Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XX, Number 31 | 1st Waxing of Nayon 1374 ME | Monday, 21 May, 2012

Second Union level peace talks between Union Peace-making Work Committee and RCSS/SSA held

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—The second Union level peace talks between Union Peace-making Work Committee and Rehabilitation Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) were held at Golden Triangle Yeiktha of Triangle Region Command yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of Union Peace-making Work Committee Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win and Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min.

Also present at the talks on the side of Union Peace-making Work Committee were members Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Electric Power No.2 U Khin Maung Soe, Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut, Commander of Central East Command Brig-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Than Tun Oo, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Thu and Col Kyaw Soe Win of Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s Office. Present at the talks on the side of RCSS/SSA were RCSS Chairman U Ywat Sit and responsible persons.

Local and foreign reporters, media and journals covered the news about the peace talks. Before the talks, General Soe Win and U Ywat Sit cordially greeted together by shaking hands.

Next, the talks commenced and General Soe Win extended greetings. Union Minister U Aung Min read out the President's order of the formation of Union Peace-making Work Committee and presented the members.

RCSS Chairman U Ywat Sit extended greetings and a responsible person read out an anti-narcotic drug project of RCSS/SSA to be undertaken in cooperation with the government.

The leaders of the two groups have a mutual discussion on making eternal peace and joint combat of narcotic drugs and the members took part in the round of discussions.

After the talks, General Soe Win and RCSS Chairman U Ywat Sit exchanged gifts. Then, bilateral agreements were signed and the notes were exchanged.

(See page 8)

True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

***The second Union level peace talks between Union Peace-making Work Committee and Rehabilitation Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) in progress.*—MNA**

Maintenance of Shwesangyoung bridge, Pathein-Monywa road, Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Myothit-Kanpya (Magway) road inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint yesterday morning inspected upgrading of Nay Pyi Taw-Pathein road section, repair of Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung road section, Kyaukpadaung-Gwaycho-Chauk-Seikpyu road section.

On arrival at the briefing hall of Shwesangyoung Bridge project on Pathein-Monywa road, the Union minister stressed the need for officials concerned to ensure timely completion of the bridge, meeting the set standard, sooner opening of the facility, maintenance of bridges along Pathein-Monywa road for durability, and called on them to construct Seikpyu-Kasunma-Hsaw-Kanpetlet road which leads to Seikpyu into an all-weather road and maintenance of roads which lead to Pakokku, Salin, Pwintbyu and Minbu.

Next, the Union Minister proceeded to Shwesangyaung bridge which will soon be opened and inspected preparatory works for opening of the road and the finishing touches.

Shwesangyoung bridge is 900 feet long and 24 feet wide flanked by two three feet and six inches wide pedestrian ways. The semi-concrete bridge can withstand 60 tons of loads.

As the construction of the bridge is completed by 98 per cent, arrangements are being made to open it soon.

Later, the Union Minister looked into maintenance of roads and bridges along Pathein-Monywa road and left necessary instructions.

The Union minister also inspected maintenance of Mann creek bridge on Pathein-Monywa road, collection of tolls and systematic use of road by lorries and trucks as well as tarring road sections along Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Myothit-Kanpya (Magway) and construction of Ngaleik creek bridge into a concrete facility.—*MNA*

***Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint inspects Shwesangyoung Bridge project on Pathein-Monywa road.* —MNA**

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 21 May, 2012

Geographical opportunity

Myanmar lies in a geopolitically important area between the two giants of the orient which are also the emerging economies serving as the engine of growth for the world economy. Because of their size, population and rapid economic growth, our two giant neighbours are also huge markets where consumption is high when compared with many other emerging economies of the world. Their bilateral trade volumes with global countries are growing larger and larger every year generating brighter prospects for international trade through land, air and sea.

This brings opportunities as well as challenges for our country where democratic reforms taking place in every corner for peace, progress, prosperity and unity which in fact are the aspirations of the people.

As for peace and unity, the government's national reconsolidation project is working quite well producing encouraging results in political and ethnical spheres to the degree of creating a secure environment where we all can find a common ground and work together for national interest.

As for progress and prosperity, the Hluttaws (parliaments) are in the process of enacting new laws agreeable to democracy and making amendments, adjustments and additions in democratically transforming the laws in force. Together with legal reforms, the government is liberalizing many sectors from past restrictions ensuring an environment friendly to foreign direct investments, export and important businesses, services industries, production sector, trade and so on for national economic growth.

With reforms going on well in various sectors, we are more than ready to promote business, trade and friendly relations with any global country. Thanks to our geographical position, many countries including our two giant neighbors are eager to enhance trade and diplomatic relations with us which in reality are an opportunity we must wisely use for our own good.

Road accident stemmed from failure to observe traffic rules leaves five dead, 12 wounded

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Yangon-Mandalay coach of GI Group collided with the GMC vehicle carrying fishes from the back between mile post No 258/4 and 258/5 on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay road around 2.45 am on 16 May, killing five—two drivers, one conductor and two passengers and wounding 12.

Trucks are prohibited to run on the highway by law. The accident was due to driver U Tun Hla who drove his fish-overloaded vehicle along the highway from Tatkon Junction at night without backlight. But the coach was also held responsible as it was also overloaded with some cargoes and thus could not control the high speed down the road.

It is reported that the Construction Ministry would tighten traffic rule enforcement actions in cooperation with the Myanmar Police Force.—*MNA*

Union Transport Minister visits Botahtaung Jetty, Pansodan-Dalla ferry ticket counter, IWT Delta Division

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung inspected the condition of pontoon bridges at Botahtaung Jetty under Myanma Port Authority yesterday morning. MPA Managing Director U Cho Than Maung reported to the Union Minister on preparation for launching of floating hotel with vessels at the No.6 Pontoon Bridge.

The Union Minister called for turning Botatung Jetty and its environs into modern, beautiful one and ensuring guest safety at floating hotels.

On arrival at the Pansodan-Dalla ferry ticket counter, the Union Minister head reports on preparation for introduction of I pay system presented by Managing Director U Win Pe of Inland Water Transport.

The Union Minister demanded safe and sound and convenient ferry service for travelers as over 30,000 passengers use the route daily, stressing the needs for systematic preparation before the launch of I pay system.

While visiting Delta Division, the Union Minister called for providing smooth transportation to people in the street rather than seeking profits alone since Inland Water Transport provides transport service to more than 24 million yearly. He discouraged the ferry-fare increase, stressing the safety of passengers and vessels. He also called on the staff to attach great importance to transparency in building of democratic nation.

MNA

Prophet Day marked

YANGON, 20 May – Prophet Day was marked at Myanmar Medical Association in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here yesterday morning. Presiding Chairman of the ceremony Major Tin Maung Win (Retd) spoke on the occasion. U Aye Lwin (BSC) read out the message of felicitations sent by the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Patron U Maung Maung Tar spoke about the Prophet.

Then, Prophet Day Organizing Committee Vice-Chairman U Sein Htay, Mawlawi U Ohn Thaung and leaders of religious organizations also spoke about Prophet.

MNA

U Hla Pe (Retired Prison Incharge) and Daw Han Htay made donation amounted to K 0.7 million for the construction of Home for the Aged in Maubin Township through Chairman U Soe Win of the Work Committee for construction of the facility.—MYANMA ALIN

Refresher course for issuance of Sama registration for doctors opens

YANGON, 20 May – Refresher Course No.1/2012 for issuance of Sama registration for doctors, conducted by the Medical Science Department of the Ministry of Health, was opened at the University of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Yangon with an address by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin.

In his speech, the Union Minister said that 14 universities of medicine, dental universities and other medical universities and 46 universities of nursing / midwifery of the Medical Science Department and one University of Traditional Medicine of the Department of Traditional Medicine are turning out required human resources.

Next, the Union Minister and party visited Dental University (Yangon) in Thuwunna of Thingangyun Township and met the trainees of refresher course No.1/2012 for issuance of Tha-Kha registrations for dental surgeons.

The course is being attended by 2087 doctors and 298 dental surgeons. — *MNA*

Tour guide entrance exam held

YANGON, 20 May – Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in cooperation with other related ministries is trying for the convenience of tourists coming to Myanmar. Managing Director U Hla Htay of Myanma Hotels and Tourism Enterprise met responsible people from limousine associations at the office of Yangon Region Government on 18 May.

Similarly, the Tourism Training School of the ministry is conducting basic tour guide training courses so as to fulfill the needs of Myanmar tour guides.

Tour Guide Training Course (Basic) No.41 will be opened in June. Its entrance examination was held at National Management College (Botataung) in Yangon at 9 am today and a total of 331 took the exam.

The managing director of Myanma Hotels and Tourism Enterprise and officials visited the exam centre. — *MNA*

Britain, Russia grab places in women's boxing

LONDON, 20 May—Britain and Russia grabbed quota places in each of the three weight categories in women's boxing which makes its Olympic debut in London this year, the International Boxing Association (AIBA) said on Saturday.

In all, 25 quota places in three weight categories - 51kg, 60kg and 75kg - were awarded after the conclusion of the women's world championships in Qinhuangdao, China.

United States, Brazil, Tunisia, China and New Zealand bagged two places each from the tournament's regional quota.

Irish boxer Katie Taylor capped her Olympic qualification by winning her fourth 60kg title, beating Russian Sofya Ochigava in the industrial port city of China to boost her London prospects.

England's Savannah Marshall will also fancy her chances of winning a gold in London after defeating Azerbaijan's Elena Vystropova to win the 75kg title.h

Compatriot Nicola Adams secured a berth for London, despite losing to local favourite Cancan Ren in the 51kg final.

Natasha Jonas, who won the 60kg bronze, was the other English woman boxer to win a quota place for London.

Venezuela, Poland, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Azerbaijan and Australia won one regional quota place each.

Reuters

Women's middleweight boxers Savannah Morshall of Britain (L) and Naomi Fischer-Rasmussen of Australia compete during the Olympic boxing venue test event at the Excel centre in east London November 25,2011.

REUTERS

Italy's Prime Minister Mario Monti, US President Barack Obama, Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron, Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel (L-R) speak at the start of the first working session of the G8 Summit at Camp David, Maryland, on 19 May, 2012. —Reuters

World leaders back Greece, vow to combat financial turmoil

Camp David, 20 May— World leaders backed keeping Greece in the euro zone on Saturday and vowed to take all steps necessary to combat financial turmoil while revitalizing a global economy increasingly threatened by Europe's debt crisis. A summit of the G8 leading industrialized nations came down solidly in favour of a push to balance European austerity — an approach long driven by German Chancellor Angela Merkel — with a new dose of US-style stimulus seen as vital to healing ailing euro-zone economies. But it was clear that divisions remained.

"We commit to take all necessary steps to strengthen and reinvigorate our economies and combat financial stresses, recognizing that the right measures are not the same for each of us," the leaders said in a joint statement issued at their meeting at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland.

The overarching message from the summit hosted by President Barack Obama reflected his own concerns that the euro-zone contagion, which threatens the future of Europe's 17-country single currency bloc, could hurt the fragile US recovery and his re-election chances in November.

With Greece's political and economic upheaval high on the summit's agenda and stoking concerns over instability in Spain and Italy, Group of Eight leaders sought to calm the situation. In the first line of their final economic communique, they essentially endorsed calls to broaden Europe's focus beyond German-backed belt-tightening, calling it "our imperative" to promote growth.

Anxious to quell investor fears, the G8 said: "We reaffirm our interest in Greece remaining in the euro zone while respecting its commitments." But leaders offered no specific prescription for extracting Athens from its worsening crisis.—*Reuters*

Iranian, German FMs discuss upcoming nuclear talks

Teheran, 20 May— Iranian Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Salehi and his German counterpart discussed the forthcoming nuclear talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany (P5+1) in a phone conversation on Saturday, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

Salehi said that Iran is attending the next round of the talks, set to be held in Baghdad on 23 May, with "good will" and determination, adding that the other party is also expected to come to Baghdad with constructive spirit to ensure the success of the talks, said the report.—*Xinhua*

UK may keep troops in Afghanistan post-2014 to fight terrorism

Camp Round Meadow, 20 May—Britain may keep a small number of soldiers in Afghanistan to fight terrorism after 2014, when NATO forces are due to end combat operations, a senior British government official said on Saturday.

It is the first time Britain has given any indication it may keep forces in Afghanistan after 2014 apart from a small training contingent.

Britain plans to withdraw 500 soldiers from its 9,500-strong force in Afghanistan this year before ending combat operations in 2014 when Afghan security forces are due to have taken over responsibility for security.

"As we've said previously, British forces will not remain in a combat role in Afghanistan beyond 2014," the official said before the start of a NATO summit in Chicago on Sunday that will be dominated by Afghanistan.

"The majority of forces that remain in Afghanistan will be in a training and mentoring role," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"But I wouldn't rule out a small number of forces playing a counterterrorism role if needed. This would be in keeping with how we are working to protect ourselves from the terrorism threat emanating from other parts of the world, such as the Arabian Peninsula," the official said.

Britain has said previously that about 120 British troops will help train Afghan officers at a military academy modeled on Britain's prestigious Sandhurst.

Britain, which currently has the second largest foreign force fighting the Taleban in Afghanistan after the United States, has not yet set out plans for how many troops it will withdraw in 2013 and 2014.

Internet

A British Army soldier of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles waves to Afghan children during a patrol outside Patrol Base Chilli near the town of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, on 14 July, 2011. Picture taken on 14 July, 2011.—Reuters

Explosion kills one, injures seven outside school in southern Italy

Rome, 20 May— One student was killed and other seven were injured in a bomb explosion outside a school on Saturday in the southern Italian city of Brindisi.

