

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 2 May, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes	* Non-disintegration of the Union	* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity	* Perpetuation of Sovereignty
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Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar striving for ensuring comprehensive social protection benefits

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—A ceremony to mark the Workers' Day-2012 was observed at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, at 9 am today, with an opening address by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

It was attended by Union Ministers, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Peasants, Workers and Youths Affairs Committee and members, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Peasants and Local and Foreign Workers Committee and members, deputy ministers, ambassadors, departmental heads, resident representatives of the United Nations agencies, representatives from labour organizations, employers' organizations and NGOs at home and abroad, prize-winning workers and guests and delegates.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said: I would like to say I am very pleased and have an honour to be with the representatives from Labour Organizations and Employers' Organizations joining in today's May Day Ceremony. Labour organizations and employers' organizations are partners that have to work hand in hand. Employers have to enable workers to enjoy their rights and benefits and workers also have to make efforts to progressively boost production and services at various factories and establishments in which they are working. The economics of the nation will develop and entire people and all future generations are entitled to enjoy the benefits of social protection.

Generally, social protection is policy adoption required, such as to enable people including workers and employers, to enjoy equitable development, not to encounter uncertain socio-economic lives and to reduce the livelihood of those who are difficult to stand because of their financial condition. Such protection is a key mechanism that could address family income issue, meet a minimum of adequate socio-economic lives for those who are difficult to stand because of their insufficient financial condition, discrimination against gender, age, religion and ethnic groups.

In Myanmar, there are still main challenges to



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham views documentary photos displayed at ceremony to mark the Workers' Day 2012.

MNA

social protection policy such as unemployment or a collapse of income, income insecurity, or overpriced for household commodities, economic and financial problems, social issues. Besides, problems stemming from natural catastrophes and environmental issues and health incidents are also included.

Although Myanmar has implemented the social security system, it is not a comprehensive one. It offers some types of benefits and its coverage of workers is limited. So, efforts are being made to be able to enact a new

Social Security Law in order to implement a social security system that covers the whole population.

After enactment of this new Social Security Law, all citizens will be able to access better comprehensive social protection benefits. For example, social security benefits such as medical care benefit after retirement, family grant benefit, retirement benefit, survivors' benefit, unemployment benefit, social security housing benefit, and ownership will be enjoyed.

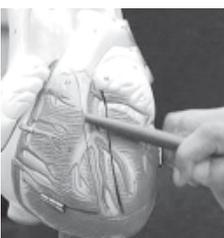
(See Page 8)



Dancers of the Moscow State Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Music Theatre's Ballet rehearse ballet Romeo and Juliet at Tianjin Grand Theatre in Tianjin, north China, on 28 April, 2012. Ballet Romeo and Juliet was staged at Tianjin Grand Theatre on Sunday, marking the opening of the new theatre.

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Scientists find new developments to treat heart diseases



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Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo runs with their ball during his Champions League quarter-final first leg soccer match against APOEL at GSP stadium in Nicosia on 27 March, 2012.

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Significant Day Temperatures (1-5-2012)

Myingyan	(41°C)
Mandalay	(40°C)
NyaungU	(40°C)
Chauk	(40°C)
Kawkareik	(40°C)

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (1-5-2012)

Mawlamyine	(3.74) inches
Kyaukpypu	(2.32) inches
Kyaikmaraw	(2.16) inches
Sagaing	(1.34) inches

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 2 May, 2012

Where justice, freedom and equality flourish

One of the fundamental objectives of Myanmar is to create a suitable job for every citizen effectively utilizing her human resources, financial resources, and natural resources to reach this end.

The government on its part is enlarging the scope of private sector participation in the national economy, making necessary legal amendments and additions, enacting new laws friendly towards the market economy and ensuring rapid flow of domestic and foreign investments into the country.

Thanks to bright prospects for foreign direct investment, we are sure that better chances for job creations, raising per capita income and skill development and greater access to advanced technologies will flourish in our country soonest.

Moreover, we are witnessing a sharp increase in the number of factories, industrial estates, industrial zones and special economic zones, small and medium enterprises and regional business followed by the development of a labour market that can generate more job opportunities and establish sustainable professions.

We have also adopted the work efficiency promotion policy which is crucially important for the productivity of our country. At the same time, the Government has enacted law, rules and regulations permitting the formation of independent labour organizations that protects the rights of workers and cementing better relations among workers and between employers and workers, apart from drafting a Social Security Law that provides a comprehensive protection for all workers.

As the government on its part is creating better conditions and a favorable occupational environment for all the citizens, the entire white collar and blue collar workers of the country must work in cooperation with the government having a firm resolve to building a modern, developed democratic nation where deterrent principles — justice, freedom and equality flourish.

Yangon Region May Day Ceremony-2012 held

YANGON, 1 May— Yangon Region May Day Ceremony-2012 took place at Yangon Region Government Office this morning, with an address by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

In his address, the Region Chief Minister said that the country saw huge investment in private sectors and development of medium- and small-scale business after the market-oriented economy system had been introduced. With the extended establishments of factories, workshops as well as industries and special

economic zones, there emerge job opportunities across the country. For the improvement of productivity, employer organizations were to join hands with employee organizations, he added.

Employers had responsibilities to ensure the rights of workers, safety and health care. And employees are responsible for ensuring worksites and improvement of productivity. The government was carrying out socio safety, creating job opportunities and promoting employees skills. Standards

for expertise skills were being prescribed for working freely not only in ASEAN countries but also worldwide in 2015 as skilled workers, he said.

After that, Chairman of Leading Committee for holding May Day-2012 Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock U Soe Min read out the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein. And Head of Region Labour Department U Soe Win also read the message of ILO Director-General.

MNA

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development receives Managing Director of WFO

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May— Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein received a delegation led by Managing Director of World Food Organization (WFO) Ambassador Ali Mchumo at his office here yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed functions of mango and water melon production groups and milch cow breeding tasks, promotion of bilateral cooperation on both sides and provision of necessary assistance for member countries including Myanmar promotion of bilateral cooperation in the future.

Also present at the call were the director-general of



Planning Department, the director-general of Central Statistical Organization and the deputy director-general of Foreign Economic Relations Department.—MNA

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein receives Managing Director of World Food Organization (WFO) Ambassador Ali Mchumo.—MNA

Union Minister assists in Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Chaungnet-Taungwingyi Road project, Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) project



Union Minister for Science & Technology U Aye Myint and Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint inspect Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) project.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May— Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint, inspected the Kyweshin-Panting road section of the Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Chaungnet-Taungwingyi Road yesterday.

For road safety, the

road section which is 7 miles and two furlongs long is being upgraded to the two lanes road which would be 24ft wide. Upon completion, the road section would link between the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Highway and Nay Pyi Taw and would become the main entrance from Mandalay, Magway and Rakhine State.

During the tour, the Union minister and party inspected road works and construction of drains and conduit pipes along the road section.

In the afternoon, they visited Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) construction project. Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) is 3215 ft long and it is a rail-cum-road bridge. The iron beams produced by the steel mill under the Myanmar Economic Corporation are used to construct the bridge. The bridge would link the Patheingyi-Pakokku Railroad on the west bank of Ayeyawady River and the Yangon-Pyay-Taung-dwingyi-Bagan-Myingyan Railroad on the east bank of the river. During the visit, the Union minister and party inspected pillars, the approach road on Malun bank and road works. They also inspected the installation of iron beams on the main portion of the bridge.

MNA

KIA (Kachin) armed group blasts Myitkyina-Mandalay railroad again

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May— About one and a half miles from Hshamaw railway station on Myitkyina-Mandalay railroad, about two-foot rail tracks and nine sleepers of east and west rail tracks were destroyed in double mine blasts plotted by KIA (Kachin) Armed Group at 1.05 am today.

Fifteen 200-gram TNTs,

13 detonators, six eight-inch tripwires and two intensification explosives were found near the damaged rail track and 18 200-gram TNTs and related items 75 yards from the scene by the officials who deactivated the explosives.

A Kachin national who is in service in Nay Pyi Taw said he doubted whether KIA

are doing the good for the people as they proclaimed because of such destruction of non-military targets and public places—railways, motor roads and bridges—and firing heavy weapons to villages, undermining transportation and socio-economic standards of national people in Kachin State.—MNA

US-Japan alliance cornerstone of security, peace in Asia-Pacific

WASHINGTON, 1 May — US President Barack Obama said on Monday that the US-Japan alliance will remain a cornerstone of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Obama made the remarks at a joint Press conference with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, during which he announced that the two countries have agreed on a new joint vision that will guide their alliance in the future. "We recognize that the US-Japan alliance will (not only) remain the foundation of the security and prosperity of our two nations, but also a cornerstone of regional peace and security," he said.

He cited the agreement that the two governments reached last week, which will relocate some 9,000 US Marines off Okinawa to Guam and other locations in the Asia-Pacific. "This reflects our effort to modernize America's defence posture in the Asia-Pacific with forces that are more broadly distributed, more flexible and more sustainable," Obama told reporters, adding that it will also reduce the impact on residents of Okinawa. — *Xinhua*



US President Barack Obama (R) shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda after a joint Press conference at the White House in Washington DC, on 30 April, 2012. XINHUA



Yemeni army military vehicles drive near the southern town of Loder, in Abiyah Province. Fierce clashes killed at least 21 people, including 18 al-Qaeda militants, on Monday near the southern Yemeni town of Loder, which al-Qaeda is trying to capture, a local official said. — INTERNET

18 Qaeda militants killed in Yemen fighting

ZINJIBAR, 1 May — Fierce clashes killed at least 21 people, including 18 al-Qaeda militants, on Monday near the southern Yemeni town of Loder, which al-Qaeda is trying to capture, a local official said. The other dead were an army officer and two tribal volunteers aiding the military.

The source said the al-Qaeda militants were forced to retreat in the

direction of Amini, 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) south of Loder. Witnesses said the fighting lasted for several hours, and that air force planes had bombed militant positions in the mountains southeast of Loder, from which columns of smoke could be seen rising.

A tank in the hands of the militants, as well as two vehicles mounted with

machineguns and ammunition stocks were destroyed, other sources said. al-Qaeda seized Loder in August 2010, but the army eventually drove it out. Loder lies 150 kilometres northeast of Zinjibar, capital of Abyan Province, which was seized last May by the Partisans of Sharia (Islamic law), an affiliate of al-Qaeda in the Arabic Peninsula. — *Internet*

White powder packages sent to Wells Fargo NYC branches

NEW YORK, 1 May — A rash of incidents on Monday afternoon involving envelopes sent with suspicious white powder had police scrambling around New York City and forced the nation's fourth-biggest bank, Wells Fargo & Co. to shut down five branches around the city. In one of six cases identified by the New York Police Department, the substance turned out to be corn starch, a police spokesman said. The substance has not yet been identified in the remaining five cases, the spokesman said.

The Wells Fargo branches will remain closed pending further investigation by the police, bank spokesman Ansel Martinez said. The branch locations include Third Avenue and 47th Street; Madison Avenue and 34th Street; and Broadway and 85th Street. More than 500 protesters demonstrated at the bank's annual shareholder meeting in San Francisco last week to express anger over foreclosures, executive compensation and corporate taxes. Among other large banks, spokesmen

for Bank of America Corp and JPMorgan Chase & Co said they had not closed any branches on Monday due to suspicious envelopes. A Citigroup spokesman had no immediate comment. According to a website called maydaynyc.org, demonstrations are planned in New York City on Tuesday against "the corporations who rule our city." — *Reuters*



New York City police officers stand guard outside a Wells Fargo bank branch that received suspicious envelopes containing white powder, in New York City on 30 April, 2012. — *REUTERS*

At least eight killed in suicide bombings in Syria's Idlib

DAMASCUS, 1 May — At least eight people were killed, including an officer, and a hundred of others injured when two suicide bombers riding booby-trapped cars blew themselves up in two districts in Syria's northern province of Idlib Monday, state-run SANA news agency reported. SANA said the two



Photo taken on 30 April, 2012, shows the site of a bombing in Idlib, northern Syria. — *XINHUA*

"terrorist" bombings rigged the Hanano Square and the Carlton Street in Idlib, adding that most of the injured were civilians. It said the blasts caused serious damages to near buildings and left two big craters at the scenes, and that two members of the UN observers' teams have patrolled the two sites to get familiar with the traces of the "two terrorists bombings" and the damages caused to residential areas nearby.

