drivers on Yangon-Pyay Highway in Paungde Township of Bago Region (West) on 14 May.

The combined team educated the traffic users and made efforts for reduction of

traffic accidents and crimes.

The educated period was designated up to 31 May. As of 1 June, action will be taken against traffic rules offenders at the courts and they will be punished with fine under the supervision of the Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee.—Kyemon

Mandalay Export & Car Show held in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 19 May—The Mandalay Export & Car Show kicked off in Mandalay at 9 am on 5 May. Mandalay Mayor Mandalay Region Minister Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

for Development U Aung Maung and region ministers formally opened the show.

Over 90 companies show Toyota imported from Japan, Mitsubishi, Hyundai, KIA saloons, Sunlong brand express bus imported from China, CAME brand ETX Dump Truck and containers, construction used heavy machinery, condominium, home decoration, electronics and cosmetics at 140 booths.

The show was held from 5 to 8 May and it sold products at special price.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Nay Pyi Taw FC to open football academy

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 May—With the aim of emerging more youth outstanding players, Nay Pyi Taw FC will open a football academy in Nay Pyi Taw, according to the Ministry of Sports.

Arrangements will be made for enabling the new generation youth players to pursue football sports. They will be nurtured to be able not only to join Nay Pyi Taw

FC but also participate in the national team.

Before opening the Football Academy of Nay Pyi Taw FC, three football academies have been opened by Yadanabon, Yangon United and Ayeyawady United FCs. Therefore, the football academy of Nay Pyi Taw FC will be the fourth facility for the young players.

The academy will admit

30 trainees and it will accept the youths from 15 to 16 years old from 10 years old. If the trainees are school-going age, they will admit those students to be provided with necessary assistance.

By Min Min Lat

DISTRICT NEWS

Farmers of Mandalay Region observes thriving Shwetaung hybrid paddy plantations

MANDALAY, 19 May—The educative measures for farmers were held at Shwetaung hybrid paddy farm of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Wundwin Township of Mandalay Region on 14 May.

The farmers who had observed Paletwe hybrid paddy strain in Mandalay Region visited there to view the paddy plantations.

In-charge Director U Naing Kyi Win of Shwetaung Hybrid Paddy Research Farm explained cultivation of paddy plantation, procedure of growing paddy strains and pollination through 14-point good agricultural pattern with

the use of documentary photos.

The farmers viewed harvesting of Shwetaung and Barsatima hybrid paddy plantations on 100 acres of farmlands in the research farm. Director U Naing Kyi Win replied to

queries raised by farmers.

As Mandalay Region set a plan to grow 250 acres of Paletwe hybrid paddy in 2011-2012 summer paddy season, a total of 740 acres of farmlands have been put under paddy plants.

Kyemon



UNIFORMS PRESENTED: The uniform presentation for staff members of North Okkalapa Township General Administration Department was held at its office on 10 May. Township Administrator U Thein Soe presents uniform to a staff member. TOWNSHIP IPRD



Books, publications donated to library in Zeyathiri Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 May—With the aim of broadening horizon of the local people, books and publication donation ceremony was held at Pyinya Yangchi Library of Yezin Village-tract Administrative Office in Zeyathiri Township of

Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 13 May.

Member of Pyinmana Township Writers and Journalists Association U Min Min Lat explained the purpose of donation and donated 150 books and publications Librarian U Saw

Ngwe who spoke words of thanks.

The ceremony was attended by Village-tract Administrator U Hla Ngwe, Librarian U Saw Ngwe and library committee members and 50 local people.

MNA

Fire breaks out in Myitnge, blazing one house

MYITNGE, 19 May—A fire broke out at a hut in Hsautkaw Village of Myitnge of Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region at 1.15 am on 14

May.

The fire destroyed one house of Ko Aung Hsan Oo, 38 of the village.

Members of fire brigade from Amarapura Township Fire Services Department and Myitge Railways Fire

Brigade and local people put out the fire with the use of two fier engines from Amarapura Township Fire Station and one from Myitge Station.

The fire died out at 1.45 am.

Myanma Alin

MLF invites cash, book donations

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to broadening the horizon of the people and developing self-reliant libraries across the nation.

Those wishing to donate cash and books to the libraries may contact Myanmar Libraries Foundation at No. 228 on Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.



PADDY HARVESTED: Model plot of summer Paletwe paddy strain is being harvested on field No. 1171S of farmer U Ni with the use of heavy machinery in Htaiknigon Village in Chanthagon Village-tract of Lepada Township in Thayawady District of Bago Region on 10 May.—MYANMA ALIN

Bahan Township Writers Association reconstituted

YANGON, 19 May—The reconstitution of Bahan Township Writers and Journalists Association to Township Writers Association was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 12 May.

Secretary of Organizing Committee for Myanmar Writers Association U Aung Thein Win (Maung Khaing Khant), Township Administrator U Zaw Win Htay and Chairman of Township WJA U Ko Ko Lay (Yankin Ko Ko

Lay) made speeches.

Officials read the report of the association and financial statement.

In the presence of reconstitution commission members U Aye Kyu Lay (Aye Kyu Lay), Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Aye Aye Hsit and Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Maung Maung Hla, U Ko Ko Lay (Yankin Ko Ko Lay) was elected as Chairman, U Tun Tun Oo (Tun Tun Oo-

Kanbawza Yeiktha), as vice-chairman, U Hlaing Myint (Tamarmyay Hlaing Myint) as secretary, U Myat Thwin (Tekkatho Myat Thwin) as joint secretary, treasurer Daw Ni Ni Tin (Ni Ni Myanmar), U Myint Lwin (Nay Oo Lwin) and U Maung Chit (Maung Chit-Thaye Thamein) as executives.

They chose Chairman U Ko Ko Lay (Yankin Ko Ko Lay) and Treasurer Daw Ni Ni Tin (Ni Ni Myanmar) as representatives to the conference.

Myanma Alin

Oxygen concentrator donated to hospital

KAWLIN, 19 May—A ceremony to donate one oxygen concentrator to Kawlin Township People's Hospital of Sagaing Region was held at the hall of the

hospital on 15 May morning. In memory of lat Daw Thaug Sein, U Thein Maung (retired teacher) of Yu condensed milk of Myoma ward of Kawlin

handed over the oxygen concentrator to Head of Township Health Department Dr Maung Maung Soe.

Kyemon

Youths to conserve environment in Sagaing

SAGAING, 19 May—The Green Life Environmental Conservation and Social Development New Generation, formed with youths of Dabayinker Village of Sagaing Township held the annual ceremony at Bonset Monastery in

Dabayinkwe Village on 8 April.

At the ceremony, Assistant Director U Ngun Kha of District Forest Department gave talks on facts about environmental conservation, and Staff Officer U Tin Soe of

Township Forest Department on use of firewood substitute.

Assistant Director U Ngun Kha gave 25 saplings and Staff Officer U Tin Soe, A-1 stoves to the members of the Green Life Organization.

Kyemon



CULTURAL COURSE CONDUCTED: The cultural Buddhism course No 1, organized by Shwechi Soon Offering Association, was conducted in Shwechi Ward of Pyinmana from 8 to 16 May. Student youths are attending the training course.

KYEMON

DISTRICT NEWS

Dagon Myothit (North) Township reconstitutes writers association

YANGON, 19 May—The plenary meeting and reconstitution of Township Writers Association of Dagon Myothit (North) Township was held at the hall of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association on 13 May.

The plenary meeting elected U Nyunt Hlaing (Maung Nyunt Hlaing) as chairman, U Than Htay (Than Htay-Veda) as vice-chairman, Daw Hla Hla Htay (Hla Hla Htay-IPRD) as secretary, U Ohn Hlaing (Ko-

Okkan) as joint secretary, U Win Myint (Ko Yaw-Economics) as treasurer, U Aung Myint (Aung Myint-Timer Enterprise), U Tin Tun Aung (Tin Tun Aung-Shwemyaing), Daw Tin Tin Nwe (Tin Tin Nwe-Yangon University) and U Hla Baw (Maung Nyo) as executives.

U Nyunt Hlaing (Maung Nyunt Hlaing) and U Nyunt Han (Nyunt Han-Kyudaw) were chosen as representatives to the conference.

Kyemon

New bridges commissioned in Mawlamyinegyun Township

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 19 May—The inter-village bridges in Mawlamyinegyun Township of Labutta District in Ayeyawady Region were opened at Garamwa Creek Bridge in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 12 May.

Patron of Dhammazedi Foundation Missionary Sayadaw Mingun Dhammazedi Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nagindalankara, Ayeyawady Region Transport Minister U Than Tun and Region Minister for Social Affairs U San Maung formally opened the bridge.

Likewise, other inter-village bridges, namely Thandadagyi, Sandi, Ohnbinu, Thanzaw, Nwenwewin,



Khin Maung Win, Hteingon, Thagyikan, Dalin, Thanbyuyon and Lawkadat were simultaneously inaugurated.

These 11 bridges were built at a cost of K 132.5 million contributed by the Dhammazedi Sayadaw and local people.