One girl was killed in the explosion happened short before 8:00 am local time as the students were entering the building, while another seven were rushed to hospital, of which one was "in serious peril of life".

The explosive device was reportedly placed outside the high school in Brindisi, a city in the southern region of Puglia, Rai state television said.

The surrounding area and all schools in the city were evacuated, while police was investigating over the case.

According to local prosecutor Milto Denozza, "there were too many elements showing the explosion was not a fatality but a tragic attack."

"The school was named after Giovanni Falcone (an anti-mafia magistrate who was killed in a bomb attack in 1992) and is located in front of a court. Plus, today an anti-mafia march was planned to take place here," he told Rai.

Xinhua

Italian firefighters stand on the site where an explosive device blasted outside "Francesca Morvillo Falcone" high school in Brindisi, Italy, on 19 May, 2012.—Internet

Motorcycle bomber kills 10 in eastern Afghanistan

Kabul, 20 May—A suicide bomber on a motorcycle detonated explosives in an Afghan district close to the border with Pakistan, killing at least 10 people including children, officials said on Saturday.

The attack comes one day ahead of a NATO summit in Chicago, where the coalition intends to spell out its role in Afghanistan after foreign combat troops leave by the end of 2014.

"The bomber blew himself up in a crowded market and it was powerful," said Sardar Mohammad Zazai, police chief of eastern Khost Province.

He said the assailant was heading for a police checkpoint in the Ali Sher District along the border with Pakistan's "lawless tribal areas".

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, which killed six children, one civilian adult and three policemen. Eleven years into the NATO-led war against the Taleban, the Islamist group holds large sway in Afghanistan's restive south and east, where they enjoy enormous popular support.

Afghan security officials have said they expect this year's summer fighting season to be bloody as the third phase of a security handover from NATO to Afghan forces gets underway.

Reuters

20 dead in expressway tunnel blast in central China

Yanling, 20 May—One body of the 20 victims killed in the central China tunnel explosion Saturday has been retrieved, rescuers told *Xinhua* in the wee hours of Sunday.

When the blast occurred, a total of 24 people were working at the Bamianshan tunnel, which is being built for the Yanling-Rucheng expressway, in Yanling county of Zhuzhou city, Hunan Province.

Four of them were pulled out, including one in critical conditions and another slightly injured, the Hunan provincial transport department said in a statement.

The two injured have been hospitalized.

Rescuers have conducted life detections for six times at the site, with no sign of life detected, Yang Jun with the fire brigade of Yanling county told *Xinhua*.

The explosion happened at about 8:30 am when a vehicle carrying explosives was unloading in the tunnel that involves a designed length of 2,355 meters. The explosives were contained in 12 cases each with a weight of 24 kilograms, according to the contractor of the tunnel project.

An investigation into the cause of the explosion is under way, and rescue and clear-up work is continuing.

Xinhua

Rescuers take a rest at the site of explosion in Yanling, central China's Hunan Province, on 20 May, 2012. Twenty people were killed in an explosion when a vehicle carrying explosives was unloading inside an under-construction expressway tunnel in Hunan on Saturday morning.—Xinhua

Fossils of bird-like dinosaurs discovered in Australia

SYDNEY, 20 May—Seven different killer dinosaurs once inhabited what is now southeastern Australia, ranging in size from cat-sized killers to a nine-metre-long T Rex-like predator.

The discovery represents a higher than expected biodiversity of meat-eating, theropod (bird-like) dinosaur fossils from between 105 and 120 million years ago, said geoscientists and researchers from Australia's Monash University and Museum Victoria.

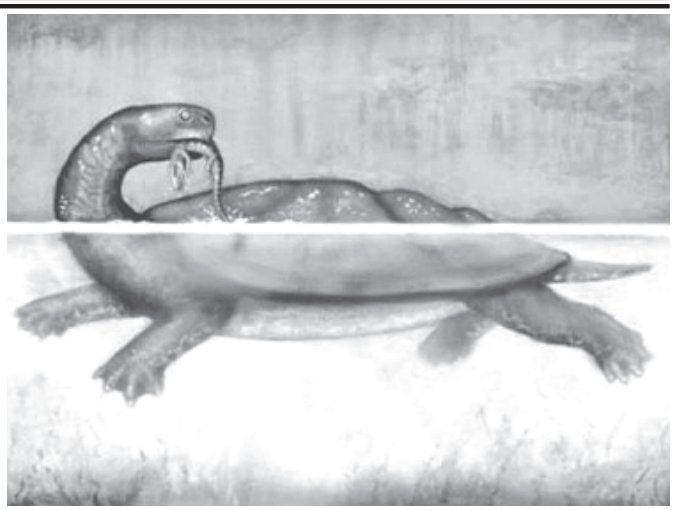
"We had not expected to find fossils from such a large range of dinosaur species in this area. The fossils we have collected range from tiny, cat-sized killers to Australia's version of T Rex, a nine-metre-long predator with powerful arms and razor-sharp claws," Tom Rich from Monash University, who led the research, said.

Fossils of bird-like dinosaurs discovered in Australia.—INTERNET

"In total, 1,500 isolated bones and teeth of various kinds of dinosaurs have been found in Victoria so far. Their meaning is only beginning to be unravelled by detailed study and comparisons with other fossils world-wide," added Rich, the *journal Public Library of Science* reports. At the time these dinosaurs ruled, southern Australia was part of the Antarctic Circle. Despite the cold, there was a high diversity of small predators, similar to the Velociraptor, featured in Jurassic Park, according to a Monash statement.

"One of the reasons for the success of small, theropod dinosaurs may be their warm-blood. As close relatives of birds, they had feathery insulation which helped maintain high body temperatures. The cool, damp climate may also explain the discovery of the same dinosaur species in both Australia and the northern continents," Rich said.

The research team included experts Lesley Kool, Dave Pickering and professor Pat Vickers-Rich.—*Internet*



This is a reconstruction of Carbonemys preying upon a small crocodylomorph. INTERNET

Fossil of giant turtle found in Colombia

RALEIGH, 20 May — Paleontologists say they've found fossilized remains of an ancient turtle with a shell the size of a small car that lived 60 million years ago in South America.

Dubbed Carbonemys cofrinii, or "coal turtle," the fossil was discovered in a coal mine in Colombia, researchers from North Carolina State University reported on Thursday.

The fossilized shell was about 5 feet 7 inches long, about the size of a Smart car, and the fossilized skull had massive, powerful jaws that would have enabled the omnivore to eat anything from mollusks to smaller turtles or even crocodiles, researchers said.

"We had recovered smaller turtle specimens from the site.

But after spending about four days working on uncovering the shell, I realized that this particular turtle was the biggest anyone had found in this area for this time period — and it gave us the first evidence of giantism in freshwater turtles," NC State doctoral student Edwin Cadena said.

Smaller relatives of Carbonemys existed alongside dinosaurs but the giant version appeared five million years after the dinosaurs vanished, researchers said, during a period when giant varieties of many different reptiles, including the largest snake ever discovered, lived in this part of South America.

Internet

Pear/apple hybrid 'papple' coming to UK

LONDON, 20 May—A fruit that looks and tastes like an apple but with the skin and texture of a pear will go on sale in Britain, luxury food retailer Marks and Spencer says.

The hybrid fruit is so new it doesn't have an official name yet, although Marks and Spencer has dubbed it a "papple," Sky News reported on Friday. "This is one of the most exciting new varieties of fruit we have seen for several years," M&S fruit expert Shazad Rehman said.

"We know our customers like to try new and interesting fruit and we hope this will be something they will really enjoy."

The fruit, a cross between European and Asian pear varieties that resulted a hybrid similar to an apple, is grown in New Zealand.

Marks and Spenser said it hopes to begin growing the hybrid fruit in England in 2015. The fruit will be available in the company's stores next week and will sell for $1.50 each.—*Internet*

SpaceX faces tricky tests in launch to ISS

CAPE CANAVERAL, 20 May—A private spacecraft set for launch faces a series of tests and maneuvers before it will be allowed to dock with the *International Space Station*, officials say.

Scheduled to launch from Florida's Cape Canaveral Saturday, SpaceX's unmanned *Dragon* spacecraft will have to prove it's no threat to the station or the station's crew of six before it will be given the go-ahead to dock with the *ISS*, *Florida Today reported* Friday.

Until then the capsule will remain beyond the "Keep Out Sphere," a 220-yard safety zone that surrounds the orbiting space laboratory.

If systems tests and maneuvers are successful, SpaceX will be allowed to rendezvous with the station.

"This is pretty tricky. And also, for the public out there, they may not realize that the space station is zooming around Earth every 90 minutes, and it's going 17,000 mph," SpaceX Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk said.

"This is something that is going 12 times faster than a bullet from an assault rifle. So it's hard."

Artist's impression of Dragon spacecraft with solar panels deployed.—INTERNET

The test will also determine if the *SpaceX Falcon* 9 rocket can put the cargo-carrying *Dragon* on course for the ISS and reserve enough fuel for the required maneuvers on the crucial test flight.—*Internet*

Israel to add magnesium to drinking water

JERUSALEM, 20 May — The Israeli government says it is launching a project to restore the magnesium to drinking water that is lost in the process of desalination.

Israel gets more of its drinking water supply from desalination than any other country in the world.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Deputy Health Minister Ya'acov Litzman said a pilot project for magnesium restoration would be set up in Ashkelon, *The Jerusalem Post* reported on Thursday.

Studies have shown magnesium is vital to health because it maintains the heartbeat and thus prevents heart attacks.

The cost of magnesium restoration has been the subject of debate for more than three years.

The Water Authority maintains adding the mineral would cost more than $25 million annually and significantly hike the consumer price of tap water, which is already high.

The Health Ministry argues the cost will be much lower and not exceed $5 million annually.—*Internet*

Facebook hacking brings 1-year prison term

LONDON, 20 May—A 21-year-old British man has been sentenced to a year in prison for hacking into an American Facebook user's account last year.

Gareth Crosskey had pleaded guilty to two counts of breaching the United Kingdom's Computer Misuse Act of 1990 by illegally accessing a Facebook account belonging to an unidentified individual in the United States, ZDNet.com reported on Thursday. The FBI, after being contacted by the victim, traced the source of the hack to Britain, and turned the investigation over to the Metropolitan Police Central e-Crime Unit, which tracked down the suspect, arresting Crosskey at his home in July 2011.

Crosskey pleaded guilty to using a computer to gain unauthorized access to a programme/data as well as performing unauthorized acts with intent to impair operation of, or prevent/hinder access to, a computer.

"The PCeU are working to detect and bring before the courts those responsible for this type of offense," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement.—*Internet*

Children drink water at a water purification station on 27 October, 2009.—INTERNET

Royal Caribbean to pull back from Europe

MIAMI, 20 May—The Royal Caribbean cruise line said trips in Europe would be curtailed in 2013 as demand for tickets has been slack. *USA Today* reported on Friday that the cruise line said it is sending nine ships to Europe for the travel season next year, whereas this year it is sending 12.

Next year, the company plans to offer 276 trips in Europe running 58 different routes.

Three ships will be based out of Britain and will managed trips to the Baltics, the British Isles, the Mediterranean and the Canary Islands, the newspaper said.

Other northern routes will head for the Norwegian Fjords, Russia, Copenhagen and Stockholm. The cruise line will also be busy in the Mediterranean. Five ships will be based out of Barcelona, Civitavecchia (near Rome) and Venice, the newspaper said. The sluggish economy in Europe has also caused rival cruise line Ocean Cruises to cut back on trips in Europe. In March, Ocean Cruises said it would pull some vessels out of the European market and deploy them in Alaska for the summer of 2013.—*Internet*

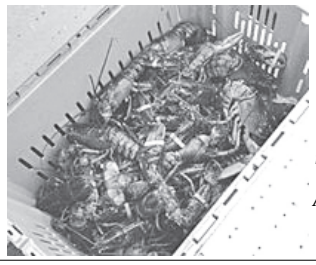
A single visa can speed things up in the cruise business as ships use Dubai as the hub to sail to other countries in the region such as Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. INTERNET

China is huge market for Canadian lobster

BORDEN-CARLETON, 20 May—China is buying lobsters from Canada's Atlantic region at a rate 30 times greater than two years ago and is one of the area's biggest customers, officials say. After buying $1 million worth of lobster in 2010, China's purchases increased to $30 million in 2011 and are expected to continue growing. "I believe China will become our No 2 export customer this year," Geoff Irvine, executive director of the Lobster Council of Canada, told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. Belgium is the second largest buyer for Atlantic Lobster, acting as a gateway for Canadian lobster sales into Europe. The United States remains the top market.

The Chinese like big lobsters, preferring those that are 2 pounds and up, industry officials said. By-the-Water Shellfish on Prince Edward Island ships live lobsters from Atlantic Canada to China year round. A new call for lobsters comes from China every few days, head of sales Ryan Tremere said.

"It provides a few extra challenges. It's a 2-day shipment time but its role has become increasingly important for us and it looks like it will continue," he said. "The growth in China will come because the economy is still growing," he said. "And seafood plays a larger role in their diet than it does in our diet."—*Internet*



China bought $30 million worth of lobster from Atlantic Canada last year.China bought $30 million worth of lobster from Atlantic Canada last year. INTERNET

Food fat tax would have to be 20 percent

A woman sits at the National Mall in Washington DC on 13 August, 2010. Obesity in the United States has increased to 2.4 million obese Americans since 2007, according to a report released this week by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).— INTERNET

OXFORD, 20 May—Taxes on unhealthy food might improve health, but the tax would need to be at least 20 percent to have a significant effect, British researchers said.

