

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XX, Number 9

9th Waxing of Kason 1374 ME

Sunday, 29 April, 2012

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.

President sends message to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker stating issues related to low salaries of union level personnel, increased pensions of retired service personnel and establishing Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sent a message dated 28 March, 2012, to the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The message said that Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann sent a message dated 14 March, 2012, to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, stating some undertakings of the Union Government. The report on findings and remarks of the Joint Bill Committee over the message to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was put to vote at a session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held on 23 March, 2012. As there were 477 votes in favour, three against the motion with seven abstentions, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw decided to agree the remarks. Therefore, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw had to send the message to the President to assess the decision of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw over the report on remarks made by the Joint Bill Committee.

Following is the translation of the message sent by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and it was attached to the message sent to the President.

- It is assumed that the following issues of Union Government which is taking governing duties of the State are needed to be scrutinized though the body carried out the tasks with goodwill. They are:
 - Though the salaries for the union-level personnel have been set by the law, they are enjoying the salary set by the State Peace and Development Council and they are not in conformity with the law.
 - Increased pensions of retired service personnel.
 - Establishment of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the commission was designated as the union level body and expenditure the commission is included in the Budget Bill.
- Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is requested to scrutinize the above measures whether they are in conformity with the constitution and other existing laws, and if not, the Hluttaw is requested to help carry out the measures so that they can be in conformity with the law.
- The undertakings of the Hluttaw which are the executive body and the legislative body of the State must highlight that they attached importance to the rule of law. The cooperation between the governing body and the hluttaws in accordance with the law must be the vanguard and a role model for the State and the people.
- Hence, I am sending this message so that the above issues can be assessed.

Similarly, following is the translation of the report on findings and remarks of Joint Bill Committee about the message sent by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the report was attached to the message sent to the President.

- The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sent a message to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker so that he could check whether the tasks of the Union government taking charges of executive duties of the State were in conformity with the law.
- Regarding the message, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sent a letter to the Joint Bill Committee for its findings and suggestions. The committee received the letter on 21-

3-2012. On that day, members of the Joint Bill Committee and Financial and Legal Affairs Study Commission made discussions.

Findings

- The message of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker states three points that are necessary for monitoring the tasks of the Union government whether they are in line with the law although it has been shouldering executive duties with goodwill.
- The three points are as follows:-
 - With regard to Union level personnel enjoying the same allowances and salaries as those in the time of the State Peace and Development Council as not prescribed by the law although allowances, and salaries have been set exactly by the law according to the provisions of Article 29 of Chapter (4) of the law of allowances, expenses and facilities of Union level personnel, they can be amended, supplemented or revoked only by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
 - With regard to the increased pensions of retired service personnel, it is found that the matter was not submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval although it must be included in the State budget and financial laws of the Union and dealt with in accord with the provisions of Section 103 of the constitution.
 - With regard to the formation of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, designation of the commission as a central level organization and inclusion of its spending in the budget bill, they are not included in the provisions on formation of central level organizations, duty assignments and impeachment prescribed in Sections 200, 202, 203, 232 (f), 232 (g) and 233 of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It is also found that provisions on Myanmar National Human Rights Commission are not stated in Articles 6, 9, 12 and 13 of the Union Government Law. Regarding the issue, the 21st day third regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held on 16-3-2012 decided on the cancellation of designation of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission as a central level organization and inclusion of its spending in the budget.

The committee's remarks

- Thus, Union level personnel accepting reduced allowances and salaries as not prescribed by the law, increased pensions of retired service personnel, formation of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and designation of the commission as a central level organization and inclusion of its spending in the Union budget bill are not in conformity with the constitution and the existing laws.
- If Union level personnel wish to accept reduced allowances and salaries, a proposal on amendments to the law of allowances, expenses and facilities of Union level persons must be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and approval must be sought.
- As for the increased pensions of retired civil servants, it must be included in the Union budget bill according to the constitutional provisions and the case should be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the financial procedures and approval should be sought.

(See Page 8)

Distant solar system goes ours one better



This artist's impression shows the remarkable planetary system around the sun-like star HD 10180.

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US space shuttle Enterprise lands in New York City



Space shuttle Enterprise rides atop a NASA modified 747 plane as it flies over the Hudson River in New York City, the United States, on 27 April, 2012.

PAGE 6



Singer Demi Lovato appears backstage with the favorite pop artist award she garnered during the 38th annual People's Choice Awards at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles on 11 Jan, 2012.

PAGE 13

Fergie says Rooney-Welbeck new Yorke-Cole



Team manager Sir Alex Ferguson believes the strike pair could emulate the Old Trafford goal-scoring havoc once wreaked by Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole.

PAGE 14



China's Li Na returns the ball to Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska during their quarter-final match at the WTA Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Stuttgart. Li was first quarter-final casualty of the WTA clay-court tournament.

PAGE 14

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 29 April, 2012

Protect yourself during the heat wave

Myanmar is experiencing the excessive day time temperature, reaching a record high at 46.1 degree Celcius at Chauk in central Myanmar on 17 April in 28 years. Similarly, Magway, Mandalay and Bago Regions have experienced the extreme temperature in April.

Some youths were killed by the record heat as they lacked knowledge on prevention of the heat wave.

Some aged people fell victims to the record heat though we can prevent the heat-related diseases and accidents caused by the extreme temperature.

Therefore, it is important for the people to recognize the symptoms of heat-related illnesses and understand how to prevent, control and respond to their effects

Air temperature, humidity and clothing can increase the risk of developing heat-related illnesses. So can age, sex, weight, physical fitness, nutrition, alcohol or drug use, or pre-existing diseases like diabetes. How can you prevent or control heat-related illnesses?

- * Drink water-Drink small amounts of water frequently, about a cup every 15-20 minutes. (Alcohol increases the loss of body fluids.)
- * Limit exposure time and/or temperature-Try to schedule hot jobs for cooler times of the day or cooler seasons of the year.
- * Acclimatization-Gradually adapting to heat will reduce the severity of heat stress.
- * Engineering controls-Mechanize heavy jobs or increase air movement with fans or coolers.
- * Wearing loose, lightweight clothing-Clothing can affect heat buildup.
- * Salt tablets should not be used - Taking salt tablets can raise blood pressure, cause stomach ulcers, and seriously affect workers with heart disease.

Someone with a mild reaction to heat may have a painful muscle spasms, called heat cramps, during or after activity. A mild reaction may also include fatigue or dizziness. A person with a moderate reaction or heat exhaustion, will have some or all of the following symptoms: excessive sweating, cold, moist, pale or flushed skin, thirst, extreme weakness or fatigue, headache, nausea, lack of appetite, rapid weak pulse, or giddiness.

Anyone with mild or moderate symptoms should be moved to a cool, shaded place with circulating air.

In severe cases of heat illness, a heat stroke may result. The victim's face is flushed red and their skin is hot and dry with no sweating. They develop a severe headache with deep, rapid breathing. They have a very high fever. This condition is fatal unless emergency medical treatment is obtained.

Recognizing the warning signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses and using preventive and control measures can reduce the frequency and severity of heat illness while increasing worker productivity.

Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations in Zeyathiri Tsp inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing viewed the transplant of 19-day old saplings on 35-acre farmland of farmer educative Palethwe hybrid paddy with scientific GAP system near Aung Zeya Village in Zeyathiri Township here yesterday. He presented food and cash awards to lady transplanters and staff of the farmland.

Next, the Union Minister gave instructions on dissemination of 14 scientific cultivation methods to the farmers.

In the afternoon, he visited the five-acre thriving plantation of Palethwe hybrid paddy near Thittatkon Village and gave food to the staff of the plantation.

In meeting with the farmland staff and transplanters, the Union Minister said the farmers would earn double income thanks to the high yield of Palethwe hybrid paddy and its viable market. He then stressed the need for following the scientific cultivation methods to produce 200 baskets of paddy per acre and dissemination of methods among the farmers.—MNA



Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Maung Myint being welcomed by High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Mrs. Catherine Ashton at the Europe Day reception held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 28-4-2012.

MNA

China National Acrobatic troupe gets to Yangon

YANGON, 28 April—A 41-member China National Acrobatic troupe of the People's Republic of China arrived in Yangon yesterday evening. They were warmly welcomed by Rector U Kyaw Oo of National Culture and Fine Arts University under the Ministry of Culture, Pro Rector (Admin), and faculty heads, officials concerned including cultural attaché of Chinese embassy and officials at Yangon International Airport.

The troupe, under the programme for promotion of friendly relationship between the People's Republic of

China National Acrobatic troupe of the People's Republic of China arrives at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

China and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, is performing entertainment to the public at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung street from 29 to 30 April, at Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee's open-air Theatre on 2 May, and at the National Theatre in Mandalay on 4 and 5 May.

MNA



Dy Construction Minister holds discussion with guests from ADB

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin received Director Mr. James P. Lynch of Asian Development Bank and party at his office here on 25 April morning.

They discussed matters relating to fulfilling the needs

for techniques and financial assistance for development of Myanmar transport sector.

It was attended by Managing Director of Public Works U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Managing Director U Win Tint and departmental officials.

MNA

KIA insurgents open fire on Border Guard Force in Lupi Village, Chipwe region

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—KIA insurgent group has been committing subversive acts. Now, vehicles belonging to Asia World Co, which are being used in carrying out tasks

in Chipwe region, have been captured by the brigade (1) of the armed group, amounted nearly 200, after crossing over Maykha River from Wahsharpa region. Besides, they blew

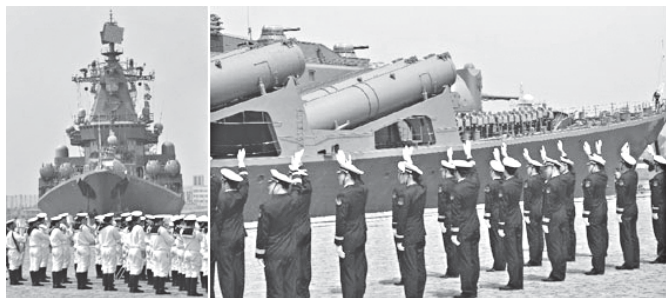
off Shapout Creek Bridge in Chipwe Township yesterday after passing on it.

As the insurgents this morning fired heavy and small weapons at the

Border Guard Force (Headquarters) in Lupi Village, the border guard force resisted their serious attacks courageously.

Now, Tatmadaw columns are in hot pursuit of them to make safe the families living in the headquarters and fulfill the needs of the force.

MNA



The Chinese and Russian navies announced on Friday the conclusion of a six-day joint naval exercise.— XINHUA

EU eyes closer ties with ASEAN, participation of East Asia Summit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 28 April—The 19th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) ended in Brunei on Friday, with the European Union (EU) officials signalling intention to join the East Asia Summit and a would-be non-aggression treaty with ASEAN as EU moves to play a bigger role in Asia. The two regional blocs also agreed to greater economic cooperation, lauding the “rapid progress” in negotiations for bilateral trade agreements with key ASEAN partners, paving the way for a single ASEAN-EU free trade agreement.

Mohamed Bolkia, Brunei’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, said it was good to see “practical results” from the conclusion of the 19th AEMM. “This will strengthen the development of all ASEAN member states. We are grateful for the support of the European Union,” he told a press conference after the meeting. EU is ASEAN’s second largest trading partner and single largest investor with trade volume topping 200 billion US dollars. Catherine Ashton, EU’s high representative for Foreign Affairs and Political Security, said both parties look forward to an early signature to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, which bans signatories from using

violence to settle conflicts in the region.

“Developing our relations with Asia across the board is a major strategic objective for the European Union,” she said. “The European Union wants to be an active and constructive player in Asian regionalism, including by taking part in the East Asia Summit (EAS).” Brunei will chair the EAS next year when it takes over the ASEAN chairmanship. The two regions have drawn up an ambitious five-year plan of action for enhanced cooperation across economic, political and administrative spheres, and have agreed to boost cooperation in maritime security, energy security, crisis management, human rights and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Mohamed Bolkia said the meeting was an excellent platform to hear directly from the EU on a range of issues such as the Eurozone crisis and global political problems. The Ministers from ASEAN members states have welcomed the EU’s decision to suspend part of sanctions on Myanmar.

Xinhua

Bombs wound 27 in Ukrainian city

DNIPROPETROVSK, 28 April— Four bombs exploded in a city in eastern Ukraine on Friday, wounding 27 people, including nine children, in what authorities described as an “act of terrorism”. President Viktor

Yanukovich said the blasts in Dnipropetrovsk, six weeks before Ukraine plays host to the European soccer championship, represented “a challenge ... to the whole country.” Bomb attacks are a rare occurrence in the former Soviet republic and the blasts one after the other traumatized people in the city, one of Ukraine’s main industrial centers with a population of around 1.3 million.

“I had just stepped out of my house when I saw people run down the street screaming ‘Explosions!’,” said 50-year-old local journalist Tetyana.

“There is panic in the city. People are taking their children out of schools and

Iraqi mother, three children gunned down

BAGHDAD, 28 April—A Sunni mother and her three children were shot dead in an apparent sectarian attack in a village in central Iraq, after twin bombings killed eight people, mostly Shiites, police said on Friday. “Unknown gunmen broke into a house in the village of Abu Garma and killed a 45-year-old woman and her three children,” who were between 10 and 15 years old, Lieutenant Colonel

Ahmed al-Karkhi said. The attack with silenced weapons probably occurred between 3:00 and 4:00 am (0000 and 0100 GMT) on Friday, he said, adding the bodies were found about 9:00 am (0600 GMT) by a family member.