One blast targeted a military security compound, while the other hit an aviation intelligence headquarter in Idlib. Unconfirmed report said the blasts, caused by two booby-trapped car, killed the chief of the aviation



Photo taken on 30 April, 2012 shows one of the two bombing sites in Idlib, Syria. — *XINHUA*

intelligence and six other security forces. The information could not be independently verified, but SANA also said an officer was among the killed but did not disclose his position. Meanwhile, a pro-government news website

said at least 52 people were reported to have been killed and wounded in the incidents. It said that the blasts wrecked five surrounding buildings, and even caused damages to places about one kilometre away from the site.

Xinhua

Officials say Iraq violence kills seven

BAGHDAD, 1 May — Violence killed seven people in Iraq on Monday, including a mother and her three children who were stabbed to death in their home and an army major killed by a bomb, officials said. A mother, her 13-year-old boy, and girls aged five and seven were killed in the Baghdad neighbourhood of Kamaliyah after the woman's husband, who works at the ministry of health, left for his office, security and medical officials said.

It was unclear why they were targeted, an interior ministry official said, adding that the killings in the predominantly Shiite neighbourhood did not

appear to have sectarian motives. Just days earlier, a Sunni Muslim 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. Also in Baghdad, a magnetic "sticky bomb" attached to a car in the commercial Karrada neighbourhood in the centre of the capital killed two people and wounded five others.

The victims were all civilians, security and medical officials said. And another sticky bomb on a car in the Latifiyah, south of Baghdad, killed Major Qais Saadun and wounded two soldiers, the interior ministry official said.

Internet

India, Japan hold 6th round of strategic dialogue

NEW DELHI, 1 May — India and Japan have announced fresh dialogue mechanisms for maritime and cyber security during the 6th round of strategic dialogue between the two nations on Monday, local media reported on Tuesday. The meeting was co-chaired by Indian Foreign Minister S M Krishna and his

visiting Japanese counterpart Koichiro Gemba. The two countries said they are preparing for a joint naval exercise off the coast of Japan in June. Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force will take part in the exercise, said local daily *The Times of India*.

India and Japan also

decided to take forward negotiations on civil nuclear energy cooperation, but Japanese sources later said that there were "certain elements" that needed to be addressed before entering into this partnership, said the report. New Delhi and Tokyo will expand cooperation in counter-piracy operations off

the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden, the newspaper quoted Gemba as saying.

At a joint press conference with Gemba, Krishna said Indian and Japanese governments have instructed "negotiators on the way forward" on civil nuclear talks. Gemba said that he "asked for understanding on Japan's strong desire for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation" during talks with Krishna. — *Xinhua*



Baghdad's Firdous Square, where the statue of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein used to stand.

INTERNET

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Habitable planets more abundant than stars

SYDNEY, 1 May—Determining the habitability of rocky, earth-like planets will be crucial for us as a species, but the good news is that they are probably more abundant than stars, says a new study.

“Determining whether these planets are habitable has become the new holy grail of astronomy,” said planetary scientist Charley Lineweaver, from the Planetary Science Institute, Australian National University, who led the study.

“The new-found abundance of planets,

combined with the much larger range of inhabited terrestrial environments suggests that habitable planets are common. This increases the probability of finding some kind of extraterrestrial life,” said Lineweaver, the Annual Reviews of Earth and Planetary Sciences reports.

Fellow researcher and doctoral student Aditya Chopra said our best estimates of habitability come from the planet we know best: Earth, according to a statement of Planetary Science Institute.

“By comparing the inhabited and uninhabited regions of Earth, we can identify the most important factors that determine habitability. For terrestrial life, those factors are liquid water, a narrow range of temperature, and an energy source,” he said.

Lineweaver added: “Planetary habitability is a complex and confusing concept that we are only beginning to get our heads around, but as a species that wants to survive, it is in our interest to get our heads around it soon.”—*Internet*

Australia says koalas are threatened

CANBERRA, 1 May—Australian officials say they’ve listed the koala as a threatened species in some parts of the country because of its dwindling population.

Habitat loss, urban expansion, vehicle collisions and disease have made koalas in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory “vulnerable,” Environment Minister Tony Burke said.

The numbers have fallen by as much as 40 percent since 1990 in New South Wales and Queensland, Burke said, and the decision to list the koala “follows a rigorous scientific assessment.”

“We’re talking about a



Amaroo, a koala, cuddles her son Kaiyu at the San Diego Zoo, on 26 April, 2004.—INTERNET

species that is not only iconic in Australia, but is known worldwide, a species that has taken a massive hit over the

last 20 years and we can’t wait any longer before we turn the corner when the scientists are telling us the evidence is in,” he said.

The listing does not cover all areas of the country, as population numbers for koalas are holding in the states of Victoria and South Australia.

Some conservationists, such as Deborah Tabart from the non-profit Australian Koala Foundation, said the listing of koalas as threatened should have been national, the BBC reported on Monday. “The koala is such an important tourist icon and such an important symbol to Australia,” she said.

Internet

Ikea introduces cardboard camera



Recyclable camera.—INTERNET

STOCKHOLM, 1 May—Swedish furniture company Ikea says it’s introducing an eco-friendly camera made mostly of cardboard that can be recycled.

After users have taken 40 photos, the company said, they can dispose of the camera with their other recyclable materials.

The camera, which will not be sold but rather given away in selected Ikea stores, is aimed at getting Ikea customers to share images of their furniture on the chain’s Web site.

The device, which used two AA batteries, can connect to a computer with help of a swing-out USB connector to download its photos.

Offering the camera, dubbed Knappa, was not “a move into selling any digital equipment,” an Ikea spokesman told the BBC.

“It is part of the launch activities for the new furniture collection,” he said.

Ikea has introduced other green initiatives in the past, including installing solar energy panels on one of its stores in California.

Internet

Tests of aviation jet biofuel to start

MORRISTOWN, 1 May—US tech firm Honeywell says it is starting one of the aviation industry’s first comprehensive test programmes for aviation biofuel.

Honeywell subsidiary UOP will carry out the programme in cooperation with the National Research Council of Canada and Agrisoma Biosciences, earthteching.com reported on Monday.

Blends of Honeywell green jet fuel will be tested at higher ratios than used in previous demonstration flights, which to date have not exceeded a 50/50 blend

of biofuel and petroleum-based jet fuel.

The biofuel being tested has been produced from a new non-food, industrial oilseed crop produced by Ottawa-based Agrisoma from Brassica carinata, belonging to a family of flowering plants that also includes cabbages and turnips, Honeywell said.

The crop can be raised in semi-arid areas usually not utilized for good crop production, Honeywell said, so it would not compete with food crops for land resources, a common criticism raised by opponents of biofuel source crops.

Since aviation regulators first approved the use of biofuels in commercial flights last summer, several major airlines have conducted trial flights using a mix of petroleum-based fuel and fuel derived from crops.

AeroMexico began using the Honeywell biofuel last November, at an 85 percent petroleum/15 percent biofuel level, on a regular passenger service between Mexico City and San Jose, Costa Rica, one of the first uses of renewable fuels in everyday airplane passenger service.

Internet

UK court orders block on Pirate Bay file site

LONDON, 1 May—Britain’s High Court has ruled five of the country’s Internet service providers must block the file-sharing site The Pirate Bay for copyright violations.

The British Phonographic Industry, Britain’s music industry trade group, said that under the court’s order ISPs Sky, Everything Everywhere, TalkTalk, O2, and Virgin Media must block the Web site within the next few weeks, *PC Magazine* reported on Monday.

In July, BPI demanded

The Pirate Bay stop infringing on its members’ content, but got no response. When ISPs refused BPI’s request to act voluntarily, BPI asked the court in December to require blocking.

In February, court decided The Pirate Bay violates copyright regulations, saying the site goes “far beyond merely enabling or assisting.”

This week’s ruling goes one step further by actually requiring ISPs to block The Pirate Bay.

The Web site had not yet

responded to the ruling on its blog or Facebook page, although after the February

the site argued the High Court was corrupt and “technically uneducated.”—*Internet*



The Pirate Bay logo.—INTERNET

Meshing medical records to telemedicine

WASHINGTON, 1 May—Full integration of telemedicine services is an essential element in establishing meaningful use of computerized medical records, US officials say.

Jonathan Linkous, chief executive officer of the American Telemedicine Association, said electronic medical records and related health information technologies lead to greater provider and payer administrative efficiencies. More importantly, electronic medical records are a vehicle for improving healthcare quality, increasing access and reducing costs, Linkous said.

“Electronic records and information technology systems mean little to the healthcare consumer if they aren’t integrated into the delivery of actual patient services,” Linkous said in a statement. “The government has its own definition, but for patients, ‘meaningful use’ means telemedicine.”

A survey of healthcare consumers by Deloitte found 55 percent wanted to communicate with their doctors by e-mail, while 68 percent were interested in remote monitoring devices that allow self-monitoring of their condition and electronic reporting of results to their physician, Linkous said.—*Internet*



A twitter logo is seen on a cell phone screen in Teheran, Iran on 23 June, 2009.—INTERNET

Social networking dominates cellphone use

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 May—Social networking has risen to rival gaming as an app category dominating usage of consumers’ cellphone minutes, a US research company says. Mobile analytics firm Flurry, measuring the average time smartphone users spent across app categories in the last year, found gaming dropped by 4 percent — down to 24 minutes per day — while social networking increased by 60 percent — up to 24 minutes per day, Mediapost.com reported.

Games have long dominated smartphone minute use, but that is changing, Flurry found. “The most significant trend is that for the first time in the history of applications ... another app category is rivaling games,” Peter Farago, vice president of marketing at Flurry, said. “We take the rise in social networking apps as a signal of maturation for the platform,” he said. “As game demand may be hitting its saturation point, consumers are also discovering other apps — namely social networking.”

Social networking has also surpassed gaming in terms of advertising revenue in apps, Farago said. “This is the first time in Flurry’s history that any category has surpassed games in ad revenue generated,” he said, noting Flurry has been tracking that number since 2008.—*Internet*

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Euro zone inflation cools but ECB sees holding rates

BRUSSELS, 1 May—Inflation pressures in the euro zone eased slightly in April from March but were still above expectations, giving the European Central Bank little room to lower interest rates to help revive economic growth across the continent.

Consumer price inflation in the 17 nations sharing the euro moderated to 2.6 percent year-on-year in April from 2.7 percent in March, the EU's statistics office Eurostat said on Monday. Economists polled by *Reuters* had forecast inflation of 2.5 percent.

Euro zone leaders are rallying to a call by ECB President Mario Draghi to reignite the bloc's economy with policies that focus on growth—not just debt and deficit reduction—as the euro zone heads into its second recession in just three years.

But the ECB's strong focus on containing inflation at a time of high world oil prices means politicians cannot expect a rate cut to lower the cost of borrowing any time soon.

While inflation is below last year's peak of 3 percent, economists and the ECB had expected prices to fall steadily as the economy stumbles and to offer some relief to households at a time of rising unemployment and sharp spending cuts.

But the rate of consumer price inflation rose in March



A sculpture showing the Euro currency sign is seen in front of the European Central Bank (ECB) headquarters in Frankfurt on 29 February, 2012.—REUTERS

from February and is now only back at February's level, according to Eurostat, driven up by persistent worries of a crude oil supply disruption in the Middle East.