Myanma Alin

Fischer Random Chess Tournament 28 May-5 June

YANGON, 19 May—Organized by Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation, the Fischer Random Chess Tournament 2012 will be held at Aung

San Gymnasium from 28 May to 5 June. Any person may take part in the tournament. Those wishing to take part in the tournament may register at the office of MCF in Aung San Stadium, not later than 26 May.—MCF

Agricultural technology course kicks off

MUDON, 19 May—The horticultural technology course was opened at Azin farm of Mon State Agriculture Department in Mudon of Mon State on 7 May.

Mon State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock

Breeding U Myo Nyunt and Head of State Agricultural Department U Win Hlaing gave speeches.

Private horticultural farms in Azin produce plenty of various kinds of fruits.

Agriculture

Pyinnyadana tuition opened in Nyaunglebin



NYAUNGLEBIN, 19 May—The opening of Pyinnyadana tuition was held at Basic Education Primary School on Azami Road of Nyaunglebin, Bago Region, on 10 May morning, for 2012-2013 academic year.

Patron of the tuition Dr Myint Than made a speech. Headmistress of Basic Education High School No 2 Daw Win Nwe Yi

explained the purpose of opening the school and Chairman of the tuition U Soe Win, academic and management matters.

Next, wellwishers donated cash to the fund.

The Pyinnyadana Tuition will provide necessary assistance and teach the needy students free of charge the whole year.

Myanma Alin

Mongkhok Sub-Township gets new rural health branch

MONGKHOK, 19 May—A ceremony to open new rural health branch was opened in Nambawlon Village of Phanphu Village-tract in Mongkhok Sub-Township of Monghsat Township, Shan State (East), on 27 April.

Head of Monghsat Township Health Department Dr Aung Zeya, Village-tract Administrator U Kyaw Htaung and Chairman of

Lahu National Races Cultural Troupe U Al Lo formally opened the building.

Head of Township Health Department Dr Aung Zeya made a speech.

A local spoke words of thanks.

Township Administrator U Naing Aye, Head of Township Health Department Dr Aung Zeya and Administrator U Nay Aung of Sub-Township

donated medicines to the rural health branch.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Hla Htay donated newspapers and journals to the village library for development of human resources.

The building of rural health branch was built at a cost of K 2.2 million donated by the local people.

Myanma Alin

Social association holds coord meeting

TOUNGGOO, 19 May—The Myitta and Cetana Social Association held the coordination meeting for organizing the 10th anniversary at its office in Tougoo on 15 May.

Secretary of the association U Thein Lwin (Lamin Rice Brokerage) acted as master of ceremonies. Patron of the association U Kyaw Hla (Thamadi) and Chairman U Myint Nyo (Amae Ein) made speeches. The meeting formed the ceremony preparation subcommittee, the invitation subcommittee, and the reception subcommittee.

Myanma Alin



CASH DONATED: U Nyein Maung and family of No 1000/A on 4th West Manbye Street in South Ward 2 in Thakayta Township of Yangon donated K 150,000 to the medical trust fund of Miba Gonyi Home for the Aged of Twantay recently. Chairman of the Home U Tun Kyauing accepts the cash donation.

MYANMA ALIN

Donate Blood

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham,...

(from page 1)

Next, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham offered titles, certificates and Sasana Pennants to Bhaddanta Indačariya of Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery on Momeik Hill of Sagaing, and Bhaddanta Paññasirilankara of Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery from Dagon Township of Yangon Region.

After that, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan,

Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, and Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan offered titles, certificates and Sasana Pennants to members of the Sangha who passed the

respective subjects of the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.

Then, deputy ministers, region ministers and officials also offered titles, certificates

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and congregation receive five precepts from Presiding Nayaka of Hlinethaya Township Sasana Gonyi Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Paññissarabhivamsa.

MNA



Kodukwe Dam, Salu Dam and Shwelaung Dam in Bago Township opened

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—Kodukwe Dam, Salu Dam and Shwelaung Dam in Bago Township of Bago Region were opened this morning.

Kodukwe Dam, located 13 miles downstream from Zaungtu Dam in Bago Township, is 1130 feet long and 90 feet high and can store 148500 acre feet of water.

Salu Dam, situated near Winkaikshyo Village in Bago Township, is of earthen type which is 5728 feet long and 88 feet high and can store 90000 acre feet of water.

Shwelaung Dam, located near Kyunpin Village, is 4700 feet long and 92 feet high and can store 103700 acre feet of water.

Thanks to the emergence of these dams, 83794 acres of land in 86 village tracts of Bago, Thanatpin and Kawa townships can be prevented from being flooded. Moreover, they will benefit 65774 acres of farmlands in 28 villages along Thahnetpin-Thonegwa Road.

At the opening of the dams, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said the aims of construction those dams were to protect the villages of Bago, Thanatpin and Kawa townships from being flooded and to green a 30-mile radius of Yangon Region with 342200 acres



Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint presents title and certificate to a Sayadaw.—MNA

of feet of water from the three dams through Zaungtu Diversion Weir, Bago-Sittoung Canal and canals by Thanatpin-Thonegwa Road.

In accord with the guidelines of the President and Vice-President who knew

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win formally open Shwelaung Dam.

MNA



and Sasana Pennants to the monks who passed the examination.

Secretary of the SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khemindasami delivered a sermon, and the congregation

led by the Vice-President and wife shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, the Vice-President and wife and party offered alms to members of the Sangha who passed the examination.

MNA



Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint presents title and certificate to a Sayadaw.—MNA

primary cause for rural development, in close cooperation with ministries concerned, region/state governments, agricultural companies for double to triple increase in income and better living standard of each farmer.

The Union Minister then urged the service personnel who are obliged to maintain the facilities and local people who will use the facilities to maintain those three dams down to younger generations.

The Union Minister also called on them to join in nation building efforts with Union spirit in unison for development of own regions, for equitable development across the nation and to repay the goodwill of the government that has spent a great deal of money for long-term national interests of all the citizens.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win said that thanks to construction of Salu, Kodukwe and Shwelaung dams, floods can be prevented at Bago, Thanatpin and Kawa townships annually. The dams opened today were the

236th facility of its kind in the entire nation from 1988 to date and the 3rd project in Bago Region. He said that the government has spent its fund on construction of Salu, Kodukwe and Shwelaung dams and provide assistance for extension of sown acreage, use of quality paddy seeds, good agricultural patterns and fertilizers, minimizing loss and waste in cultivation and harvesting of crops as much as it can. In conclusion, the Region Chief Minister urged the local people to maintain the dam for its durability, alleviation of poverty of the people, doubling the incomes of farmers, uplifting of social standard, greening of the region all the year round, breeding of fresh water fish, availability of water for cattle, storage of water for fire preventive measures and prevention against floods in Bago, Thanatpin and Kawa townships.

Then, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing, the region chief minister and party looked round Salu Dam and Shwelaung Dam and Kodukwe Dam. —MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham...

(from page 16)

tasks of work committee and current situation of the university, requirements of the work, labs and teaching aid workshops of the university.

After that, the Vice-President asked matters related to job opportunities of students who graduated from the university,

availability of certificates from ASEAN and international community and requirements. Union Minister Dr Mya Aye, the Chief Minister of the Region and Deputy Minister U Win Shein gave supplementary reports.

Next, the Vice-President planted a star-flower tree in front of the



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham gives necessary instructions to departmental heads at the meeting hall of Myanmar Maritime University.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects Yangon Railway Station.

MNA

Auxiliary firefighter refresher course wraps up

YANGON, 19 May—The auxiliary firefighter refresher course 9/2012 of Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement concluded at the department (Head Office)

in Mayangon Township of Yangon yesterday morning.

Altogether 111 auxiliary firefighters from regions and states attended the four-week course.—MNA

National Education Promotion (Higher Education Sector) Seminar opened

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—The 2012 National Education Promotion (Higher Education Sector) Seminar of the Ministry of Education was opened at the Convocation Hall of Taunggyi University this morning.

Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe in his speech called on those present to do their bit with goodwill for promotion of higher education sector to be adaptable

with the changing trend of the State.

Also present on the occasion were Shan State ministers and officials, the chairman and vice-chairman of Myanmar Academy of Science and Arts, the directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Education, deputy directors-general, rectors, pro-rectors, professors and guests.

The seminar continues until 22 May.

MNA

Tarung Derajat sport referee and coaching course concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—The Tarung Derajat sport referee and coaching course, jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation, concluded at the training hall of State training camp in Shwekyabin, here, on 17 May morning.

Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan delivered an address.

President of International Tarung Derajat Federation (IFTD) and Asian Muay Federation Mr Santipharp Intarapharp extended greetings.

Next, the Union Minister gave gifts to the trainers and completion certificates to the trainees.

Later, the trainees demonstrated their skills. Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu and officials.

MNA

university building.

The Vice-President and party visited Marine Hydrodynamic Centre, Ship Model Towing Tank, Wave Generating Machine and Myanmar Maritime Museum (Photo Gallery).