Oliver Mytton and colleagues at the University of Oxford in England said evidence suggests taxing a wide range of unhealthy foods or nutrients is likely to result in greater health benefits than narrow taxes, although the strongest evidence base is for a tax on sugary drinks.

For example, a US study found a 35 percent tax on sugar-sweetened drinks — $0.45 per drink — led to a 26 percent decline in sales, the researchers said.

Models in other studies showed a 20 percent tax on sugary drinks in the United States would reduce obesity levels by 3.5 percent, while extending the value added tax at 17.5 percent to unhealthy foods in Britain could cut up to 2,700 heart disease deaths a year, the researchers said.

US opinion polls on a tax on sugary drinks range from 37 percent to 72 percent supportive, but the food industry has said the taxes result in fewer products sold and would result in job losses, Mytton said.

The findings were reported *in the British Medical Journal.*

Internet

Study unpicks gene changes behind breast cancer

LONDON, 20 May—Scientists have mapped the complete genetic codes of 21 breast cancers and created a catalogue of the mutations that accumulate in breast cells, raising hopes that the disease may be able to be spotted earlier and treated more effectively in future.

The research, the first of its kind, untangles the genetic history of how cancer evolves, allowing scientists to identify mutational patterns that fuel the growth of breast tumors, and start to work out the processes behind them.

"These findings have implications for our understanding of how breast cancers develop over the decades before diagnosis in adults and might help to find possible targets for improved diagnosis or therapeutic intervention in the future," said Mike Stratton, who led the research team.

Breast cancer kills more than 450,000 women a year worldwide and is the most common cancer among women, accounting for 16 percent of all cases, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

A study last year by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in the United States found that global breast cancer cases have more than doubled in just three decades, from 641,000 cases in 1980 to 1.6 million cases in 2010 - a pace that far exceeds global population growth.

"This is the first time we've been able to delve fully into breast cancer genomes in such a thorough way," said Peter Campbell, head of cancer genetics and genomics at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge, where the studies were led.

The work had given scientists "a full panoramic view of the cancer genome" and helped them identify "mutational patterns rather than individual mutations in specific genes", he added.

DNA MUTATIONS

"We've known for many years now that all cancers are due to abnormalities of DNA...that occur in every single cell of the body over the course of a lifetime," said Stratton.

"But although we've known that, it's remarkable how rudimentary our knowledge is about what the processes are that cause these abnormalities, these mutations in our DNA."

Stratton's team sequenced the genomes of the 21 breast cancers and catalogued all the mutations. They found five major processes that cause one letter of code to be changed to another letter. Genetic code comes in four DNA letters, A,C,G and T.

Stratton said one of the most exciting findings was that one of these processes is characterized by small pockets of massively mutated regions of the genome.

This sudden "storm" of mutations is often seen in breast cancers, he explained in an audio briefing.

While his team don't fully understand the process behind these storms, they think it may be down to components of the cell whose normal function is to edit, or mutate, DNA.

"What we believe...is that sometimes in normal cells...this stops functioning properly and over-functions. It causes too many mutations and the accumulation of those mutations pushes the cell along the line to become cancer."

The team found that these and other mutations accumulate in breast cells over many years, initially slowly, but picking up greater momentum as genetic damage builds up.

By the time the breast cancers are large enough to be diagnosed, they are made up of a number of genetically related families of cells, with one family dominating the cancer, Stratton explained.

Reuters

A woman undergoes a free mammogram inside Peru's first mobile unit for breast cancer detection, in Lima on 8 March, 2012.— REUTERS

Health Tip: Put the brakes on drowsy driving

Nodding off may be okay while you're chaperoning a kiddy movie or at your mother-in-law's birthday party, but not when you're behind the wheel.

The National Sleep Foundation says these warning signs mean you're too tired to drive:

* Having difficulty focusing, heavy eyelids or frequent blinking.
* Daydreaming or wandering thoughts.
* Missing traffic signs or exits, or inability to remember the last few miles that you drove.
* Rubbing your eyes, yawning, or difficulty holding your head up.
* Drifting in and out of lanes, driving over a rumble strip, or riding too close to the car in front.—*Internet*

Trash best way to dispose of unused drugs

ANN ARBOR, 20 May—Discarding unused medications in the trash is a better way to limit the risk of poisoning and reduce air and water pollution, US researchers suggest.

First author Sherri Cook, a doctoral student at the University of Michigan, and Nancy Love, a professor in the department of civil and environmental engineering, compared the total emissions created by take-back, trash and toilet disposal methods of leftover medications.

In most cases, the US Food and Drug Administration recommends throwing the medications away, but only if people don't have access to a take-back programme.

Flushing unused pills down the toilet is no longer advised, as the active ingredients in drugs have been found in drinking water and aquatic environments, but about 40 percent still flush unused medication down the toilet, Cook explained.

In medication take-back programs, the returned drugs are incinerated as hazardous waste, Cook said.

"National policy seems to be changing to support take-back programmes, and we don't know if that's justified," Cook said in a statement.

The study, published in Environmental Science & Technology, found if everyone trashed their extra drugs, the amount of active pharmaceutical ingredients in the environment would be significantly reduced.

The researchers encourage policymakers to focus on getting more people to get rid of medicines by trash, rather than take-back.

Internet

Senators unveil 'Ex-Patriot Act' for tax dodgers

WASHINGTON, 20 May— Two US lawmakers announced legislation on Thursday to punish Americans who renounce their citizenship to dodge taxes.

Democratic Sens Charles Schumer of New York and Bob Casey Jr of Pennsylvania unveiled the "Ex-Patriot Act" at a Press conference on Thursday, a response to Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin, an American citizen born in Brazil who now resides in Singapore and who renounced his citizenship in September 2011 in a move that will save him an estimated $67 million to $100 million in US taxes.

Schumer said Saverin's actions were "an outrage," adding Saverin "wants to de-friend the United States of America just to avoid paying taxes. We aren't going to let him get away with it." He said Saverin "turned his back on the country that welcomed him and kept him safe, educated him and helped him become a billionaire."

Casey called it "an insult to the American people" that "cries out for some basic justice."

The proposed bill, explained in a news release on Thursday, requires a renounced citizens' US assets to be taxed at 30 percent, double the usual rate, if he or she is determined to have a net worth of exceeding $2 million or an average tax liability of $148,000 over the last five years.

While the US Constitution forbids Congress from passing laws to punish an individual, Schumer said his bill would apply to anyone in a situation similar to Saverin's, *The Hill* reported.—*Internet*

Sen Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Bob Casey (D-PA) announce the 'Ex-PATRIOT' (Expatriation Prevention by Abolishing Tax-Related Incentives for Offshore Tenancy) Act aimed at taxing expatriates even after they flee the United States and take up residence in a foreign country, on Capitol Hill in Washington on 17 May, 2012.— INTERNET

Iran's Ahmadinejad keen to attend London Olympics

DUBAI, 20 May—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Thursday he was keen to attend the 2012 London Olympics to support his country's athletes but that the British authorities had "problems" with hosting him, the official *IRNA* news agency said.

Iran said last year it might boycott the London Olympics because it believed the event's logo, which depicts the year 2012 with four jagged multi-coloured figures, resembled the word Zion and was therefore "racist". Zion is a term that refers to the city of Jerusalem and Iran does not recognise Israel. But Ahmadinejad appears to have had a dramatic change of heart, though it was unclear whether he had made an official request to attend the games.

"I would like to be among

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.— REUTERS

Iranian athletes in the 2012 London Olympics to support them but they (the host country) have problems with that," *IRNA* quoted him as saying.

Relations between Iran and Britain remain strained over Teheran's refusal to open up its nuclear programme to international oversight and its failure to allay Western fears that it is seeking to develop a nuclear weapons capability. Teheran denies it has any such intentions.—*Reuters*

China jails smuggling kingpin Lai for life

Lai Changxing, one of China's most wanted fugitives.— REUTERS

BEIJING, 20 May—A Chinese court convicted Lai Changxing, who was deported from Canada, on smuggling and bribery charges and jailed him for life on Friday, the official *Xinhua* news agency reported. The conviction effectively ends the career of a man whose case tainted ruling Chinese Communist Party officials — including Jia Qinglin, who sits on the elite Standing Committee — with rumours of malfeasance, collusion and dereliction of duty. Lai was jailed by a court in Xiamen, a coastal city in east China where he was accused of running a vast smuggling ring in the 1990s protected by senior officials who were paid off. "The crimes involve massive sums and particularly serious circumstances," the court said, according to the *Xinhua* report, which cast the conviction as showing the ruling Communist Party's determination to fight corruption. "The Chinese government's determination to attack crime and root out corruption is unwavering, the report said.

Lai can still appeal against the conviction and sentence. The court concluded that, from 1991, Lai "established companies, strongholds and networks in Hong Kong and Xiamen to form a smuggling clique" that cheated customs inspectors to import cigarettes, cars, oil products, industrial materials and textiles worth a total of some 27.4 billion yuan.

Lai bribed 64 officials through gifts of cash, real estate and vehicles worth some 39.1 million yuan, and he evaded taxes totalling 14.0 billion yuan.

Lai's crimes occurred in the special economic zone of Xiamen in Fujian Province in the mid-1990s when Jia, now the Communist Party's fourth most senior leader, was the province's party boss.

Reuters

France's left-wing leadership starts with a pay cut

PARIS, 20 May— France's new left-wing government started work on Thursday with pledges to combat excessive austerity but better manage public finances, marking the debut with a 30 percent cut in pay for President Francois Hollande and all ministers.

The sizeable wage reduction was endorsed at a first meeting of the 34-minister team, a day after Germany's government awarded rises to its ministers and Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose pay will overtake Hollande's.

In a highly symbolic debut, Hollande chaired a first cabinet meeting where the 17 men and 17 women ministers gave the nod to a pay reduction that will trim salaries by 30 percent, knocking the wage Hollande will earn to just under 15,000 euros a month.

France's President Francois Hollande (2ndR) and Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault (3rdR) pose for the traditional family photo with the women members of the newly formed government outside the Elysee Palace in Paris on 17 May, 2012. — REUTERS

The pay cut, implemented by a decree the ministers approved, takes immediate effect and will require a law but be backdated to mid-May in Hollande's case, government spokeswoman Najat Vallaud-Belkacem said.

A government statement said the cuts would reduce the gross pay of ministers to 9,940 euros a month from 14,200 euros and cut the salary paid to both Hollande and Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault to 14,910 euros a month, from 21,300 euros.

The cabinet met on a public holiday at the Elysee Palace, the presidential offices vacated by conservative Nicolas Sarkozy on Tuesday after handing Hollande the country's nuclear codes.

In Germany, which has weathered several years of financial and economic turmoil better than France and far better than the likes of debt-crushed Greece or Ireland, the wage trend was in the opposite direction.

On Wednesday, Merkel's cabinet gave themselves a 5.7 percent rise that will push Merkel's pay up by 930 euros per month from her current base pay of just over 16,000 euros a month.—*Reuters*

Men walk under Iranian national flags at a park in northern Teheran on 5 March, 2012. REUTERS

Plans to strike Iran "ready", says US Israel envoy

JERUSALEM , 20 May—US plans for a possible military strike on Iran are ready and the option is "fully available", the US ambassador to Israel said, days before Teheran resumes talks with world powers which suspect it of seeking to develop nuclear arms.

Like Israel, the United States has said it considers military force a last resort to prevent Iran using its uranium enrichment to make a bomb. Iran insists its nuclear programme is for purely civilian purposes.

"It would be preferable to resolve this diplomatically and through the use of pressure than to use military force," Ambassador Dan Shapiro said in remarks about Iran aired by Israel's Army Radio on Thursday.

"But that doesn't mean that option is not fully available — not just available, but it's ready. The necessary planning has been done to ensure that it's ready," said Shapiro, who the radio station said had spoken on Tuesday.

The United States, Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany have been using sanctions and negotiations to try to persuade Iran to curb its uranium enrichment, which can produce fuel for reactors, medical isotopes, and, at higher levels of purification, fissile material for warheads.

New talks opened in Istanbul last month and resume on 23 May in Baghdad.

Israel, which is widely assumed to have the Middle East's only atomic arsenal, feels threatened by the prospect of its arch-foe Iran going nuclear and has hinted it could launch preemptive war.

But many analysts believe the United States alone has the military clout to do lasting damage to Iran's nuclear programme.

In January, Shapiro told an Israeli newspaper the United States was "guaranteeing that the military option is ready and available to the president at the moment he decides to use it".

US lawmakers are considering additional legislation that would increase pressure on Iran, with further measures to punish foreign companies for dealing with Iran in any capacity.—*Reuters*

More minority babies than whites in US

WASHINGTON, 20 May— For the first time, there are more black, Hispanic and other minority babies being born in the United States than white babies, according to government data released on Thursday that confirm a long-growing trend.

US Census Bureau data show the United States is on its way to becoming "majority minority," with almost half of all young children currently from minority groups, including Hispanic, black and Asian.

As of 1 July, 2011, 50.4 percent of babies younger than age 1 were minorities or of more than one race, up from 49.5 percent in 2010, the data showed.

Among children younger than age 5, 49.7 percent were a minority or mixed race last year, up from 49.0 percent in 2010, according to the agency, which tracks the US population.

While the country has long been on course to see whites lose their majority, the latest figures make it clear that the next generations of Americans will look far different than today.