The ECB meets on Thursday for its May rate decision and economists overwhelmingly predict a rate freeze until at least the end of this year, according to a *Reuters* poll.

"We do not expect a significant decision on rates or operations (on Thursday), with the key rate to remain at 1 percent," Barclays Capital said in a note to clients.—*Reuters*

Scientists find new developments to treat heart diseases

SINGAPORE, 1 May—Scientists at Singapore's Institute of Medical Biology (IMB) have made a discovery that could lead to the development of new treatments for heart diseases.

They discovered that they can dramatically increase the life span of mice with progeria premature ageing disease and heart disease caused by Emery-Dreifuss muscular dystrophy by reducing levels of a protein called SUN1.

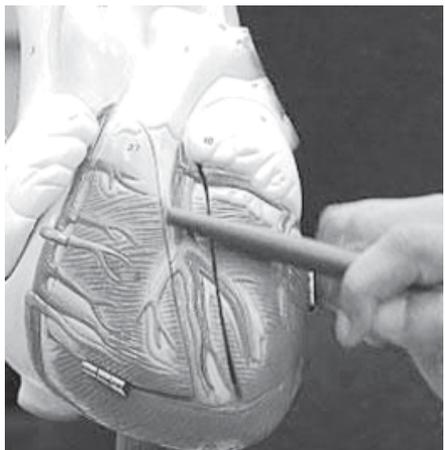
The IMB, which is a biomedical sciences institute of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), worked with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the United States and the Institute of Cellular and System Medicine in Taipei.

A*STAR said on Monday that their findings provide an exciting lead into developing new methods to treat premature ageing and heart disease.

The findings were published in the prestigious scientific journal, *Cell*, on 27 April 2012.

Children with progeria suffer symptoms of premature ageing and mostly die in their early teens from either heart attack or stroke.

Individuals with Emery-Dreifuss muscular dystrophy (AD-EDMD) suffer from muscle wasting and cardiomyopathy, a type of heart disease that weakens and enlarges the heart muscle making it harder for the heart to pump blood and deliver it to the rest of the body leading to heart failure.



Both diseases are caused by mutations in Lamin A, a protein in the membrane surrounding a cell's nucleus which provides mechanical support to the nucleus.

SUN1 is a protein also found in the inner nuclear membrane, but there have been no previous studies to show how SUN1 interacts with the Lamin proteins.

The scientists wanted to investigate if SUN1 had any involvement in diseases caused by mutations in Lamin A, so they inactivated SUN1 in mouse models developed for progeria and AD-EDMD.

These mouse models for progeria and AD-EDMD usually thrive poorly and have markedly short life spans.

The mouse models for progeria die from premature ageing and while those for AD-EDMD die of heart failure.

The scientists inactivated SUN1 and reduced SUN1 levels in these mouse models and found that the life spans of the mouse models for progeria doubled while that of AD-EDMD tripled.

Principle Investigator at IMB, Professor Colin Stewart, said the heart muscle of the mice was restored to near-normal function.

He said cardiac function improved when the levels of SUN1 were reduced.

"This opens up a possibility that from these observations, reduction in SUN1 maybe of therapeutic use for other forms of heart disease. We are very excited about this discovery and look forward to further pursuing this lead which could potentially lead to development of new treatments for heart diseases," he said.

Internet

The CarMD Vehicle Health System includes everything to monitor a car's health: an easy-to-use handheld device, Mac/PC software, USB cable, two AAA batteries, storage case, and lifetime software and firmware updates.—INTERNET

CarMD Debuts its Popular Vehicle Health System™ in the US Hispanic Community

technical support.

"After substantial demand from the US Hispanic market, we are pleased to finally make the CarMD product and information

statistically valid fix, down to parts and labor costs in their postal code."

Amador adds that in order to bring this product to the Spanish speaking community, CarMD's team of automotive technicians, many of whom are native Spanish speakers, needed to ensure the product information and database included accurate and up-to-date repair information properly translated into Spanish, rather than just a few updated pages on a website.

The CarMD Vehicle Health System is ready to use right out of the box, and includes everything to monitor a car's health – an easy-to-use handheld device, Mac/PC software, USB cable, two AAA batteries, storage case, and lifetime software and firmware updates. It works on all 1996 and newer cars, light trucks, vans, SUVs and hybrids manufactured for use in North America – foreign and domestic. An ideal investment for anyone who wants to save money on their car or truck, CarMD can be purchased online at www.sp.carmd.com for

\$119.85.

CarMD taps the same technology used by professional automotive technicians, but no automotive experience is needed to use it. Just plug the device into a vehicle's on-board diagnostic port (don't worry, CarMD.com will show you where it is on your car), and CarMD does the rest.

The device is ideal for uncovering hidden car problems, inspecting used cars, identifying problems that have a negative impact on fuel economy, and diagnosing "check engine" light issues without needing to pop the hood or get dirty. It includes lifetime software and firmware updates and free access to CarMD's award winning database to generate personalized Vehicle Health Reports, which can reduce car repair bills. These reports also reveal if your car has safety issues or recalls. When repairs are required, CarMD tells you what's wrong and what it will take to fix it, including parts and labor costs in your region, so you don't overpay for repairs or waste time using the wrong part on a problem.

Internet



IRVINE, (Calif), 1 May—CarMD.com Corporation announced today that its popular CarMD® Vehicle Health System™ consumer automotive product is now available to the US Hispanic community. In an effort to provide better service to Hispanics, the company is providing detailed information about the product in Spanish via television infomercials and a dedicated website, as well as sales and

available with full support for our Spanish speaking customers," said Richard Amador, director of marketing for CarMD. "CarMD is committed to offering all of our customers the most precise information to diagnose and repair car problems. We offer so much more than just a gadget. The true value of CarMD is in the vast database, now available in Spanish, which provides customers with the most

S Korea April inflation eases to 2.5%

SEOUL, 1 May—South Korea's inflation eased in April, staying well within a 2-3 percent range for a second straight month, official figures showed on Tuesday. The consumer price index was up 2.5 percent from a year earlier, falling from March's 2.6 percent gain, Statistics Korea said. Month-on-month the index was unchanged in April compared with a 0.1 percent fall in the preceding month.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food prices, rose 1.6 percent year-on year and 0.1 percent month-on month in April. The government and central bank forecast full-year inflation at 3.2 percent.—Internet



Pedestrians walk through a shopping district in Seoul.

INTERNET

Van plunges more than 50 feet from highway near Bronx Zoo, killing seven, police say

NEW YORK, 1 May — A van flew off an elevated portion of New York's Bronx River Parkway on Sunday afternoon, falling more than 50 feet before landing in a horrific crash that left seven people dead, multiple news outlets reported. The accident, near the Bronx Zoo, happened at about 12:30 pm local time, authorities said. It's not clear what caused the crash.

Associated Press, the van was headed south when "it bounced off the median, crossed all southbound lanes over to the guardrail and fell."

The vehicle "flipped off a ramp into a transit facility near the Bronx Zoo," CNN reported. According to NBC's New York affiliate, it was a railyard. It was not clear whether all seven of the victims were travelling in the van at the time of the crash.

service, three of the victims were children.

According to NY1, at least one victim was pinned inside the vehicle. According to the *New York Post*, all seven victims were traveling in the van when it crashed. Fire Department spokesman Jim Long told the *AP* that the victims "were an 84-year-old man; three women, ages 80, 45 and 30; and three girls, ages 12, 10 and 7."

According to the

According to the news



Police investigate the van that plunged over the Bronx River Parkway, on 29 April, 2012.— INTERNET

Two teen girls sunbathing on Pa road struck by car

BEAVER, 1 May—Police say two teenage girls who fell asleep while sunbathing on a rural Pennsylvania road have been struck by a car.

The Beaver County Police Department tells WTAE-TV that 13-year-olds Samantha Schermanhorn and Kaylie George were hit by the vehicle on Sunday afternoon.

Two of Samantha's cousins tell the station that their 19-year-old brother had stopped at a stop sign and made a turn before striking the girls with his car.

Nicole and Nicholas Beck say the girls were conscious and told them that they had fallen asleep while sunbathing. The cousins say their brother was questioned by police after the crash. The girls were airlifted to a hospital. Officials with the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh tell the station that the girls are in fair condition Sunday night.

Internet

Internet



Dancers from southeast China's Taiwan perform folk dance at the international culture and tourism festival in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 29 April, 2012. A three-day international culture and tourism festival kicked off in Kunming on Sunday, attracting performers from Brazil, Malaysia, Australia and other countries and regions. — XINHUA

S Ala campus locked down after armed robbery

MOBILE, 1 May—The University of South Alabama locked down its campus for several hours on Sunday following an armed robbery in a college dormitory, but officials say no one was hurt. University spokesman Keith Ayers said Sunday evening that the Mobile campus issued a crime alert to students at about 3:30 pm CDT.

The school used loud speakers, emails and a dial-in phone system to advise

students to seek shelter and stay indoors.

"We did in fact do a campus lockdown," Ayers said. Ayers said officials issued the alert after receiving a report that two armed male suspects robbed students in campus housing. Campus police were "working the case right now," Ayers said.

"It was an armed robbery on campus...No one was hurt," Ayers said he's not aware of any shots having been fired.

As of early Sunday evening, no arrests had been made and the alert remained in effect. Campus police were continuing to investigate.

The school initially posted a crime alert on its website Sunday that said "there have been reports of someone on campus armed with a weapon last seen in the housing area." The alert went on to advise the university community to "remain inside until further notice."

Internet

Internet

New DNA testing may free convicted Colorado killer

DENVER, 1 May—A man sentenced to life in prison for raping a Colorado woman and strangling her to death with a dog leash could be freed on Monday based on advanced DNA testing that is believed to exonerate him of the crime. Robert "Rider" Dewey, 51, who has been imprisoned since his 1996 conviction, is scheduled to appear before a Colorado judge on Monday in Grand Junction for a post-conviction hearing in his case, according to the county's court docket. The DNA testing, which was requested by Dewey's current lawyer, exonerates him and he is expected to be released from prison, a legal source who said he had seen a memo related to the case told *Reuters* on condition of anonymity.

Local media also reported his release was likely. Dewey was convicted and sentenced to life without parole for the rape and murder of Jacie Taylor, 19, in the western Colorado town of Palisade. Taylor's partially clothed body was found in her bathtub in June 1994. She had been beaten, sexually assaulted and strangled with the leash. Dewey's lawyer, Danyel Joffe, would not comment on what the DNA tests may have revealed ahead of Monday's hearing. She said she submitted the case to the Colorado Justice Review

Project, a programme established in 2009 with a \$1.2 million federal government grant that allows convicted felons to apply for DNA testing in their cases.

The programme is administered by the office of Colorado Attorney General John Suthers, who lauded it as a way for advanced DNA techniques to affirm convictions or clear the innocent. A spokesman for Suthers referred questions about the Dewey case to the Mesa County District Attorney's Office, which couldn't be reached for comment over the weekend. Dewey has maintained his

innocence throughout the case. Questions arose during his trial about whether blood on his shirt belonged to the victim, according to local news accounts. A defence expert disputed the prosecution's contention that the blood matched Taylor's, the reports said. The semen found on the victim did not match Dewey at the time of his conviction, but no other suspect was ever arrested for the crimes.