They then visited Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa in a motorcade.

On arrival at Yangon Railways Station at 4.30 pm,

the Vice-President heard reports on functions of Myanmar Railways and runs of the trains that start from Yangon Railway Station presented by Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thauung Lwin.

Afterwards, the Vice-President gave instructions on replacement of ageing coaches, eradication of illegal sales of train tickets,

systematic sales of tickets for convenience of passengers, keeping circular railroad of Yangon clean and pleasant, runs of circular trains and sanitation works.

The Vice-President cordially greeted passengers on platform No 1, 2 and 3. He inspected the coach that arrived from Shwenyaung and control room of train at the tower and left necessary instructions.—MNA

Specialists render free medical treatment in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—Under the arrangement of Kayin State government and Health Department,

specialists of various medical branches from state People's Hospital, physical rehabilitation department and Kawkaik District People's Hospital led by head of the state health department rendered free health care services to local nationalities from urban areas of Phaya Thonezu and surrounding villages at

Phaya Thonezu Station Hospital in Kyainseikkyi Township of Kayin State on 15 May.

Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, state ministers, departmental personnel and social organization members comforted the patients and provided cash to the aged.

The state chief minister, wife Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai and state minister presented free spectacles to patients with

eye complaints, provided foodstuffs and cash assistance and contributed cash to the fund of the hospital.

The 10 teams of specialists provided free treatment to 1303 patients and presented 100 free spectacles to patients with poor eyesight. Kayin State Health Department is reported to be rendering monthly field health care services to rural folks.

MNA

73-year-old woman's Everest feat

KATHMANDU, 19 May—A 73-year-old Japanese has made history by becoming the oldest woman to scale the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, topping a record, she herself set a decade ago.

Tamae Watanabe, set foot on top of the world on Saturday, reaching the Everest's summit at 8,848 metre, from the tough northern side in Tibet along with another Japanese Norriyuki Muraguchi and three Sherpa guides, according to the Asian Trekking which organised the expedition.

Three other Sherpa guides who scaled the peak are Mingma Sherpa, Pharu Nunu Sherpa and Phurba Sherpa.

The official said that the team had set out for the summit yesterday evening

and successfully scaled the summit at 7 a.m., local time, on Saturday, after a night long ascent.

Ms. Watanabe became the oldest woman to scale Everest when she climbed the peak in 2002 at the age of 63. Her record stood till she bettered it.

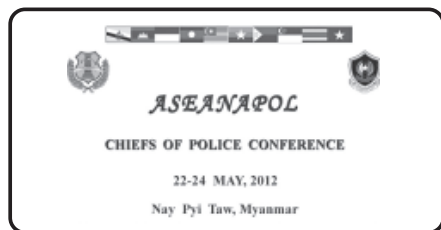
The oldest male climber

to scale Everest is a Nepalese Min Bahadur Sherpa, who reached the top at the age of 77. He had climbed the Everest in 2007.

Like Ms. Watanabe, Min Bahadur too has announced his intentions to make it atop Everest again in 2012 at the age of 82.

Internet





This is a moment for...

(from page 16)

This is a moment for us to recognize that the progress which has occurred in the last year toward democratization and national reconciliation is irreversible, as the minister said to me. The United States wants to do everything we can to be sure that is the reality.

I applauded the parliamentary elections and recent steps to bring an end to conflict with the Karen National Union, one of a number of internal conflicts with ethnic minority groups that remain a matter of concern that the government is focused on. And I heard a very promising report from the minister about the additional steps that are being taken to continue reform.

The United States is committed to supporting this reform. We want to encourage it. We acknowledge it. But more than that, we want to be partners in seeing it continue. So today, we are announcing the nomination of Ambassador Derek Mitchell as our new ambassador, the first since 1990. Ambassador Mitchell has been serving as my special representative. He is well known and respected in the region. I urge the United States Senate to quickly confirm him to this new post so he can continue our important work. And I look forward to welcoming our ambassador to Washington.

Today, I am also announcing new steps to permit American investment in the country and export of U.S. financial services. These are the most significant adjustments to our previous policy that have been taken to date. The United States will issue a general license that will enable American businesses to invest across the economy, allow citizens access to international credit markets and dollar-based transactions.

So today, we say to American business: Invest in Burma and do it responsibly; be an agent of positive change and be a good corporate citizen; let's all work together to create jobs, opportunity, and support reform.

Now, these are important steps that will help bring the country into the global economy, spur broad-based economic development, and support ongoing reform. We are doing what others have done – the European Union, the United Kingdom. We are suspending sanctions. We believe that that is the appropriate step for us to take today. We will be keeping relevant laws on the books as an insurance policy, but our goal and our commitment is to move as rapidly as we can to expand business and investment opportunities.

The State Department will work with Congress and our colleagues across government, particularly the Treasury Department, to be sure we are promoting responsible investment and deterring abuses. We strongly support the private sector being a full partner, and we want our businesses to set a good corporate example of doing business in a transparent, responsible manner.

We'll expect U.S. firms to conduct due diligence to avoid any problems, including human rights abuses. We expect our businesses to create a grievance process that will be accessible to local communities; to demonstrate appropriate treatment of employees, respect for the environment; to be a good corporate citizen; and to promote equitable, sustainable development that will benefit the people.

And we hope that our partners in Europe and Asia will uphold the same high standards. The people have waited a long time because they have every right to expect development that will benefit them, not outsiders or insiders, but instead, the people themselves. Now, we are mindful of a pattern of abuses by companies and others, particularly in the ethnic minority areas. So we will keep our eyes wide open to try to ensure that anyone who abuses human rights or obstructs reforms or engages in corruption do not benefit financially from increased trade and investment with the United States, including companies owned or operated by

the military. We will be maintaining the arms embargo, because we want to see amongst the reforms that are taking place a move for the armed forces to be under civilian control.

We will also continue working with the government in Nay Pyi Taw to put in place internationally recognized business and labor practices that foster respect for the rule of law. We will be taking these steps mindful of the difficult decisions that the government has already made and will continue to make. We also would like to see the release of any continued political prisoners and a continued emphasis in law and action to promoting national reconciliation.

The United States is very committed to supporting the end of the ethnic conflicts in the country. We think that the diversity of population is a source of great strength for the country going forward. And yesterday, I had a group of young people who were visiting the United States representing the mosaic of different backgrounds and ethnicities, and it was very exciting to see them all together focused on making their contribution to the future.

We are concerned about violence in Kachin State in recent weeks, and I was very pleased to hear about new mechanisms, both official and nongovernmental, to encourage meaningful dialogue. And as I said, the government must do all it can do. People on the other side of the table in these conflicts also must be willing to cooperate, to seek an equitable, fair ending to the conflicts. So reconciliation is a priority, and we will continue to support that.

Finally, we discussed our concerns about North Korea. I am encouraged by reports that President U Thein Sein has stated he will end the military relationship with North Korea, and the minister assured me that they will fully comply with international obligations on nonproliferation.

I am very, very positive about what is happening, and I know how difficult this will be. It is never easy. I often remind people about the challenges my own country faced. They were faced many, many years ago – so you didn't have the Internet, television, constant attention being paid, as we struggle to live up to our own hopes and aspirations. So this is going to be an exciting, challenging journey for your country and those of us who are committed to supporting you.

But I am very pleased that the United States is taking these steps today, encouraging our businesses to go and help you grow your economy, encouraging our nongovernmental organizations to go and partner with you on education, healthcare, the environment, and so much else.

So, Minister, thank you for being here today, and I look forward to continuing to work with you.

UNION MINISTER U WUNNA MAUNG LWIN:

Thank you very much, Madam Secretary. Ladies and gentlemen, I have come to Washington, D.C. on an official visit at the invitation of Secretary Clinton. And this afternoon, we had a friendly and cordial discussion on matters relating to further promotion of bilateral relations. I have also had the opportunity to call on Senator McCain, Senator McConnell, and Senator Jim Webb. I also meet with – I will also meet with Deputy Secretary of State William Burns later this afternoon.

And during my meeting with them, they reiterated their recognition and support of the ongoing reforms undertaken by the government and President U Thein Sein in Myanmar. We also discussed about further strengthening of relationship and cooperation in various areas of mutual interest, increased assistance to the people of Myanmar, and lifting of sanctions and restrictions imposed by the United States against Myanmar.

I have expressed our appreciations to the government and the people of the United States for supporting our efforts of reforms and the transition to democracy, and reiterated our determination to continue our reforms. The decision on the appointment of ambassadors in both countries is an

important step forward in our efforts to resumption of normal diplomatic relations after more than 20 years.

Ambassador U Than Swe will be the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United States. He is currently serving as permanent representative of Myanmar to the United Nations in New York. I have full confidence in him, because he has done an excellent job as our interlocutor with the United States side since we began dialogue for resumption of normal diplomatic relations over the last several months.

I am also blessed that Ambassador Derek Mitchell will be the new U.S. ambassador to Myanmar. And Ambassador Mitchell is no stranger to Myanmar. In the past 12 months, he has successfully served as a U.S. special representative and policy coordinator for Myanmar, during which I had the pleasure to work with him very closely.