A police lieutenant colonel involved in the investigation said the attack might have a sectarian motive, and could lead to further violence. “Most of those killed

in the two attacks yesterday (Thursday) were Shiite, and the family killed later was Sunni,” he said. “It seems like a sectarian incident, and there is a risk that it might lead to more sectarian violence in the area.” Karkhi said a suicide car bombing near a cafe in Abu Garma on Thursday followed by another bombing inside it as the casualties were being carried out killed eight people and wounded 18 others.

Abu Garma is a small village of between 150 and 200 people north of Baquba, the capital of Diyala province. Its centre is mainly Sunni, while its outer areas are mainly Shiite. The 2006 bombing of the Shiite Al-Askari shrine in Samarra unleashed an orgy of sectarian bombings and death squad murders in which tens of thousands of Iraqis were killed, and many more forced from their homes.

Internet

6.4-magnitude quake strikes off Tonga

BEIJING, 28 April—A strong 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck off the Pacific nation of Tonga on Saturday, US seismologists

said, but there were no immediate reports of damage and no tsunami warning was issued.

The quake happened at

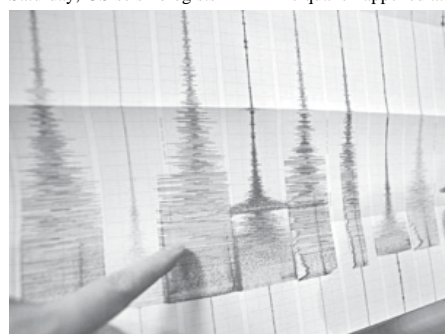
11:08 PM (1008 GMT) 78 kilometres (49 miles) from the town of Neiafu, on the south coast of the island Vava’u, at a depth of about 130 kilometres (80 miles), the US Geological Survey (USGS) said.

The epicentre of the tremor was 280 kilometres (173 miles) north of the capital Nuku’alofa.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said in a statement that the quake did not generate a tsunami. The USGS had initially reported it as a 6.7-magnitude quake.

Tonga, almost 2,000 kilometres (1,240 miles) northeast of New Zealand, lies on the so-called Pacific “Ring of Fire”, where continental plates collide causing frequent seismic activity.

Internet



A man points at a seismic chart after a 6.4 magnitude earthquake in Taiwan in March 2010. A strong 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck off the Pacific nation of Tonga on Saturday, US seismologists said, but there were no immediate reports of damage.

INTERNET

‘Green-on-blue’ attack came on night raid: Afghan police

KABUL, 28 April—A firefight which erupted when an Afghan special forces soldier turned his weapon on his US allies came while the men were on a night raid together and killed a total of four, Afghan police said on Friday. Afghan forces were put in charge of the controversial night raids earlier this month after government protests that international troops were violating the sanctity of Afghan homes as they targeted Taliban insurgents.



An American soldier, two Afghan troops and an interpreter died in the latest in a series of so-called green-on-blue attacks, the District police chief of Shah Wali Kot in Kandahar Province, Pacha Khan, told AFP. US forces said in an initial statement only that one US-led coalition soldier was killed when a man in an Afghan army uniform opened fire late on Wednesday, and that the shooter was killed by return fire. “They were taking part in a night raid,” said Khan.

“Probably Afghan and US forces had an argument that triggered the incident. “As a result, an Afghan special forces member opens fire and kills one US special forces member along with an interpreter,” he said, adding that return fire killed two Afghan soldiers.

The transfer of control of night raids to Afghan forces helped pave the way for the signing of a treaty covering relations between Afghanistan and the US after NATO forces pull out by the end of 2014.

The police version of the incident came as news emerged of yet another green-on-blue attack, in which two Afghan policemen opened fire on US troops at a military post in Kandahar. “Two Afghan policemen opened fire on US soldiers in a military post in Zherai district of Kandahar province late Wednesday,” the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Press office in southern Afghanistan told AFP.

Internet

People assist an injured woman at the scene of an explosion in Dnipropetrovsk, on 27 April, 2012.

REUTERS



Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

'Green' unmanned drone flies on hydrogen

SEATTLE, 28 April—An unmanned aircraft has become a "green drone," completing a hydrogen-powered test flight for the first time, it US manufacturer says.

Insitu, a wholly owned subsidiary of Boeing Co, said its ScanEagle drone successfully flew using a propulsion module made from a 1,500-watt fuel cell using hydrogen, and leaving behind no harmful emissions during the 2 1/2-hour test run,

TG Daily reported Thursday.

The ScanEagle has been created for the US military to provide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance data or communications relay. It has been used by the military in other countries including Australia, Canada, Italy and the Netherlands.

The 4-foot-long ScanEagle, with a 10-foot wingspan, can fly for about 15 consecutive hours.



ScanEagle drone. INTERNET

"Fuel cell technology has room for growth, and that will provide an opportunity for continued efficiency

improvements and weight reduction," Jeff Knapp, Insitu's chief engineer, said. *Internet*

Google online translation tops 200 mln users

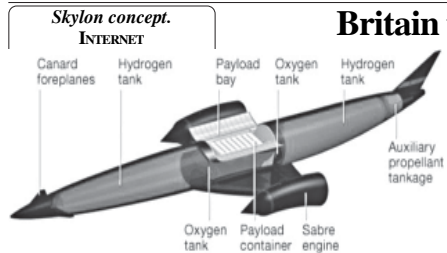
SAN FRANCISCO, 28 April—Google Translate marked its sixth birthday on Thursday with news that more than 200 million people use the free online translation service monthly.

"In a given day we translate roughly as much text as you'd find in one million books," Google Translate engineer Franz Och said in a blog post. "We imagine a future where anyone in the world can consume and share any information, no matter what language it's in, and no matter where it pops up." Och worked at US military research arm DARPA before joining California-based Google in 2003 to be part of a team of engineers ramping up the quality of computer-driven language translations.

Google Translate, which lets people paste or type text in an on-screen box to have it quickly converted into a language of their choice, rolled out in 2006 with English, Chinese and Arabic. "We can now translate among any of 64 different languages, including many with a small Web presence, such as Bengali, Basque, Swahili, Yiddish... and even Esperanto," Och said of the service at translate.google.com.

Traffic to Translate from smartphones has been growing exponentially, and more than 92 percent of the users are from outside the United States, according to Google. "What all the professional human translators in the world produce in a year, our system translates in roughly a single day," Och said. "By this estimate, most of the translation on the planet is now done by Google Translate."—*Internet*

Britain to test spaceplane engine



Source: Reaction Engines

CULHAM, 28 April—British researchers say they've begun tests on a new engine technology meant to lift a spaceplane into orbit from a conventional runway

takeoff. The Sabre engine, which breathes air like a jet at lower speeds but switches to an oxygen-fueled rocket mode at high altitudes, is the

centerpiece of a proposed orbital vehicle dubbed the Skylon, would operate like an airliner, taking off and landing at a conventional airport runway.

Engineers at Reaction Engines Limited say they believe the test will prove the readiness of Sabre's key elements.

The company hopes to attract investors to raise the \$400 million needed to take the project into the final design phase.

"We intend to go to the

Farnborough International Air Show in July with a clear message," REL Managing Director Alan Bond told the BBC.

"The message is that Britain has the next step beyond the jet engine; that we can reduce the world to four hours — the maximum time it would take to go anywhere," he said.

"And that it also gives us aircraft that can go into space, replacing all the expendable rockets we use today."—*Internet*

Tablet use expected to soar

NEW YORK, 28 April—A report by Futuresource Consulting says tablet sales will jump 200 percent in Europe and the United States over the next two years.

Fifty-two million tablets were sold in 2011. By 2016, the total sales for the mobile devices will have reached 232 million, the report says.

Online Media Daily reported Thursday 75.6 million people are expected to use a

tablet at least once a month in 2013, an almost seven-fold jump from the 13 million in 2010.

Research company eMarketer predicts 53.9 million of those will be iPad users, a sizable jump from 11.5 million in 2010.

More than 12 million iPads were sold in the first quarter alone, Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook said.

Along with tablets comes software and content, and both are expected to rise substantially. Digital books are expected to make up 70 percent of book sales by 2016.

The use of applications for tablets is also expected to soar. Furthermore, the Futuresource study notes, tablet owners are more willing to pay for applications than mobile phone users.

Internet



Microsoft plans music streaming service

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 April—Microsoft will unveil a music service with Xbox branding to stream music to Windows 8, Android, iOS and the Xbox, a tech Web site reports. The music service, which The Verge site said would "integrate deeply with Facebook" and not require any browser plug-ins to work, is expected to be unveiled at the E3 Gaming Expo in June, CNET.com reported Wednesday.

Entering the streaming music arena, Microsoft will be up against a number of entrenched competitors including Spotify and Pandora. Microsoft made a previous attempt at a music streaming service with the Zune Music Pass and Urge but with little success.

Microsoft's new service will feature a "scan and match" capability, similar to iTunes Match, that will let users find songs from their current library within the platform, sources told The Verge.

Internet

Distant solar system goes ours one better

HATFIELD, 28 April—A distant star much like the sun may have as many as nine planets and possibly more, a record for the most extrasolar planets yet found, astronomers say.

About 127 light years from Earth, the star HD 10180

was previously determined to have five confirmed planets and two candidate worlds. New analysis has confirmed the two candidate planets and suggests the sun-like star may have another two orbiting it.

If so, the total of nine would outnumber our own

solar system total, at eight planets after the "demotion" of Pluto to the status of dwarf planet.

"The data indicates that there are not only seven but likely as many as nine planets in the system," Mikko Tuomi, an astronomer at the University of Hertfordshire in Britain, told SPACE.com. "The two new planets appear to have orbital periods of roughly 10 and 68 days and masses of 1.9 and 5.1 times that of Earth, which enables the classification of them as hot super-Earths, i.e. planets with likely scorchingly hot rocky surfaces."

Tuomi analyzed observations collected between November 2003 and June 2010 at the European Southern Observatory in La Silla, Chile.

Internet



This artist's impression shows the remarkable planetary system around the sun-like star HD 10180.

INTERNET

Saturn moon called planet 'building block'

PASADENA, 28 April—A NASA space probe has shown that Phoebe, one of Saturn's moons, has more planet-like qualities than previously thought, US scientists say.

Data from NASA's Cassini mission and a computer model of the moon's chemistry, geophysics and geology show Phoebe is a so-called planetesimal, or remnant planetary building block, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration reported Thursday.

"Unlike primitive bodies such as comets, Phoebe appears to have actively evolved for a time before it stalled out," Julie Castillo-Rogez, a planetary scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif, said. "Objects like Phoebe are thought to have condensed very quickly. Hence, they represent building blocks of planets. They give scientists clues about what conditions were like around the time of the birth of planets and their moons."

The Cassini images suggest Phoebe originated in the Kuiper Belt, the region of ancient, icy, rocky bodies beyond Neptune's orbit.

Astronomers estimate Phoebe formed within the first 3 million years of the beginning of the solar system 4.5 billion years ago and may have been porous but appears to have collapsed on itself as it warmed. Phoebe was spherical and hot early in its history, researchers said, and has denser rock-rich material near its centre. Phoebe likely was captured by Saturn's gravity when it got too close to the giant planet, they said.

"By combining Cassini data with modeling techniques previously applied to other solar system bodies, we've been able to go back in time and clarify why it is so different from the rest of the Saturn system," said Jonathan Lunine, a Cassini team member at Cornell University.—*Internet*



Phoebe's true nature is revealed in in this mosaic of two images taken during Cassini's flyby on 11 June, 2004.

INTERNET

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Study finds early signs of malaria drug resistance in Africa

PARIS, 28 April—Africa's deadliest malaria parasite has shown resistance in lab tests to one of the most powerful drugs on the market — a warning of possible resistance to follow in patients, scientists said Friday. Researchers in London found resistance to artemether in test tube analysis of blood from 11 of 28 patients who had fallen ill after travelling in countries mainly in sub-Saharan Africa — what they said was a "statistically significant" result.

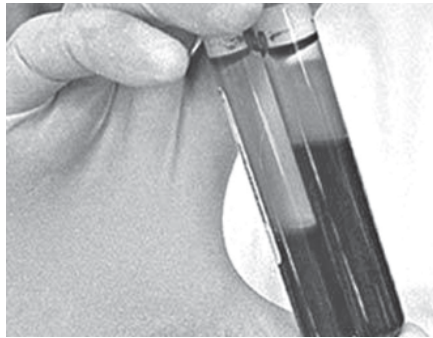
Artemether is one of the most effective drugs in the artemisinin group most commonly used in malaria cocktails known as ACTs. "Resistance in a test tube usually leads to resistance at some stage down the line in patients," study leader Sanjeev Krishna told *AFP* of the findings published in BioMed Central publishers' *Malaria Journal*.

"The question is how far down the line."

The study did not look at the patients' actual response to drugs, and "what that might mean in terms of treatment failure, we have yet to assess."

"We don't know." A statement said the resistance was caused by genetic mutations in a parasite transmitted by infected mosquitoes, and meant that "the best weapons against malaria could become obsolete."

The laboratory tests on the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite, which causes the deadliest form of malaria and is responsible for 90 percent of deaths, showed artemether's



Blood sample.

effectiveness reduced by about half in the infected samples.

"This study confirms our fears of how the parasite is mutating to develop resistance," said Krishna, adding the genetic changes "occurred relatively recently".

"Drug resistance could eventually become a devastating problem in Africa, and not just in east Asia where most of the world is watching for resistance." Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 90 percent of people killed by malaria every year.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said Tuesday it was optimistic drug-resistant malaria that has emerged along Thailand's borders with Cambodia and Myanmar could be contained within the region.—*Internet*

US teens lead in deaths, pot and obesity

NEW YORK, 28 April—US teens smoke the most marijuana in the world, have the highest mortality in the world and have high binge drinking rates, a worldwide study found.