Under Colorado law, a first-degree murder conviction carries an automatic life sentence without the possibility of parole.— *Reuters*

Dancers of the Moscow State Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Music Theatre's Ballet rehearse ballet Romeo and Juliet at Tianjin Grand Theatre in Tianjin, north China, on 28 April, 2012. Ballet Romeo and Juliet was staged at Tianjin Grand Theatre on Sunday, marking the opening of the new theatre. — XINHUA



Mom's stress during pregnancy can affect baby's iron status

WASHINGTON, 1 May—Newborns whose mothers are under stress during the first trimester of pregnancy may be at risk for low iron status, which could lead to physical and mental delays down the road, according to a study

presented on Sunday at the Pediatric Academic Societies annual meeting in Boston. Iron plays an important role in the development of organ systems, especially the brain. Well-known risk factors for poor iron status in infants are maternal iron deficiency, maternal diabetes, smoking during pregnancy, preterm birth, low birthweight and multiple pregnancy.

This study, conducted by researchers from Ashkelon Academic College and Barzilai Medical Centre in Israel and the University of Michigan, is the first in humans to suggest that maternal stress early in pregnancy is another risk factor for low iron status in newborns. Researchers recruited pregnant women who were about to give birth at Barzilai Medical Centre. The first group of women (stress group) lived in an area where there were more than 600 rocket attacks during their first

trimester of pregnancy. The control group lived in the same area and became pregnant three to four months after the rocket attacks ended. Women were questioned briefly at the delivery room reception desk to determine whether they were healthy and without pregnancy complications. Eligible women who agreed to participate in the study were interviewed one or two days after delivery about their background and health during pregnancy. They also filled out questionnaires about depression and anxiety, and rated their stress level during pregnancy. Cord blood was collected from newborns, and serum ferritin (iron) concentrations were measured. Results showed that the 63 babies whose mothers were in the stress group had significantly lower cord-blood ferritin concentrations than the 77 infants in the control group.— *Xinhua*

Hiker survives 4 days in Utah desert without food

CEDAR CITY, 1 May—A hiker who endured four days with a broken leg and no food and shelter in the remote southern Utah high desert says her faith and medical background helped her pull through the ordeal. Victoria Grover, 59, a physician assistant from Wade, Maine, was recovering in a Utah hospital after being rescued on Saturday in a rugged section of Dixie National Forest, north of the town of Escalante. Grover set out on a short day hike on Tuesday from Hell's Backbone Road, and broke her leg on the return hike while jumping off a 4-

foot ledge about two miles from the trailhead. She then holed up along a creek at an elevation of about 4,500 feet.

"I prayed a lot and derived comfort from it," the Mormon church member told reporters on Sunday. "I thought God would do everything possible to help me overcome my stupidity. I learned from my mother that things can always be worse." Grover said while she experienced hunger and severe pain, the worst part of the ordeal was the boredom and freezing nighttime temperatures she confronted. The veteran outdoor enthusiast survived by

sleeping in shade during the day and staying awake while curled up in a poncho at night. The poncho helped save her life by serving as a windbreaker, she said, adding it was the only extra warm clothing she carried.

"The hunger is something that comes in waves. You get hungry and want to eat everything and then it goes away," Grover said. "The worst thing is the cold. It never warmed up except for a few hours in the afternoon." By the final day, she was suffering from hypothermia after shivering uncontrollably for several days.— *Internet*

Life begins at 60

Tin Maung Than



Senior citizens too have future.

Thanks to ever advancing science and technology, modern medicine can now cure diseases that were incurable in the past and prevent infections that were once unpreventable offering longer, healthier and happier lives for humans of this planet we call Earth.

Men and women live longer than ever enjoying happier and better lives, and the population of senior citizens soaring in many countries around the world signaling a growing responsibility and problem for services like old-age care and social services for the aged especially for the poor.

rich or poor or in East or West.

Fortunately, most of older people in our country are safe and sound under the close protection and care of their own grown-up children, which is one of the wonderful and cherished traditional values of Myanmar people. Normally, a son or a daughter will take care of his or her parents at home while other siblings provide other necessary assistance for them, or all the children will take care of their parents at their homes in turn.

As long as this wonderful and admirable tradition lives grandpas and grandmas of our

his resistance power dwindles inviting sickness in various forms till death comes knocking at his door. This was what Siddhartha realized over 2500 years ago and later discovered the path to Nirvana. But remember, he was Bodhisatta. As for the ordinary people like us we should first find the ways that help us live longer and healthier. In fact, a well balanced diet and a healthy lifestyle have become the essential part when we grow older. Accordingly, we need to switch to a healthier lifestyle sooner.

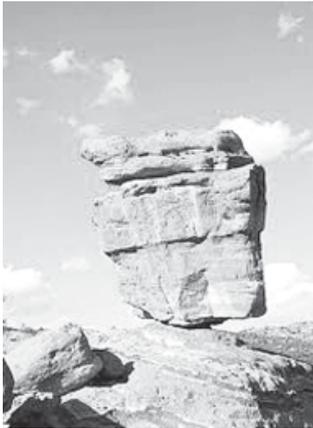
Healthy aging

But at which age we can call a person old? This depends on his physical and mental health. Some work till 80 or even more. The retired age for government service is 60. But many follow active life after retirement. And some even join the private sector in addition to concentrating more on religion. Now there is another area, the political sector, from which we can serve the national interest effectively by applying our rich experiences and wider knowledge for the good of Myanmar citizens.

Especially, the literary world has many grandpas and grandmas still active and strong in serving their own people through the might of pen.

The important thing here is that we need to stay healthy however old we are. Especially when we reach 50, we must be aware of our own health as we are nearing old age. But we are not an elderly citizen yet and we don't need to surrender all the secular values.

The only thing we need is to take special care of our own health and fitness. So we must adopt a balanced and a healthy lifestyle quitting all habits that are hazardous to our health. So, we can normally say 60 is the age we start entering the life of an elderly person or the beginning of a new life through healthy aging.



A balanced diet and lifestyle will help healthy aging.

In safe hands

We all know that no old man can become a young man again and that we cannot beat aging as we are growing older and older, second by second, minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day, month by month and year after year. In fact, aging concerns with every one male or female,

country will be in safe hands. And there are homes for the aged providing accommodations especially for older people with no one to support and charities offering help for them.

Time lets no man escape old age. Every young man full of strength will become old one day. Later, he will become feeble while

Water melon of Nawngkhio exported to China

NAWNGKHO, 1 May—Water melon is produced in Nawngkhio Township of Shan State (North).

The fruits are transported to the markets in Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin to be put on sales by car and exported to China via Muse.

Delicious and fleshy water melons are marketable.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

Assistance provided to older persons, expectant mothers in Kyaukse

KYAUKSE, 1 May—A ceremony to provide assistance to older persons and expectant mothers was held at the village library in Meethwaybok Village of Singaing Township of Kyaukse District in Mandalay Region on 2 April.

Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Aye Aye win made a

speech. Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Khin Cho Pyone gave talks on health knowledge, Township Health Staff Daw Khin Than Myint health knowledge for expectant mothers and Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Tin Tin Htwe advantages of reading.

After that, the responsible persons presented books to the library and provided K 30,000 to 10 older persons and K 20,000 and nutritious meals to 10 expectant mothers.

Myanma Alin

Responsible persons present assistance to expectant mothers in Kyaukse.



Clarification on taxation made in Pyapon Township



PYAPON, 1 May—A clarification on matters related to income tax, commercial tax, rules and regulations, notifications issued by Ministry of

Finance and Revenue was held at the hall of Pyapon District General Administration Department in Ayeyawady Region on 25 April.

Head of Pyapon Township Internal Revenue Department U Zaw Myint Aung explained matters related to taxation.

It was attended by the deputy commissioner of Pyapon District General Administration Department, district level departmental officials, rice merchants, fishery entrepreneurs, businessmen and departmental personnel.

Myanma Alin

Pyinmana Township WJA pays respects to doyen literati

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—Pyinmana Township Writers and Journalists Association of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area recounted experiences of literary conference 2012 and paid respects to doyen literati at the hall of the Township Writers and Journalists

Association on the first floor of Myoma Market No. 1 in Pyinmana on 22 April.

Chairman of the Township Writers and Journalists Association U Saw Lin (Saw Ngu Wah) recounted his experiences while attending the

conference of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association.

After that, the members of the Township Writers and Journalists Association paid respects to 27 doyen literati with gifts.

Myanma Alin

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar...

(from page 1)

Most of world's nations are making efforts to enable their citizens to be able to access comprehensive social protection benefits. Similarly, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is striving for ensuring comprehensive social protection benefits. It is needed for all concerned to actively participate in utilizing human resources, financial resources, and natural resources of the

emerged in Myanmar because there have been some good potential for foreign investments here. Therefore, it will have more benefits for the entire people in the long run by making concerted efforts such as respect for the labour laws, rules and regulations, understanding the social and environmental responsibility; promotion of the labour practices and labour rights. Making policies for the

opportunities for the surplus workforce from the agricultural sector.

The Government will encourage the establishment of new businesses and the employment creation for rural job seekers and for the graduates. Therefore, the Government permits the extension of economic zones, industrial zones, industrial areas, factories and establishments to create and emerge more employment opportunities.

The Government carries out for having more employment opportunities as well as it is being implemented

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address at ceremony to mark Workers' Day 2012.

MNA



Dignitaries seen at a ceremony to mark the Workers' Day-2012 in Nay Pyi Taw.— MNA

nation effectively, establishing an administrative system to ensure transparency. It is required to take measures on supervision of the government, employer and employee.

poverty reduction programmes undertaken at present are implementing the social protection. Creating employment opportunities is the most fundamental requirement for the poverty reduction and national

for the improvement of knowledge and professional qualification of workforce and it is being planned for the free flow of skilled labours in local and in foreign countries.

The initiation of the identification of skill standards, apart from that, training, opening the skill testing centre, and issuing the skill recognition certificates are implementing as long term vision for having the decent wages and rights of workers according to their skill.

In doing so, it will need to enact a law for the systematic implementation. That's why, Employment and Skill Development Law (draft) is being written.

The Government is striving for having sustainable business models, economic markets, and for enjoying more social protection and social security of the whole public including workers in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I would like to conclude by saying that let us work together with all workers, employers and the nation collectively.

After that, Union Minister U Aung Kyi read out the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U

Thein Sein.

Then, ILO Liaison Officer Mr Steve Marshall also read out the message sent by ILO Director-General Mr Juan Somavia. U Soe Min Aung of Myanmar Seafarers Federation addressed on behalf of employee and U Myint Soe of Garment Entrepreneurs Association, on behalf of employers.

Prize-awarding ceremony was followed. Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham awarded U Kyaw Kyaw of No. 1 General Heavy Industries, who stood first in Milling Machine Operator competition, first prize winner of Welder Operator competition U Maung Maung of No. 2 General Heavy Industries, first award winner of Foundry Operator competition U Zaw Lwin Oo of No. 1 General Heavy Industries and U San Naing of United Engineering Co. Ltd who won the first prize in building carpenter competition.

After that, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi presented awards to U Aung Hsan of Htet Myat Car Workshop, U Kyaw Swe Hsan of U Nyan Hsint Industries and U Hla Moe of

NIBBANElectronicsFactory.

Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung awarded U Wai Phyo of Maple Garment Factory, U Soe Thu of KMA Electrical Group and U Than Aung, U Win Tin and U Myo Maung of A & T Bakery Factory.

Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye presented awards to U Okkar of Myanmar Links Co., U Mya Soe of Central Freight-handling Committee Office and U Mya Lwin of Ministry of Transport.

Deputy Minister for Labour U Myint Thein awarded U Than Naing Oo of Ministry of Rail Transportation, U Win Htay

of No. 2 General Heavy Industries and U Saw Win Htway of No. 1 General Heavy Industries.

ILO Liaison Officer Mr Steve Marshall awarded U Aung Myaung Oo of Shwe Myint Slipper Factory, Daw Khaing Pa Pa Soe and Daw Win Thanda Tun of Glorious Family Rattan Furniture Factory and U Sein Myint of No. 1 General Heavy Industries. After that, the ceremony came to an end.