So my congratulations to both of them and wish them all the best for their new important responsibilities. I wish to thank Secretary Clinton for inviting me to Washington for official visit. I would like to express our appreciation to the State Department and the United States Government for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality accorded to us, as well as for the excellent arrangements made for us during our stay in Washington. I thank you all.

SECRETARY MRS CLINTON: Thank you so much.

UNION MINISTER U WUNNA MAUNG LWIN: Thank you.

MS. NULAND: We have two today. We'll start with.

QUESTION: Secretary Mrs Clinton, regarding the easing of economic restrictions, will the – will U.S. companies be able to invest and trade with Myanmar state-owned companies, including in the oil and gas sector? And also, you talk about the corporate responsibilities of U.S. companies. Will these expectations be binding under U.S. law?

And, Minister, could I ask you – there is a lot of international concern about the continued detention of political prisoners. Can you say whether these prisoners, of which people say there are hundreds – are they going to be released? And if so, when will they be released?

SECRETARY MRS CLINTON: Well, thank you. First, let me say our presumption is that our companies will be able to deal in every sector of the economy with any business. That is a rebuttable presumption in the event that there is a company whose reputation, whose practices, are not in keeping with our stated policies of corporate responsibility or other matters that rise to our attention. But the presumption is that our oil and gas companies, our mining companies, our financial services companies are all now free to look for investments that can be mutually beneficial to Burma and to them.

Now, we are taking these steps in a measured, responsible way. We are keeping on the books all legislation and executive authorities that does give us flexibility, if the facts warrant, to tighten sanctions again – similar, as I said, to what the EU, the UK, and others have done. And moving forward, we will be working with our businesses to be sure that they do exercise the highest standards of corporate responsibility.

When I was in Burma, I heard stories about some companies that didn't have a good reputation for the way they treated people, didn't have good working conditions, didn't abide by the basics of how you should run a company. They weren't American companies, but it came to my mind that I want people to look at American companies and say that's how you should treat workers, that's how you should treat the environment, you shouldn't deal with bad customers; you should deal with respectable, responsible businesses if they're state-owned or if they are private and independent.

(See page 11)

This is a moment for...

(from page 10)

So we are very confident that suspending these sanctions and moving forward is exactly the right step to take for now, and we're enthusiastically encouraging American businesses to invest.

UNION MINISTER U WUNNA MAUNG LWIN: Well, for the question you have asked to me about the prisoners, the president has granted amnesty four times in the past 12 months, past 12 or 13 months. About 28,000 prisoners were released from prison, and we have (inaudible) lists, so-called political prisoners, from the European Union as well as from the United States. And after the last amnesty, which has been granted in January, most of the people included in these lists were released.

And there are some remaining from the lists. After thoroughly checking and investigating these lists, there are — they are some prisoners who have criminal offenses, such as murder, rapes, or connecting to terrorist activities. But the president, in exercising his mandate invested upon him by the constitution, he will further grant amnesties when appropriate. I think this will answer your question.

MS. NULAND: Last question, from VOA Myanmar.

QUESTION: Actually, I have two parts of the questions and plus I'd like to address to the Madam Secretary and Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin. Since the United States is

easing the sanctions, could that cause collide with the China, which is quite influential in the region? And also, we have seen the report of the concerns from the Chinese officials. And also, last year we have seen that China is disappointed after suspension of Myitsone dam project. Thank you.

SECRETARY MRS CLINTON: Well, let me say what I said when I was in Nay Pyi Taw. The United States does not expect any country to give up relationships with their neighbors. And China is a neighbor, and there are longstanding ties that certainly are deep in the soils of both nations. What we are doing is providing additional support for the kind of development, both politically and economically, that the reform process, which the government in Nay Pyi Taw has begun, has made possible.

Because we do value representative government, democracy, good working conditions, protection of the environment, the kinds of things that the United States stands for, we hope that our relationship can be one that is very supportive of what I am told are the steps that the government and the people themselves wish to take.

So this is not about any other nation. This is between us. This is rooted in the changes we have watched happen and our desire to support the continuation of those changes. And we fully expect that there will be many countries, as you've already seen, who want to develop stronger and better relationships in the neighborhood, in the region, and around the world. And we think that's good to open up the country,

give the people more opportunities. So we are very pleased to be a partner in this.

UNION MINISTER U WUNNA MAUNG LWIN: Informing on the part of the relationship with China, we have a very long, traditional, and historical relation with China. We have very good relations with China, as we are neighboring countries sharing the common border of more than 2,000 kilometers. So we are cooperating with China. We are inviting investments. There are investment from China.

And according to the suspension of the Myitsone project, we have our domestic concerns, and then we have suspended that and we have informed that cordially to the Chinese side. And this is only a part of the cooperation between China and Myanmar. They can — they understand the situation very well. And I do not want to support your comments that China is disappointed with that, because we have explained the situation very clearly to the authorities and the respective and responsible ministry, and the Chinese company are discussing about the matter also. We have had a very good cooperation with China. So I think that this will not jeopardize the future relations with China.

On the part of the relation with United States, we have this pillar of our foreign policy to have good, friendly relations with — relationships with all the countries around the world. In this aspect, we are working closely with United States to have a strong bilateral relations with United States also.

SECRETARY MRS CLINTON: Thank you very much.

Matriculation subjects taught to students before one month ahead of opening schools

Under the guidance of Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, the subjects to be taught at matriculation were provided to the students who passed the ninth standard, from 9 am to 12 noon daily before one month ahead of the opening of school from 23 April to 24 May.

The work was aimed at raising pass rate of matriculation examination for 2012-2013 academic year.

It was reported that almost all the students of Basic Education High School No 4 in Patheingyi are needy in their family livelihoods. Headmistress Daw Kyi Nyein and teachers taught lessons of subjects to 84 students. As a result of extra teaching endeavours, the local students are delighted at enjoying the learning opportunities, and they adopted aims to be good leaders of the State on a day.

By Patheingyi Hla Kyi



Traditional sport tug-of-war held in Yesagyo

YESAGYO, 19 May—A traditional sport "tug-of-war" was held in Htantan Ward of Ward 1 in Yesagyo of Pakokku District on 15 May evening.

The tug-of-war sport was organized by Ward 1 Administrator U Kyaw Swe and local youths. A total of eight men's teams, two women's teams and four children's teams took part in the sports.

After the competitions, officials awarded the winning teams.

Ei Mon Swe

Child-centred teaching course opens in Yamethin

YAMETHIN, 19 May—The child-centred teaching course at township level, organized by Basic Education Department was held at Anawrahta Hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region on 12 May.

Assistant Mandalay Region Education Officer (Inspection) Daw Htay Htay Tin made a speech. Township Education Officer U Tin Ko Ko explained the purpose of conducting the training course.

The training course was attended by 896 teachers and it lasted 10 days.

Myanma Alin

Assistance provided to students in Pyapon

PYAPON, 19 May—Alinyang Education Service Committee of Pyapon provided exercise books, stationery, school uniforms and cast for school fee of 225 students from KG to matriculation was held at Nyeinchan Mingala Hall on Shweattou Pagoda Road in Ward 2 of Pyapon on 27 May morning.

The committee provides assistance to students from KG to matriculation since 2007-2008 academic year.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

Generator launched, library opened in Lewe Township

LEWE, 19 May—A ceremony to launch the generator and open Thuta Sanein Library and donate books and cash to the library was held at the pandal in Aungmyayya Village of Minbyin Village-tract of Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 14 May.

The generation was donated by wellwisher U Kyi Thein of Kengtung and local people.

At first, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Swe, Minbyin Village-tract

Administrator U Myat Kyaw Thu and townselder U Myint Soe formally opened the generator.

Next, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Swe, Staff Officer of District Information and Public Relations Department U San Lwin Oo, Head of Township IPRD U Ko Ko Gyi and Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Thet Naing Soe formally opened the library.—Township IPRD



Tournament Organization Course for Table Tennis 2012 commences

YANGON, 19 May—Jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Sports, International Table Tennis Federation and Myanmar Tennis Federation, the Tournament Organization Course for Table Tennis 2012 was opened at Pyidaungsu Hall in Kyaikkasan Grounds of Sports and Physical Education Department in Tamu Township on 16 May morning.

Chairman of Tatmadaw Table Tennis Committee Brig-Gen Sein Lin of the Ministry of Defence, General Secretary of the Myanmar



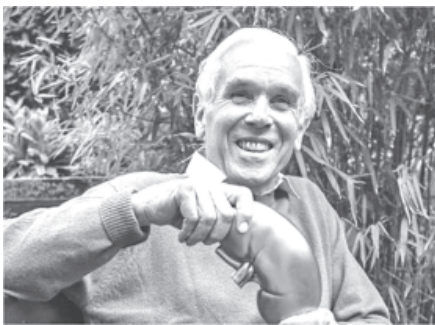
Olympic Committee Director-General U Thaung Htaik of the Sports and Physical Education Department and officials attended the ceremony. At the ceremony, MOC General Secretary Director-General of SPED U Thaung Htaik delivered an opening address. Secretary of Asian

Table Tennis Federation Mr Chang Foong Keong spoke words of thanks.