A study published in *The Lancet* examined challenges and problems faced by 1.8 billion young people in the world — including 40 countries overall and 27 nations described as wealthy.

US adolescents die a violent death — due to guns or vehicle fatality — as much as 20 times more than teens in any other wealthy developed nation, *the New York Daily News* reported.

Following the United States in violent deaths were New Zealand and Portugal. Singapore, the Netherlands

and Japan had the lowest rates of violent teen deaths.

The study found Canada, Spain and France followed US youth in smoking the most marijuana. The developed countries that led the world in binge drinking were Austria, Ireland and the United States.

Among all the countries studied, the Pacific island of Tonga had the highest rate of obesity for those ages 13-15, but the United States led the wealthy nations with most obese teens, followed by Canada, Greece, Italy and Malta.

Despite the high US teen obesity rate, US teens exercise as much, or more, than young people in any other country in the study — especially boys.—*Internet*

Nokia suffers second cut to "junk" as S&P downgrades



Picture shows Nokia mobile phone at a shop in Warsaw, 26 Jan, 2012.—*REUTERS*

LONDON, 28 April—Cellphone maker Nokia Oyj had its credit rating cut to "junk" status by ratings agency Standard & Poor's on Friday, its

second downgrade to non-investment grade status this week as the company battles falling sales and doubts over its product strategy.

The rating cut, which follows a similar move by Fitch Ratings earlier this week, sent spreads on Nokia bonds to their widest ever against mid-swaps, a bond market benchmark, and pushed the price of insuring Nokia debt against default to its highest-ever level, indicating a growing level of investor concerns about the company's prospects.

Its shares were down 0.9 percent at 2.732 euros by 1447 GMT, not far from a 15-year low of 2.60 euros set earlier this month. S&P said its downgrade reflected its concerns that the decline in sales at Nokia's phone business this year could be similar to the 18 percent fall in 2011.—*Reuters*

Consumer confidence flat in Europe

BRUSSELS, 28 April—The European Commission said Thursday economic confidence was flat in the European Union and in the eurozone in April.

Revising figures released in a previous "flash estimate," the Economic Sentiment Indicator for the EU in April now stands at 93.2, unchanged from the previous month, the commission said. For the eurozone, the 17-nation regions that shares the euro as currency, the index fell by 1.7 points to 92.8.

In the eurozone, confidence in the industrial and service sectors weakened, while confidence improved for the retail sector. In both regions, the index "remains well below its long term average," the report said.

The index assigns the 1990-2009 average a numerical value of 100. Below 100 indicates confidence has fallen below that 20-year average. Among the seven largest economies in Europe, confidence fell sharpest in Italy (down 5.7 points), Poland (down 2.3 points) and Spain (down 1.8 points). The index improved in the Netherlands (up 1.2 points) and in Britain, where the index jumped 4.2 points.

Only Germany maintains a confidence level higher than its long-term average. In Germany, the index fell 1 point in April, the report said.—*Internet*

ASEAN+3, ADB launch guide on cross-border bond market

JAKARTA, 28 April—The ASEAN+3 Bond Market Forum (ABMF), in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has published the first bond-market guide, which aims to encourage more cross-border bond issuance and investment within the ASEAN+3 region, a statement released by Indonesian financial ministry said here on Thursday. The two-volume guide, which is now accessible via the ADB website and the Asian-BondsOnline website, contains information on bond market infrastructure, such as transaction flows, matching, settlement cycles and numbering.

The guide also discloses regulatory frameworks and market practices in the ASEAN+3 countries, including the People's Republic of China (PRC), China's Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

"It is expected that the guide will increase investors' understanding of regional bond markets," the Finance Ministry's debt management head, Rahmat Waluyanto, said in the statement.

"The guide will also assist in setting up the Asian Multi-currency Bond Issuance Programme (AMBIP), which the ABMF hopes to introduce by the end of 2013, including a possible pilot bond issuance via the programme," Rahmat added.

Previously, significant developments had taken place in local currency-bond markets for decades; however, intra-regional financial flows among ASEAN+3 nations remain small. Encouraging a more active intra-regional bond in the ASEAN+3 region is essential because it will channel regional resources to regional investments and will eventually lead to sustainable and balanced economic growth in the region.—*Xinhua*

Eating berries may slow brain's decline

WASHINGTON, 28 April—Women who eat plenty of blueberries and strawberries experience slower mental decline with age than women who consume fewer of the flavonoid-rich fruits, a US study said Thursday.

Based on a survey of more than 16,000 women who filled out regular questionnaires on their health habits from 1976 through 2001, the findings showed that those who ate the most berries delayed cognitive decline by up to 2.5 years.

Every two years from 1995 to 2001, researchers measured mental function in subjects over age 70, according to the study published in the *Annals of Neurology*.

"We provide the first epidemiologic evidence that berries may slow progression of cognitive decline in elderly women," said Elizabeth Devore, a doctor with Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston,

Massachusetts.

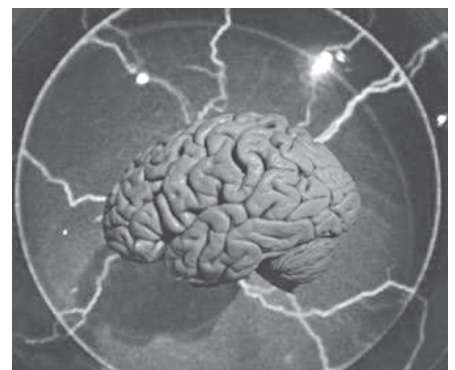
"Our findings have significant public health implications as increasing berry intake is a fairly simple dietary modification to test cognition protection in older adults."

Devore added that the findings are of particular importance to the aging population, which is on the rise.

The number of Americans aged 65 and older grew 15 percent from 2000 to 2010, according to the US Census.

Robert Graham, an internist at New York's Lenox Hill Hospital who was not involved with the study, said eating more berries is good idea for people of any age.

"Large epidemiological studies, such as this one, add to the basic science research that the antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties of berries have a beneficial role in age-related cognitive decline," said Graham.



"I would advise all my patients, at any age, to eat more berries. Berries are an easy, nutritious and delicious way to preserve brain function."

Flavonoids are antioxidants that are found in berries, apples, citrus fruits, tea, red wine and onions, and previous research has shown they may reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

"The current study demonstrates that women

who consumed the most flavonoids, especially berries, had a slower cognitive decline over time than women with lower intakes," said Nancy Copperman, director of public health initiatives at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System in New York.

"Increasing our intakes of fruits and vegetables is one of the best ways to live a healthy life."

Internet



Boeing workers work gather around a 787 at the company's assembly plant in North Charleston, SC, on 27 April, 2012. The plane, rolled out on Friday, is the first 787 manufactured at the company's South Carolina plant that opened last year.— INTERNET

CHARLESTON, 28 April— Boeing Co on Friday unveiled the first 787 Dreamliner made in its new South Carolina assembly plant, a factory at the center of a bitter labor dispute last year and the site of a recent manufacturing glitch that threatened to disrupt the 787 production rate target. The

lightweight, sleek airplane rolled off the Charleston assembly line into a sunny day, greeted by music, fireworks and the cheers of thousands of blue-shirted Boeing employees, local officials and news media.

Charleston is the second assembly line for the aircraft. The first line is in Everett,

Boeing debuts first 787 Dreamliner made in South Carolina

Washington. Boeing has delivered 11 Dreamliners from the Washington factory. The plane, which entered service last year, is about three years behind its development and production schedule, but demand is very high from airline customers. "I feel great. I tell you what: Whenever you go to a new site, obviously there's uncertainty. There's risk," Jim Albaugh, the Chief Executive of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, told reporters after the ceremony. "We came here because of South Carolina. We're not disappointed at all. They've exceeded all of our expectations," he said.

The 787 Dreamliner is the first commercial airplane with an airframe made largely

of carbon composites instead of aluminum. Because of its lighter weight, the plane consumes 20 percent less fuel than other planes its size on similar routes, savings that are prized by airline customers eager to tame soaring fuel bills. Passenger comforts include large windows that allow passengers to see the horizon during flights, lighting that gradually changes to simulate the rising and setting sun, and mechanisms to dampen in-flight turbulence.

Boeing has taken more than 800 orders for the 787. The plane that emerged from the Charleston plant is bound for Air India. Boeing, which aims to make 10 787s per month by the end of 2013, will produce three planes each month in South Carolina. The

current 787 production rate is 3.5 per month, and some experts doubt Boeing can hit the 10-a-month target on time.



Earlier this year, workmanship in South Carolina came under scrutiny when Boeing reported signs of "delamination" on the rear fuselage of some 787s made

The first 787 Dreamliner passenger jet to be assembled at Boeing's South Carolina facility is rolled out during a ceremony in North Charleston, on 27 April, 2012.— INTERNET

at the Charleston plant. Delamination occurs when stress causes layered composite materials to separate.

Reuters

Armed police arrest man at London siege

LONDON, 28 April— Armed police arrested a man at the scene of a siege in central London on Friday after reports that a suspect had taken several office workers hostage and threatened to blow himself up. Police had surrounded an office block and evacuated hundreds of people from one of the capital's busiest roads after a man began throwing office equipment out of a fifth floor window. Witnesses said the man, aged 49 or 50, had taken around four people hostage and had threatened to detonate gas canisters he was carrying. Police had no comment on those reports. A source said the incident was not terror-related and was thought to involve a man who had a grievance against a company.



An armed police officer runs in Tottenham Court Road in central London on 27 April, 2012.— REUTERS

Police in the capital are on alert as the city prepares to host the Olympic Games and celebrate the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign this summer. "We have arrested a man (and) a search of the building is under way," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. "We are not aware of any hostages at this stage." Police sent a negotiator to the office block and imposed a 300 metre cordon around the building after the man entered the building before lunchtime. One office worker said she had been inside the building when the man arrived and threatened staff.

"He turned up, strapped up with gasoline cylinders, and threatened to blow up the office," Abby Baafi, 27, said in a video clip posted on the website of *The Huffington Post*, the US news website that has offices in the area. Staff from the company were among those evacuated. "He said he doesn't care about his life. He doesn't care about anything." Hundreds were evacuated from the scene, a busy area of shops and offices close to the University of London and the British Museum.

"Someone ran in to our office white as a sheet and said there was someone who had taken a few people hostage but let them go as they had kids," office worker Tamsin Kelly told the BBC. Television footage showed police armed with rifles on the roofs of nearby buildings and a long line of police cars, ambulances and fire engines in the street below.

Reuters

US, Russia close to agreement on preventing cyber conflict

WASHINGTON, 28 April—The United States and Russia are finalizing an agreement to use their secure nuclear communication system to prevent possible misperceptions in cyberspace from escalating to full hostilities, a newspaper report disclosed on Friday. The Nuclear Risk Reduction Center, established in 1988 under President Ronald Reagan so that Washington and Moscow could alert each other to missile tests and space launches that could be mistaken as acts of aggression, would take a central role in the agreement nearing completion between the two sides, *The Washington Post* said in a frontpage story.

Under the agreement, in case of a cyber incident, the

channel of communication could be activated if either side detects what appears to be hostile activity from the other's territory, officials were quoted as saying. The secure channel would be a milestone in the efforts to ensure that misperceptions in cyberspace do not escalate to full hostilities, the report quoted US officials and experts from both countries as saying. The US-Russian talks reflect the increasing importance of cyber activities as points of potential conflict between nations, as the Obama administration is increasingly worried about a cyber attack that could disrupt computer systems providing water, power or other critical services to Americans, the report said.— *Xinhua*

US space shuttle Enterprise lands in New York City

NEW YORK, 28 April — The US space shuttle Enterprise left Washington, DC on Friday morning and flew over landmarks in New York City before landing at John F Kennedy International Airport to wrap up its final mission in the sky. Sitting atop a modified Boeing 747 plane, the space shuttle soared over New York Harbour, overflying the Statue of Liberty and the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum on Manhattan's west side to the delight of onlookers.

After its fly-around, the space shuttle will remain for a few weeks at JFK International Airport until it's taken off the 747 jet it rode to

New York and will be transported to the Intrepid, where it will be put on the flight deck. The Enterprise was never used in an actual space mission but was a full-scale test vehicle in the air and on the ground. "This is a new beginning for Enterprise,"

said the Intrepid Co-Chairman Charles de Gunzburg. "As our nation's very first space shuttle, Enterprise now opens a new chapter in her long history of service here in New York."

Hundreds of tourists and New Yorkers gathered in



Space shuttle Enterprise rides atop a NASA modified 747 plane as it flies over the Hudson River in New York City, the United States, on 27 April, 2012.— XINHUA

various locations to witness the historic moment. The crowd, which gathered on the deck of the Intrepid, cheered and applauded and snapped pictures as the space shuttle flew over the Hudson river. "It's truly part of history. Because when we were kids, we saw the space programme start, and all the technology we are using today came from the space programme. So exciting for people like my generation. So exciting to see it," a visitor from Buffalo named Diana told *Xinhua*.

The Enterprise came to New York as part of NASA's process of wrapping up the shuttle program, which ended last summer.

The Enterprise's place at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington has been taken by the shuttle Discovery.