After the ceremony, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party cordially greeted those present and enjoyed documentary photos put on display at the hall.—MNA



Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye awards a winner of contests held to mark the Workers' Day.—MNA

At present, good opportunities such as employment creation, individual income generation, skill development and receiving advanced technologies have

development. It is needed to ensure that every job hunter can be employed for the suitable places. It will be needed not only to employ the urban job seekers but also to create the job



Mr Steve Marshall, Liaison Officer of ILO, reads out message from Director-General of ILO Mr Juan Somavia.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun called for cooperation for development of private insurance companies as Insurance Business Supervisory Board had been formed at the seminar for adopting policies for Myanmar Insurance and privatization of insurance services held at Myanmar Insurance Head Office yesterday afternoon.

He also assured that participation of private sector in insurance service would bring the good to the people.

The Union Minister inspected the Insurance Business Supervisory Board Office.

The meeting was also attended by Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, the director-general of Customs Department under the ministry, officials concerned and staff of Myanmar Insurance.

MNA

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun addresses seeking of ways for Myanmar Insurance and permission for insurance services of private companies.

MNA

Union F&R Minister calls for cooperation for development of insurance companies



Coord meeting for Kaladan transportation project held

YANGON, 1 May—A coordination meeting for Kaladan River Course Multipurpose Transportation Project was held at Myanmar Port Authority (Head Office) on 29 April, with an address by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung.

He urged ministries concerned to fulfill their quota in implementing the

project which he said is shaping Myanmar-India friendship.

The Union Minister called for taking initiatives, rather than following old-fashioned methods.

Deputy Minister U Win Shein demanded the urgent implementation of road works from Paletwa to India-Myanmar border

by Public Works. He also urged representatives of the ministries concerned to continue each work only when environmental impact assess and social impact assess approved it.

The Union Minister called for cooperation of the reps of the ministries for cent per cent success of the project.

MNA

Artesian well, home for the aged opened in Chauk Township

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—Magway Region Development Affairs Minister U Nay Shin, Director of Region Development Affairs Committee U Maung Maung Aung, Deputy Commissioner of Magway District General Administration Department U Min Aye Lwin formally opened artesian well, implemented by Chauk Township DAC, in Gwebin Village in Chauk Township yesterday morning.

Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe formally opened the signboard of the well and sprinkled the new well with

scented water. He viewed distribution of water to villagers.

The well implemented since 4-3-2012 and completed on 25-4-2012 was built with township DAC's fund of 38.475 million. It has the depth of 1250 ft and can distribute water to 702 houses in six villages of Gwebin village-tract.

The Region Chief Minister met local people and students in Nyaungzin and Myenilein villages in Chauk Township. He also visited construction site of 16-bed Station Hospital in Hsudaw Village.

The Region Chief Minister unveiled the signboard of Zeyathiri Home for the Aged in Chauk and met townsenders, donors of the Home for the Aged, district/township level departmental personnel and members of social organizations at Ottara Tun Dhammayon.

The construction of the Home for the Aged was funded capitally by the local people.

The Region Chief Minister and family donated cash to the Home for the Aged, met the senior citizens and presented cash and gifts.

MNA

UNSG and party conclude visit



Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife bid farewell to UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

YANGON, 1 May—United Nations Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon met Chairperson of National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her residence on University Avenue in Kamayut Township here this morning. He then gave an interview to journalists.

The UNSG addressed "Introducing the United Nations Global Impact in Myanmar" held at Sedona Hotel at 12:15 pm and met

with journalists at White Rice Convention Centre on Natmauk Street, Bahan Township and replied to queries of the media men.

The UNSG and wife left Yangon in the evening, seen off by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Myanmar Permanent Representative to the UN (New York) U Than Swe, and personnel of UN organizations resident representative office at

Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Armed groups realize gov't goodwill, return to legal fold

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—While the government is narrowing the space for illegal drug trade in all directions and making strenuous efforts for development of border areas and national races, armed groups in Shan State returned to legal fold as they

realized the genuine goodwill of the State.

Out of splinter groups separated from fugitive Sai Naw Kham's drug cartel which masterminded piracy, abduction, illegal drug trade and subversive acts along Mekong River Course in

Tachilek Township in Shan State (East) and were evading capture, eight-member group led by Aik Tun on 23 April, 12-member group led by Lawson on 27 April and 13-member group led by Tun Shwe with four weapons, 178 bullets, eight

magazines, three grenades and one walkie-talkie returned to legal fold after establishing contact with the military camp of Tachilek Station. Officials of the local station warmly welcomed them like the groups which returned to legal fold earlier and making plans for providing assistances for their social security and rehabilitation.—MNA

Agricultural loans disbursed in Wetlet Township



WETLET, 1 May—A ceremony to provide agricultural loans to members of Theingi U Association of Myindaw Village of Wetlet Township in Shwebo District was held at the hall of the association on 3 April.

Village administrator U Aung Win and Chairman of the association U Aung Moun made speeches.

Staff Officer of Cooperative Department U Mar explained advantages of Cooperative Society to raise living standards of the local people and alleviate poverty of them.

Then, agricultural loans were disbursed to the members.

At the ceremony, K 10,000 each was disbursed to all members.—*Agriculture*

MLF invites cash, book donations

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

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

Higher fish flow declines price in market

YANGON, 1 May—As inflow of fish raised at the domestic fish market, high price of fish in Maha Thingyan period gradually declined.

At the regular meeting 14/2012 with entrepreneurs of meat and fish sector, an official of Myanmar Fish Breeding Entrepreneurs Association explained that the root course of hiking prices of fish was not based on shortage of fish, and it was based on lack of fishing during the Maha Thingyan

period. That was why the consumers bought lesser number of fish in competitiveness.

“Larger number of fish flows into Central Sanpya Fish Market. A total of 40 trawlers and cars transport fish to the market. In the past, about 30 cars and trawlers carried fish to the market,” he said. In the market, flow of small sized fish was highest and larger sized ones, lesser.—*Htet Khaing (Sangyoung)*

Reading habit raised in Shwepyitha Township



YANGON, 1 May—With the aim of ensuring durability of the library and raising reading habit, the roundtable reading session for women was held at Community Learning Centre in Ward 6 of Shwepyitha Township on 18 April morning.

Chairperson of Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Soe Moe and party, Ward administrator U Kan Myint and party presented books and foodstuff to members of the reading session.

Myamma Alin

Basic fire fighting course opens

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—The basic fire fighting course 1/2012 was opened at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 25 April morning.

The ceremony was attended by member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt, Assistant Director of District Fire Services Department U Win Myint, Township Administrator U Win Maw, departmental officials, ward and village

administrators, members of social organizations and



trainees. Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt made

a speech and presented 50 sets of uniforms to members of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

Altogether 50 trainees are attending the two-week course.—*Kyemon*

Lichee of Thandaung Township marketable



YEDASHE, 1 May—Fleshy and sweet lichee are put on sales along roadsides of Toungoo and Yedashe townships, bus terminals and busy places in Thandaung Township of Kayin State.

The lichee plants are thriving on hilly regions of Thandaung Township. Although the price of fruit was high, it was marketable among sellers and buyers.

“A bunch of lichee fruit was sold at K 1800 per viss on hilly region, but K 2500 per viss depending on transport charge,” a woman shopkeeper in an interview.

The shopkeepers packed the fruit with the use of leaves. A bunch of lichee fruit is sold at K 1000 per packet. Highway passengers and families buy the fruit for gifts.—*Kyemon*

Undisciplined vehicles fined in Myawady

MYAWADY, 1 May—Under the leadership of Chairman of Myawady Township Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee Commander of District Police Force Lt-Col Myo Swe, members

of All Private Bus-line Control Committee and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade led by SIP Win Win Tun, in-charge of the traffic police force, made checks to undisciplined vehicles and motorcycles on Friendship

Bridge of Bayintnaung Road in Myawady on 26 April.

The team seized seven undisciplined vehicles and fined drivers at the court. Later, they gave educative talks to them.

Kyemon

Four-inch diameter tube-well successfully sunk at TV re-transmission station

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—With the assistance of the Water Resources Utilization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, a four-inch diameter tube-well was successfully sunk on 28 April in Thabyetaung of Pinyinmana Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area where TV re-

transmission station (Pinyinmana) is located.

The sinking tube-well was viewed by Director-General U Kyi Htut Win of Water Resources Utilization Department, Chief Engineer U Myo Win of Myanmar Radio and Television, engineers and staff of underground water branch

and the re-transmission station.

The tube-well pumps out 1500 gallons of water per hour, and it is safe water for consumption. The tube-well was sunk on 15 March with the use of RG-05 sinking machine.

In the past, Thabyetaung of re-transmission station faced shortage of water in the summer. Thanks of assistance of Water Resources Utilization Department, potable water can be supplied to the local people all the year round.

Tin Htwe (MNA)



Workers seen at worksite in sinking tube-well in the compound of TV re-transmission in Pinyinmana.

Squall destroys BEHS branch in Belin Village of Singaing



SINGAING, 1 May—Squall fell in Singaing Township at 1.35 pm on 27

April. In the squall, Basic Education High School Branch in Belin Village of

DISTRICT NEWS

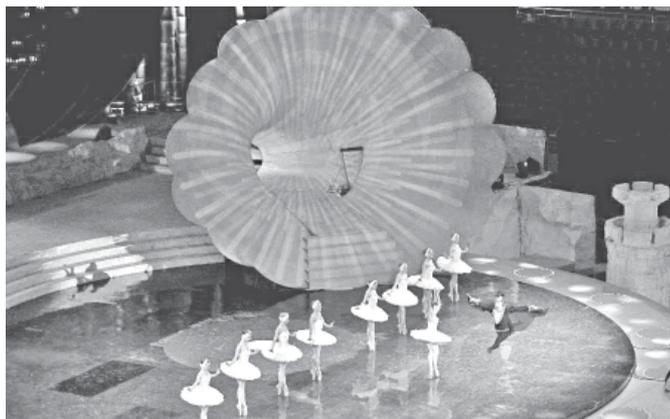
Singaing Township was destroyed, according to Headmistress Daw Kyi Kyi Win.

The squall destroyed one library, two classrooms, one media room, one bicycle stand and gate.

Moreover, the school lost five chest boards and school furniture including desks.

Likewise, some houses were destroyed in the squall, and there was no casualty in squall.

Myamma Alin



Russian dancers perform ballet at the opening soiree of the 2012 China International Cartoon and Animation Festival (CICAF) in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 28 April, 2012. The 2012 China International Cartoon and Animation Festival (CICAF) opened Saturday in Hangzhou, drawing participants from 61 countries and regions.

XINHUA

Creative ideas on display at Maker Carnival

BEIJING, 1 May—Having trouble getting up even when your alarm clock rings? Liu Zhuming's "Angry Beds" alarm clock might be able to give you the jolt you need to get up in the morning. The clock is equipped with a sensor-activated belt that yanks the blanket off the bed after the alarm clock rings, forcing the bed's occupant to rise or go without cover. "I believe products are emotional, and they will get pissed off if you ignore them," joked Liu, an industrial design major at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA).

Liu's clock is one of many innovative gadgets on display at the 2012 Beijing Maker Carnival, which opened on Saturday at the China Millennium Monument Museum of Digital Arts (CMoDA). The event features more than 50 gadgets invented by 80-plus designers from all over the world, according to Justin Wang, curator of the event and co-founder of Beijing Makerspace (BM), a laboratory for "makers," or technology enthusiasts who enjoy building their own homemade devices. The carnival will be

open to the public until 12 May and visitors will be allowed to try out some of the devices for themselves, Wang said.

Wang's own multi-touch table, a type of "intelligent furniture" featuring touchscreen controls that can be used by several people at once, is also on display at the event. "The carnival serves as an amusement park built by makers for the public. It brings people into the world of makers to brainstorm, to design and to do," said Wang. Thirty to 40 of the devices on display were created by Chinese makers, Wang said.