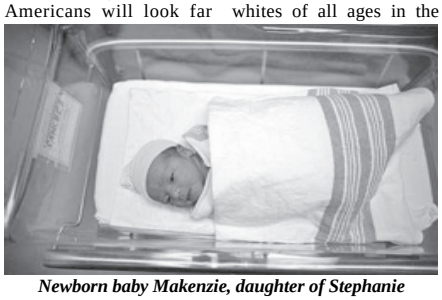
The figures are also likely to reignite debate over what it means to be an American in an election year where race, poverty and immigration are emotional campaign issues.

The 197.5 million whites of all ages in the United States still make up nearly two-thirds of the nation, the Census Bureau said. Its data show 36.6 percent of the US population were minorities in 2011 compared to 36.1 percent in 2010.

Some experts on race and ethnicity say current immigrants are far less likely to "melt" into US culture, while others say today's minorities may soon see their heritage blend as whites did. Generations ago there were not "whites" but European groups that were identified as Irish, German, Italian and Greek, among others.

The growing Hispanic population and related immigration concerns, particularly in southern states that border Mexico, are major issues in November's presidential and congressional elections.

Reuters



Newborn baby Makenzie, daughter of Stephanie Sanchez, 25, and Kenneth Vega, is wheeled to a nursery after she was born at 10:25am at Wyckoff Heights Medical Centre in the Brooklyn borough of New York on 31 October, 2011. —REUTERS

Asia's leading international art fair opens in HK

HONG KONG, 20 May—Asia's leading international art fair opened in Hong Kong on Thursday, bringing together a record 266 galleries from across the globe.

With Hong Kong aspiring to become the art hub of the region, the event also projects a uniquely Asian flavour, with two sections dedicated solely to Asian artists. ART HK, Asia's leading art show, is sure to have art lovers buzzing.

Organizers said the city's blend of east and west provides the perfect platform for the international art fair.

Hong Kong is opening up as a hotspot for collectors, with no tax on the import and export of art. It is also now the third largest art market in the world by auction turnover.

Magnus Renfrew, fair director of ART HK, said: "In a broader sense, I think Hong Kong has the potential to become a great cultural hub because there are so many different nationalities that come together here, it is a very international city. "It is place where everybody feels equally at home and it is a place that has always been very welcoming of outside views and interests." Running for its fifth year, the fair has become a key event on the international art calendar. And it aims to showcase talent in the region, with two sections dedicated exclusively to Asian artists. One of the highlights is a BMW M1 race car, painted by Andy Warhol in 1979. It is being featured to pay tribute to the Father of Pop Art, on the 25th anniversary of his passing.—*Internet*

Cool weather aids in fight against Colo wildfire

DENVER, 20 May— Lower temperatures and higher humidity Saturday were helping crews assigned to a wildfire that has scorched 12 square miles in northern Colorado, one of several burning across the West.

In this 17 May, 2012, file photo, fire burns through trees on the Hewlett wildfire in the Poudre Canyon northwest of Fort Collins, Colo. The fire, which started on 14 May, about 20 miles northwest of Fort Collins, had prompted officials to evacuate about 80 homes, but all residents were allowed to return by Friday night. No buildings have been damaged, and the blaze was about 45 percent contained Saturday afternoon, on 19 May.—INTERNET

The fire, which started Monday about 20 miles northwest of Fort Collins, had prompted officials to evacuate about 80 homes, but all residents were allowed to return by Friday night. No buildings have been damaged, and the blaze was about 45 percent contained Saturday afternoon.

Reghan Cloudman with the US Forest Service said the area received about 0.15 inches of rain Saturday morning, which "is better than nothing." Scattered rain storms moved through the area in the afternoon, and temperatures were expected to remain in the 50s throughout the day — more than a 20-degree drop from highs during the previous three days.—*Internet*

China firms blast new US duties on solar cells

CHANGZHOU, 20 May—Chinese companies have slammed the United States as "short-sighted" and warned of a trade war after it imposed hefty duties on solar cells it said were being sold at artificially low prices.

The US Commerce Department on Thursday slapped levies of between 31 and 250 percent on the Chinese solar cell producers in retaliation for the so-called "dumping". The move is the latest in a long-running trade row between Washington and Beijing, who have clashed over a range of issues that have on occasion had to be settled by the World Trade Organization.

China's Suntech Power, which was specifically named in the US government investigation, called the move out of touch with reality. "These duties do not reflect the reality of a highly-competitive global solar industry," Andrew Beebe, Suntech's chief commercial officer, said in a statement late on Thursday.

He said the company, the world's largest maker of solar cells, would work with the US government to refute the duties.

"Despite these harmful trade barriers, we hope that the US, China and all countries will engage in constructive dialogue to avert a deepening solar trade war," Beebe said.

Another company named by the US government, Trina Solar, said it would still attempt to serve the US market despite the duties and remained committed to keeping prices low. "This is simply what is required to unlock the next level of fossil fuel replacement in the United States," Mark Kingsley, Trina's chief commercial officer, said in another statement.—*Internet*

A worker monitors the production of solar cells at a Trina Solar lab in Changzhou in 2009.—INTERNET

Three men arrested for attempt to attack Obama HQ in Chicago

CHICAGO, 20 May—Three young men were arrested in south Chicago just days ahead of a NATO summit for suspected attempts to attack President Barack Obama's campaign headquarters, Mayor Rahm Emanuel's house and police stations with "incendiary devices," local media reported Saturday.

The men, who are held on 1.5 million US dollars bond apiece, are charged with conspiracy to commit terrorism, providing material support for terrorism and possession of an explosive or incendiary device.

The three men are self-proclaimed anarchists and members of "Black Bloc," a band of protesters who typically mask their faces to avoid identification.

Their arrests were the result of an investigation since early May into a group suspected of making Molotov cocktails - crude bombs usually created by filling glass beer bottles with gasoline, according to local court records.

The men travelled from Florida to the Chicago area ahead of this weekend's NATO meetings in order to prepare a multi-staged attack against various targets in the city, prosecutors said. According to court documents, the men planned to first attack four Chicago police stations and destroy several squad cars with "destructive devices" in order to divert attention.—*Xinhua*

India's poorest turn video journalists to fill news gap

MUMBAI, 20 May—One video shows police beating protesters with sticks. Another shows two lifeless, dirty bodies dragged from their workplace in the sewers. In a third, a man explains why his hand was slashed.

The disturbing clips and personal stories have a common thread: all the victims are "untouchables", now known as Dalits, who are at the bottom of India's rigid Hindu caste hierarchy.

The Dalit with the cut hand says he was harmed for drinking from a pot meant for higher castes, while filthy and dangerous sewer work is a profession reserved for families of the lowest caste.

Such everyday discrimination is nothing new, but it is rarely documented with such intimacy and insider knowledge in India's mainstream domestic news media.

"The mainstream media just report on the superficial events but they don't have depth," said Amol Lalzare, a Dalit and one of the "community correspondents" working for Video Volunteers, a media and human rights group.

I stay here, I know what's going on, and I also want to give solutions through my news clips," added Lalzare, who makes videos in the Mumbai slums with a camera not much larger than a mobile phone.

Video journalist and slum dweller Amol Lalzare, (L) interviews Hasina Mukhtar Qureshi for his news report on 'eve teasing' in Mumbai's slums.—INTERNET

The 27-year-old documents a range of issues affecting the poor, from water shortages and poor sanitation to corruption and sexual harassment in the slums, where more than half of the city's residents live.

In their recently-launched campaign against caste discrimination, including a petition to properly end the illegal practice, Video Volunteers from across India have released footage to show the problem is still entrenched. They captured Dalit women who take their sandals off to walk past the "big people's houses", a barber admitting Dalits don't come to his shop, and a school where Dalit children eat separately.

"It makes me nothing but angry," vented one female interviewee.

Internet

ASEANAPOL
CHIEFS OF POLICE CONFERENCE
22-24 MAY, 2012
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

32nd ASEANAPOL CONFERENCE
22-24 MAY, 2012
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry
22 May 2012
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Marine Biodiversity

Second Union level peace talks between...

(from page 1)

The responsible persons of both sides held a press conference with local and foreign reporters, media and journals and replied to the questions.

`In the evening, they attended a dinner hosted at Pyi Nyein Aye Hall of the command in commemoration of the Union level peace talks. Before dinner, they posed for a documentary photo. During dinner, they enjoyed variety dances of traditional Shan nationals.

After the dinner, RCSS Chairman U Ywat Sit presented a bouquet and cash awards to the cultural troupe. Later, Union Minister U Aung Min and Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe presented a bouquet and cash awards respectively to the cultural troupe.—*MNA*

Union A & I Minister visits 66-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation in Ottwin

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspected provision of irrigation water from right main canal of Kabaung Dam and 66-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation near Padauk Khin Village in Nyaungbin Village-tract in Ottwin Township, Bago Region yesterday.

In meeting with local farmers near the plantation, the Union Minister called for use of fertilizers as the nourishment to the plantation for bumper harvest, and cooperation between farmers and companies that purchase Palethwe hybrid paddy through paying-in-advance system with mutual trust and switch to Palethwe hybrid paddy strains to win sustainable market.

The Union Minister presented farmers with agricultural economy journals and foodstuffs.—*MNA*

Union CPT Minister attends Korea Communications Conference

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun attended Korea Communications Conference and ministerial meeting of World Information and Communications Summit at Korea Communications Commission-KCC in Seoul of the Republic of Korea on 15 and 16 May.

The Union Minister and party attended the opening of Korea Communications Conference 2012 at International Convention Center in Seoul and viewed the booths of Korean IT and communication companies at the World IT Show 2012 on 15 May.

The Union Minister then attended the ministerial meeting of World Information and Communication Summit together with ministers and ministerial level officials form 18 countries.

Work programmes, projects and difficulties encountered works for ICT development drive were discussed under new economy on connected society during the summit.

Union Minister U Thein Tun in his discussion explained expansion of communication network in more open and transparent manner in the time of the new government, allowing of more local, foreign and private sector's participation in communication sector, possible restrictions in ICT development and action plans.

The Union Minister under the KCC arrangement on 16 May visited SK Telecom (SKT) Data Centre and Network Management Centre. Before the conference, the Union Minister and party paid a call on the commissioners of the KCC at its headquarters.

The Union Minister and the SKT CEO discussed matters related to mutually beneficial cooperation for communication sector development of Myanmar, upgrading of internet quality and ways to cooperate in ICT human resources development.

The Union Minister and party met Korea Global IT Project Funding and Engineering Institute (GITI) Chairman and party on 15 May morning to discuss provision of capital and technical assistance by Korean government in communication sector development projects in Myanmar. The Union Minister and party arrived back in Yangon on 17 May.—*MNA*

***As a gravel road networking from the Kongyi junction on Yangon-Mandalay Pyidaungsu Road to AnaukUyinhmu Village is beneficial to rural people, Yedashe Township Development Affairs Department is now upgrading the road for convenience of the locals.*—KYEMON**

Pathein Expo-2012 kicks off

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung views displays at booths of Pathein Exhibition-2012.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May— Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung was present at the opening of the Pathein Exhibition (2012) held at the town hall of Pathein on 18 May.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Hla Khaing, Managing Director of Myanmar Anawrahta Co and Father Land Construction Co cut the ribbon to open the expo.

Afterwards, the Region Chief Minister attended the work-coordinating meeting on rural development and poverty alleviation, held at the meeting hall of the region government's office. He heard reports presented by District/Township Administrators and left necessary instructions.—*MNA*

Kutkai-Karlaing rural tarred road commissioned into service in Kutkai

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—An opening ceremony of Kutkai-Karlaing rural tarred road took place at its pavilion in Khutkai on 10 May.

Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U T Khun Myat and Shan State Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Sai Sar Lu, Deputy Director of Shan State Development Affairs committee (Lashio branch) and donor U Arlinkaw (a) U Eiksan cut the ribbon to commission the facility into service.

Donor U Arlinkaw (a) U Eiksan pressed the button to open the stone inscription and the State A & I minister addressed at the event.

Under the supervision of Kutkai Township Union Solidarity and Development Party, the newly-opened road was implemented with contribution of K 318.8 million by Chairman of Shwe Taung Tan Co U Arlinkaw (a) U Eiksan and family and strength of other rural donors.

The facility with about 7.2 miles length is giving smooth transport to a total of 22 villages near Karliang Village in Kutkai Township.

MNA

Talk on Media & The Public to be held at MFF on 26 May

YANGON, 20 May—Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanmar Prawns Entrepreneurs' Association have arranged to hold a talk on the topic "Media & The Public" to be spread by Writer Maung Wuntha, which is sponsored by Parami Foundation, at Thiri Annawa Hall of Myanmar Fisheries Federation on Bayintnaung Street in Insein Township here at 2:00 pm on 26 May (Saturday).

MNA

Those who handed over ancient cultural objects rewarded

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Two sons of U Kyi Lin of KanU Village of Kudoeseik Village-tract, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township, here, discovered an ornamental backdrop of a throne cast in bronze of Pyu Period measuring 19"x14"x0.25" from Leikkhun Mountain to the east of village and U Tin Soe Lwin of Mezaligon Village of Mezaligon Village-tract, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township came across counting beads of Pyu Period as he was cutting bamboo in Lewin Village in Ottarathiri Township. Likewise, Ko Htaik (a) Ko Hmon Gyi and his group found a Buddha statue of Pyu Period with 4.5 inches in height near Phonedawgyi new monastery on Hlegwin Mountain in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township. They handed over their objects to the Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department of the Ministry of Culture via the Township General Administrative Office.