Xinhua

Int'l Forum on Ecological Civilization held in Southern California

LOS ANGELES, 28 April—The Sixth International Forum on Ecological Civilization kicked off on Friday in Claremont, Southern California, attracting over 100 US and Chinese scholars. The forum will focus on the topic "The Place of Harmony in Ecological Civilization." The topic of this series is of utmost importance, but it is hardly being discussed in Western societies. The interest in it of the Chinese is one of the most hopeful developments in the world," said John B Cobb, Jr, who plays a crucial role in the development of process theology and postmodern studies in the United States, at the opening of the two-day forum.

Author of "Is It Too Late?" and co-winner of the Grawemeyer Award for "Ideas Improving World Order," Cobb is now president of the Institute for Postmodern Development of China, which hosts the forum. "In classical Chinese thought, the harmonious society was a major focus. The idea of harmony plays a major role in (Alfred North) Whitehead's philosophy as well. ... The conference will consider the relevance of traditional Chinese thought to contemporary needs for a harmonious society," Cobb said.

Scholars from institutions and universities in China as well as the United States such as the Center for Process Studies, the Claremont Graduate University, the China Society for Dialectics of Nature and Beijing Normal University are attending the forum.

Xinhua

Chinese, Russian leaders eye closer economic, trade cooperation

Moscow, 28 April — Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang met with Russian Prime Minister and President-elect Vladimir Putin here on Friday to exchange views on ways to boost bilateral economic and trade cooperation. Li first congratulated Putin on his presidential re-election on behalf of the Chinese government and the Chinese people. He said the two countries have forged a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination based on equality, mutual trust, mutual support, common prosperity and lasting friendship and bilateral relations have seen unprecedented development in recent years. The vice premier called on both sides to spare no efforts to lift bilateral ties to a new height.



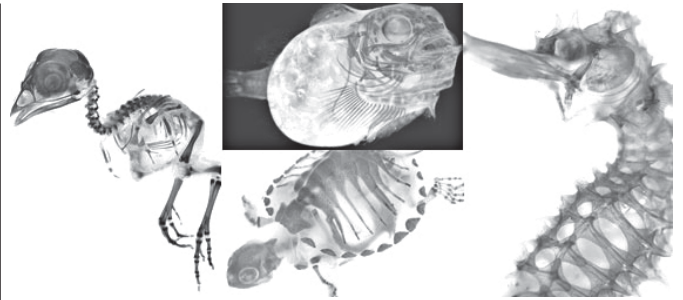
Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang (R) shakes hands with Russian Prime Minister and president-elect Vladimir Putin during their talks in Moscow, Russia, on 27 April, 2012. — XINHUA

Economic and trade cooperation is an important cornerstone for Sino-Russian comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination and also an impetus to bilateral relations, Li said, urging both sides to increase pragmatic cooperation in all spheres to boost mutual development so as to benefit both peoples. Li also put forward proposals on promoting economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. He said China and Russia should improve the scale and quality of their economic and trade cooperation, expand mutual investment, optimize their trade structure and increase the technical content and added-value of their products.

Li called for advanced cooperation on strategic projects to boost both countries' economic competitiveness at the global level. The two countries should conduct high-tech and innovative cooperation to meet the demands of innovative development and economic transition, Li said, adding that scientific research institutions, high-tech enterprises and universities from both sides need to cooperate directly to carry out a series of large-scale cooperation projects.

He urged closer bilateral cooperation at local levels, and quicker steps to boost cross-border infrastructure development.

Xinhua



Japanese artist Iori Tomita transforms ocean life into amazing specimens with transparent skin and rainbow skeletons. — XINHUA

Harms of anti-depressants may outweigh benefits

VANCOUVER, 28 April — Commonly prescribed anti-depressants may do more harm than good to patients and people need to be much more cautious about the widespread use of these drugs, a Canadian study suggests. The study, conducted by researchers from McMaster University and published this week in online journal *Frontiers in Psychology*, challenged the belief that anti-depressants are safe and effective.

After examining previous studies into the effects of anti-depressants, the researchers found that elderly anti-depressant users are more likely to die than non-users, which indicates that the overall effect of these drugs

on the body is more harmful than beneficial.

Most anti-depressants are designed to relieve the symptoms of depression by increasing the levels of serotonin in the brain, where it regulates mood, according to the study. The vast majority of serotonin that the body produces, though, is used for other purposes, including digestion, forming blood clots at wound sites, reproduction and development, the study said. The researchers found that anti-depressants have negative health effects on all processes normally regulated by serotonin.

The risks include developmental problems in infants, digestive problems and abnormal bleeding and

stroke in the elderly, according to the study.

"Serotonin is an ancient chemical. It's intimately regulating many different processes, and when you interfere with these things you can expect, from an evolutionary perspective, that it's going to cause some harm," says Paul Andrews, the lead author of the study. In previous research, Andrews and his colleagues had questioned the effectiveness of anti-depressants even for their prescribed function, finding that patients were more likely to suffer relapse after going off their medications as their brains worked to re-establish equilibrium.

Xinhua

Authorities: Bunker of Washington fugitive surrounded

NORTH BEND, 28 April — Authorities on Friday surrounded an elaborate, underground bunker believed to be that of a gun-toting survivalist suspected of killing his wife and daughter nearly a week ago and then holing up in the woods of Washington state. They pumped tear gas into the structure in the Cascade foothills east of Seattle and heard movement inside, but the dozens of officers were not entering the bunker because they believed its occupant was heavily armed, and that it might be booby-trapped.

Sheriff's officials said later Friday they weren't sure the gas penetrated deep enough to reach the person inside, who they believed was 41-year-old Peter Keller. They also believed the person inside likely has a gas mask. As darkness fell Friday night, Seattle SWAT team officers arrived to relieve a King County SWAT contingent that had surrounded the bunker. Photos of the bunker "don't do it justice," SWAT officers told sheriff's spokeswoman Sgt Cindi West.

"They said the fort appears to be amazingly fortified," she said. While officers got one main hatch open, they believe the bunker has multiple levels as well as multiple entrances, West said. Keller has not been seen since a fire at his North Bend-area home Sunday led responders to discover the bodies of his wife and daughter. The two had been shot to death. "It's a very extreme tactical situation," King County Sheriff Steve Strachan said. "Time is on our side. We're not going to do anything rash."

West said evidence found in Keller's home helped authorities locate the bunker, dug 20 feet into the side of a ridge in an area of dense vegetation, at noon Friday. Officers were able to pinpoint the location after enhancing a blurry photograph found on a hard drive in an open safe in Keller's house, she said. The photo included a view from the bunker in which buildings in nearby North Bend were visible, along with a set of power lines.

Detectives triangulated the rough area of the bunker and were confident they had the right location after receiving tips from people who had seen Keller's faded red pickup truck parked at the trailhead, West said. Two experienced trackers were sent to the area and found tracks that appeared to have been made by someone carrying a heavy backpack. — Internet



This undated photo provided by the King County Sheriff's Department on 27 April, 2012, shows a bunker that deputies say belongs to a man suspected of killing his wife and daughter and holing up for days in the Cascade foothills east of Seattle. — INTERNET

Pakistani president calls for building mutual trust with US

ISLAMABAD, 28 April — The Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari Friday told a top visiting US diplomat that building the mutual trust between the two countries is the key to the bilateral re-joining the counter-terrorism cooperation. "Pakistan and the United States share many important areas where there was convergence of mutual interests. The most notable among those were the goals of stability and peace in Afghanistan and the complete defeat of al-Qaeda," President Zardari said in the meeting with Ambassador Marc Grossman, US Special Envoy to Afghanistan and

Pakistan. Grossman was in Islamabad for bilateral talks and to represent the United States in the trilateral forum, which also groups Pakistan and Afghanistan. President Zardari reiterated Pakistan's opposition to the United States drone strikes in the country's tribal region and said Islamabad has always maintained that drone attacks were highly counterproductive in the war against militants as it inflamed public sentiments due to innocent civilian casualties, said the Presidential Spokesman Senator Farhatullah Babar.

Xinhua

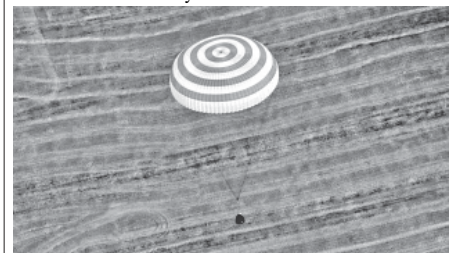
Russia's manned Soyuz capsule lands safely in Kazakhstan

Moscow, 28 April — The Russian *Soyuz TMA-22* spacecraft with a crew of three landed safely in Kazakhstan on Friday, Russia's Mission Control said. The space capsule carried back to the Earth Russian cosmonauts Anton Shkaplerov and Anatoly Ivanishin and NASA astronaut Dan Burbank, who had spent 165 days in orbit. The *Soyuz TMA-22* undocked from the International Space Station (ISS) at 12:18 Moscow time (0818 GMT) and landed in Kazakhstan's steppe at 15:45 Moscow time (1145 GMT).

The capsule touched down within the designated area, some 85 km northeast of northern Kazakh city of

Arkalyk, Mission Control said. The three crew members were scheduled to return to Earth on 16 March, but the mission was delayed after an air leak was discovered in the re-entry vehicle of the *Soyuz TMA-04M* craft that was to bring the replacement crew.

Russia's federal space agency, Roscosmos, announced the new ISS crew, including Russian cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Revin and NASA astronaut Joseph Acaba, would fly to the ISS on 15 May by *Soyuz TMA-04M*. After the retirement of the US shuttle fleet, Russia's *Soyuz* spacecraft are the only way for astronauts to reach the ISS at least until 2015. — Xinhua



The *Soyuz TMA-22* capsule carrying International Space Station (ISS) crew members US astronaut Daniel Burbank and Russian cosmonauts Anton Shkaplerov and Anatoly Ivanishin, lands in Kazakhstan, some 88km (55 miles) north-east of Arkalyk, on 27 April, 2012. — INTERNET

President sends message...

(from page 1)

8. Concerning the formation of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, only advisory groups can be formed in accordance with Article 23 (a) of the Union Government Law. Accordingly, the Union Government can award allowances, expenses and facilities to those advisory groups and the spending can be born from its budget.

Regarding the message sent by the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the President sent a message dated 9 April, 2012, to the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Following is the translation of the message sent by the President to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

1. A message was sent to the President to check whether the following three decisions made by him were legal or not:
 - (a) The decision to reduce the monthly salaries of Union level officials.
 - (b) The decision to increase the pensions of retired service personnel.
 - (c) The decision to form the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.
2. In connection with the matter concerning the acceptance of reduced amount of monthly salaries, they have already made a pledge saying that in view of the State's prevailing condition, financial situation and the people's interest they will not enjoy the full amount of their allowed salaries and that they will enjoy salaries that are equal in amount to allowances during the time of the State Peace and Development Council at the ceremony to heed the presidential address and to make affirmation held at President Office on 31 March 2011. The following points are stated for consideration:
 - (a) The matter is just the reduction of the monthly salaries of the Union level personnel. They are enjoying allowances as per the law. No amendment, addition or revocation is made to the legal stipulations in connection with allowances, expenses and facilities of Union level personnel.
 - (b) The matter is within the executive power of the President entrusted to him as per the Constitution.
 - (c) The President's pledge had already been passed by the Union cabinet meeting (1/2011).
 - (d) For example: during President Sao Shwe Thaik's administration, the ministers led by Prime Minister U Nu according to the minutes of the cabinet meeting on 20 January 1949, agreed to the 50 percent reduction of their salaries fixed according to 1948 Act No 4 of the (salaries of cabinet ministers) of the Union government and the parliamentary secretaries 40 percent reduction of their salaries.
3. The matter concerning the reduction of the salaries of the Union level personnel according to the pledge of the President may be carried out under Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's approval.
4. The matter regarding the increased pensions with effect from 1-7-2011 is stated as follows:
 - (a) The matter is within the executive power of the President entrusted to him as per the Constitution due to the responsibility to take care of their socio-economic lives. It is simply an act to honour and care the pensioners facing hardships resulting from inflation and rising commodity prices even though they were enjoying their pension due to their good discipline in discharging duties.
 - (b) Increased pension rate was allowed under the provisions of the Union Government

- Law, Finance and Revenue Ministry also has issued notification under the agreement of the Union Government in line with Civil Service Regulations.
- (c) Pension for the retirees was allocated from pension expenditure under 2011 Budget Law of the State promulgated by the State Peace and Development Council.
 - (d) The adjusted budget for 2011-2012 fiscal year clarifying the amount of pension granted was passed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
 - (e) In addition, increased pension expenditure was set in the 2012-2013 Union Budget Law and was already passed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
5. Regarding the increased-rate pension scheme, above-mentioned measures were taken in accord with the law. However, it is mentioned here that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw may, if it wishes, increase the pension rate with its own decision.
 6. Regarding the formation of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission as central level institution and budget allotment proposal for its expenses, it is explained as follows:
 - (a) Myanmar National Human Rights Commission was formed neither under the constitution nor a certain law. It is the commission formed under executive action according to the executive power vested by the constitution. (Explanation: The Section 217 of the Constitution describes the executive power of the Union shall be vested in the President, subject to the provisions of the constitution. The Section 218 (a) describes all executive actions of the Union Government shall be taken as action in the name of the President. In Section 216, it is described that subject to the provisions of the constitution, the executive power of the Union extends to administrative matters over which the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has power to make laws.
 - (b) It was formed necessarily in the time of the new government elected in line with the constitution to reduce alien pressures for national interests and protection and promotion of fundamental rights of citizens.
 - (c) Designation of the commission as central level institution and expenditure proposal in 2012-2013 fiscal year Union budget had been cancelled.
 - (d) Designation of the commission chairperson and member as Union minister level and deputy minister level had been cancelled.
 - (e) The commission would remain as it was formed under executive power, and was essential for protection and promotion of national interests and fundamental rights of citizens. Its expenses would be drawn out from the funds of the President Office and Union Government Office. Furthermore, a bill is under drafting for transformation of the commission into legally organized one. Under the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the law would be enacted and measures would be taken for further development of the commission.
 7. The President is acting under laws in the interest of Myanmar society walking right to the democracy goal. Message was sent to be considered regarding those three cases presented by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The President sent a message saying low salaries of union level personnel, increasing pensions of retired service personnel and establishing Myanmar National Human Rights Commission to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and the dalies issued on 25-4-2012 carried the news that the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw read out the message at the 27th day meeting of the third regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Hluttaw put it on the record.