Altogether 60 trainees from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Sports and regions and states in addition to 15 enthusiasts are attending the training course that lasted up to 21 May.

Myanma Alin

Man, 83, is Britain's oldest kidney donor



PORTSMOUTH, 19 May—An 83-year-old man became the oldest known kidney donor in Britain after doctors said his kidneys were as healthy as a 40-year-old's.

Nicholas Crace said he decided after his wife died last year to try to help someone else with a donation,

The Guardian reported. He was too old to donate bone marrow so he settled on a kidney.

"I would have been very disappointed if I had been turned down," he said. "I was ideally placed to be a donor after the hospital had established that I was fit and

had excellent kidneys. One can live perfectly happily with only one kidney — in fact some people are born with only one."

Crace is believed to be the country's oldest "altruistic donor," someone who gives up a kidney to a stranger, the newspaper said.

The process took more than six months, with many trips from Crace's home in Overton, Hampshire, to Portsmouth, for tests and finally a 3-hour operation. Crace said the recovery was quick and he was riding his bicycle within three days.

In an interview with the BBC, Crace said doctors described his kidneys as "Formula One," notably healthy for a man his age.

Internet

Nigeria to send astronauts aloft by 2015

ABUJA, 19 May—Nigeria says it will send aloft astronauts by 2015 and launch three satellites.

Minister of Science and Technology Ita Okon Basse Ewa announced this at a briefing here to commemorate Democracy Day 2012 and the anniversary of President Goodluck Jonathan's administration. He said the move was part of government's efforts to boost the economy through space technology.

The minister enumer-

ated the country's space programme from now to 2028 when it expects to launch a Made-in-Nigeria satellite into space, *Xinhua* reported.

"In 2015 we are preparing to launch *NigeriaSAR-1* satellite. The *NigeriaSAR* is a security satellite with an acronym that

stands for *Synthetic Aperture Radar*," he said on Thursday.

"This satellite will have a very high resolution that can cover many kilometres, and for a backup, there will be *NigeriaSat-2* and *NigeriaSat-3*," Ewa said.

Internet



A child passes a row of Beetle cars during the 29th annual May Beetle meeting in Hanover, on 1 May, 2012.—REUTERS

Warren Buffett buys 63 newspapers in USD 142 million deal

WASHINGTON, 19 May—Billionaire Warren Buffett's company Berkshire Hathaway Inc has signed a deal worth 142 million dollars, in cash, with Media General, Inc agreeing to buy 63 newspapers from the company. The newspapers will be purchased by BH Media Group and will include 63 daily and weekly newspapers in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama, in addition to digital assets, including websites and mobile and tablet applications. Under a separate credit agreement, Berkshire Hathaway will provide Media General with a 400 million dollar term loan and a 45 million dollar revolving credit line.

The new loan will be

used to fully repay the company's existing bank debt due in March 2013. "These newspapers are great institutions and powerful brands in their respective markets. We are honoured to have the opportunity to work with our new colleagues as we continue to produce top-notch news and advertising products in both print and digital platforms," Terry Kroeger, president of BH Media Group, said.

The Media General newspapers will be a part of BH Media Group, along with the Omaha World-Herald Company newspapers. A sister company of the Omaha World-Herald Company, World Media Enterprises, Inc, will manage the Media General newspapers.

Internet

Russian steals ambulance

MOSCOW, 19 May—A 24-year-old man in the Russian city of Izhevsk stole an ambulance and drove it around for two days before getting caught, police said.

The man climbed into the freshly repaired vehicle that was left unguarded with keys in the ignition at a service station, *RIA Novosti* reported.

The car theft took place on Monday, but was not discovered until Wednesday, when the medics were due to pick up their vehicle.

The car turned up in a nearby yard, where police staked out to apprehend the driver who was caught with the car keys on him.

It remained unclear what prompted the theft, but the vehicle added 540 km to the odometer, and the man's cellphone had outgoing messages saying: "Doing side jobs with the ambulance".—*Internet*



A man protesting against a ban on selling cannabis to foreigners pretends to smoke a mock joint in front of the central train station in Maastricht, Netherlands on 1 May, 2012.—REUTERS

Management Tip of the Day: Turn enemies into allies

BOSTON, 19 May—Anyone who has faced a rival at work knows how catastrophic such a dynamic can be, but there are ways to flip the situation to your advantage, says *Harvard Business Review*.

The Management Tip of the Day offers quick, practical management tips and ideas from *Harvard Business Review* and HBR.org (www.hbr.org). Any opinions expressed are not endorsed by *Reuters*.

"Anyone who has faced rivals at work — bosses who take all the credit, team members who undermine things — knows how difficult it is to ignore them.

Instead, turn your adversaries into collaborators by following these three steps:

1. **Redirect.** Try to channel your rival's negative emotions away from you by bringing up something you have in common, or talking about the source of the tension in a favourable light.
2. **Reciprocate.** Give up something of value to your rival - help complete a project or divulge important information — so you are poised to ask for something in return.
3. **Reason.** Explain that not working together cooperatively could mean lost opportunities. Most people are highly motivated to avoid a loss."

Today's management tip was adapted from "Make Your Enemies Your Allies" by Brian Uzzi and Shannon Dunlap.—*Reuters*

152 m 3G users in China

BEIJING, 19 May — China's 3G users reached 152 million by the end of March, almost a 10-fold increase from two years ago, show official figures released. The country's mobile online users exceed 370 million, more than 70 percent of the country's total Internet users, industry and information technology vice minister Shang Bingsaid.

Businesses such as e-commerce, mobile payment and microblogging are booming, and the information and telecommunication industries are driving social and economic development, *Xinhua* quoted Shang as saying. As of March this year, China had 1.3 billion phone users including 1.01 billion mobilephone users, as well as 158 million broadband Internet customers, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) statistics show.—*Internet*



Artist and poet Barry Edgar Pilcher, age 69, poses for a photograph as he plays the saxophone on the Island of Inishfree in County Donegal, Ireland, on 1 May, 2012.

REUTERS

Wales to launch world's first 'Wikipedia town'

SYDNEY, 19 May—A small Welsh town where King Henry V was born is set to make history by becoming the world's first "Wikipedia town."

Visitors from Saturday will be able to use smartphones to scan barcodes at points of interest in Monmouth in Wales' southeast, instantly bringing up a Wikipedia page about the landmark on their phones, in whatever language they are set to, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported.

Wikimedia UK—which works to support, develop and promote Wikimedia Foundation projects such as Wikipedia — says hundreds of articles about the life and history of the town will be available online in more than 26 languages, from Hindi to Hungarian.

Around 1000 different bar codes plaques and stickers now decorate its schools, museums, historical sites and even pubs.

The project — dubbed "Monmouthpedia" — has been in the works for six months, helped along by the local council's installation of town-wide free Wi-Fi.

Local residents and businesses have created and edited articles about Monmouth that are linked to the barcodes, while other volunteers have been translating them.

Czech speakers can now learn about Monmouth Castle in their native tongue, while Fijian Hindi speakers can check out articles on the Monmouth Cricket Club, Methodist Church of local Kings Head Hotel. Scholars of lesser-known languages such as Esperanto or Latin also have their pick of Monmouth-related articles.

Stevie Benton, Wikimedia UK's communications organizer, said that more than 450 new articles about Monmouth have been added to Wikipedia and nearly 150 existing articles have been improved in the past six months.

He said Monmouth was chosen for its rich cultural history — in addition to Henry V, the town also boasts a 13th-century bridge, the only remaining one of its kind in Britain.

Internet

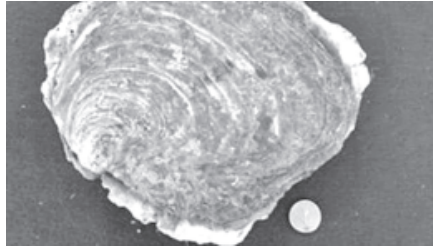
Trawler nets Britain's largest-ever oyster

A trawler in Scotland's Shetland Islands has netted what experts say may be the largest oyster ever caught in Britain, an 8-inch, 2.2-pound specimen.

The trawler *Fidelitas* was 27 miles off the island of Bressay when it brought up the shell, the BBC reported.

Fidelitas skipper Mark Anderson brought the oyster to the University of the Highlands and Islands Marine Centre, which documented its dimensions.

"Native oysters are relatively rare in Shetland waters and for one to be caught in a trawl is very unusual," Marine Centre researcher Beth Leslie said. "This oyster was also found at around 120m (400 feet), which is much deeper than would be expected for this species. Although it is not possible to



accurately age the shell, it is possible that this individual could have been living for decades."

The largest oyster ever recorded anywhere in the world was found in Chesapeake Bay in the United States, measuring almost 12 inches across.