Yesterday morning, Director U Myo Nyunt of Pyinmana Township Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department rewarded K 403200 to U Kyi Lin and sons, K 216000 to U Tin Soe Lwin and K 270000 to Ko Htaik (a) Ko Hmon Gyi for the handover of their ancient cultural objectives. The department awards cash to those who with a sense of duty hand over ancient cultural objectives discovered from across the country. —*MNA*

Literary talks given, books donated

KATHA, 20 May—Jointly organized by Katha District Information and Public Relations Department and Katha Township Writers and Journalists Association, the raising reading habit was held at the monastery in Pinmaluk Village of Lankhwa Village-tract of Katha Township on 28 April morning.

Staff Officer U Chi Maung of District Information and Public Relations Department, Chairman of Township Writers and Journalists Association U San Oo (Kannaphu-San Oo) gave talks on literary affairs.

Next, Staff Officer U Chi Maung, Chairman of Township WJA U San Oo, members of the committee and Hsuhtupan Road donated books, publications and journals to Village-tract Administrator U Ni Tar and Chairman of the Library Committee U Than Myint.

Myanma Alin

New library building opened in Twantay Township

YANGON, 20 May—The opening of Alin Saytaman Library was opened in Mawun Village of Mawun Village-tract in Twantay Township of Yangon South District on 13 May morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Than Zaw Han, Staff Officer of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Thet Oo, Chairperson of Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Zargyi Win Myint and Village Administrator U Kyaw Shein formally opened the library.

Next, Township Administrator U Than Zaw Han and Staff Officer of Township IPRD U Thet Oo explained sustainability of the library meeting five-point standard, increase of books and applications and purpose of opening the library.

After that, Myanmar Libraries Foundation donated 150 books, Chairperson of Township WAO K 10,000 for one radio and one tower clock to the librarian. The building of library is 15 feet long, 20 feet wide and eight feet high, and it was built at a cost of K 180,000 by local people.

Township IPRD

Mawlamyinegyun gets school shelter

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 20 May—Opening of two-storey school shelters took place at Basic Education Middle school in Dani-chaung model village, Kyatshar village-tract in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 14 May. The Township education officer, the village-tract administrator and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) opened the school.

After that, officials explained the maintenances of it. The school measuring 72 ftX 32ftX 23ft was donated by SDC. Local People in the model village can use it as a shelter in case of natural disaster.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

Library multiplier course (1/2012) opens in Dagon Myothit (South)

YANGON, 19 May—Opening of library multiplier course (1/2012), jointly conducted by Dagon Myothit (South) Township General Administration Department and Information and Public Relations Department, took place at Township IPRD on 14 May.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Myint Lwin delivered an address. After that, Staff Officer of Yangon East District IPRD Daw Mar Mar Oo explained the purpose of opening it. A total of 78 librarians and assistant librarians attended the course.

Township IPRD

Traffic rules checked in KhinU Township

KHINU, 20 May—Under the supervision of Commander of KhinU Township Police Force Police Captain Than Win of Sagaing Region, the combined team of KhinU Township Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee checked various types of vehicles and motorcycles that were not in line with traffic rules on Shwebo-YeU Road, at the entrance to the town, on 16 May morning.

Action was taken against the vehicles that broke traffic rules.

Kyemon

Saplings nurtured in Hsipaw to conserve environment

HSIPAW, 20 May—Staff of Hsipaw Township Forest Department grew 30,000 teak plants on 50 acres of land at Block 20 of Namma Forest Reserve in Sanlaung Village in 2012-2013 cultivation season under the supervision of Staff Officer of Township Forest Department U San Yu.

Moreover, the department carried out land preparations for growing of over 25,000 teak, hardwood and other plants in the rainy season.—*Kyemon*

Pyinnyatagon library opened in Ottwin Township

OTTWIN, 20 May—Opening of Pyinnyatagon library took place at Phayaggyigon village, Nyaungbingyi village-tract in Ottwin Township on 12 May.

At the ceremony, Assistant Director U Ye Nyunt of Bago Region Information and Public Relations Department, Township Administrator U Kyaw Shwe and Library Foundation Committee Chairman U Myint Kyi opened it.

Afterwards, the Assistant Director and the administrator delivered speeches. Staff officer U Sein Mya of Toungoo District IPRD gave talks and the perpetuation of library.

It was built at a cost of K 2.3 million, including the contribution of K 1 million by Myanmar Library Foundation.

Township IPRD

Township Writers Association formed in Maubin

MAUBIN, 20 May—A ceremony to explain fifth conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and form Township Writers Association, was held at Maubin (Myoma market) on 12 May. At the ceremony, Chairman of Township WJA U Myint Thein clarified the experience.

After that, Township Writers Association was reformed and executives of Township Writers Association, elected.

Myanma Alin

PLANT NURSERY INSPECTED: ***Deputy Director-General Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw inspects 500-acre teak plantation of Block 23/26 at Ngalaik Forest Reserve near Myothit-Kanbya-Magway Road in Tatkon recently.*** FOREST

Fire drill demonstrated in Tachilek

TACHILEIK, 20 May—Educative talks on fire preventive measures and fire drill were held at Myoma Market in Tachileik on 16 May. Staff officer U Aung Kyaw Naing of Fire Services Department explained the preventive measures against the fire and fire brigades demonstrated the fire drill. After that, officials inspected electric wire lines in the Market and installation of fire taps.—*Myanma Alin*

Student-centered approach teaching method course opens in Labutta

LABUTTA, 20 May—Opening of Township-level student-centered approach teaching method course by No.1 Basic Education Department, was held at No.2 Basic Education High School in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region on 10 May.

At the ceremony, the Township Administrator delivered an opening address and then Daw Myo Sanda from Myaungmya Education Collage explained the student-centered approach teaching methods. Afterwards, Township Education Officer U Khin Maung Myit also explained the course.

Myanma Alin

Respect-paying ceremony of Ponnagyun (BEHS) alumni

PONNAGYUN, 20 May—The 17th respect-paying ceremony of alumni of Ponnagyun (BEHS) in Rakhine State, was held along with get-together, at the school on 13 May. At the ceremony, old students paid respects to 41 retired teachers and donated cash and kinds.—*Myanma Alin*

Self-reliant wooden bridge built in Mawlu model village

MAWLU, 20 May—Construction of village-to-village creek-crossing bridge started in Mawlu model village in Indaw Township, Sagaing Region on 10 May. It is a self-reliant wooden bridge which links Mawlu Ward No.6 and Myothit Ward No.2. The bridge is being built with the contribution of local people and well-wishers.

Kyemon

International Nurses Day observed in Thanbyuzayat

THANBYUZAYAT, 20 May—International Nurses Day was held in Peope's Hospital in Thanbyuzayat Township on 12 May, with an address by Head of Township Health Department Dr Thura Aung. After that, the message sent by Chairperson of Myanmar Nurse and Midwifery Association Professor Dr Nan Htum Hla was read out. Those present hold discussions on modern heath care. After that, they donated nutritious foods to the patients.

Township IPRD

New delivery ward opens in Shwegu Township

SHWEGU, 20 May—A ceremony to open new delivery ward in rural health care centre was held in Teinhwon village of Shwegu Township, Kachin State on 12 May.

At the ceremony, head of Township Health Department Dr Thura Zaw and village-tract administrator formally opened it.

The facility measuring 20 ft X 18 ft X 18 ft was built with the contribution of K 3.5 million by local people.

Myanma Alin

Educative talks on landscapes held in Minhla

MINHLA, 20 May—Educative talks on establishing rural houses, growing teaks and hardwoods, environmental conservation, land reclamation and landscaping, was held at Shwewahmyay nursery in Minhla Township on 17 May. Assistant Director U Soe Tin (2) of Thayawady District Forest Department and staff gave talks. After that, landscaping and land reclamation were carried out.

DISTRICT IPRD

Linyaungyi library opens in Kungyangon Township

YANGON, 20 May—A ceremony to open Linyaungyi library was held at Tawkyaung village in Kyungyangon Township, Yangon South District, on 13 May. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Kyaw Zeya Lin, Staff Officer of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Nan Swe Nwe Oo, Chairperson of Township Women Affairs Organization Daw Zar Chi Lin, village administrator Man Htay Aung opened it. After that, donation of cash and publications was made through library committee members. It was built with the contribution of K 0.5 million by Myanmar Library Foundation and of K 1.3 million by local people.

Township IPRD

Myanma Airways changes domestic flight fare rates

MANDALAY, 20 May—Myanma Airways changes its domestic flight fare rates as of May 1. The flight fare rates are Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw (K 35000), Mandalay-Yangon (K 60,000), Mandalay-NyaungU (K 25,000), Mandalay-Monywa (K 25000), Mandalay-Khamti (K 60000), Mandalay-Homalin (K 63000), Mandalay-Kalay (K 45000), Mandalay-Bhamo (K 43000), Mandalay-Magway (K 30000), Mandalay-Myitkyina (K 53000), Mandalay-Putao (K 75000), Mandalay-Heho (K 25000), Mandalay-Kengtung (K 75000), Mandalay-Tachilek (K 75000) and Mandalay-Lashio (K 38000).–*Kyemon*

DISTRICT NEWS

First aid course opens in Yesagyo

YESAGYO, 20 May—Opening of first aid course was held at Basic Edcuation Middle School in Sinchaung village in Yesagyo Township on 16 May. A total of 99 trainees are attending five-day course. The aim of opening is to promote health care standard along with the development of social, economic and education.—*Kyemon*

Cash donated for education fund in Mawlamyine

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—A ceremony to donate cash for education fund of offspring of Myanma Timber Enterprise's staff, took place at deputy general manager's office of MTE in Mawlamyine of Mon State on 17 May. Retired officers of MTE donated K 2.24 for 112 students in Taninthayi Region, Kayin State and Mon State.—*MNA*

Farming faces shortage of farm workers

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Farming face shortage of farm workers in summer paddy harvest season. And farmers do not get desired prices for paddy. Most of farm workers leave farm works as it is tired works and they earn a little money. They move to factories, companies and construction works.—*Kyemon*

CSC ISSUED: Head of Minbya Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Tin Tun Ohn hands over citizenship scrutiny cards to Village Administrator U Saw Hla Aung of Chaungshay Village on 30 April.

IMMIGRATION

No flood in Bangkok this year: authorities

BANGKOK, 20 May— Bangkok and key economic zones, particularly industrial estates, will not be flooded this year, vows a Thai government official, *Bangkok Post* online reported on Saturday.

Plodprasop Suraswadi, chairman of the Water Resources Management and Flood Control Committee, said during the weekly " Yingluck Government Meets the People" talk show on Saturday.

In 2011, the country faced the worst flood crisis in nearly 50 years which killed more than 500 lives nationwide. At least five industrial estates were inundated.

Even if the amount of northern runoff is as much as that of last year, there will be no floods in the capital and nearby provinces because the government is now well prepared to prevent a recurrence of the great flood of 2011, he said.

Apart from the existing dams, the government had prepared areas for water retention. As well, he said, the dredging of canals and waterways was now 60-70 percent completed and would be finished soon. This would improve the conditions for water runoff to be driven out to the sea rapidly.

Moreover, floodwalls have been built around industrial estates to prevent key areas from being flooded, he added.

Plodprasop admitted, however, that it was not possible for the government to prevent floods from occurring in all areas nationwide.

It was an inescapable fact that low-lying areas near the Chao Phraya River in the Central provinces could be susceptible to flooding every year, he said. The provinces most at risk are Singburi, Ang Thong, Chainat, Nakhon Sawan, Suphan Buri and Ayutthaya.—*Xinhua*

Wu Bangguo (3rd L), chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), meets with Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic (3rd R) in Zagreb, capital of Croatia, on 18 May, 2012.— XINHUA

Children with congenital heart disease from southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region pose for photos after arriving at the Beijing West Railway Station in Beijing, capital of China, on 20 May, 2012. A total of over 100 children with congenital heart disease came to Beijing on Sunday from six prefectures and cities of Tibet to receive free surgery as beneficiaries of a charity programme.
XINHUA

Strong quake hits North Italy, at least three dead

BOLOGNA, 20 May—A strong earthquake rocked a large swathe of northern Italy early on Sunday morning, causing at least three deaths and collapsing rural factories and ancient bell towers in towns.

The epicenter of the quake, which struck at 4:04 am (0204 GMT) and had a magnitude of 5.9, was in the plains near Modena. But it was felt in nearby regions.

One person working a night shift died in the collapse of a factory and two others were killed in the collapse of another building. Rescue officials were checking reports that other people were buried under rubble.

First television pictures taken after dawn showed serious damage to historic buildings and rural structures. Parts of a historic fortress in one town collapsed.

Thousands of people in the area rushed into the streets after the quake, felt in the major towns of Bologna, Modena, Ferrara, Rovigo, Verona and Mantua.

A series of strong aftershocks hit the area and local mayors ordered residents to stay out of their homes.

The quake was centered 22 miles north-northwest of Bologna at a relatively shallow depth of 6.3 miles, the US Geological Survey said.

The last major earthquake to hit Italy was a 6.3 magnitude quake in the central Italian city of L'Aquila in 2009, killing nearly 300 people.—*Reuters*

China's railway bidding opens to local markets

BEIJING, 20 May— Bids for railway contracts in China will open to local markets soon to ensure the transparency and fairness of the bidding process and prevent power-for-money deals, according to a document released on Sunday. The document was released by the Ministry of Railways and the national office of the leading group on the management of outstanding problems in construction projects.

It instructs that the country's current railway project transaction centres, under the ministry and 18 railways bureaus, where bids are traded, are to be canceled.