MNA

General hospital in Mawlamyine facilitated with new patient ward, parking lot

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April— Under the supervision of Mon State government, specialists of the general hospital in Mawlamyine in Mon State conducted a ceremony to hand over patient ward, motorbike parking and other buildings and to make contributions, at the hospital yesterday morning.

On the occasion, Medical Superintendent Dr Wai Wai Oo of the hospital expressed words of thanks after accepting the documents presented by Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Hla Oo.

Then, Chairman U Kyaw Win and Vice-Chairman U Chit Maung of Phyu Sin Myitta Well-

wishers' medical donation association donated K 500,000 to the hospital. And the association contributed K 100,000 to the clinic with free of charge as a gesture of making good deeds. It was learnt that the government cost over K 4 millions on putting the facilities into service with donations of well-wishers.—MNA



Wellwisher donates cash to Mawlamyine General Hospital.—MNA



High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Mrs. Catherine Ashton speaking at opening of EU Office in Myanmar. MNA

EU Office in Myanmar opened

YANGON, 28 April— The opening ceremony of Office of the European Union in Myanmar was held at No 45 on Inya Myaing Road in Bahan Township, here, at 3.40 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Mrs Catherine Ashton,

Chairperson of National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Ambassadors of EU member countries in Yangon, diplomats and officials, Director-General Daw Yin Yin Myint of Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials, Head of EU Office Mr Andreas List and staff members of the EU Office in Myanmar, local and foreign media.

At first, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Mrs Catherine Ashton delivered an opening address.

After that, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi formally opened the Office.

MNA



Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay receives Vice President Mr Vu Quang Nam of Petrovietnam Co of Vietnam in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 April evening. (News reported)—MNA

Development undertakings in Htantabin Tsp inspected

YANGON, 28 April—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe this morning visited the construction site of Pantaing Sluice Gate (2) near Pantaing Village in Htantabin Township and inspected progress of construction works.

The construction started January 2012, and is due to complete in May. It would help irrigate 7000 acres more farmland for summer paddy cultivation in 10 village-tracts.

He then inspected Mingala Sluice Gate and called for proper drainage and its durability. He then inspected inflow of water at diversion tunnel from irrigation tunnel of Mingala Sluice Gate, progress in cultivation

of summer paddy and requirements for construction of water intake structure at the crossing of Kettiya and Myaungtaloke embankments, and roadworks on Htantabin-Thidaaye Road.

At Htantabin People's Hospital, the region chief minister comforted the patients under the medical attention of region special treatment team and provided cash assistance to them.

He then encouraged specialists who were rendering mobile health care services and inspected bank maintenance works of Kyungu Jetty of Htantabin Township.

MNA

Four civil servants killed, three missing in KIA attack in Sadon Sub-township, Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Four staff members, including the township administrator of Sadon Sub-township General Administration Department of Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, were killed and three others went missing as a KIA armed group seized and attacked the office at about 1.30 am today.

The government in its nation-building endeavours is negotiating with national ethnic armed groups to be able to participate in their regional development as well as national development tasks realizing the goodwill of the State. The government is doing so with the aim of ensuring eternal peace through temporary ceasefire

with those armed groups.

At a time when the government, Tatmadaw and national race armed groups are working together to make mutual peace, it can be reviewed that such an incident happened as KIA itself issued

no orders to its affiliates. So, measures should be taken to avoid another incident and the people are saying that such a terrorist attack is totally unacceptable in the time of peace efforts.

MNA

Emergency ambulance service to be launched soon

YANGON, 28 April—Myanmar Medical Association held a work coordination meeting on formation of emergency ambulance service foundation at its hall on Theinbyu Street here this morning.

Chairman of MMA Professor Dr Kyaw Myint Naing explained purpose of the foundation and attendees partook in discussion. To play a part in national health care system under the guidance of the MMA providing emergency ambulance service and emergency first-aid service of high quality are the aims of the foundation whose contact address is No. 249, Theinbyu Street, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Ph: 09-43194731 and 09-73063856.—MNA

Mandalay Region Chief Minister on inspection tour of Myogyi multi-purpose dam, Thittatkon diversion weir

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint on 25 April paid an inspection tour of Myogyi multi-purpose dam project near Ywangan Township in the border area between Mandalay Region and Shan State (South), which is under construction according to the plan for greening Meiktila Plain.

There, he viewed progress of the tasks being carried out at the construction site.

It is reportedly known that the dam can store a total of 359,550 acres of water and is an earthen embankment (Zone), and that upon

completion, it will be supplying necessary irrigation water to growing crops in about 33000 acres of land while also producing about 30 Megawatt of electricity.

Despite the project's intention of greening Meiktila plain, it would be a multi-purpose dam.

Afterwards, the Region Chief Minister proceeded to his inspection tour of Thittatkon diversion weir in Myitha Township in Kyaukse District. He left instructions on dredging Samon river water course for preventing floods in villages around Thittatkon diversion weir.

MNA

Cash donated for new elevator at historic Kyaikthanlan Pagoda



Daw Sein Myint and family of Myawady donate K 300,000 to fund of Kyaikthanlan Pagoda in Mawlamyine.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—A ceremony to donate cash for a 200 million-kyat elevator at eastern stairway of the historic Kyaikthanlan Pagoda in Mawlamyine, Mon State, was held yesterday.

At the ceremony, well-wishers donated K 21.9 million and they were presented certificates of honour.

Under the leadership of the Mon State government and under the supervision of the pagoda board of trustees of treasury, the new elevator will be built in complete by 2012 and those wishing to make cash donations may contact the said board of trustees (Ph:057-21334) and chairman U San Myint (Ph:057-24193,09-5322300 and 09-49801057.—MNA

Armed groups return to legal fold

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—While the government is eradicating narcotic drugs through various ways and means and focusing on development of border areas and national races, small groups of drug culprit Sai Naw Kham that is robbing the ships along Mekong River and committing hijacks, narcotic drugs and destructive acts run away from the main group.

On 23 April, an eight-member group led by Aik Tun, after realizing the goodwill of the State, returned to the legal fold. On

27 April, a 12-member group led by Law Hsan of drug culprit group led by Sai Naw Kham, bringing along with six assorted arms, 210 rounds of ammunition, eight magazines, 10 grenades and one mine, connected with the Tatmadaw camp in Tachilek Station and returned to the legal fold.

Officials of the local military camp warmly welcomed those who returned to the legal fold and are making arrangements to provide necessary assistance for security and rehabilitation of their families.—MNA



Red strawberry plantations...

(from page 16)

He said: "The strawberry grown here is called locally as Hniyeikhma. It means sun-setting place in Myanmar. The strains are imported and strawberry is grown organic

Plucked strawberries ready for sale.

here. Strawberry is usually grown in July, the fruits start to ripe in November and the sale usually goes up to mid June. It earns more than farming. The soil has to be nourished with cow dung and dried before growing strawberry and weeds have to be killed twice year. Otherwise, the fruits will grow smaller. Strawberries

are transported to Mindat, Kyaukhtu, Htilin, and Gangaw. The business can generate more incomes if able to be combined with high-value produce production technologies.

Red strawberries arouse one's appetite. It is delicious and nourishing, enriched with Vitamin C which contributes health and immune system. It is also the source of manganese, folic

acid, potassium, Vitamin B-2, B-6, copper, magnesium, and omega-3 fatty acid.

Strawberries plucked in April and May are of best for consumption. Hope you enjoy Vitamin-C-enriched strawberries in hot summer.

Translation: TKK
Kyemon:
28-4-2012

Webuchaung Monastery in Kyaukse enjoys fruit of drinking tube-well



The first-ever tube-well has been successfully sunk in the precinct of Webuchaung Monastery in Kyaukse of Kyaukse District in Mandalay Region.

With the assistance of the underground water branch of Water Resources Utilization Department, the six-inch diameter tubewell was sunk in the precinct of the monastery in Kyaukse in May 2011. The tubewell pumps out 2800 gallons of water per hour and its water quality is in good status.

The monastery faced a shortage of water in successive eras. It relied on

rain water in the past. In the time of the first Webu Sayadaw, a tubewell was sunk, but water could be pumped out 450 gallons per day, that could not satisfy the consumption.

In the time of the second Webu Sayadaw, one more tubewell was sunk with the use of three drilling machines, but mission failed.

Under the arrangement of the director-general of the Water Resources Utilization Department, the tube-well was sunk in May 2011. After sinking tube-well 14 days, the success was achieved in mission.

At present, water is being pumped onto the tank to supply over 4000 gallons of water per day to the whole monastery.—*Ko Htwe*

A water tank seen at Webuchaung Monastery precinct.

Micro-credit cooperative society set up

YANGON, 28 April—As part of efforts to alleviate poverty in Yangon Region, a ceremony to set up Shwelinpan Village Micro-credit Cooperative Society Ltd was held at the hall of the Township Cooperative Department in Hlinethaya Township on 2 April.

At the ceremony, member of the Yangon Region Cooperative Societies Formation Commission Assistant Director of Cooperative Department U Aung Min and Chairman of the Township Commission Staff Officer U Thein Min set up the cooperative society with Chairman U Tint Hsan, Managing Director U Than Htaik, five members of Board of Directors and two auditors.—*Myanma Alin*

Respects paid to aged in ChaungU

CHAUNGU, 28 April—The third respect paying ceremony was held at Anawrahta Hall in ChaungU Township on 17 April morning.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Phyo Min Htaik and departmental personnel, the older persons and local people.

At the ceremony, the Township Administrator explained the purpose of holding the respect paying ceremony. On behalf of the aged, grandpa U Aung Myint gave words of advice.

Afterwards, those present paid respects to the aged and then gave gifts and cash to them.

—*Myanma Alin*

Myanmar bags one gold in Challenger Section of 12th Bangkok Chess Club Open

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Tint Swe Win (Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry) secured the gold medal in the Challenger Section of the 12th Bangkok Chess Club Open 2012 held in Bangkok of Thailand from 13 to 19 April.

A total of 95 players from 17 countries participated in the Challenger Section and 135 players from 32 countries in the open section.—*Kyemon*

CASH DONATED: In memory of parents U Thein Han-Daw Ohn Mya of Twantay, sons and daughters donated K 300,000 to Miba Gonyi Home for the Aged in Twantay recently. Vice-Chairman-2 of the Home U Tin Hlaing accepts cash donation.—*MYANMA ALIN*



Auxiliary midwifery course concludes in Thongwa

YANGON, 28 April—In commemoration of the World Health Day, Thongwa Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Township Health Department jointly held the concluding ceremony of the auxiliary midwifery course No 8/2012 at the hall of Thongwa Township Health Department on 23 April.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U

Kyau Thung made a speech. Head of Township Health Department Dr Than Than Swe made a concluding remark and presented prize to an outstanding trainee.

Chairperson of Thongwa Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Ma Nyo presented uniforms to 10 trainees. Officials gave completion certificates to the trainees.—*Myanma Alin*

Invitational Sepak Takraw Tournament kicks off



YANGON, 28 April—Under the supervision of the Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation kicked off the Invitational Sepak Takraw Tournament at the gymnasium of the federation in Thingangyun Township on 25 April morning.

Vice-President of the federation U Nyan Tun and Deputy Managing Director Col Maung Maung Sein (Retd) of Myanmar Brewery

Ltd made speeches.

Among the spectators were Patron of the Sepak Takraw Sport Daw Thet Thet Swe, Member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Secretary of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw L Khun Yi and officials of the Ministry of Sports.

In the tournament, players took part in the open, junior and double knockout events.

The tournament will last up to 29 April.

—*Myanma Alin*

YPPG to hold golf tournament on 5 May

YANGON, 28 April—Yuzana Plaza Golfers Group (YPPG) will hold the 45th gold tournament at Ngwethawda Golf Course of Yangon City Golf Course in Yangon Region at 6 am on 5 May.

Those wishing to take part in the tournament are to enlist at U Chit, Tel: 095105435, U Tin Shwe, Tel: 085168178, U Kyaw Win, Tel: 095154408 and U Tun Tun Oo, Tel: 095016616.

—*Kyemon*

DISTRICT NEWS

Old students pay respects to retired teachers

MEIKTILA, 28 April—The first respect paying ceremony was held at Basic Education Middle School No. 3 in Meiktila on 21 April morning.

Headmaster U Nay Win made a speech. Old students then paid homage to 46 retired teachers of over 60 years old.

An old teacher gave words of advice. On behalf of the organizing committee, executive Daw Moe Khaing Swe explained the effort made for holding the ceremony.

An old student spoke words of thanks. The students donated K 35,000 to the teachers.—*Myanma Alin*



Palethwe hybrid paddy model plot harvested in Hmawby

YANGON, 28 April—A ceremony to harvest Palethwe hybrid paddy on 10 acres of farmland was held at Myanma Rice Research Institute in Hmawby of Yangon Region on 23 April morning.