"China has long been considered to be lacking in innovation, but we actually have many creative ideas. All we need to do is make these ideas reality," he said. Mitch Altman, a renowned hacker and inventor based in San Francisco, said the Beijing Makerspace and Maker Carnival have provided a community for creative people to gather. The carnival has brought China into a worldwide movement of makers and introduced it to hacker culture, he said.—Xinhua

Shanghai Disneyland to take on local flavour

BEIJING, 1 May—Work on the highly anticipated Shanghai Disney Resort is speeding ahead as preparations on the groundwork have already been completed. Construction of the infrastructure is set to start soon.

Coming right after the successful resident relocation, site formation and phase one of project design, the hand-over ceremony marks a milestone in the resort's construction.

After one year of tough work preparing the site, builders are eager to begin

construction of what's set to be a world-class family vacation destination. Shanghai Disneyland is likely to take on some of the local flavour.

Chinese elements are being incorporated in the overall design, including events, food, and souvenirs. Covering nearly 1.2 square kilometres, the theme park will be the world's sixth Disney amusement park and the first on the Chinese mainland.

It is expected to open at the end of 2015.

Xinhua



Actors play cartoon figures at the opening soiree of the 2012 China International Cartoon and Animation Festival (CICAF) in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 28 April, 2012. The 2012 China International Cartoon and Animation Festival (CICAF) opened Saturday in Hangzhou, drawing participants from 61 countries and regions.—XINHUA

Calif sanctuary say killer elephant still welcome

LOS ANGELES, 1 May—The owner of a California sanctuary says an African elephant is still welcome after killing the zookeeper who was preparing to move it from New Zealand.

Pat Derby's Performing Animal Welfare Society in San Andreas was going to be home to the elephant now called Mila but known as Jumbo for 30 years in a circus.

Derby said Thursday there may be ownership problems. Mila had been at

the Franklin Zoo near Auckland while zoo owner Helen Schofield worked to place her.

Derby says she and Schofield had been working on the move for two years. Schofield was training Mila how to live in a crate during the trip.

She told Derby a month ago it was going well. Schofield was crushed to death Wednesday when Mila picked her up in its trunk and lifted her off ground.

Internet

British tea scion hopes India will embrace the bag

NEW DELHI, 1 May—Stephen HB Twining, the 10th-generation descendant of the Twinings tea-making family, is an unimpeachable brand ambassador. It is early afternoon and he is already on his 12th cup of the day. "My usual daily intake is about 15 cups, so I'm a little ahead of myself, but tea drinking is a huge passion with me," he says, sipping a light infusion of green tea in New Delhi. Twining, director of the British company which opened the first tea shop in London over 300 years ago, was in India to promote his range in a country where Twining's buys a lot of tea—but sells very little.

Like every other global company, Twining's is seeking growth from India's

1.2 billion people, whose tastes are becoming more upmarket and sophisticated. "There's huge potential for growth in places like India and China—throughout Asia," Twining says. The easy part in India for Twining, part of the giant Associated British Foods conglomerate, is that people all over the country drink tea every day. The tough part is that teabags, which are Twining's core product, are not used much by Indians, who like their tea boiled loose in a strong, milky brew.

Instead, Twining is aiming at the upper end of the market by packaging each teabag in an air-tight individual envelope to keep the tea fresh for months. At 600 rupees (\$11.40) for a box



English tea-maker Stephen HB Twining speaks with media representatives at a function in Gurgaon, on the outskirts of New Delhi, in February. Twining, director of the British company which opened the first tea shop in London over 300 years ago, was in India to promote his range in a country where Twining's buys a lot of tea—but sells very little.—INTERNET

of 100 bags, the price of one teabag is roughly equal to that of a freshly-made street-side cup of "chai" served in a small earthenware pot or plastic cup and often spiced

with cardamom or ginger. "We are unabashedly a premium tea and our customers seem to appreciate that fact," Twining says.

Internet

TransCanada profit falls; eyes new oil pipeline

CALGARY, 1 May—TransCanada Corp reported a 14 percent drop in quarterly profit on Friday as the natural gas-transport segment of the country's biggest pipeline company was hurt by the depressed state of North America's gas industry.

Chief Executive Russ Girling said the company is looking at several regulatory

and operational measures to deal with pressures on its Canadian gas mainline after an unusually warm winter slashed demand for the fuel, cutting volume on the system to less than half its roughly 6 billion cubic foot a day capacity.

The measures include studying the possibility of taking one of the pipelines on the 14,101 km (8,762

mile) system and changing it into an oil pipeline to transport crude to refineries in Eastern Canada, which now pay a premium for imported crude, Girling said. TransCanada, which decided recently to chop its Canada-Texas Keystone XL oil pipeline into two pieces to get the controversial project started, made the switch to oil from gas for the Canadian portion of the initial Keystone line, which started up in 2010.

"Early days, but the refineries that import crude oil today in Canada are the refiners that are inquiring," he told reporters after the company's annual meeting. "I'm not sure you could touch them all with a new-build pipeline, but certainly there's nothing excluded from the analysis at the current time."

He said the company does not have a timetable or even a potential size for a

new oil route to Eastern Canada, saying different pipe diameters would mean flow rates of as low as 300,000 barrels a day or as high as 800,000.

"It's way too early to talk about timing," Girling said. "Obviously there's technical feasibility, there's regulatory process, there's right-of-way, there's a whole host of things that are way too early for me to predict." TransCanada's rival, Enbridge Inc, is also trying to advance plans to get Western Canadian crude to refineries in the East, by reversing the flow of a pipeline between Montreal and Samia, Ontario. It has met with resistance from environmental groups.

TransCanada has been struggling since the middle of the last decade with falling volumes on its gas mainline, which was the foundation of the company when it was established in the 1950s.

Reuters



Hot air balloons rise during the Torres Ballooning Festival in Torres, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, on 28 April, 2012. 54 teams from eight countries and regions are participating in the annual festival.—XINHUA

INVITATION FOR TENDER

(TENDER NO. 1 (T) MPE/LBO(1)/2012-2013)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of 2,78±10% Metric Tons Lube Base Oil & Additives.
2. Tender Closing Date : 17-5-2012 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date: 17-5-2012 at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : Within July/August 2012
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 3-5-2012 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Dentist pulls out all of her ex-boyfriend's teeth after split

VIENNA, 1 May—If you're planning a trip to the dentist, it might not be the wisest decision to make your appointment with the person you just broke up with. A Polish woman is facing three years in prison after she removed all of her ex-boyfriend's teeth during dental surgery just days after their breakup. "I tried to be professional and detach myself from my emotions," Anna Mackowiak, 34, told the *Austrian Times*. "But when I saw him lying there I just thought, 'What a bastard' and decided to take all his teeth out."

Marek Olszewski, 45, reportedly showed up at Mackowiak's dental office complaining of toothache just days after he broke up with her. She then allegedly gave him a "heavy dose" of anesthetic, locked the door and began removing all of his teeth one at a time. "I knew something was wrong because when I woke up I couldn't feel any teeth and my jaw was strapped up with bandages," Olszewski said.

"She told me my mouth was numb and I wouldn't be able to feel anything for a while and that the bandage was there to protect the gums, but that I would need to see a specialist," he said. "I didn't have any reason to doubt her, I mean I thought she was a professional." Adding to his trauma, Olszewski said his new girlfriend has already left him over his now toothless appearance. "And I'm going to have to pay a fortune on getting indents or something," he said. Mackowiak is currently being investigated for medical malpractice.—*Internet*



In this unrelated photo, a patient receives dental treatment.—*INTERNET*

Tornado injures four in S China

BEIJING, 1 May — Government-led emergency relief efforts are helping a city in Guangdong Province that was hit by a tornado rise from the rubble. A tornado struck Jiangmen on Saturday, injuring four people and damaging more than 100 factories. Twenty-two workshops collapsed, but no deaths have been reported. Two people suffered bone fractures, one person complained of an ear injury and another person's abdomen was pierced by a steel bar. All four were in stable condition after they received medical treatment and

necessary surgery at Wu Yi traditional Chinese medicine hospital and *Xinhui* People's Hospital in Jiangmen. Authorities in the Jiangpeng district have set up a fund of 2 million yuan (\$318,071) to help factories rebuild and resume production.

The district, which has evacuated 50 people, suffered an estimated economic loss of 100 million yuan over an area of 1 square kilometre, *Jiangmen Daily* reported on Monday. Large quantities of fuel worth hundreds of thousands of yuan from Dongrun industrial fuel

company were buried under one of the damaged buildings. Anxious to move the fuel to a safe place, the company asked district officials for help on Sunday. More than 20 employees arrived on Monday morning to help remove the fuel but were turned away, said a company saleswoman surnamed Fan. The 22 workshops in Xinhui District that collapsed during the tornado were razed. The damage was estimated at 15 million yuan. District officials plan to redesign and rebuild the industrial zone. The buildings were too weak to

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (040)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (040) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.5.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Drunk US woman charged over biting dog

NEW YORK, 1 May—A young US woman who allegedly bit her bulldog during a drunken argument with her mother was charged with animal cruelty and domestic battery, police said. Neighbours called police after hearing loud screaming and pounding coming from the family home in Lake in the Hills, Illinois. Police said 19-year-old Analise Garner hit and scratched her mother's face and bit her on the right hand during the altercation.

The family's 80-pound English bulldog had three bite marks on its back that were visible through its white fur. "The bulldog finally did bite her back in self-defence," said Sergeant Mike Smith. "There were no charges against the dog," he quipped. Garner, who was taken to hospital for treatment of the dog's defensive bite, was also charged with



File photo shows an English bulldog. A young US woman who allegedly bit her bulldog during a drunken argument with her mother was charged with animal cruelty and domestic battery, police said.—*INTERNET*

underage drinking. She was released on \$3,000 bond.—*Internet*

New Zealand gas research to help farmers' bottom line

WELLINGTON, 1 May—Scientists have long accepted that gas from farm animals is a major factor in climate change, but how do you stop cattle and sheep from doing what comes naturally? That's the question consuming researchers in New Zealand who hope that by measuring every belch and bleat of their sheepish subjects they can come up with a solution. Researcher Peter Janssen says the project, in which the animals are kept in perspex boxes so that their emissions can be measured, has the potential to make a real

difference in the fight against global warming.

"The renewed emphasis on climate change, plus new technologies, have given us hope that we can do something that wasn't possible before," said Janssen, who is working on a vaccine to stop livestock producing methane. Global livestock numbers are being driven higher due to increased demand, particularly for beef and dairy products as a result of human population growth, leading to increases in emission levels. The UN estimates 18 percent of the

global greenhouse gas emissions blamed for climate change come from livestock. But the figure is even higher in New Zealand, where about 35 million sheep and eight



million cows account for half the greenhouse gas emissions in an economy heavily reliant on primary industry.

In a nation which prides itself on its "clean, green" image, New Zealand is keen to minimise the problem and has established a NZ\$50 million (\$41 million) programme aimed at curbing agricultural emissions. "It is probably the largest and certainly the most comprehensive in the world," said Janssen who is the principal investigator at the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre. The problem is the animals are ruminants, meaning they partially digest

Man arrested for bomb threat hoax at Shanghai airport

SHANGHAI, 1 May — A man who allegedly made a hoax bomb threat at Shanghai Pudong International Airport last Friday was captured in the southwestern Sichuan Province Sunday, local authorities confirmed on Monday.

The airport received an anonymous phone call at 6:30 pm on last Friday saying that a bomb was onboard flight CA406, according to the local police.

Police evacuated the passengers to inspect the plane and later discovered the threat was a hoax and there was no explosive device. The flight, scheduled to take off at 6:30 pm, took off at 11:23 pm after a delay of about 5 hours.