Instead, all railway-related projects should enter "local public resources trading markets" in accordance with authorization or the location of the projects, according to the document, which described the move as "a significant transformation for China's railway projects' bidding management."

To echo it, bids for all large and medium-sized construction projects under the administration of the railways ministry went to the jurisdiction of the Beijing Engineering Construction Trading Centre, a local market for project transaction, at the end of 2011.

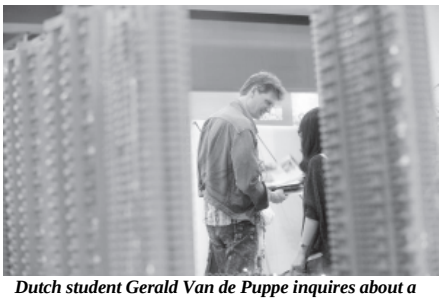
The document said that the mechanism for regulating engineering tender should be reformed so as to ensure fairness, competitiveness and freedom from corruption.

Efforts should be made to "prevent officials' meddling in project bidding, collusion and trading power for money," it said.

Construction projects under the administration of 18 railways bureaus will enter local markets in two batches before the end of June, the document orders.

It also calls for strengthening supervision of railway project bidding and promoting electronic bidding as well as computer-facilitated, long-distance bid assessment.—*Xinhua*

Sri Lanka women soldiers march during a military parade to mark the third anniversary since the end of a 30-year war with Tamil Tiger rebels, in Colombo, capital of Sri Lanka, on 19 May, 2012.
XINHUA



Dutch student Gerald Van de Puppe inquires about a new housing estate during a human residential environment exhibition in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 19 May, 2012. Gerald, who studies in Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, has been fascinated by Hangzhou's natural and living environment after one year of study here. He thought he would probably find a job and stay in Hangzhou after graduation from Zhejiang University, so he decided to buy a house in Hangzhou.
XINHUA

Georgia woman with flesh-eating disease in "critical" condition

AUGUSTA, 20 May—A Georgia woman fighting a flesh-eating bacterial infection was in critical condition at Augusta Hospital on Saturday, a hospital spokeswoman said. The spokeswoman said she could not comment on whether Aimee Copeland had undergone surgery to remove her hands and right foot, amputations that Copeland's father had said were pending on Friday. Surgeons had amputated the 24-year-old's left leg at the hip.

"All I can say is Aimee is still in critical condition," hospital spokeswoman Barclay Bishop said.

Prayers and messages of support have poured in for Copeland on a Facebook page where her father, Andy Copeland, has chronicled her struggle. There were no updates on the site on Saturday. *The Atlanta Journal Constitution* newspaper said the family had been overwhelmed by public interest and had asked for privacy.

Copeland suffered a huge gash in her leg in a zip-line accident and fell into the Little Tallapoosa River near Carrollton, Georgia, on 1 May. She developed necrotizing fasciitis, a bacterial infection that destroys soft tissue. Necrotizing or "flesh-eating" soft-tissue infections are a broad category of infections with many causes, although Group A Streptococcus is the most common culprit.—*Reuters*

Cambodia's trade with UK up 48 pct in 1st quarter

PHNOM PENH, 20 May —The volume of bilateral trade between Cambodia and the United Kingdom for the first three months of 2012 is 178 million US dollars, up 48 percent compared to the same period last year, according to a trade report provided by the British embassy here on Sunday.

It said the main Cambodia's products exported to the UK are garment products, footwear, sugar and honey, rice and bicycles. In return, the country imported industrial machinery, automobiles, medical and pharmaceutical products and malt from the UK. Pan Sorasak, secretary of state at Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce, attributed the growth in the bilateral trade volume to Cambodia's political stability, good security, and favourable business environment for businesspeople.

More importantly, the two countries have had a good and long- lasting diplomatic relation since 1953, he said.—*Xinhua*

Ten killed, two injured in E China road accident

The destroyed vehicle is taken away from the accident site after it collided with a light truck in Weifang city, east China's Shandong Province, on 19 May, 2012.— XINHUA

WEIFANG, (Shandong), 20 May—Ten people were killed and two more were injured in a road accident happened Saturday in east China's Shandong Province, local authorities said early on Sunday. The accident occurred at around 2:00 am on Saturday when a small passenger vehicle collided with a light truck in Weicheng District of Weifang city. The two injured were in stable conditions. Cause of the accident is being investigated, local government sources said.

Xinhua

Japan launches multiple satellites

TOKYO, 20 May—Japan says it has successfully performed the first commercial launch of a foreign-made satellite, putting a South Korean observation satellite into orbit.

The Japanese *H-2A rocket* blasted off from the space centre on Tanegashima Island in southern Japan on Friday, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency reported.

Around 16 minutes after launch the South Korean *KOMPSAT-3* multipurpose observation satellite developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute separated from the rocket, JAXA said in a release.

Three Japanese satellites were also put into orbit from the rocket, the space agency said.

One of them, the Global Changing Observation Mission 1st Water "SHIZUKU," will monitor global ocean currents.

H-2A rocket.

The H-2A launch rocket is built by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.—*Internet*

China to build 30 radiation monitoring stations

BEIJING, 20 May —A Province in northwest China will set up more than 30 radiation monitoring stations in the next five years.

Gansu Province will invest 30 million yuan (around $5 million) in setting up such stations in 14 cities and areas with sources of radioactivity including uranium mining and metallurgy and nuclear facilities, the *China Daily* reported.

Gansu already has three radiation monitoring stations in Lanzhou, Jiayuguan and Jinchang cities.

Officials said the stations contributed greatly during the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan last year, and have been providing accurate data on local radiation levels.

The report said Gansu has 2,900 radioactive sources and more than 1,000 radioactive facilities.—*Internet*

Indian origin British civil servant chosen as President of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

LONDON, 20 May—A British citizen of Indian origin Suma Chakrabarti was chosen out of a group of five candidates to become the new president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

63 government shareholders of the bank chose Chakrabarti as the new head.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Chakrabarti is the top civil servant at the Ministry of Justice in UK and prior to that was a top official at the Department for International Development.

The outcome marked a rare setback for the French and German governments as they had backed Philippe de Fontaine Vive Curtaz, a French citizen who works at the European Investment Bank.

The EBRD was established in 1991 to help countries emerging from Communism make the transition from centrally planned to market economies.

Although most of its shareholders are European governments, its largest single shareholder is the US government.

Internet

Putin cracks down on car sirens used by officials

MOSCOW, 20 May—In an effort to quell public anger over the misuse of flashing lights on the country's roads, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday slashed by almost half the number of government officials allowed to use car sirens.

According to a decree posted on the Kremlin website, the number of vehicles with the "migalki" - as the lights are known - will be reduced to 569 from over 1,000 by 1 June.

There has been rising public anger over the lights, which businessmen and state officials use to bypass traffic rules.

Motorist group Blue Buckets has staged a number of protests against them, and also runs a database of offending vehicles. The decision to cut the number of VIP vehicles will "increase road safety" and put a halt to the "inappropriate use" of the sirens, the Kremlin said.

The sirens have been involved in a series of high-profile accidents in recent years. Two women were killed in Moscow in 2010, when their car collided head-on with that of a senior executive of Russian oil giant LUKoil.

Internet

A competitor takes part in an oriental dance contest in Xinbei City, southeast China's Taiwan, on 19 May, 2012. Nearly 100 groups of contestants from more than 10 countries and regions participated in the contest.

XINHUA

Deadly virus hits Canada salmon farm

Freshly caught salmon.

TOFINO, 20 May—A salmon farm in British Columbia, Canada, is under quarantine after the discovery of a lethal fish virus, government officials said.

The farm at Dixon Bay on the west coast of Vancouver Island is run by Mainstream Canada, which said the farm's entire stock of 560,000 salmon will be destroyed to prevent the disease from spreading, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported on Thursday.

The virus known as Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis was detected during routine testing on 14 May, company officials said.

IHN usually kills a fish within a week of exposure and can kill up to 100 percent of an infected population.

It spreads rapidly.

This is code red," Mainstream spokeswoman Laurie Jensen said. ""This is not good news for the fish or for the companies.

"We will contain this however way we can. We will lose money, it's in the millions. There's a lot of money at stake, but money is not our issue right now," she said.

The farmed fish were likely infected by wild salmon, which carry IHN but have developed resistance to the virus. "So the likelihood that this has any impact on wild salmon is very, very low," Gary Marty, fish pathologist for the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture said.

Internet

Thai police arrest man with babies' bodies for black magic

BANGKOK, 20 May—Thai police arrested a British citizen on Friday after the bodies of six babies thought to have been used in a black magic ritual were found stuffed into travel bags in a Bangkok hotel room.

Chow Hok Kuen, 28, a British citizen, was arrested in Bangkok's Chinatown and was being held for possession of human remains, police said.

Authorities believe he was trying to smuggle the corpses to Taipei.

"The bodies are of children between the ages of two and seven months. Some were found covered in gold leaf," Wiwat Kumchumnan, sub-division chief of the police's Children and Women Protection unit, told *Reuters*. It was not clear where the bodies came from.

Kuen was staying at a hotel in Khao San Road, Bangkok's backpacker area, but the bodies were found in a separate hotel.

Police had received a tip-off that infant corpses were being offered to wealthy clients through a website advertising black magic services.

The corpses were bought from a Taiwanese national for 200,000 baht and could have been sold for six times that amount in Taipei, police said.

Reuters

24th-storey swimming pool has nothing but glass underneath

LONDON, 20 May —A hotel in Shanghai, China has come up with a remarkable swimming pool that is suspended 24 storeys above the ground.

However if a guest suffers from fear of heights, he would not want to dive into this swimming pool as it has nothing underneath it apart from a pane of toughened glass — and a huge drop.

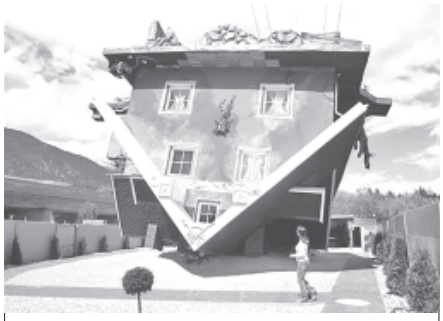
Fortunately for those scared of the drop, the majority of it is inside the building.

The unique swimming baths, in the Holiday Inn hotel, Shanghai Pudong Kangqiao, are 30 metres long, the *Daily Mail* reported.

Hotel bosses have insisted that guests using the pool can feel like they are swimming over the air, although many won't dare look down.

Internet

Photo taken on 18 May, 2012 shows the newly-built Tianjin Municipal Cultural Centre, a multi-purpose cultural activity complex, in north China's Tianjin Municipality. The complex, which mainly consists of a museum, an art gallery, a library venue and a theater, will be open to the public starting from Saturday for a trial run. —XINHUA



A woman walks around the back of a house, which was built upside down by Polish architects Irek Glowacki and Marek Rozhanski, in the western Austrian village of Terfens on 5 May, 2012. The project is meant to serve as a new tourist attraction in the area, and is now open for public viewing.
INTERNET

'Soothsayer Hog' to predict soccer matches

Ukraine has recruited Soothsayer Hog, a pig with supposed psychic powers, to predict the outcome of soccer matches at the Euro 2012 Games in Kiev.

Svetlana Bovkun, a spokeswoman for the Ukrainian government, told Russian news agency *RIA Novosti* the Hog will have his own housing in the fan area and will be put to making one prediction a day.

"He's really been looking forward to the tournament," Bovkun said. "He watches all football matches with his owner. He's very kind and very friendly."

Ukraine hopes Soothsayer Hog will be a worthy successor to Paul the Octopus. Paul, who died in October 2010, predicted the results of every German match in that year's World Cup and also correctly called Spain's 1-0 victory over the Netherlands in the final.

Every day, the Hog will be presented with two plates of food, each bearing the flag of a contending country.

News Album

Man hiding from girlfriend gets stuck in garbage chute

A man who had to be cut from a garbage chute in the Russian city of Tyumen told emergency workers he was hiding from his girlfriend.

The 32-year-old man said he was on the eighth floor of his building when he decided to disappear, *RIA Novosti* reported. He went into free fall before getting wedged in at the fifth-floor level of the garbage chute.

"An eyewitness reported to the regional rescue service that there was a man in the chute," said Elena Tretiyachenko, a spokeswoman for Emergency Response Services.

Tyumen is in western Siberia.

Fire alarm pulled during 'The Avengers'

Authorities in Maryland said a man allegedly pulled a fire alarm because he was angry at the closed captioning at a showing of "The Avengers."

Fire marshals and Harford County Sheriff's Office deputies said they were called to Regal Cinemas in Abingdon on Monday on night after the fire alarm was pulled at 6:45 pm, *The Baltimore Sun* reported on Tuesday.

"(Subject) became disruptive and argued with the theater manager after discovering 'The Avengers' movie he was watching was a 'closed caption' film," the State Fire Marshal's Office said in a report. "Management offered a refund or future tickets, which he refused and returned to the theater."

"Once the movie ended, (Subject) became belligerent and argumentative with management once again and at that point (Subject) intentionally pulled the fire alarm in the lobby and left the premises," the report said.

The fire marshal's office said the 34-year-old man, whose name was not released, will be served with a criminal summons requiring a court appearance.

Police remove boars from Italian city

Police in an Italian city said they were able to round up a pair of wild boars and take them back to the nearby countryside.

Florence police said the boars were spotted running between parked cars in a residential neighbourhood, *ANSA* reported.