Head of Yangon Region Agriculture Department U Tin Aung Win, Head of Region Settlement and Land Records Department U Zaw Min and In-charge of MRRI

Dr Ye Tint explained boosting production of paddy acre, use of quality paddy strains for doubling income, systematic use of fertilizers, amendment of farmland law, cultivation of quality paddy strain through good agriculture pattern and production of quality paddy seeds at home.

Officials replied to queries raised by local farmers. They viewed harvesting of paddy.—*Myanma Alin*

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Bomb threat delays flight in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 28 April—A bomb threat delayed a flight from Shanghai to the southwestern city of Chengdu on Friday evening, airport authorities said on Saturday. Shanghai Pudong International Airport received an anonymous phone call at 6:36 pm on Friday saying that a bomb was onboard flight CA406, according to police at the airport.

Police evacuated the passengers and inspected the plane, but no bomb was found. The flight, scheduled to take off at 6:30 pm, took off at 11:23 pm after a delay of about 5 hours. A further investigation into the incident is still underway.— *Xinhua*

Flights resumed after thunderstorm hits Guangzhou

GUANGZHOU, 28 April — Operation at an airport in south China's Guangdong Province resumed early Saturday morning, after a thunderstorm grounded more than 100 flights and stranded about 10,000 passengers, airport authorities said. By 4:40 am, the airport has removed a mass delaying warning and the operation was back to track.

A thunderstorm that started mid Friday delayed 116 flights at the Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport for more than one hour and forced another 54 flights to be canceled, according to the airport. The mass delay was the worst situation the airport had faced, stranding about 10,000 passengers, its operators said.— *Xinhua*

Dolphin stuck in California wetlands draws a crowd

HUNTINGTON BEACH, 28 April — A dolphin who took a wrong turn from the Pacific Ocean into a Southern California wetlands became an unwitting star on Friday

She said authorities think the dolphin could find its own way back when the tide comes in, although it will have to swim more than 3 miles to get to open water. That is because

the dolphin or moving it themselves. "It could smack us and break our ribs, or knock out our teeth or something," O'Reilly said. "Far better for the animal and us if we just



The dorsal fin of a wayward dolphin pops up at the Bolsa Chica Wetlands in Huntington Beach, California on 27 April, 2012. Animal rescue and Fish & Game biologists opted to leave the dolphin in the channel in hopes that it will find its way out.

INTERNET

when scores of motorists on a nearby busy highway stopped to watch it swim in circles. The 700-pound (317-kg) mammal was discovered on Friday morning in Bolsa Bay, about 30 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles in the Orange County community of Huntington Beach. It was swimming in a patch of wetlands near a concrete flood-control gate close to the beach, said Kelly O'Reilly, reserve manager for the California Department of Fish and Game.

the path the dolphin took to get into the wetlands is not a direct route to the ocean. It skirts the edge of the coast, passing through a marina where boats are docked outside multi-million dollar homes. Hundreds of passersby stopped to gawk at the dolphin during the day, and traffic slowed along the four-lane Pacific Coast Highway near the stranded animal as drivers parked their cars to take a look, she said. Rescue workers decided against getting too close to

give it some space, back off and as the water gets deeper, hopefully it will figure out how to get out of here," she said. For now, the dolphin - which appears healthy - is swimming in waters about 6 feet deep, O'Reilly said, adding that she has never heard of a dolphin wandering into those wetlands before. If the animal does not go back on its own, rescue workers will approach it in kayaks and paddle boards to try to nudge it back in the right direction, O'Reilly said. *Reuters*



South Korean women dressed in costumes pose as they wait for a concert by US pop diva Lady Gaga outside Seoul's Olympic Stadium in Seoul on 27 April, 2012.

INTERNET

Heavy rains flood refugee camps in Kenya, Ethiopia

NAIROBI, 28 April — The UN refugee agency said on Friday that heavy rains have hit Somali refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, damaging tents, flooding roads and affecting aid delivery. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) said in a statement issued in Nairobi that the incident comes as the refugee population in southern Ethiopia swelled to more than 150,000. The agency said the new arrivals continue to cite insecurity inside Somalia as their reason for flight while some refugees say they fled in fear of possible forced recruitment or military conscription.

"Others cite fear of potential revenge killings in the wake of renewed fighting," the UNHCR said as rains continue to pound several parts of the east African nation including Ethiopia. According to the UNHCR, these circumstances, combined with last year's famine in

Somalia, eroded many people's traditional coping mechanisms and forced them to seek asylum across the border. The agency said the Dadaab refugee complex in northeastern Kenya has also been affected by the recent rains which have so far cleft more than 20 people dead and several people rendered homeless. Since mid-April, the UNHCR has been distributing plastic sheets and tents to refugees whose shelter has been damaged or collapsed because of downpour.

"Our staff are standing by to distribute more tarpaulins and other relief items, prioritizing the most vulnerable refugees and those whose homes have

been affected by the rains," the statement said. The UNHCR said together with its partners are also working to mitigate the effects of potential floods, adding that needs assessment and plans have been developed, but budgetary constraints are hindering progress. In anticipation of malaria cases, the UNHCR said its health partners have started distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets.

It said the 220,000 nets will be handed out in the next four weeks in Ifo, Dagahaley and Hagadera camps, accompanied by demonstrations and information sessions on their use and care. The Dadaab refugee complex current hosts more than 464,000 refugees, the majority from Somalia.

Xinhua

Damascus blasts kill at least 11 people

BEIJING, 28 April — A suicide bombing has killed at least 10 people and injured nearly 30 outside a mosque in central Damascus. Three other smaller explosions have also been reported in the capital, killing one person. The explosions constitute another blow to a fraying UN-brokered truce between the government of President Bashar al-Assad and rebels fighting for his removal from power. A suicide bomber blew himself up across a street near a mosque in the Syrian capital Damascus. The street was stained with blood and littered with shattered glass from a damaged police vehicle.

Syrian TV aired footage of white smoke billowing from under a bridge as people streamed out of a mosque. Health Minister Nader al-Halqi said at least 7 of the dead were policemen. The injured were taken to a hospital. Witness & member of security force said, "We were performing an official mission at al-Midan police station. When we were near Zein al-Abidin mosque, an unknown person dressed in a uniform just like us walked through

our group. The guys saw him and did not recognize him. They stopped him asking for his ID and while talking to him he blew himself up." It's unclear who is behind the latest string of attacks. The violence is the latest blow to a peace plan brokered by UN-Arab League special envoy Kofi Annan that called for a cease-fire to go into effect two weeks ago.

Large-scale bombings in Damascus and elsewhere in recent months have added a mysterious element to the revolt against President Bashar al-Assad. The government blames the opposition, which it says is made up of "terrorist" groups acting out a foreign conspiracy. But some opposition leaders accuse the government of carrying out the attacks as a way to tarnish the revolt that began in March 2011. With violence continuing on the ground, the UN says 15 more truce observers of the total advance team of 30, will arrive in Syria by Monday. The UN is speeding up the deployment of the full mission of 300 observers.— *Xinhua*

A view through the damaged windshield of a bus shows Syrian security personnel inspecting wreckage after a bomb exploded in central Damascus on 27 April, 2012.

INTERNET



THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
Invitation of Open Tenders

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following item in Japanese Yen:-

Tender No	Description	Qty
1/MR/Rail Bus(M) 2012-2013	In-service Rail Buses(RBE) with Roof Mounted Air Condition	30-No

Closing Date/Time - 21.5.2012 (Monday)(12:00)Hours

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 30.4.2012 (Monday) during office hours and for further details please contact: Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291994, 95-1-291985

Deputy General Manager
 Supply Department, Myanma Railways
 Yangon

S Korea retailers halt US beef sales over mad cow

SEOUL, 28 April — South Korea stepped up inspections of US beef following the discovery of mad cow disease in a US dairy cow that led two major retailers to pull the meat off the shelves.

One company later reserved that decision. South Korea's No 2 and No 3 supermarket chains, Home Plus and Lotte Mart, said on Wednesday they halted

but health authorities said on Tuesday the animal was never a threat to the nation's food supply.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is fatal to cows and can cause a deadly human brain disease in people who eat tainted beef. US authorities said the dead California cow had what scientists call an atypical case of BSE, meaning that a

imported into South Korea and the infected animal, the country's agriculture ministry said in a statement. The infected US cow was older than 30 months.

Internet



South Korean shoppers watch to buy domestic and Australian beef on the shelves at a Lotte Mart store in Seoul, South Korea, on 25 April, 2012.—INTERNET

sales of US beef to calm worries among South Koreans. But within hours, Home Plus had resumed sales and cited a government announcement of increased inspections.

Lotte kept its suspension in place. "We stopped sales from today," said Chung Won-hun, a Lotte Mart spokesman. "Not that there were any quality issues in the meat but because consumers were worried."

South Korea is the world's fourth-largest importer of US beef, buying 107,000 tons of the meat worth \$563 million in 2011. Reaction elsewhere in Asia was muted with Japan saying there's no reason to restrict imports. The new case of mad cow disease is the first in the US since 2006. It was discovered in a dairy cow in California,

random mutation in the animal rather than infected cattle feed was the cause.

The infected cow, the fourth ever discovered in the US, was found as part of an Agriculture Department surveillance programme that tests about 40,000 cows a year for the disease.

The news spread quickly in South Korea, which imposed a ban on US beef in 2003 along with China and other countries because of mad cow disease concerns. Seoul's resumption of US beef imports in 2008 sparked daily candlelight vigils and street protests for several months as many South Koreans still regarded the meat as a public health risk.

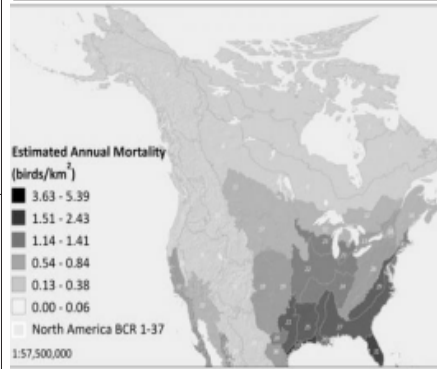
South Korea imports US beef from cows less than 30 months old and there is no direct link between US beef

Yangon Golf Club

The Yangon Golf Club will be celebrating its 103rd year Annual-At-Home ceremony on the 6th of May 2012. Competition will start at 12:00 noon followed by the Captains' drive in at 16:30 hr and will carry on with the Prize Giving ceremony which includes food and entertainment.

All members cordially with their families are invited to join us on this special occasion.

Executive Committee
 Myanmar Golf Club



Estimated annual avian mortality from communication towers by Bird Conservation Region.

INTERNET

Study: Antarctic ice melting from warm water below

WASHINGTON, 28 April — Antarctica's massive ice shelves are shrinking because they are being eaten away from below by warm water, a new study finds. That suggests that future sea levels could rise faster than many scientists have been predicting.

The western chunk of Antarctica is losing 23 feet of its floating ice sheet each year. Until now, scientists weren't exactly sure how it was happening and whether or how man-made global warming might be a factor.

The answer, according to a study published on Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, is that climate change plays an indirect role — but one that has larger repercussions than if Antarctic ice were merely melting from warmer air. Hamish Pritchard, a glaciologist at the British

Antarctic Survey, said research using an ice-gazing NASA satellite showed that warmer air alone couldn't explain what was happening to Antarctica.

A more detailed examination found a chain of events that explained the shrinking ice shelves.

Twenty ice shelves showed signs that they were melting from warm water below. Changes in wind currents pushed that relatively warmer water closer to and beneath the floating ice shelves.

The wind change is likely caused by a combination of factors, including natural weather variation, the ozone hole and man-made greenhouse gases, Pritchard said in a phone interview. As the floating ice shelves melt and thin, that in turn triggers snow and ice on land glaciers

to slide down to the floating shelves and eventually into the sea, causing sea level rise, Pritchard said.

Thicker floating ice shelves usually keep much of the land snow and ice from shedding to sea, but that's not happening now.

That whole process causes larger and faster sea level rise than simply warmer air melting snow on land-locked glaciers, Pritchard said.

Internet

Mysterious skin disease in central Vietnam identified

HANOI, 28 April — According to Quang Ngai provincial health department, the mysterious skin disease which left 19 dead among the province is identified.

Fourteen out of 26 blood samples from patients with a mysterious skin disease in Vietnam's central province of Quang Ngai (some 730 kilometres south of the capital Hanoi) have tested positive for the Rickettsia Virus, said Pham Hong Phuong, director of Quang Ngai provincial health department, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported on Wednesday. The virus is transferred from animals to people by lice or fleas. So far, 172 people have been infected with the virus and 19 victims in the Province's rural communes have been reported dead.

According to the report, the department has asked the province to provide financial assistance to equip medical facilities with blood filters and necessary medications to treat affected patients in a timely manner. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also said that it is ready to support the Vietnamese government in tackling the disease, but a WHO official said on Tuesday that the organization had not yet received any requests for support from the Vietnamese Ministry of Health. The situation has turned more serious since the disease was first noticed last year. Despite the participation of several agencies, the mysterious killer still spreads out among the Province.

The initial symptoms of the illness are high fever, loss of appetite and a rash on the palms and feet. If it is not treated early, the disease can affect the respiratory system, causing eye and liver problems, miscarriages and multiple organ failures, local doctors said.—Xinhua



Miss Universe Dominican Republic 2012 Dulcita Lieggi (L), director of the Miss Universe Dominican Republic Magali Febles (C) and second runner up Carolyn Hawa (R) pose during a Press conference in Santo Domingo on 25 April, 2012. Lieggi, who was placed second, will represent the country in the Miss Universe international competition after Carlina Duran, chosen last week as Miss Dominican Republic, has been dismissed after verifying that she was married.—REUTERS

Interrupted burglar tries to make trade

A Washington state burglar who was chased off by a gun-wielding homeowner called later in the day to offer a trade for items he left behind, police said.