Magnetic implants keep iPod in place

A New Jersey tattoo artist said he implanted four magnets in his wrist so he can wear his iPod Nano without anything else holding it in place.

Dave Hurban of Dynasty Tattoo in Newfield said the implant, which he calls the iDermal, uses magnets called micro-dermal anchors under his skin, together with magnets he stuck on the back of his iPod, to keep the MP3 player in place while he's jogging, the *Gloucester County (NJ) Times* reported.

"I can go for a run and it won't come off. I've already taken it to the gym and jogged with it on," Hurban told DigitalTrends.com.

Miley Cyrus' teenage heartbreak

LOS ANGELES, 19 May—Singer actress Miley Cyrus says she was devastated after a break-up when she was 14 and didn't think she would ever recover from her sorrow.

"I had my biggest heartbreak when I was 14 even though that sounds crazy, because I was 14, but that's what love was to me," contactmusic.com quoted her as saying.

"I was in love with somebody. I was in love with this person that I thought was so perfect and so amazing, so when you get your heart broken that's all you see."

"I am like, 'The rest of my life is ruined because he



Singer actress Miley Cyrus

doesn't love me back. He doesn't think I'm pretty, then I'm not pretty, he doesn't think I'm worth his time, I'm not worth anyone's time," she added.

However the 19-year-old was confident that the bad phase will pass.

Internet

Naomi Watts 'absolutely terrified' by Princess Diana role

LONDON, 19 May—Naomi Watts has revealed that she is "absolutely terrified" of playing the late Diana, Princess of Wales in her forthcoming film.

The Kent-born star is set to play the tragic royal during the last two years of her life in 'Caught In Flight', which explores her relationship with heart surgeon Dr Hasnat Khan.

The mother-of-two, 43, was speaking at the UK launch of Jacob's Creek's new Cool Harvest wines at

The Orangery in London's Holland Park. "She is apart of our history, an incredible woman and fascinating but a



Naomi Watts

Lohan recruits home decorator

LOS ANGELES, 19 May—Actress Lindsay Lohan is redecorating her home and she's televising the makeover on reality TV show "Million Dollar Decorator".

The 25-year-old was

spotted furniture shopping at Beverly Hills' exclusive Kreiss showroom with interior decorator Kathryn Ireland and a camera crew.

"The show will air in America this coming fall," an insider told dailystar.co.uk as saying.

Internet

Robert Downey Jr may team up with Tom Cruise for political comedy

WASHINGTON, 19 May—Robert Downey Jr and Tom Cruise are reportedly in talks to star in director Jay Roach's political comedy 'El Presidente'.

Warner Bros Comedy tells the story of a Secret Service agent, who is tasked with the job of guarding

America's worst former president. Robert is expected to play the clumsy political figure and Tom has been linked with the role of the overzealous spy, whose banal job suddenly become exciting when a threat on the president's life forces the pair to go on the run together,



Tom cruise, Robert Downey Jr

Contactmusic reports. The script of the movie will be written by Dan Goor.

Internet

Thompson teams up with Smith, Jay-Z for 'Annie' update

LONDON, 19 May—British actress and screenwriter Emma Thompson says she is penning a contemporary screen version of the musical "Annie."

The BBC said Will Smith is producing the film, which will star his 11-year-old daughter, Willow.

Hip-hop mogul Jay-Z, the father of an infant daughter with singer Beyonce, is writing new tracks for the New York-set



British actress and screenwriter Emma Thompson

tragic ending," the *Daily Mail* quoted her as saying.

"The film-makers came to me and it's a good script and it's very scary and I kind of wanted to say no but I couldn't," she said.

Ahead of filming, Watts said she was swotting up on the princess, who died in a Paris car crash in August 1997.

"Now I'm doing all the research and there is so much to read, I just hope we make a good film and people can learn something new about her that's interesting."

"There are a lot of people that knew her and a lot of books to read and so much information and one story is different to the next so it's hard to gauge what was the truth."

Internet

musical, which will begin shooting next year.

Pitbull wins pop songwriter prize

LOS ANGELES, 19 May—Cuban-American rapper Pitbull was named as one of three pop songwriters of the year at the BMI Pop Music Awards, handed out each year by US performing rights organization Broadcast Music Inc.

Pitbull shared the honour with American songwriter and producer Benny Blanco and American singer-songwriter Ester Dean, while "Firework" (co-written by Dean and Sandy Vee) was designated the pop song of the year, a Press release said on Wednesday.

The 60th edition of the BMI Pop Awards took place



Cuban-American rapper Pitbull

on Tuesday night at the Beverly Wilshire hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

Pitbull was recognized for five songs on the most-performed list: "DJ Got Us Fallin' In Love", "Give Me Everything", "Hey Baby (Drop It to the Floor)", "I Like It" and "On the Floor".

Internet



Actress Angelina Jolie

Angelina Jolie praises ex-husband

LOS ANGELES, 19 May—Actress Angelina Jolie still has a soft corner for ex-husband Billy Bob Thornton. The 36-year-old says Thornton, whom she divorced almost 10 years ago, has a big beautiful heart.

The actress has penned a forward for Billy Bob's new book, "The Billy Bob Tapes: A Cave Full of Ghosts." "He has an unmatched wit and can make you laugh until your face hurts. To be with him is like being with a mad mathematician. He is constantly counting and repeating," Jolie wrote, reports showbizspy.com. "Some people walk through life able to quiet the voices in their heads. He can't. And I, and everyone else who knows him well, we love him for it. I know one thing: The world would certainly be a hell of a lot more dull if that man weren't in it," she added.—Internet



Actress Lindsay Lohan

Japan eye women's volleyball Olympic berth

TOKYO, 19 May—Hosts Japan are hoping home advantage in the final Olympic women's volleyball qualifying tournament starting Saturday will help them secure a berth at London 2012 as they bid to end a 28-year medal drought.

Eight countries—Japan, Cuba, Peru, Russia, Serbia, South Korea, Taipei, and Thailand—will play in the nine-day round robin tournament in Tokyo, all chasing the final four of 12

women's volleyball spots in London. The top three teams and the best Asian side other than that trio will book the tickets, with the event also doubling as Asia's continental elimination round.

Already qualified for London are hosts Britain, the top three teams at the 2011 World Cup (Italy, United States and China) and the winners of the other continental qualifiers—Algeria, Dominican Republic, Turkey and Brazil.

"Absolutely, our goal is

to qualify at the top of the table although I know other Asian powers will also be desperate," Japan coach Masayoshi Manabe told Japanese media. Japan, the 1964 and 1976 Olympic champions, will be seeking their first medal since bagging the bronze at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

Japan are currently third in the world rankings and the highest placed among the eight teams. But European champions Serbia, ranked sixth, could pose a threat to the hosts, whom they beat in straight sets at the 2011 World Cup. Japan have also struggled against world champions Russia, ranked seventh, over the years.

Russia, who defended their world title in 2010, are the most decorated women's team in the Olympics with four gold medals and two silvers they won as the Soviet Union.

But Japan finished third at the 2010 world championships and fourth at the 2011 World Cup in which they beat Brazil and the United States.—*Internet*



This file photo shows Japanese volleyball players listening to the national anthem before a match at the world women's volleyball championship in Tokyo, in 2010. Japan are hoping home advantage in the final Olympic women's volleyball qualifying tournament starting Saturday will help them secure a berth at London 2012 as they bid to end a 28-year medal drought.—*Internet*

London 2012 Olympic torch relay starts in Britain

LONDON, 19 May—Sailor Ben Ainslie was the first torchbearer as the Olympic flame began its 70-day journey around Britain and Ireland on Saturday ahead of the 2012 London Games.

The flame arrived in Britain from Greece on Friday and was flown to Land's End, the southwesterly tip of England, on Saturday by a Royal Navy helicopter before it was used to light the torch for the start of the 8,000-mile (12,875-kilometre) relay.

Ainslie, who has won gold medals in sailing at the last three Olympics, then walked just 300 metres, allowing some of the hundreds of spectators lining the route in the

morning sunshine to touch the gold-coloured torch.

The yachtsman, wearing the number 001 on his T-shirt as the first torchbearer, then passed on the torch to 18-year-old Anastassia Swallow, a surfer who is hoping that her sport will one day become an Olympic discipline.

The torch will be carried by 8,000 people as it makes its way around the United Kingdom, with its final destination the Olympic Stadium in east London for the opening ceremony on 27 July. From 3-7 June, it will visit Northern Ireland and then the Republic of Ireland—the only country outside the United Kingdom on the torch route.—*Internet*

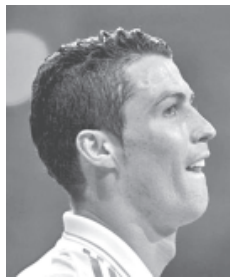
Djokovic, Federer in heavyweight semi-final clash

ROME, 19 May—Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer will clash for the 25th time in Saturday's Rome Masters semi-finals while Rafael Nadal also progressed, ensuring the big three all made the last four of this crucial French Open warm-up.