The Shanghai police launched an investigation into the case and eventually detained the suspect, surnamed Pu, in the city of Guangyuan in Sichuan Province Sunday night. Pu confessed he gave false information so as to extort some money, the police said. *Xinhua*

Cattle sit on a hillside above the city of Wellington. New Zealand is keen to minimise the greenhouse gas problem and has established a \$41 million programme aimed at curbing agricultural emissions.—*INTERNET*

their food by fermenting it in a compartment of their stomach before regurgitating it, along with copious methane, so it can be chewed again as cud.

As part of the programme, scientists house cattle and sheep in perspex boxes for two days at a time to find why some tend to produce less gas than others and measure how different foods affect gas levels. The centre in the North Island town of Palmerston North uses genome sequencing—determining an animal's hereditary information—to try to minimise the large amounts of methane gas that sheep and cows naturally produce.

Internet

Snake spends weekend as uninvited guest

A California couple said they had trouble sleeping for a couple nights when their dog chased a red racer snake into the house and the reptile went into hiding.

Mike and Tracy Mandelbaum, who live in a ranch-style house in the Moreno Valley in Riverside County, said their dog chased the 3-foot non-venomous reptile into the house Friday afternoon and they were unable to locate it until Sunday, *The (Riverside, Calif) Press-Enterprise* reported Monday.

The couple said they had trouble sleeping with the

snake in the house, especially after talking to their son.

"Yeah, Mr Nature," Mike Mandelbaum said. "He tells Tracy that she's lucky it didn't crawl into bed and wrap itself around her legs to keep warm. Thanks a lot."

The Mandelbaums said they found the snake Sunday behind a computer desk and a Riverside County animal control officer soon arrived to cart the reptile away.

Authorities said the snake was released back into the wild.

News Album

New York police said they are searching for a police bicycle swiped from outside a store while an officer was inside.

The bicycle, which was clearly marked with the letters NYPD, was taken from outside the Furniture Outlet II in Brooklyn while the officer was inside talking to owner Tommy Kwan around 3 pm Thursday, the *New York*

Post reported on Friday. Kwan said the bicycle was not locked.

"When he went to leave, the bike was gone," Kwan said.

"He asked if there were surveillance cameras, but we don't have any." The officer put out a call for backup and police searched the area but were unable to spot the bicycle.



Fox walks off with boules balls

A French boules player whose balls kept disappearing from his private pitch said an infrared camera identified the thief—a local fox.

Patrick Cazes, an amateur player of petanque, a form of the bocce-like sport boules, said 38 balls disappeared from his private pitch in the southern village of Peburthe between February and March. The *Local.fr* reported Monday.

Cazes said he initially thought local children were behind the thefts and installed an infrared camera to catch them red-handed, but he was surprised to find the camera instead recorded a local fox walking away with his sporting goods. Cazes said he was surprised to see the fox so interested in the balls while ignoring a nearby henhouse.

'Cancer' turns out to be fruit seed

A Florida woman got some good news when she learned a dark spot on her lung was a seed that had been lodged there for almost 30 years. Blanca Riveron, 62, of Seminole Heights, was convinced she had lung cancer, WTSP-TV in St Petersburg reported. Riveron said her daughter Melody, who lives in Cuba, reminded her on the telephone she inhaled a seed from a fruit called rispero in 1984. Riveron said she could not believe the seed would

still be there after all that time. But she discovered the truth while sitting in a traffic jam when she had a bad coughing fit and the rispero seed came out. The seed also explains why she has suffered from a bad cough for decades that doctors diagnosed as asthma or pneumonia. Riveron's breathing has improved remarkably. "She's even been able to blow up a balloon for my son. She had never been able to do that," another daughter, Dayana Noda, said.

Man dies after bullet in head for 94 years

A California man who lived for 94 years and six months with a bullet in his head has died at the age of 103. William Lawlis Pace, who was certified as a Guinness World Record holder in 2006 when he had lived for 89 years with the bullet in his head, died on Monday at the Covenant Village retirement home in Turlock, *The Modesto Bee* reported on Friday.

Pace said in 2006 the bullet entered his skull when he was accidentally shot by his brother, Marvin, in October 1917. He said doctors decided surgery would be too risky and left the bullet in place. Guinness said Pace, who is survived by two sons, had a final record of 94 years and six months with the bullet in his head.

Police bike swiped outside New York store

Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie's August wedding to be double celebration



Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

LONDON, 1 May—Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have finally fixed 11 August as their wedding date and they are planning a double celebration.

The couple will share the occasion with the actor's parents Bill and Jane who will mark their golden wedding anniversary on the same day.

There will be a huge family party at the pair's 35 million-pound French retreat after they tie the knot.

"They thought their kids would love the idea of seeing

mom and dad get hitched followed by a big bash for them as well as 'Meemaw and Grandpa' as they call Brad's folks," the *Daily Star* quoted a source as saying. Between 200 and 300 guests including George Clooney, Matt Damon, Johnny Depp and Tom Cruise are expected to join the festivities at 35-room Chateau Miraval near the village of Correns in the south of France's Aix-en-Provence wine country. Jolie adores her Pitt's parents and the source said, "She came up with the idea of making it a real family celebration by merging Bill and Jane's special day with theirs.

"Brad's family mean a lot to Angelina, especially since she lost her own mum Marcheline to ovarian cancer more than five years ago and spent years refusing to talk to her father," the source added.

George Clooney will need Botox if he wants to play me, says Simon Cowell

LONDON, 1 May—Simon Cowell has said that George Clooney might be handsome enough to take the starring role in a film about him only if he had "a bit of Botox".

The 52-year-old made the quips at the launch party for Tom Bower's biography of him, which includes revelations of an affair with Dannii Minogue, a crush on Cheryl Cole and his penchant for black loo roll.

"I used to say Mel Gibson should play me, but



George Clooney

he is not so good-looking any more," the *Daily Mail* quoted him as saying.

"Obviously it would have to be somebody very good-looking," he added.

Internet

The actress has reconciled with her actor dad Jon Voight although she has yet to decide whether her other brother James Haven will give her away. The couple's brood — Maddox, ten, Pax, eight, Zahara, seven, Shiloh, six, and twins Knox and Vivienne, three — will share some of the wedding day duties.

Internet



Julia Louis-Dreyfus

Katy Perry wants to move to country music



Katy Perry

LONDON, 1 May—Katy Perry, who vowed to make her music "real f***** dark" since her split from Russell Brand, has decided to become a wholesome country singer.

The 'Firework' hitmaker now wants to ditch her raunchy style and turn to country just like Patty Griffin.

"I've always wanted to make something like an acoustic record," the *Sum* quoted her as saying.

"My favourite record is Patty Griffin's *Flaming Red*. I discovered it when I was in Nashville.

"I definitely want to do a Patty Griffin-esque thing at some point. It's something that I'm really excited about because I know I can do it and I haven't really played that card yet,"

she added.

Perry's first album was influenced by the gospel music she grew up listening to, but country is new territory for her.

Internet

Peter Andre goes grey

LONDON, 1 May—Singer Peter Andre has discovered a batch of grey hair on his head at the age of 39, but has no plans to try and slow the ageing process by dying them. "I can see a couple (of grey hairs)! I just cut them shorter! I'm happy to go full silver fox. The only thing that scares me is the in between stage," contactmusic.com quoted him as saying.

The 39-year-old star admits using fake tan to enhance his looks, but wouldn't allow his children Junior, 6, and Princess Tiaamii, 4, with ex-wife Katie Price - to follow suit.

"Junior actually asked me if he could use some of my Fake Bake and I was like, 'No, you can't!' He was like, 'How

HBO orders 2nd seasons of 'Veep,' 'Girls'

LOS ANGELES, 1 May—HBO has ordered second seasons of its new comedies "Girls" and "Veep." The Hollywood Reporter said Monday. Both series, which premiered this month on the pay cable network to good reviews and healthy ratings, will return next year with 10-episode seasons, the

entertainment industry trade newspaper said.

"Girls" stars a cast of newcomers and is about young women navigating romance and careers in New York City.

In "Veep," Julia Louis-Dreyfus plays the vice president of the United States, struggling to find ways to make a difference.—*Internet*

Dating co-stars is natural: Rachel Bilson



Rachel Bilson

reports contactmusic.com.

She said: "Dating co-stars is natural. When you're working with someone, it's habit. I met my man at work. I'm attracted to mysterious men. Every woman can relate to that, right?" But Rachel, who also dated her "OC" co-star Adam Brody for three years before they split in 2006, admits she doesn't play by the rules when she is in a relationship.

"I've been in relationships where we've said, 'I love you' after two weeks. I think it depends on the person and the relationship. If it feels right, go with it. Love shouldn't play by the rules. It's all about chemistry."—*Internet*

LOS ANGELES, 1 May—Rachel Bilson, known for her role in "Waiting For Forever", feels it's natural for actors to date their co-stars. She too met her boyfriend of five years Hayden Christensen on the set of 2007 movie "Jumper",



Singer Peter Andre

City take leaf from United's book with derby win

MANCHESTER, 1 May — Manchester City closed in on their first top flight title in 44 years by beating Manchester United 1-0 on Monday after doing what their rivals have done for years - keeping their nerve when all seemed lost. City captain Vincent Kompany scored the winner with a header from a corner at the end of the first half to cap a remarkable turnaround in the title race as they moved top of the table on goal difference with two games to play. The win for Roberto Mancini's team, who were never really threatened by a United side that came looking for a point and left empty handed, capped a remarkable month for a City side displaying all the hallmarks of their illustrious neighbours.

Premier League defeats by Swansea and Arsenal and a draw at Stoke looked like derailing big-spending City's title drive, with United winning eight successive games almost at will, but Mancini's determined players refused to give up. United's never-say-die attitude was at the heart of their 12 titles under Alex Ferguson in the Premier League era, but the champions could

find no way back in this match. Kompany's strike was the only goal of a fraught, passionate and at times ragged and wild derby that distilled all the unpredictability of a remarkable season into 90 minutes of a match that swung

now favourites for the title. Mancini once again told reporters: "United. They have the easier games, against Swansea and Sunderland, while we have to play Newcastle United, who are going for the Champions



Manchester City's Vincent Kompany (3rd L) heads and scores during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 30 April, 2012.

INTERNET

first the way of United and then City who finished the stronger and were deserved winners.

Both teams have 83 points but City have moved back to the top of the table on goal difference and, although they have the harder games left, Mancini's side now hold all the cards. Asked who were

League, and Queens Park Rangers who are going against relegation. "We are at the top now, but it can change after the next two games," he added. However, City's dashing Italian coach did concede that winning the title was actually a possibility for his side too, "yes, it is, that's true," he smiled broadly.—Reuters

Guardiola graceful as ever after Rayo win



FC Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola

MADRID, 1 May — FC Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola spoke to the press for the first time since his announcement that he was leaving the club at the end of the season after four years in charge. Anyone with doubts over how the Barca squad would react to Friday's news that Guardiola would step down to be replaced by his assistant Tito Vilanova, were soon wiped away as Barca raced into a 3-0 lead by the break and four more goals in the second half assured a big win, that means Real Madrid were unable to celebrate claiming the league title this weekend.

Speaking after the game, Guardiola showed his gratitude for the praise he has received from other coaches, among them Arsenal's Arsene Wenger. "I am grateful for them. I understand that my time has finished here, but the important thing is that the club and the team carry on. Tito knows them well and Barca will continue to be at the top and competing with everyone," he said. Real

Madrid was the only club that failed to praise Guardiola's achievement of winning 13 titles in 4 years, with assistant coach Aitor Karanka graciously saying on Friday that the league had existed without Guardiola and would continue to do so when he had gone. When asked about that response, Guardiola showed rather more class.