Bremerton police said officers were called to a Pitt Avenue home around 3 am and the homeowners told them they had awakened to the sound of a burglar in the house and they chased him off with a gun, KOMO-TV, Seattle, reported Thursday.

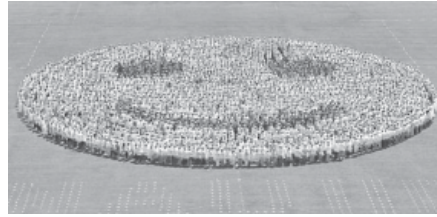
Police said the burglar called the homeowners in the afternoon and offered to trade some of the items he had taken from their home for a bag he had left behind, which contained papers bearing his name.

The homeowners agreed and the burglar arrived at the home to find police

waiting for him.

Police Sgt Kevin Crane said the burglar, whose name was not released, was very polite during the incident and apologized to the homeowners while he was being arrested.

"It's very unusual," Crane said of the case. "I've never seen this happen before where a burglar contacts the victim trying to make a deal to exchange things he left behind for some of the items he stole from the victims."



Students stand in formation on a field as they form a smiley face in an attempt to break a world record in celebration of the 110th anniversary of their university in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province on 27 April, 2012. A total of 3,110 students from Nanjing Agricultural University broke the Guinness World Record for World Largest Smiley Face on Friday, overtaking the last world record of 2,961 volunteers in Canada on July 2011, local media reported.—INTERNET

Police: Suspect pretended to be asleep

Chicago police said an alleged minivan thief attempted to evade arrest by jumping through a window into his home and pretending to be asleep.

The police report of the incident said officers attempted to pull over a Pontiac Montana minivan after it ran a stop sign on the city's South Side around 9 pm Friday and discovered the van, which did not stop, had been reported stolen Wednesday, the *Chicago Tribune* reported Monday.

Police said the man allegedly abandoned the vehicle in a vacant lot and ran to his house where he jumped into the open front window and ran to a bedroom, then pretended to be asleep.

The man, who gave various different names to officers, was addressed in Cook County court Sunday as "John Doe" and charged with criminal trespass to a vehicle, obstruction and various traffic offenses. His bond was set at \$15,000.

Marathon runner stops to propose

A man running the London Marathon stopped only 800 yards from the finish line and dropped to one knee to propose to his girlfriend. Ben McCreadie, 28, of Newport, Wales, was running the 26-mile race Sunday and stopped just short of the finish line to kneel in front of his girlfriend, Laura Rendell, 30, who was in the crowd to cheer for him, and ask her to marry him, *The Sun* reported Thursday.

Rendell quickly agreed and McCreadie slipped a ring on her finger and got up to finish his run.

"I couldn't think of a better way to do it. She didn't have a clue," McCreadie said. "I brought a bum bag to keep the ring in as I ran — I then held it out and went down on one knee."

Rendell said the proposal came as a surprise.

"I was really shocked. I didn't know what to do, but I was really, really happy," she said. "I said yes, he put the ring on my finger, gave me a kiss and then he just ran off — he had to go as he had to finish the race."

"I thought if it ever did happen it would be in a restaurant, or if we were on our own somewhere, but not at one of the biggest events of the year," Rendell said.

News Album

Harris, Vergara back for 'Smurfs 2'

CULVER CITY, 28 April—Hollywood stars Neil Patrick Harris, Jayma Mays, Sofia Vergara and Hank Azaria have returned for the sequel to "The Smurfs," Sony Pictures Animation announced.

The 2011 family flick earned more than \$560 million at the worldwide box office.

Production has begun on Columbia Pictures' and Sony Pictures Animation's live-action/computer animated hybrid 3D comedy "The Smurfs 2," which is set in Europe.

While Harris, Vergara, Mays and Azaria will reprise their live-action roles, Katy Perry, Jonathan Winters, Alan Cumming, Fred Armisen, George Lopez, John Oliver and Anton Yelchin will once again lend their voices to the web blue title characters.



Neil Patrick Harris appears backstage with the favorite TV comedy actor award he garnered during the 38th annual People's Choice Awards at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles on 11 Jan, 2012. INTERNET

Irish actor Brendan Gleeson joins the cast as the father of Harris' character, and Christina Ricci and JB Smoove will voice the new "Smurf-like naughty characters, Vexy and Hackus, respectively," a synopsis said.

"The Smurfs 2" is scheduled to be released in US theaters on 31 July, 2013.

INTERNET

Elise Testone voted off of 'Idol'



Elise Testone was eliminated from "American Idol" Thursday night. INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 28 April—Elise Testone became the latest contestant booted off of "American Idol" in Los Angeles Thursday.

Testone, 28, grew up in New Jersey and works as a vocal coach in South Carolina.

Still competing on the show are Jessica Sanchez, Skylar Laine, Joshua Ledet, Phillip Phillips and Hollie Cavanagh.

Ryan Seacrest is the host of "Idol." The judges are Jennifer Lopez, Steven Tyler and Randy Jackson.



Actress Julie Benz attends the Clinton Foundation Gala in honour of "A Decade of Difference" held at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles on 14 Oct, 2011. INTERNET

Fox orders fifth, final season of 'Fringe'

LOS ANGELES, 28 April—Fox has renewed "Fringe," the science-fiction series starring Joshua Jackson, for a fifth and final season, *The Hollywood Reporter* said Thursday.

"Fringe" is a remarkably creative series that has set

the bar as one of television's most imaginative dramas," the entertainment industry trade newspaper quoted Fox entertainment chief Kevin Reilly as saying. "Bringing it back for a final 13 [episodes] allows us to provide the

climactic conclusion that its passionate and loyal fans deserve. The amazing work the producers, writers and the incredibly talented cast and crew have delivered the last four seasons has literally been

out of this world. Although the end is bittersweet, it's going to be a very exciting final chapter."

The show's Season 4 finale is to air 11 May.

INTERNET

Demi Lovato announces N American concert tour

NEW YORK, 28 April—Singer-actress Demi Lovato has announced plans for a 21-date North American concert tour to begin in June.

Hot Chelle Rae and Owl City will be special guests on select dates of the concert series, which will kick off on 12 June in Del Mar, Calif, Disney Music Group said Thursday.

The tour to support her latest album, "Unbroken," will wrap up 1 Sept in Salem, Ore. Lovato, 19, is the former star of Disney Channel's "Sonny with a Chance."

Her career was temporarily sidelined about a year ago when she entered rehab to be treated for depression and eating disorders but she has since mounted a successful comeback. She recently finished a sold-out South American concert tour and her



Singer Demi Lovato appears backstage with the favorite pop artist award she garnered during the 38th annual People's Choice Awards at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles on 11 Jan, 2012. INTERNET

new single "Give Your Heart a Break" has gotten more than 10 million hits on YouTube.

INTERNET

Halle Berry hits back at paparazzi



Josh Jackson attends the Fox Press Tour All-Star Party in Pasadena, California on 8 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

the bar as one of television's most imaginative dramas," the entertainment industry trade newspaper quoted Fox entertainment chief Kevin Reilly as saying. "Bringing it back for a final 13 [episodes] allows us to provide the

climactic conclusion that its passionate and loyal fans deserve. The amazing work the producers, writers and the incredibly talented cast and crew have delivered the last four seasons has literally been

out of this world. Although the end is bittersweet, it's going to be a very exciting final chapter."

There are laws like that in France, which is the reason I want to go there. Laws that protect children, protect right to privacy. All I want is for my family and myself to have a normal life. When I'm not at work, that's very important to me."

INTERNET



Actress Halle Berry

Production begins in Toronto on 'Defiance'

NEW YORK, 28 April—Syfy says it began production this week on the series pilot for "Defiance" in Toronto. The show is to premiere next spring in connection with the start of a new massive multiplayer online game. "Defiance" stars Grant Bowler, Julie Benz, Stephanie Leonidas, Tony Curran, Jaime Murray, Graham Greene, Mia Kirshner and Fionnula Flanagan.

"Set in the near future, 'Defiance' introduces a completely transformed planet Earth, inhabited by the human and alien survivors of a universal war," Syfy said in a synopsis. "Forced to cohabitate, the disparate group struggles to build a new society among the devastation.—INTERNET

China's Li fails to reach Stuttgart semis

BERLIN, 28 April — China's Grand Slam winner Li Na was crushed out of the quarterfinals of the Stuttgart WTA clay court tournament on Friday by Polish Agnieszka Radwanska. The 2011 French Open winner was beaten 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 by the fourth seed Radwanska, who had played some strong returns and drop shots since the second set. "I am enjoying my tennis and just trying everything at the moment," said the 23-year-

old Pole, ranked fourth in the world and who claimed her ninth tour win at Miami recently. Radwanska will next play the winner between world No 1 Victoria Azarenka and wildcard Mona Barthel, who faces each other later on Friday. Also on Friday, world No 2 Maria Sharapova takes on the fifth seed and US Open winner Samantha Stosur, while Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova faces Angelique Kerber. — *Xinhua*



China's Li Na returns the ball to Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska during their quarter-final match at the WTA Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Stuttgart. Li was first quarter-final casualty of the WTA clay-court tournament. — INTERNET

Manchester United forward Wayne Rooney (R) celebrates after scoring with Danny Welbeck during an 22 April match. Team manager Sir Alex Ferguson believes the strike pair could emulate the Old Trafford goal-scoring havoc once wreaked by Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole.

INTERNET



Fergie says Rooney-Welbeck new Yorke-Cole

LONDON, 28 April — Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson believes strike pair Wayne Rooney and Danny Welbeck could emulate the Old Trafford goal-scoring havoc once wreaked by Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole. Welbeck scored his 12th goal of the campaign in last weekend's 4-4 draw with Everton, while Wayne Rooney's double took him to 33. Those performances brought back memories of the 53 goals that Yorke and Cole plundered during United's 1999 Treble-winning campaign. "Last week we saw

something really special," said Ferguson, ahead of Monday's crucial Premier League showdown with Manchester City. "I know there was a lot of reference to the Yorke and Cole thing. There were similarities to that. Danny's movement was fantastic. Now he is fit again and playing consistently, he has developed better. "Wayne is 26 now. Danny is 21. For the next few years they can only get better. We certainly hope so."

Ferguson believes concentrating on youth development is paying dividends and will continue

to do so even if it means allowing the likes of City, Liverpool and Chelsea to flash the cheque books. "It is hard to change our way of doing things," said Ferguson. "After the spell of domination, when we won the Treble and following that we had big point margins there was a transitional period.

"We tried to rebuild a team with young players, like Rooney and (Cristiano) Ronaldo and one or two of our own young players were starting to come through. "I think we will probably stick to what we are doing."

INTERNET

Fidgety Master Watson out of focus in New Orleans

AVONDALE, 28 April — Exhausted after being thrust into the limelight following his emotional victory at the Masters earlier this month, Bubba Watson has struggled to focus on golf at this week's New Orleans Classic in Avondale, Louisiana.

The affable American left-hander is defending his title at the TPC Louisiana and he narrowly made the cut after Friday's second round having been overwhelmed by all the extra commitments expected of a newly crowned major champion.

"I know that seems like a cop-out but I'm not playing very good because I'm just really not into it," Watson told reporters after shooting a second successive one-

under-par 71 to make the cut right on the number. "I'm exhausted. Mentally, I've lost focus just about every shot so I'm trying to figure it out. It's something you got to learn from and hopefully get better with it.

"It's just overwhelming all the positive energy that everybody is coming with ... I'm signing everybody's autograph, all the players that are asking for stuff for their charities."

Self-diagnosed with attention deficit disorder, the long-hitting Watson is a fidgety player out on the course at the best of times. This week, he was eager to please his fans in Louisiana but he has found the extra time commitments difficult to

handle. "After the Masters win, we really haven't had time to celebrate and think about what happened and live this dream out," said Watson. "It's just tiring." — *Reuters*

Jason Dufner takes Zurich Classic lead



AVONDALE, 28 April — Jason Dufner is in familiar territory atop the leaderboard after 36 holes. It's the weekends that have given him fits. Dufner moved into position for another bid to win his first PGA Tour title, shooting a 7-under 65 on Friday to take the second-round lead in the Zurich Classic. The former Auburn player has had at least a share of the 36-hole lead in two of his last four tournaments, including the Masters, where he closed with consecutive 75s. He's second on the tour in pre-cut scoring, but 98th in third rounds and 108th in final rounds.

"It's been a difficult weekend for me the last month and a half or so," Dufner said.

Cesar Cielo unsatisfied with 100m freestyle swim in Olympic trials

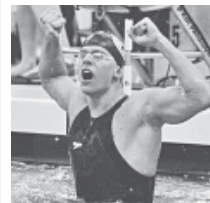
RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 April — World record holder Cesar Cielo rated his performance "very slow" after winning the

100m freestyle event in 48.28sec at the Brazilian Olympic trials on Friday. Marcelo Chieriguini finished second in the race with a time of 49.05sec and France's Frederic Bousquet third (49.05sec) at the Barra da Tijuca pool in Rio.

Cielo's time was well above Australian rival James Magnussen's 2012-best mark of 47.01 and his own world record of 46.91 set in 2009. "The time was very slow, especially the first 25m. I think everybody is feeling weary from the competition," the 25-year-old Brazilian said.

"It's not my main focus at the Olympics anyway. My priority is to defend my 50m Olympic title and after that perhaps see if I can do well in the 100m." On Wednesday Cielo won the 50m freestyle event in 21.38sec — the fastest time so far this year.