Police said officers were able to surround the animals and drive them back to the nearby countryside. Officials said they believe the boars were looking for food.

Bobby Brown records tribute song for Houston

LONDON, 20 May—US singer Bobby Brown's new album includes "Don't Let Me Die," a song he wrote and recorded for his late ex-wife Whitney Houston.

Houston accidentally drowned in a hotel bathtub on 11 Feb after using cocaine. She was 48.

Houston and Brown were married from 1992 to 2007. During their famously volatile relationship, both Houston and Brown battled addictions to drugs.

Whitney Houston with Bobby Brown at Disneyland in Anaheim, California on 7 August, 2004. Houston filed for divorce from Brown on 13 Sept, 2006.—INTERNET

"Been about a month since you been gone. I guess it's pretty clear that you ain't coming home. Meanwhile, I'm trying to find the strength to move on, searching the streets, tryin' to find you a clone," Brown sings on "Don't Let Me Die." *The Guardian* newspaper said the tribute to Houston will appear on "The Masterpiece," which is his first solo album in 14 years and due out next month.

"I didn't realize that every breath I took was from you. You were my air," he sings. "Don't let me die, girl."
Internet

Will Smith slaps affectionate reporter

MOSCOW, 20 May—Married film star Will Smith slapped a Ukrainian reporter who kissed him multiple times at the Moscow premiere of "Men in Black 3," video footage shows.

The unidentified journalist met Smith on the red carpet at the event, kissed him on the cheeks, then attempted to smooch the actor on the lips before Smith pushed him away and hit him lightly across the face. "What the hell's your problem, man?" Smith said, adding to people nearby, "He's lucky I didn't sucker punch him." Smith continued to greet fans and answer questions from other members of the media, TMZ said. The father of three children is married to actress Jada Pinkett Smith.
Internet

Will Smith

Stewart wants evil role

Actress Kristen Stewart

LONDON, 20 May—Actress Kristen Stewart wants to take on an evil role.

The actress says she would love to play the role of psychotic Cathy Ames from "East of Eden".

"She's a psychopathic, evil ****! I haven't done that yet," femalefirst.co.uk quoted her as saying.

Stewart also has a burning desire to star in a film version of William Styron's 1951 book "Lie Down in Darkness".

She admits that playing Peyton Loftis, a suicidal girl who lives with her dysfunctional family in Virginia, would be ideal.

"I want to play Peyton more than anything I can possibly taste or touch in my life. I want to play her so bad," she said.—*Internet*

Eddie Van Halen (R) and David Lee Roth with Van Halen perform in concert at the BankAtlantic Centre in Sunrise, Florida on 10 April, 2012.—INTERNET

Van Halen scraps summer concert dates

LOS ANGELES, 20 May—Van Halen's publicist says the American rock group has canceled more than 30 concert dates this summer.

No reason was given for the move, which was confirmed on Thursday, CNN said. Thirteen shows, including Saturday's concert in St. Paul, Minn, through a 26 June gig in New Orleans will go on as scheduled, the report said. The band is on tour to support "A Different Kind of Truth," its first complete album recorded with original lead singer David Lee Roth since "1984" was released in 1983.

News of the cancellation has sparked concern from fans regarding the health of guitarist and founding member of the band, Eddie Van Halen, who has battled cancer and drug addiction in the past, CNN said.
Internet

Jackie Chan retiring from action flicks

CANNES, 20 May—Actor and martial-arts icon Jackie Chan announced at the Cannes International Film Festival in France he is retiring from action movies at the age of 58.

"This is my last action film," *The Daily Telegraph* quoted Chan as saying about his 100th movie, "Chinese Zodiac," which is screening at the festival. "I tell you, I'm not young any more. I'm really, really tired," he said. "And the world is too violent right now. It's a dilemma — I like action but I don't like violence." *The Telegraph* said Chan also talked about his plans to concentrate on more serious roles in the future. "For the last 10 years, I have been making some other different movies. I want to be an Asian Robert De Niro. I don't just want to be an action star. I want to be a true actor. I want to get rid of my image," the Hong Kong-born Chan said.—*Internet*

Actor and martial-arts icon Jackie Chan

Dannii Minogue not returning to British 'X Factor'

LONDON, 20 May—Singer-actress Dannii Minogue isn't returning as a judge to the British version of "The X Factor," the talent show's producers said.

Recording artist Kelly Rowland replaced Minogue last season because the "X Factor" tapings conflicted with those for "Australia's Got Talent" for which Minogue is also a judge.

The BBC reported Rowland recently announced she won't return as a judge next season, sparking rumors Minogue would reclaim her place on the show.
Internet

Australian singer Dannii Minogue attends the "Elle Style Awards" at the Grand Connaught Rooms in London on 22 Feb, 2010.—INTERNET

Asian stars ousted in LPGA Match Play

GLADSTONE, 20 May—Reigning US Women's Open champion So Yeon Ryu of South Korea was ousted 2-up by American Vicky Hurst on Saturday in a quarter-final at the LPGA Sybase Match-Play Championship.

***So Yeon Ryu of South Korea hits her tee shot on the tenth hole in the quarter final round of the Sybase Match Play Championship at Hamilton Farm Golf Club in Gladstone, New Jersey.*—Internet**

World No 13 Ryu, an LPGA rookie seeking her first triumph since her major victory last year, lost after a third round that saw World No 1 Yani Tseng of Taipei and World No 2 Na Yeon Choi of South Korea eliminated.

"We both played pretty solid the whole day," Hurst said. "She kind of let it go at the end, but it was pretty close."

Sunday's semi-finals for the $1.5 million event send 37th-ranked Hurst against Taipei's Candie Kung and American Morgan Pressel facing Spain's Azahara Munoz. Winners play Sunday afternoon for the title at Hamilton Farm Golf Club.

Kung, the lowest-ranked of the last four at 49th, ousted Tseng 3 and 2 to reach the last eight then outlasted Paraguay's 41st-ranked Julieta Granada 2 and 1 to stay in contention for her first title since 2008.

Pressel, seeking her first LPGA triumph in more than four years, took out Sweden's Anna Nordqvist 5 and 4 to book a semi-final date with Munoz, who eliminated American Stacy Lewis by the same score.

"This afternoon I had a little bit of a break and didn't need to make quite as many birdies, but tomorrow I'm going to need to make the birdies again because I'm sure 'Atha' is going to come out strong."

Pressel, who turns 24 on Wednesday, has not won an LPGA title since the 2008 Kapalua Classic. She won the 2007 Kraft Nabisco crown to become the youngest major winner in LPGA history.

Internet

'Injured' Rooney fit for Euros-Hodgson

England striker Wayne Rooney.

LONDON, 20 May—England striker Wayne Rooney is recovering from a minor injury but will be fully fit for his expected return during the group stages at Euro 2012, manager Roy Hodgson has revealed.

Rooney is suspended for England's opening Group D games against France and Sweden but is likely to come back into Hodgson's starting line-up for the final first round match against Ukraine.

Hodsgon revealed that the 26-year-old Manchester United star — who was photographed holidaying in Las Vegas on Saturday — would be excused from next week's friendly against Norway in Oslo. He will then link up with England on May 29 in time for England's final warm-up game against Belgium at Wembley on June 2.

"Wayne has been playing with a minor injury for the last three or four games which needed a couple of weeks to clear up," said Hodgson.

"He won't be involved in the Norway game and I don't know whether I will select him for Belgium at this stage.

Internet

Solskjaer snubs Villa to stay at Molde

LONDON, 20 May—Former Manchester United striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has snubbed Aston Villa to stay with Molde, the Norwegian club with which he still has two years to run on his contract.

The 39-year-old had talks with Villa on Friday, the English Premier League club managerless after Alex McLeish was fired.

"I have not had any offers," Solskjaer told a Press conference on Saturday. "I'm not looking for another job."

***Former Manchester United striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, pictured in 2011, has snubbed Aston Villa to stay with Molde, the Norwegian club with which he still has two years to run on his contract.*—INTERNET**

"In football, and in life in general, things turn up that you have to make decisions about. I have a contract for two more years and I'll stand by that."

Solskjaer returned to Norway late Friday to learn that Molde's billionaire backer Kjell Inge Rokke had pulled the plug on his company's 20-year support, which included building the club a new stadium in the late 1990s, as a result of the Villa talks.

Internet

International Sports

Euro 2012 title or nothing for Podolski

***Cologne striker Lukas Podolski, who is leaving for Arsenal, has said Germany must aim to win Euro 2012 "and nothing else" when they bid to be crowned champions of Europe for the fourth time next month.*—INTERNET**

BERLIN, 20 May—Arsenal-bound striker Lukas Podolski has said Germany must aim to win Euro 2012 "and nothing else" when they bid to be crowned champions of Europe for the fourth time next month.

Germany open their Euro 2012 campaign in Group B against Portugal in Lviv, Ukraine, on 9 June, but Podolski says the aim of Joachim Loew's squad has to be winning the final at Kiev's Olympic Stadium on 1 July.

Poland-born Podolski was very clear when asked about Germany's goals for a tournament they last won in England in 1996. "The title. Nothing else," he told Cologne newspaper *Koelner-Stadt-Anzeiger* at Germany's training camp in Sardinia, Italy.

"In the last few years it has always been said that when we manage to reach the semi-finals, that is already some success. "I think before the tournament starts we can say we are ready to play for the title. "That brings a certain thrust, a force, if you say from the outset: we want to win the title."

With 95 caps for Germany and 43 goals, the 26-year-old has already been part of German teams which finished third at the 2006 and 2010 World Cups and reached the final of Euro 2008.

Podolski will play for the Gunners next season in the Premier League after three seasons at Cologne, who were relegated from the Bundesliga at the start of May.

Germany also face World Cup runners-up the Netherlands and Denmark in Group B.

Internet

Keane gets all-clear after fitness scare

DUBLIN, 20 May—Republic of Ireland captain Robbie Keane is on course to feature at Euro 2012 after scans revealed his hamstring injury is only minor.

A recent report in Ireland claimed the 31-year-old striker might not be able to train with Giovanni Trapattoni's squad in Malahide this week after suffering a hamstring problem.

But a scan has revealed there is no tear and it is hoped LA Galaxy star Keane, who is his country's record scorer with 53 goals, will join his team-mates before the squad heads off for a training camp in Italy next weekend.

A Football Association of Ireland spokesman said: "Robbie Keane's scan result came through today and showed all clear with no sign of any tear or blood.

"He will be assessed when he comes in and should be fine." Former Tottenham and Liverpool forward Keane, who scored seven times in Ireland's qualification campaign, is key to this country's hopes of advancing from a tough Euro 2012 group that includes Spain, Italy and Croatia.—*Internet*

***Republic of Ireland captain Robbie Keane, pictured in March 2012, is on course to feature at Euro 2012 after scans revealed his hamstring injury is only minor.*—INTERNET**

Ghana qualifies for FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup

ACCRA, 20 May—Ghana's female national under-20 soccer team, the Black Princesses, booked a place in the FIFA world cup finals after drubbing Tunisia 4-1 in the second-leg of the qualifier at the Accra Sports Stadium on Saturday.

The Black Princesses won on 7-2 aggregate for the biennial tournament to be staged in Japan later in August following a 3-1 thrashing of the North African side in the first-leg held in Tunisia two weeks ago.

Ghana thus becomes one of Africa's two representatives for the World Cup which will be their second straight appearance.

The Black Princesses made their debut in the Germany 2010 U-20 Women's World Cup finals.

The qualification comes barely after their under-17 counterpart; the Black Maidens booked their place in FIFA tournament after thumping South Africa 5-1 on aggregate in the final round of qualifiers at the start of last month.—*Internet*

Djokovic, Nadal in Rome Masters final rematch

Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns a ball to Swiss Roger Federer during their semi-finals match of the ATP Rome tournament. Djokovic ended Federer's brilliant run of recent clay form, defeating the world number two, and last week's Madrid champion, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4).
INTERNET

ROME, 20 May—World number one and defending champion Novak Djokovic swept past Roger Federer on Saturday to set up a Rome Masters final rematch with five-time winner Rafael Nadal. Top seed Djokovic ended Federer's brilliant run of recent clay form, defeating the world number two, and last week's Madrid champion, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) while Nadal reached a seventh Rome final with a 7-6 (8/6), 6-0 win over compatriot David Ferrer.

Federer saved a match point for 5-5 in the second set as he broke Djokovic on a stinging forehand winner. But he could not extend that battling instinct into the tiebreaker, with Djokovic taking victory on his second winning chance as the Swiss put a backhand long after an hour and 39 minutes on court.