Defending champion Djokovic, the top seed, fought through the first set, before racing away in the second to beat French fifth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-5, 6-1.

Federer, fresh from his Madrid Masters triumph last weekend, followed the script with a 6-1, 6-2 demolition of Italian Andreas Seppi in just 53 minutes, with the Swiss third seed winning 14 of the first 15 points.

Second seed Nadal, meanwhile, got the better of



Real Madrid and Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo (pictured on 13 May, 2012 at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid) insisted he was "better than Messi" in an interview with American news channel CNN on Friday, before appearing to retract his claim.

INTERNET

'I'm better than Messi,' says Ronaldo

MADRID, 19 May—Real Madrid and Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo insisted he was "better than Messi" in an interview with American news channel CNN on Friday, before appearing to retract his claim.

"You cannot compare a Ferrari with a Porsche because they have different engines," tempered Ronaldo, 27, after initially insisting he was superior to the man who has won the Ballon d'Or for the world's best player in each of the last three years.

"He does his very best for Barcelona and I do my best for Real Madrid."

Few would doubt that the two men are the stand-out players in world football today, with Ronaldo scoring 46 goals as Real Madrid won La Liga, while Messi broke the Spanish league record by notching a remarkable 50 goals for Barca.

Meanwhile, Ronaldo was in little doubt about which of the two clubs had enjoyed a better campaign.

"The table speaks for itself—nine points separate Real Madrid from Barcelona and that is huge in Spain," he said. "We have played better than Barca this season, of that I am convinced.—*Internet*

Czech seventh seed Tomas Berdych, grinding out a 6-4, 7-5 win and will meet fellow Spaniard David Ferrer.

"It was a very good match for me. From the start I played aggressive," said Federer.

"The goals have to be the same against Djokovic



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns a ball during his quarter-finals match against France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga at the ATP Rome tournament. Djokovic won 7-5, 6-1.

INTERNET

—take it to him and play my game." Rome is one of the few big events Federer has not won, losing finals in 2003 and 2006.

But the Swiss star, who hasn't played Djokovic since his marathon US Open semi-final defeat last year, showed his clay game is nearing perfection, just a week before the start of the French Open.

Djokovic was tested early on by Tsonga in a first set filled with five breaks of serve. But after winning the opener in nearly an hour, Tsonga's defences collapsed as the top seed came home for his 29th win of the season.

"In the second set I played one of the best sets on clay this year," said Serb star Djokovic.

Internet

McArthur signs new Wigan contract

LONDON, 19 May—Wigan Athletic's Scotland midfielder James McArthur signed a two-year contract extension with the Premier League club on Friday. McArthur, 24, has been rewarded for playing a key part in the Latics' top-flight survival as Roberto Martinez's side climbed away from the relegation zone with impressive wins over Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool and Newcastle United in the closing weeks of the season.



Wigan Athletic's Scotland midfielder James McArthur, pictured in February 2012, signed a two-year contract extension with the Premier League club on Friday.

INTERNET

"I'm delighted to extend my stay at the club after what has been a fantastic season for Wigan and for me personally," McArthur said.

Martinez, whose own future remains unclear after he was given permission to speak to Liverpool about succeeding Kenny Dalglish at Anfield, added: "James has grown since the day he arrived at Wigan. His attitude, desire and daily standards make him an example for any young professional footballer."

"This season he has managed to put all the hard work on the training ground into effective performances on the pitch, helping the team to achieve outstanding results against the best sides in European football."

Internet



Former England footballer David Beckham carries the Olympic torch as it arrives at RNAS Culdrose air base in Cornwall, southwest England, on 18 May.—*Internet*

International Sports

Dufner seizes one-shot lead at Byron Nelson golf

AUSTIN, 19 May—American Jason Dufner rolled in four birdies on his final five holes for a four-under 66 and a one-shot lead after the second round of the PGA Tour's Byron Nelson Championship.

Dufner finished off his round on Friday with a 37-foot chip-in at the 429-yard 18th. His drive off the tee sailed wide right and he hit an approach that rolled over the green. "I'm confident with my game and happy with where my game is right now," he said. Dufner, who won last month in New Orleans for his first USPGA Tour title, reached seven-under 133. He

also had a 35-foot chip in at the 15th hole.

He had the 36-hole lead at the Masters, one of four times Dufner has led after two



American Jason Dufner during the second round of the PGA Tour's Byron Nelson Championship in Texas on 18 May. Dufner rolled in four birdies on his final five holes for a four-under 66 and a one-shot lead.—*Internet*

rounds this season. Because he has won before after leading at the halfway point of a tournament, Dufner feels he can do it again.

"It was a nice way to finish, looking forward to the weekend," Dufner said.

"I was kind of around par for the day, trying to stay patient a little bit, maybe get a birdie or two on the last five holes and ended up getting birdie on four of the last five, couple of chip-ins, which you don't expect, especially the one on 18. That's a difficult position to be over the back of that green to that hole location.—*Internet*

Capello not in talks with Chelsea

ROME, 19 May—Former England coach Fabio Capello is not in talks with Champions League finalists Chelsea, his son said Friday. "Unfortunately, these are just wonderful inventions by newspapers," Pierfilippo Capello, who is also his father's lawyer, was quoted as saying by calciomercato.com on various press reports linking Capello to Chelsea.

Capello resigned as England boss in February after criticising the Football Association for stripping John Terry of the captaincy for allegedly racially



Former England coach Fabio Capello, pictured in February 2012.—*Internet*

abusing QPR's Anton Ferdinand during a match. Terry strongly denies the charges. The Italian previously won everything in club football in spells as coach of AC Milan, Roma and Juventus while he twice won the Spanish title in two separate one-year spells as Real Madrid boss.—*Internet*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(20-5-12 09:30 am ~ 21-5-12 09:30 am) MST

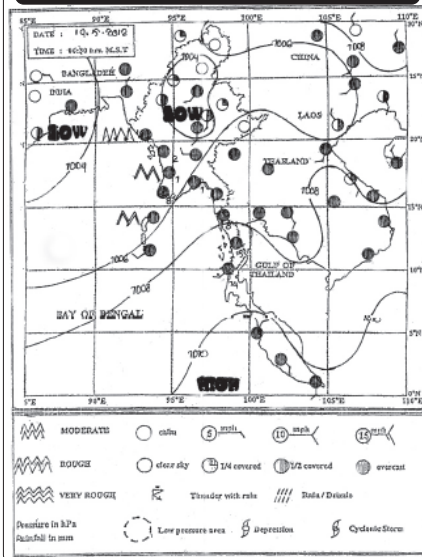
- * News
- * Top International Fashion Galleria Yangon 2012
- * News
- * Music Programme
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies Impact "I feel like ... you"
- * News
- * Shwe Minn Tha Foundation 4th Annual Ceremony
- * News
- * MI People's Celebrities "Eindra Kyaw Zin"
- * News
- * Today's Efficient Youths "Horizon International School"
- * News
- * Panca Rupa
- * Kason Fullmoon Day, Significance of Region
- * News
- * The Four Sacred Replica Tooth Relic in Pyay
- * Myanmar Movie "Mystery of Snow"

MYANMAR TV

(20-5-2012)(Sunday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 8:00 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:15 am
- 4. (38) Phyar Mingalars
- 11:10 am
- 6. Musical Programme
- 12:30 pm
- 7. How It's works
- 1:00 pm
- 8. Myanmar Movies
- 4:20 pm
- 9. Dance of National Races
- 4:35pm
- 10. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (Maths)
- 4:50 pm
- 11. Documentary (Maha Bawditaung)
- 5:15 pm
- 12. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:15 pm
- 13. Weather Report
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. Cartoon Series
- 16. New Melody

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 20th May, 2012

Sr. No.	Region/States	Temperature (°C/F)		Forecast	Percent
		Maximum	Minimum		
1	Kachin	40/104	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
2	Kayah	34/93	22/72	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
3	Kayah	32/90	23/73	Wide spread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
4	Chin	28/82	14/57	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
5	Upper Sagaing	30/80	22/77	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
6	Lower Sagaing	42/108	28/82	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
7	Tamuliyar	32/90	23/73	Wide spread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
8	Bago	34/93	24/75	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
9	Magway	42/108	28/82	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
10	Mandalay	40/104	26/82	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
11	Mou	32/90	23/73	Wide spread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
12	Yangon	32/90	22/72	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
13	Rakhine	34/93	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
14	Southern Shan	30/86	20/68	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
15	Northern Shan	34/97	18/64	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
16	Eastern Shan	34/93	24/75	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
17	Ayeyarwady	32/90	24/75	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
18	Neighbouring Nya Pyi Taw	30/102	25/77	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	32/90	22/72	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	40/104	26/82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

During the past (24) hours, Southwest Monsoon has advanced into the Andaman sea, Southeast Bay and Southern Myanmar areas. Weather has been partly cloudy over Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions. Kachin and Chin States, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Bago Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Mon State. Day temperatures were 8°C above May average temperatures in Magway Region, Kachin and Chin States (7°C) in 4°C above May average temperatures in Sagaing Region, Northern and Eastern Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and about May average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chindwin (46°C), Mawla (45°C) and Nyaung-U (42°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kyaukse (4.78) inches, Pang (4.21) inches, Mandalay (3.79) inches, Chingun (3.46) inches, Thapada (2.40) inches, Madaya (2.13) inches and Nya (2.04) inches.

Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) to (35) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Answers for Yesterday's Crossword Puzzle



Indonesia calls off search for jet crash victims

JAKARTA, 19 May— Indonesian officials have called off the search for victims of a Russian jet crash, the operation's head said on Saturday as experts continue their probe into why it flew into a dormant volcano.

The new Sukhoi Superjet 100 slammed into Mount Salak, south of the capital Jakarta, on 9 May with the loss of all 45 passengers and crew on board. Body parts were flung over dense forest and down a deep ravine.

As experts analyse data from the plane's cockpit voice recorder for clues as to why it crashed during a demonstration flight, officials called off the search for victims. "The national rescue agency called off the search on Friday as we'd recovered as many body parts as we could," Colonel Anton Mukti Putranto said.

"By the end of the

operation, we sent 35 body bags filled with victims' remains to Jakarta for identification and four more bags containing their belongings like wallets carrying ID cards."

A DNA identification process is still under way at the Kramat Jati Police Hospital in Jakarta.

"We can confirm that we have identified 14 victims

— 12 Indonesians and two foreigners. Nine were men, five were women," hospital chief Agus Prayitno told reporters.

The promotional flight aimed at touting the new jet to booming Indonesia was carrying mostly Indonesian airline officials as well as eight Russians. A US citizen and a French national were also on board.—Internet



Indonesian rescue personnel prepare to evacuate a body bag containing remains of victims' bodies from the Russian Sukhoi plane crash at the rescue base in Cijeruk, on 17 May.—INTERNET

Drogba denies Barcelona move

MUNICH, 19 May— Chelsea striker Didier Drogba denied reports linking him with Barcelona on Friday as he prepared for the Champions League final showdown with Bayern Munich.

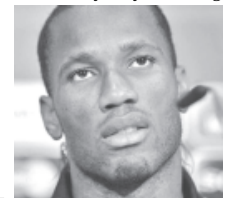
The 34-year-old Ivory Coast forward could make his final appearance for Chelsea on Saturday after failing to agree an extension to his current contract which expires this summer.

The possibility of Drogba being available as a free agent is likely to arouse interest across Europe, but the former African Player of the Year denied reports suggesting Barcelona were poised to secure his services.

"I want to make it clear there's a lot of rumours about me being offered to Barcelona. It's not true," Drogba said.

"The excitement of a big Champions League final game is more important than Barcelona approaching me now," Drogba also brushed off suggestions that Saturday's final could be an emotional swansong.

"Everybody's talking



A picture released by the UEFA shows Chelsea's forward Didier Drogba during a press conference at the Fussball Arena stadium in Munich.

INTERNET

about 'last game last game', but I'm just happy because we're in the Champions League final," he said.

Drogba did leave the door ajar though for the possibility of extending his eight year stay at Stamford Bridge, saying he was willing to "sit down and talk" with club chief executive Ron Gourlay.

"I don't really think about this. Tomorrow's game is so important that we've been waiting four years to get back," he said.

"Really what is important is not my future, my contract, it's the team. I want to give everything to the team and the fans and then we'll see what happens."

Internet

NLM-ner Joke

Where you reside

...This reminds me of something yesterday at work. A colleague was relating a conversation he had with his young daughter, just a bit over 2 years old. They were discussing geography and...

- "Where does mommy live?"
- "Minneapolis."
- "Where does grandma live?"
- "Baltimore."
- "Where does grandpa live?"
- "Baltimore."
- "And where does daddy live?"
- "At work!"

Needless to say, he took the morning off that next day...



CERTIFICATES PRESENTED: A ceremony to present certificates and school equipment to students of Pre-Primary School opened by Bahan Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 14 May. Chairperson of Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Myint Myint Kyi presents certificates and school equipment to students.—TOWNSHIP IPDR

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects MITT, Myanmar Maritime University, Thilawa Industrial Zone, Yangon Railway Station

YANGON, 19 May—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Thura U Myint Maung, U Ohn Myint, U Soe Maung, U Khin Yi, U Tint Hsan and Dr Mya Aye, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and their wives, deputy ministers, region ministers and officials, visited Kyaikhmawwin Yayle Pagoda in Kyauktan, Yangon South District, at 10.45 am today. They offered flowers, water and lights and paid homage to Sutaungpyae Ngasat Pagoda and Kyaikhmawwin Yayle Pagoda.

Then, the Vice-President and wife and party made cash donations for all-round renovation of the pagoda and the Vice-President signed in the visitors' book. They fed the fish from the fish sanctuary and offered flowers, water and lights to the Labamuni Buddha Image.

The Vice-President and party proceeded to Myanmar International Terminal (Thilawa). At the briefing hall, Myanmar Port Authority Managing Director U Cho Than Maung reported on berthing of vessels at Yangon Port, berthing of 20000-ton vessels at MITT, area of the port, condition of jetties, investment, development tasks of MITT and annual handling of containers from ocean-going vessels.

MITT General Manager U Min Kyi also reported on emergence of MITT, organizational set-up, strength of the staff, berthing of vessels, handling of containers, annual inbounds and outbounds of vessels, annual handling of containers and commodities. Then, Chairman of Thilawa



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects Yangon Railway Station.—MNA

Special Economic Zone Management Committee Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein reported on land use of Thanlyin-Kyauktan region, the location and area of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, organizational set-up of the zone, ongoing tasks in the zone, needs for upgrading buildings in the zone and development tasks of Thilawa Port.

As the Vice-President asked what he wanted to know, the Managing Director of Myanmar Port Authority and the

General Manager of Thilawa Wharf submitted reports on their respective sectors. The Region Chief Minister gave a supplementary report.

At 2.20 pm, the Vice-President and party arrived at Myanmar Maritime University. At the meeting hall, Rector Dr Charlie Than reported on aims of the university, implementation, accomplishments of ship building and

(See page 9)

This is a moment for us to recognize that progress which has occurred in last year toward democratization and national reconciliation is irreversible

New steps announced to permit American investment in country and export of US financial services

Let's all work together to create jobs, opportunity, and support reform

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin who was on an official visit in US at the invitation of US Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton met her at the US Department of State on 17 May.

During the meeting, the Union Minister explained Myanmar's measures for resumption of normal diplomatic relations between the two nations in last year, as well as its democratic reforms and national reconciliation endeavours. He also proposed Washington to fully lift its sanctions imposed against Myanmar and

end submitting one-sidedly adopted bills on Myanmar human rights issues to the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Commission.

Mrs Clinton announced the Union Minister's visit as the historic visit that further affirmed the Washington's commitment to promote the bilateral relations. She said President Obama will issue an order to suspend financial restrictions imposed against Myanmar so as to shape the way for American investment in Myanmar, commercial transactions and loans from international monetary

organizations. Under that order, the Secretary of State is invested with the authority to let American businessmen to make investments in economic sectors including oil and gas, and mining and so on. Currently, except sanctions on arms deals, other restrictions will be suspended. It is because there are still limitations to fully lift the restrictions under the procedures of the Congress. Washington will take steps to assist in health, education and other sectors. Mrs Clinton praised the President's efforts for democratization, socio-economic life improvement of people and resolving conflicts with ethnic armed groups, articulating Washington's commitment to peacemaking process. She expressed Washington's concerns over human rights and ethnic armed groups issues in Myanmar and military relations between Myanmar and North Korea and her wish to see the release of political prisoners.

After the meeting, the two foreign ministers made the press briefing. Their speeches and answers to interview questions are as follows:

SECRETARY MRS CLINTON: I am delighted to welcome the foreign minister here today to Washington. We have been looking forward to Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin's visit and the continuation of the close consultation and cooperation that has begun taking place between our two countries. We met in Nay Pyi Taw last

December, and I am very pleased to have you here, sir.

This is a historic visit – the first in decades, and it is a testament to how far we have come together in a short period of time. I want to salute President U Thein Sein for his leadership and the leadership of his government as it charts a path of political and democratic reform for his country. I want to salute those like Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all who struggled and sacrificed because they believe in a better future for their country as well.

And I want to thank everyone here in the United States who has supported this process and understands the significance of what is happening. In particular, our partners on Capitol Hill – Republican and Democrat alike – including Senators McConnell, McCain, Kerry, Webb, Shaheen, Congressman Crowley, and others.

(See page 10)



US Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton and Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin answer queries raised by the journalists at the press conference.—MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (19-5-2012)

Kyaikmaraw	(4.76) inches
Paung	(4.21) inches
Mawlamyine	(3.75) inches
Chaungzon	(3.46) inches
Thayawady	(2.40) inches
Mudon	(2.13) inches
Ye	(2.04) inches