Xinhua



World record holder Cesar Cielo

Sharapova into semis after Stosur marathon

STUTT GART, 28 April — Maria Sharapova needed more than three hours to complete a marathon three-set comeback against US Open winner Sam Stosur to reach Saturday's semi-finals at the Stuttgart WTA clay-court tournament. With Sharapova, Victoria Azarenka, Petra Kvitova and Agnieszka Radwanska all in Saturday's semi-finals, this is the first time since Wimbledon in 2009 that the world's top four players have reached the last four at a WTA tournament.

Having won the first set tie-breaker, Stosur served for the match at 5-4 in the second only for Sharapova to hit back to claim a 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 victory after three hours, one minute on court. The



Russia's Maria Sharapova returns the ball to Australia's Samantha Stosur during their quarterfinal match. It took more than three hours, but Sharapova won 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/4), 7-5.

INTERNET

world number two hit 11 aces, compared to Stosur's seven, and as the quarter-final finished at just before 2300 local time, the Russian said recovery was her main concern.

"She has a great serve and she served as well as she ever has against me," said Sharapova, who faces third-seed Kvitova in Saturday's semi-final after the Wimbledon champion's 6-4, 6-4 win over Germany's Angelique Kerber.

"It was pretty difficult to play against her, so I am very happy with the win. It's not over until the last point has been played and you've shaken hands.

"She had her chances to win, so I am just happy to have reached the last four. I have a second chance now and I intend to use it." Stosur was in philosophical mood after a high-quality match when the only break point came in the third set.

INTERNET



Bubba Watson of the US receives his green jacket from 2011 champion Charl Schwartzel of South Africa after winning the 2012 Masters Golf Tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, on 8 April, 2012. — REUTERS

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(29-4-12 09:30 am ~ 30-4-12 09:30 am) MST

- News
- Workshop on Broadcast Media Regulation
- News
- Songs for you
- News
- The Hills of Phowin Taung and Shwebataung
- News
- MI People's Celebrities
- Kabar Aye Ga Mone Pwint Super Market
- News
- History of Wishfulfilling Malamu Pagoda
- News
- Tipitaka Hteinlin Pariyattisarthintike
- News
- Gems Museum Embellished with Myanmar Precious Stones
- Myanmar Movie "Love was Born"

MYANMAR TV
(29-4-2012) (Sunday)

- 7:00 am**
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:40 am**
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:15 am**
- 3. Documentary
- 8:40 am**
- 4. International News
- 11:00 am**
- 5. National Song
- 11:35 am**
- 6. How It's Works
- 12:00 pm**
- 7. Myanmar Video Feature
- 2:00 pm**
- 8. Teleplay (Health)
- 4:30 pm**
- 9. Song Of National Races
- 5:10 pm**
- 10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 7:00 pm**
- 11. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
- 12. News
- 13. Documentary On Human Trafficking
- 12. New Melody**

Respects paid to aged in Momauk

MOMAUK, 28 April—A ceremony to pay respects to 30 older persons of 70-90 years old was held in Momauk Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State on 17 April (Myanmar New Year Day). The people donated K 300,000 to the aged. In the afternoon, 15 members of the Sangha recited Parittas in the town and the local people released fish and birds as Jivitadana.—*Myanma Alin*



WRITERS ASSOCIATION FORMED: The formation of writers association was held in conjunction with the election of new executives at Sarpya Alin Library in Central Market in Kyaukse on 25 April. Township Administrator U Kyaw Naing speaking on the occasion. MYANMA ALIN

Gas leak kills three, injures five in N China steel plant

SHUIAZHUANG, 27 April — Three people have been killed and five others injured by gas leak in a steel plant in north China's Hebei province, local authorities told *Xinhua* on Friday.

The accident happened at about 9:30 pm Thursday at Puyang Steel Co, Ltd in the city of Wuan, according to sources with the municipal government.

Gas leaked from a stove under overhaul, leaving eight people poisoned. Three of them died in hospital. Local authorities have set up a team to investigate the accident.

Xinhua

NLM-ner Joke

A student's request for extra money

A student called up his Mom one evening from his college and asked her for some money, because he was broke.

His Mother said, "Sure, sweetie. I will send you some money. You also left your economics book here when you visited two weeks ago. Do you want me to send that too?"

"Uhh, oh yeah, OK" responded the kid.

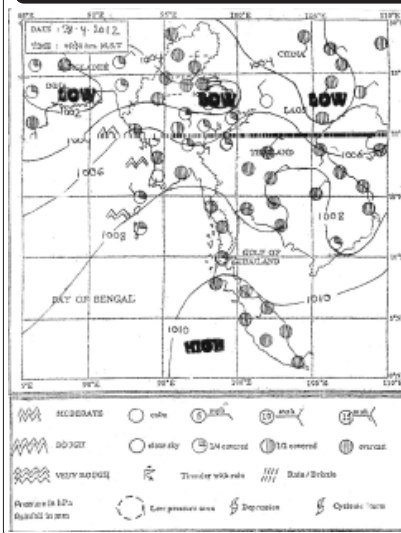
So his Mom wrapped the book along with the checks up in a package, kissed Dad goodbye, and went to the post office to mail the money and the book. When she gets back, Dad asked, "Well how much did you give the boy this time?"

"Oh, I wrote two checks, one for \$20, and the other for \$1,000."

"That's \$1020!!!" yelled Dad, "Are you going crazy???"

"Don't worry hon," Mom said, kissed Dad on the top of his bald head, "I taped the \$20 check to the cover of his book, but I put the \$1,000 one somewhere between the pages in chapter 15!"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Answers for Yesterday's Crossword Puzzle



Weather forecast for 29th April, 2012

No.	Regions/States	Temperature (C°/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	31.88	21.70	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
2	Kayah	36.97	21.70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
3	Kayin	38.100	24.75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
4	Chin	19.66	17.63	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	31.88	22.72	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	37.99	23.73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
7	Tanintharyi	37.99	24.75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
8	Bago	40.104	27.81	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
9	Magway	42.108	28.82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	38.100	25.77	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
11	Mon	37.97	27.81	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
12	Yangon	39.102	25.77	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
13	Rakhine	35.95	28.82	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	31.88	18.64	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	34.93	18.64	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	35.95	21.70	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
17	Ayeyarwady	38.100	26.79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	41.106	25.77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	39.102	25.77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	38.100	25.77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers	(60%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today: During the past (24) hours, rain or thunder-showers have been fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State, scattered in Mandalay Region, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and isolated in Magway, Bago and Tanintharyi Regions and Mon State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy/fair in Mandalay Region. Day temperatures were (1°C) above April average temperature in Rakhine and Kayah States and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Maba (41°C), Chaik, Magway, Tanintharyi, Thantawady and Bawlakhe (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukse (1.53) inches, Pyaw and Machanbaw (0.98) inch each.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of slight decrease of day temperatures in Upper Myanmar areas.

Southampton seal promotion to Premier League

LONDON, 28 April—Southampton clinched promotion to the Premier League with a 4-0 victory over Coventry on the final day of the Championship campaign on Saturday.

The Saints return to the top flight for the first time since 2005 after goals from Billy Sharp, Jose Fonte, Jos Hooiveld and Adam Lallana crushed relegated Coventry in front of a jubilant capacity crowd at St Mary's.

Nigel Adkins' side needed the win to hold off the threat from third-placed West Ham, who would have snatched the second automatic promotion spot with their 2-1 win victory over Hull if Southampton had lost.

Just two years ago, the

south-coast club were facing an uncertain future in League One, but Adkins has masterminded a remarkable transformation and they can now look forward to locking horns with Manchester United, Chelsea and company after back-to-back promotions. "A lot of people have put a lot of hard work in here, the players deserve all the plaudits they'll get as everyone at this club has worked their socks off since I've been here," Adkins told BBC television. "Southampton are back in the Premier League and I'm a happy man. I'm proud and honoured."

Saints goalkeeper Kelvin Davis added: "The Premier League is a top division where

we all want to play.

"I feel like I've got unfinished business here, so my message to the lads will be to grab the opportunity with both hands."

After blowing a chance to seal promotion at Middlesbrough last Saturday, when a 2-1 defeat left Southampton sweating on their fate for one more week, there might have been a few jitters in the Saints dressing room before kick-off.

But any nerves quickly disappeared as two goals in

three minutes killed off Coventry before half-time.

Internet

Southampton striker Rickie Lambert scores a goal during their FA Cup fourth round replay football match. The south-coast club have clinched promotion to the Premier League with a 4-0 victory over Coventry on the final day of the Championship campaign.

INTERNET



NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—Transportation has played a crucial role in national development and regional progress and thus B.O.T companies are to charge the fixed rate of toll in collecting toll, said Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint during the meeting between Public Works of the Construction Ministry and B.O.T companies which have been granted permission for bridge and road toll collection in regions and states at the Construction Ministry here yesterday morning.

Deputy Construction Minister U Kyaw Lwin called for discipline of the toll gate staff and attention to avoid congestion in weighing loads.

Next, B.O.T companies and responsible persons discussed difficulties encountered in works, the secretary of Bayintnaung Highway commodity Transportation Association explained measures taken against overloading of trucks.—MNA

B.O.T. companies to charge fixed rate of toll: Union Construction Minister



The meeting between Public Works of Construction Ministry and B.O.T companies which have won auction for bridge and road toll collection in regions and states in progress.—MNA

Myitkyina District team clinches title in women's open football tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—The final match of the Kachin State Women's Sports Committee Patron's Trophy Women's Open Football Tournament 2012 was held at the Kachin State Sports Ground in Myitkyina yesterday afternoon.

In the final match, Myitkyina District routed Bhamo District 4-0.

The wife of the secretary of Kachin State Government presented prizes to the players of the second prize winning team, the wife of the Kachin State Minister for Agriculture and

Livestock the players of the first prize winning team, the wife of the Chief Justice of the Kachin State High Court the best players of respective places. The wife of the Speaker of the State Hluttaw gave trophy and cash awards to the second prize winning team.

Later, Patron of Kachin State Women's Sports Committee Daw Kan Hsi Hsaing Lon, wife of the Kachin State Chief Minister presented championship shield to Myitkyina District women's team.—MNA

Cash donation to hail AGM of MMCWA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—As a gesture of hailing the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the cash donation ceremony was held at the meeting room of the association in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning.

President of MMCWA Dr Mon Mon Aung extended greetings. President Dr Mon Mon Aung, Central Executive

Committee Daw Khin Than Win, Daw Sao Noon Khun Hsam and Daw Thet Thet Swe, Secretary Daw Thazin Nwe and Joint-Secretary-1 Daw Tin Tin Win accepted cash donations, medicines and medical equipment and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

The cash, medicines and medical equipment will be used in welfare tasks of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association.—MNA

Red strawberry plantations in Mindat

Thick forests and mountains are characteristic of Chin State where plains are barely seen as mountains stretch from north to south separated by valleys and gorges. Mt. Victoria or Mt Kawunswan is the well-known mountain of Chin State and the highest mountain peak reaches 10200 feet. Chin State is teeming with rivers and creeks and Manipura Rivers flows through the state in

the north.

The artist of nature has painted picturesquely of Chin State which is often known as the land of tea leaves when the endless view of green tea plantation lends eye-pleasing pleasure to the scenic sketches of the state.

Strawberry, another seasonal fruit is seen in plantations on the land of Mindat in the south of Chin State and is now under

**Byline: Soe Soe Naing
Photos: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)**

commercial-scale plantation.

Called by Myanmar people as Shan fruit, it grows in moderate zone, and in hilly regions of tropical zone. Strawberry was first discovered in Chile and Europe, but it was said to have a lot of seeds and taste bad, attracting no interest of human for consumption.

Later, two new kinds of wild strawberry were found in America. Both of them were much like the one from the Europe. The strawberries of today are the offspring of the parent strawberries of Europe and America.

Strawberry in Myanmar dates back to thirty years when its strains were imported from India and grown in Shan hilly regions. On the hills as tall as 3000 feet around PyinOoLwin, Kalaw and Taunggyi now are the plantations of strawberry also known as Shan fruit. Strawberry plant is of creeper which usually needs the help of hay during fruit-bearing period for the cleanliness of its fruits.

Fascinated by bright red strawberries, I went to Panaw Village in Mindat Township to interview U Hmarn Hon who runs Hniyeikhma organic strawberry farm.

(See page 9)



Photo shows Hniyeikhma strawberry plantation.

Xavi, Pique out as Rayo host Barca



Barcelona will be without injured pair Gerard Pique and Xavi Hernandez for the visit to Rayo Vallecano on April 29, the Catalan club announced on their website.

INTERNET

BARCELONA, 28 April—Barcelona will be without injured pair Gerard Pique and Xavi Hernandez for the visit to Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, the Catalan club announced on their website on Saturday.

Midfielder Xavi is sidelined for around two weeks with a muscle tear in his left calf while defender Pique is recovering from a clash of heads suffered in the second leg of the Champions League semi-final against Chelsea on Tuesday.

Barcelona, the reigning La Liga champions, are now out of Europe's premier

club competition and could see arch-rivals Real Madrid virtually secure the title on Sunday when they host Sevilla (1000 GMT).

With four games in the season remaining Real have a seven-point lead over Barcelona, who kick off against Rayo at 1930 GMT.

Due to injuries elsewhere in his squad, Barca coach Pep Guardiola, who announced on Friday he would quit the post at the end of the season, has had to plug the gap by bringing in youth team players Martin Montoya, Marc Bartra and Cristian Tello.—Internet