"This was my best match on clay so far," said Djokovic. "I was focused from the beginning and very determined and concentrated. "I was hitting the ball well and returning extremely well. I was making him play the extra shot and make errors. I'm very pleased to be back in the final." After defeating Ferrer for the 12th consecutive time on clay, Nadal will face Djokovic for the 32nd time on Sunday, with the Spaniard going into the contest holding a 17-14 lead. Nadal won their last meeting in April for the Monte Carlo title, snapping a run of seven consecutive losses to his rival in finals dating back to March 2011. "I've raised the level of our rivalry," said Djokovic. "Playing Rafa in the finals again is very encouraging. It is what I want before Roland Garros."—*Internet*

Spain's Rafael Nadal serves to his compatriot David Ferrer during their semi-finals match of the ATP Rome tournament. Nadal dominated Ferrer 7-6 (8/6), 6-0 to power into a seventh Rome Masters final, beating his fellow Spaniard for the 12th consecutive time on clay.
INTERNET

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(21-5-12 09:30 am ~ 22-5-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* 90th Birthday Celebration of a Myanmar Music Legend
* News
* Music Programme
* A Pretty Custom of Kandayawady Asia Vut A @ Rice pounding competition
* News
* Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-2)
* News
* Kyaing Tong: Town in the beautiful Valley
* News
* IT Technology to Fulfill The Demand of ERA
* News
* A Merry Bo Tree Water Festival: Shwe Kyet Yat Village
* News
* Youth & Career
* News
* Halin, A Treasure Trove of the Ancient Pyu City
* Myanmar Movie "Invisible Bond"

MYANMAR TV

(21-5-2012) (Monday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:50 am
3. Health Programme

8:05 am
4. Cute Little Dancer

8:30 am
5. Song of National Races

8:45 am
6. Musical Programme

4:10 pm
7. Dance Variety

4:30 pm
8. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (English)

4:45 pm
9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

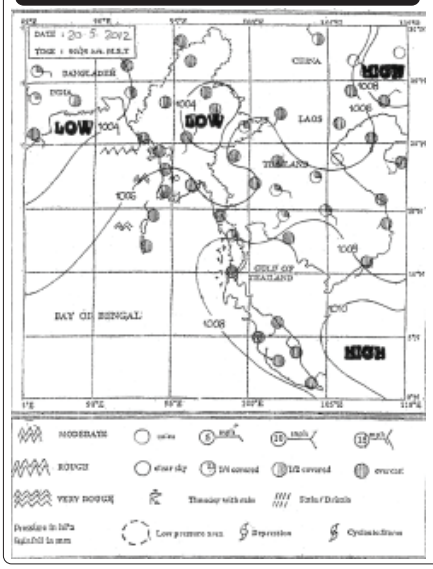
4:55 pm
10. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

5:05 pm
11. Myanmar Langue

7:00 pm
12. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
13. News
14. World's Stars
15. TV Drama Series
16. India Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 21th May, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	39/102	25/77	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
2	Kayah	31/88	20/68	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
3	Kayin	32/90	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
4	Chin	27/81	15/59	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
5	Upper Sagaing	39/102	25/77	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
6	Lower Sagaing	41/106	26/79	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
7	Tanintharyi	31/88	22/72	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
8	Bago	34/93	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
9	Magway	38/100	28/82	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
10	Mandalay	40/104	29/84	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
11	Mon	32/90	23/73	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
12	Yangon	34/93	23/73	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
13	Rakhine	33/91	25/77	Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
14	Southern Shan	27/81	18/64	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
15	Northern Shan	36/97	18/64	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	22/72	Scattered rain or thundershowers	(80%)
17	Ayeyawady	31/88	24/75	Widespread rain or thundershowers	(80%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	36/97	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	34/93	23/73	Isolated rain or thundershowers	(80%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	40/104	29/84	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kachin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Sagaing Region, scattered in Ayeyawady Region, Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in Bago and Yangon Regions, Rakhine and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Mon State. Day temperatures were (5°C) above to (6°C) May average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States, (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Lower Sagaing Region, Northern Shan States and about May average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Kalewa and Gangaw (43°C) each, Mawlaik, Kalay and Myingyan (42°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bilin (4.84) inches, Paung (4.72) inches, Chaungzon (2.95) inches, Shwegyin (2.64) inches and Myaungmya (2.52) inches.
Bay Inference	Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea	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 advance of Southwest monsoon into the Deltaic areas.

Viewing events, eyewear urged for 'Ring of Fire'

ALBUQUERQUE, 20 May—The western United States and eastern Asia will be treated this weekend to a rare solar spectacle when the moon slides across the sun, creating a "ring of fire."

But scientists caution would-be viewers to be very careful because the sun's damaging rays will remain powerful even during the annular solar eclipse. The advice: Either wear specially designed protective eyewear or attend a viewing event — at a planetarium or amateur astronomy club, for example — to avoid risk of serious eye injury. The solar spectacle will first be seen in eastern Asia around dawn Monday, local time. Weather permitting, millions of early risers in southern China, northern Taipei and southeast Japan will be able to catch the ring eclipse.

Then, the late day sun (on Sunday in the US) will transform into a glowing ring in southwest Oregon, Northern California, central Nevada, southern Utah, northern Arizona and New Mexico and finally the Texas Panhandle. For 3 ½ hours, the eclipse follows an 8,500-mile path with the ring-of-fire phenomenon lasting as long as 5 minutes, depending on location.

Outside this narrow band, other parts of the US and portions of Canada and Mexico will be treated to a partial eclipse. The Eastern Seaboard will be shut out, but people can find online sites that plan to broadcast the event live.

It's impossible to know how many people plan to make an event of the ring-of-fire spectacle, the likes of which hasn't been seen in the continental US for nearly two decades.—*Internet*

***In this 15 Jan, 2010 file photo showing a combination of three separate photographs, the various stages of an annular solar eclipse seen over Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.—*INTERNET**

Australian authorities race to drifting ship

SYDNEY, 20 May—Australian authorities were racing to secure a cargo ship drifting off the Great Barrier Reef, with one expert saying it was "sheer luck" it had not hit a reef near the World Heritage-listed site.

The Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier ID Integrity broke down north of the Queensland city of Cairns late Friday, sparking alarms that it would smash into the coral dive site Shark Reef.

Simon Meyjes, who heads the century-old marine group Australian Reef Pilots, said it appeared an environmental disaster had been averted by the crew dumping some of the Integrity's sea water ballast so it passed over Shark Reef.

"I don't know what the actual under keel clearance would have been as it went over the reef," he said. "But certainly it would have been a very, very uncomfortable situation. They were at the mercy of the weather completely. "I think that they have been very, very lucky."

Meyjes said had the Townsville-bound Integrity drifted slightly further to the north, it could have hit Osprey Reef, an exposed coral outcrop.

"So it's just sheer luck," he said. "We're all breathing a huge sight of relief I can assure you."

The ship, which suffered an engine breakdown en route from Shanghai, was reached by a commercial tug, PT Kotor, on Sunday as it drifted in open water in the Coral Sea towards the Outer Reef, on the edge of the main reef body.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) said the tug had connected a towline to the Integrity and they were travelling slowly away from the Outer Reef and awaiting the arrival of the larger tugs.

The Australian Government's emergency towage vessel Pacific Responder was scheduled to be on scene at about 0500 GMT.—*Internet*

***This photo taken on 20 May and released by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, shows the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier ID Integrity drifting off the Great Barrier Reef near the coast of Australia.—*INTERNET**

Season's first Atlantic tropical storm forms off South Carolina

MIAMI, 20 May—Tropical Storm Alberto formed off the South Carolina coast on Saturday, bringing an early start to the Atlantic hurricane season, forecasters at the US National Hurricane Centre said.

Although the storm was likely to remain offshore, forecasters issued a tropical storm warning for the South Carolina coast late on Saturday, saying there was "too little margin for error" not to issue the warning.

Alberto was in the Atlantic about 110 miles southeast of Charleston with maximum sustained winds of 50 miles per hour, with higher gusts, the hurricane centre said. "Little change in strength is forecast during the next 48 hours," the forecast added.

It was moving slowly southwest and forecasters said dangerous surf conditions were possible along the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina through Monday.

Alberto was forecast to make a slow loop during the next few days and then turn northeast, making its way along the US mid-Atlantic seaboard before dissipating in about five days.

That would keep it well away from the Gulf of Mexico, where US oil and gas operations are clustered, but could bring squalls and rough surf to the Carolina coast.—*Reuters*

Climber dies in 1,100-foot fall on Alaska's Mount McKinley

ANCHORAGE, 20 May—A climber on Alaska's Mount McKinley died in a 1,100-foot fall that started with an effort to retrieve a sliding backpack during an attempt to ascend North America's tallest peak, the National Park Service said on Saturday.

The Friday afternoon fall was the first serious accident in this year's climbing season, the service said. The climber — who was not from the United States — was in a three-person party that was not roped together. At the time of the accident, the group was heading up from the 16,200-foot level of the 20,320-foot mountain, officials said.

The trio had just finished ascending a steep section when the climber tried to recover a backpack that had slipped downhill, according to the account given by one of the victim's expedition partners, said Maureen McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for Denali National Park.

The fall was likely not a typical slide down a steep slope, McLaughlin said. "It was probably more of a situation of stumbling, going after the pack," she said. The climber's body was recovered by park rangers and flown off the mountain, park officials said. The climber's identity was being withheld pending notification of family members.—*Reuters*

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.

Union Sports Minister encourages athletes in training

Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan gives encouragement to athletes in training.—MNA

YANGON, 20 May—Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan met President U Htet Nyi of Myanmar Shooting Federation and personnel at the shooting range of the federation in Dagon Myothit (North) here this morning.

The Union Minister called on them to make preparations to successfully host the XXVII SEA Games and then inspected the conditions of shooting ranges, mess and hostels. He encouraged shooters in training and presented them with sport jerseys. He then greeted trainees from the federation who have completed International Shooting Federation-recognized B license course.

The Union Minister then visited Myanmar Martial Arts Training School and Myanmar Equestrian Federation in Dagon Myothit (North) and called for intensive training.

He then met Karatedo, billiard and snooker players in training at respective sports federations in Aung San Stadium and spoke words of encouragement to athletes from Myanmar Disabled Sports Federation. He also met Taekwondo and volleyball players, weightlifters and managers and coaches.

The Union Minister also visited Myanmar Cricket Federation, Myanmar Caneball Federation, Myanmar Swimming Federation, Myanmar Judo Federation and Myanmar Tennis Federation to view the trainings and encourage sportsmen. –*MNA*

Chelsea storm final frontier to win Champions League

Chelsea's players celebrate with the trophy after their Champions League final soccer match against Bayern Munich at the Allianz Arena in Munich on 19 May, 2012.—INTERNET

MUNICH, 20 May—Chelsea cleared the final hurdle in a season of never-ending challenges when they beat Bayern Munich 4-3 on penalties in the German team's Allianz Arena stadium to be crowned European Champions for the first time on Saturday. In what may be the final act of his Chelsea career, Didier Drogba sealed victory in a tension-packed Champions League final with the last kick of the shootout to clinch victory after he had headed Chelsea's equaliser two minutes from time to force a 1-1 draw and send the game to extra time. Bayern, just as in 1999 when they lost 2-1 to Manchester United who scored two goals in stoppage time, were within touching distance of the cup thanks to an 83rd-minute header from Thomas Mueller. But history came back to haunt them as Drogba snatched victory from their grasp with a late equaliser to set up his team to victory against all the odds.

Even in extra time Bayern had a golden opportunity to seal the win but Arjen Robben's penalty was saved by Petr Cech after Drogba fouled Franck Ribery to concede the spot kick.

Bayern skipper Philipp Lahm even won the toss to decide which end the shootout would take place and it was held in front of the Bayern fans.

Chelsea's success, built on the millions invested in the club over the last nine years by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, came on another night of unlikely glory in a season that seemed to be going nowhere under coach Andre Villas-Boas who was sacked in March.

Chelsea were rejuvenated by interim coach Roberto Di Matteo who not only steered them to this success but also won the FA Cup two weeks ago. Whether he gets the job permanently remains to be seen, but there is little more he could have done to prove he is the man for the job.

He ended the campaign not only with the two cups, but also making Chelsea the first London club to win the trophy since the competition began 57 years ago and guaranteed to play Champions League football again next season. The match itself was similar to Chelsea's astonishing semi-final victory over Barcelona with both successes built on solid steel rearguard actions against sides that dominated them territorially and with possession of the ball.

Chelsea's forward Didier Drogba celebrates after scoring a goal during their UEFA Champions League final football against Bayern Munich at Fussball Arena stadium in Munich.
INTERNET

The Barcelona victory followed Chelsea's win over Napoli in the Round of 16 when they lost the first leg 3-1 in Italy and came back to win 4-1 in the second leg, a result that ultimately set them on the road to their success in Germany.—*Internet*

33rd Asia Pacific Junior Golf Championship concludes

YANGON, 20 May—The 33rd Asia Pacific Junior Golf Championship 2012, hosted by Myanmar and organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, continued for the fourth and final day at Pun Hlaing Golf Club in Hlinethaya Township on 18 May afternoon.

After the fourth round, General Secretary of MGF U Aung Hla Han presented gift to Chief Operation Officer U Lay Myaing of Pun Hlaing Golf Club and leaders of Hong Kong, Indian, Malaysian, Philippine and Thai golf teams.

Joint Secretary of MGF U Myo Tun and Chief Operation Officer U Lay Myaing awarded winners in the women's group A, B, C and D events and men's A, B, C and D events.

Vice-President of MGF U Min Thein presented overall championship shield to Danthai Boonma (Thailand) in boy class A&B event with 272 strokes and Kanphanitnan Muang Khumsakul (Thailand) in girls' group event with 214, Thai team stood first in women's team event with 419. Indian team secured first place in men's team event.

Executive of MGF U Chan Han, Captain of Myanmar Team, spoke words of thanks.—*MNA*

Vice-President of Myanmar Golf Federation U Min Thein presents overall championship trophy to Danthai Boonma (Thailand) in Boy's Group A & B event.—MGF

Union Transport Minister visits Botahtaung Jetty, Pansodan-Dalla ferry ticket counter, IWT Delta Division

PAGE 2

Britain, Russia grab places in women's boxing

PAGE 2

Royal Caribbean to pull back from Europe

PAGE 5

Asian stars ousted in LPGA Match Play

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'Injured' Rooney fit for Euros-Hodgson

PAGE 14