"What he says is obvious. The league has existed before me and will continue to do so afterwards. Congratulations," he said, before admitting that the result had merely served to put back Madrid's inevitable title celebrations. "It doesn't matter if they celebrate now or later, we all know they are champions. However, this game is an example of what we are this season.—Xinhua



Bernard Hopkins during his World Boxing Council light-heavyweight fight against Chad Dawson on April 28. Hopkins has no plans to retire from boxing after losing his crown to Dawson. Instead, boxing's oldest-ever champion wants to win another title.—INTERNET

Marko Djokovic loses in 1st round of Serbia Open

BELGRADE, 1 May — The Djokovic family did not enjoy any success at their home tournament.

After defending champion Novak Djokovic pulled out of the event, his brother Marko lost in the first round to Filippo Volandri on Monday. Marko Djokovic, a wild-card entry, was broken four times and never forced a break point of his own as Volandri beat him 6-3, 6-1.

The tournament is organized by the Djokovic family. Novak, the world's top-ranked player, pulled out because of the recent death of his grandfather, decision he called one of the hardest of his career.

In other first-round matches Monday, Dusan Lajovic of Serbia defeated fellow wild-card entry Evgeny Donskoy of Russia 7-5, 6-4, and Ivan Dodig used six breaks to overcome Adrian Unguro of Romania 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-4.—Internet



Two athletes race around the Parliament Hill in a wheelchair as part of 7th annual Rolling Rampage on the Hill event in Ottawa, Canada, on 26 April, 2012. This unique event was organized by two senators in coordination with the Canadian Foundation of Physically Disabled Persons (CFDP). World-class wheelchair athletes competed against each other in 10 kilometers road race for 30,000 Canadian dollars prize.—XINHUA

Tiger says he has fixed Masters swing woes

NEW YORK, 1 May — Tiger Woods said he has solved the swing problems that led to his worst professional Masters finish in a video posted on his website Monday in which he answered questions from fans.

Woods accepted questions on his Twitter and Facebook pages, and answered a select few in a 14-minute video, with one of his responses touching upon the troubles off the tee that doomed his bid at Augusta National three weeks ago.

Woods, a 14-time major

champion chasing the all-time record of 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus, said he and swing coach Sean Foley have solved his problem entering his start this week at Quail Hollow.

"At the Masters, I was kind of struggling with my ball-striking a little bit," Woods said. "Sean and I fixed it. It had to do with posture. My setup wasn't quite right as well as my takeaway. I just needed to do hundreds of reps. I'm getting dialed in."

Woods, who has not won a major since the 2008 US Open, finished on five-over par 293 to share 40th place at the Masters — his worst pro finish and 72-hole pro score at Augusta National, where he has won four times.

The 36-year-old American said he has changed his swing over the years to ease the strain on his left knee, which has been surgically repaired four times. "Let's just end it at four and have a nice, healthy happy life," Woods said.

Internet



Tiger Woods said he has solved the swing problems that led to his worst professional Masters finish in a video posted on his website on Monday in which he answered questions from fans.—INTERNET

Roy Hodgson hired to coach England in 4-year deal

LONDON, 1 May — Roy Hodgson was hired as England's oldest national team coach Tuesday, six weeks before the European Championship.

The 64-year-old West Bromwich Albion manager signed a four-year deal, taking him through to the 2014 World Cup and Euro 2016, the Football Association said.

"It is the most important job in English football... and a



West Bromwich Albion's manager Roy Hodgson. INTERNET

privilege to take the job," said Hodgson, who will leave West Brom at the end of the season on May 13 to lead England into the Euros in Poland and Ukraine. He succeeds Fabio Capello, the Italian who quit in February in a dispute with the FA after John Terry was stripped of the captaincy. The FA overlooked the favorite, Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp, to hire a manager who has won eight league titles in two countries with three clubs and coached the national teams of Switzerland, Finland and the United Arab Emirates.

"Let's hope we can get everybody behind us and make certain that we work as a team and help the team get the results everyone in England expects and wants," Hodgson said.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(2-5-12 09:30 am ~ 3-5-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Bilateral Cooperation Through Media
- * News
- * The Heartbeats of A Diva
- * News
- * "Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes" Royal Quick-fried Fish
- * Rakhine Traditional Festivals in the Month of Kason
- * News
- * Zinathuka Yan Aung Chan Tha Reclining Buddha
- * News
- * 13th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Fisheries Federation
- * News
- * Ancestor And Successors
- * News
- * A Day in Bagan
- * News
- * A Myanmar Tapestry
- * Myanmar Movie "The True Love"

MYANMAR TV

(2-5-2012)(Wednesday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
- 4. Cultural Dances
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 4:00 pm
- 6. Martial Song
- 4:20 pm
- 7. Solo Favourites
- 5:05 pm
- 8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:15 pm
- 9. Classical Song
- 5:35 pm
- 10. Dances of Six eras
- 5:45 pm
- 11. ASEAN "Programmes"
- 8:00 pm
- 12. News
- 13. Korea NG Award
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 15. Myanmar Video Feature

Euro-Acid test for world-class Ronaldo



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo runs with their ball during his Champions League quarter-final first leg soccer match against APOEL at GSP stadium in Nicosia on 27 March, 2012.

REUTERS

LISBON, 1 May—Record-breaking goal-machine Cristiano Ronaldo is at the peak of his career but the world's most expensive player still has one unfulfilled ambition - to win a major international trophy for Portugal.

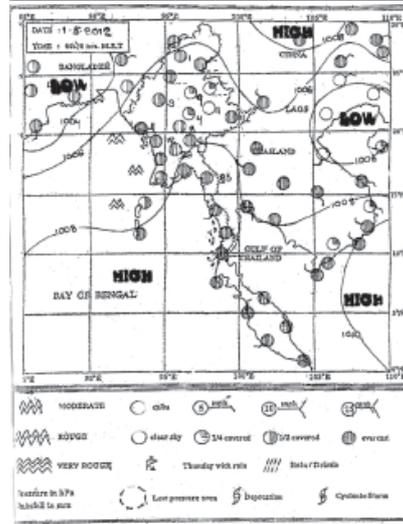
The 27-year-old Real Madrid forward's trickery, pace and ferocious shots will be highlight for soccer lovers at Euro 2012 where he hopes to captain his country to a long-awaited success.

Like his nemesis, Argentine Lionel Messi of Barcelona, Ronaldo has chronically underperformed at international tournament finals.

His determination to do well will be stronger than ever after Real Madrid's failure in the Champions League this season despite their almost certain title success in La Liga. At Euro 2004, when Portugal still relied on the declining powers of Luis Figo and Rui Costa, Ronaldo came agonisingly close to glory but Greece shocked the hosts in the final.

A young Ronaldo was left in tears and, though he was picked for the team of the tournament, he scored only twice. If that was a personal disappointment, it was deepened in the three major tournaments that followed when he scored just once at

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 2nd May, 2012

No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	25/77	18/64	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
2	Kayah	33/91	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
3	Kayah	37/99	23/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
4	Chin	22/72	14/57	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
5	Upper Sgawing	24/75	20/68	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
6	Lower Sgawing	38/100	21/70	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
7	Taintharyi	37/99	25/77	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
8	Bago	38/100	25/77	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
9	Magway	39/102	25/77	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
10	Mandalay	39/102	25/77	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
11	Moa	35/95	24/75	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
12	Yangon	38/100	24/75	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
13	Rakhine	30/86	24/75	Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	27/81	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	33/91	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	34/93	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
17	Ayeyarwady	39/102	26/79	Likelihood of scattered rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nya Pyi Taw	37/99	23/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	38/100	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	39/102	23/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)

During the past (24) hours, rain or thunderstorms have been widespread in Chin State, fairly widespread in Sgawing and Bago Regions, Shan and Moa States, scattered in Mandalay Region, Kachin State and isolated in the remaining Region and States with isolated heavy falls in Moa State. Day temperatures were (7°C) to (17°C) above May average temperature in Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taintharyi Regions, Kayah, Kayah and Moa States, (7°C) below May average temperature in Upper Sgawing Region and Kachin State and about May average temperature in the remaining Region and States. The significant day temperatures were Myanmar (41°C), Mandalay, Nanyang, Chind and Kanyaw (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlaikya (13.74) inches, Kyaukpada (2.32) inches, Kyauksempaw (2.16) inches and Nanyang (2.54) inches.

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

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

outlook for next subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain or thunderstorms in Northern Myanmar areas.

World Veterinary Day observed in Hmawby

YANGON, 1 May—The World Veterinary Day, organized by Hmawby Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of Yangon Region, was held at the hall of Hmawby Township General Administration Department on 27 April morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe Lwin made a speech. Head of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Khin Nwe Yi talked about raising health status of animals, control of animal infectious diseases and prevention against microorganism. Deputy Heads of Department Dr Han Win Aung and Dr Zaw Min Oo



explained matters related to rabies and blue-ear pig disease. After that, pamphlets on prevention against blue-ear pig disease and avian influenza disease were distributed to attendees.—Myanmar Alin

"Octomom" files for bankruptcy in California

LOS ANGELES, 1 May—The California mother of octuplets, dubbed "Octomom," filed for bankruptcy on Monday, after previously admitting she was on public assistance to support herself and her 14 children. Nadya Suleman, 36, gave birth to eight babies as a single mother in 2009. But goodwill turned to anger in the media after it was revealed Suleman had undergone fertility treatments when she already had six children, and questions were raised about her ability to provide for her family. Her children became

only the second set of octuplets known to have survived birth in the United States. Suleman, who lives in the Southern California suburban community of La Habra, has less than \$50,000 in assets and owes between \$500,000 and \$1 million, according to legal papers submitted to US Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California and posted at entertainment website E! Online. Suleman told ABC News last week that she had received \$4,000 to \$5,000 a month in public assistance.—Reuters



California Octuplets mom Nadya Suleman has a new Web site (www.thenadyasulemanfamily.com) shown in this screenshot taken on 11 February, 2009. REUTERS

Liverpool swoop for Elm

The Anfield club have reportedly finalised an £8-million deal for Rasmus Elm

LONDON, 1 May—Liverpool have reportedly agreed an £8million deal with AZ Alkmaar for midfielder Rasmus Elm, according to The Sun. The report claims Anfield boss Kenny Dalglish went out to Holland for a last look at the Sweden international, but he was pulled out of the match day squad due to his wife going into labour.

The Reds boss was reportedly not best pleased about Elm being absent, but that did not stop him sanctioning a deal to take the player to Anfield on a five-year contract worth £40,000 a week. Elm is an established international and is expected to be in the Sweden squad to face England at Euro 2012 in Poland and Ukraine this summer.

It has been a successful season for the former Kalmar man, as he has scored on ten occasions this season in the Eredivisie playing in midfield.

Once fully completed, the Elm transfer will be Liverpool's first of a summer where a number of personnel changes are reportedly set to take place.—Internet

United Nations Secretary-General and party leave Nay Pyi Taw for Yangon



NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—The visiting delegation led by United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and wife Mrs Ban Soon-taek left here for Yangon by UN special aircraft this morning.

The delegation led by the UN Secretary-General was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung

Lwin and wife, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Deputy Culture Minister Daw Sanda Khin, personnel of Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental heads and students from Basic Education High Schools in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

MNA

United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and wife Mrs Ban Soon-taek being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by ministers.—MNA

Myanmar selected Taekwondo team meets

YANGON, 1 May—A meeting of Myanmar selected Taekwondo team that will take part in the 2nd Asian Taekwondo Dancing Contest and the 20th Asian Taekwondo Invitational Championship to be held in Vietnam from 4 to 11 May,

was held at the hall of the Sports and Physical Education Department in Tamway Township yesterday afternoon.

Players were introduced to General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports

and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik. Officials of the federation reported on preparations for the sports.

The director-general greeted the players of the Taekwondo team.

MNA

Construction of downhill motor road inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—Mon State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Hla Oo on 27 April afternoon inspected construction of downhill road north of U Zina Pagoda in Mawlamyine.

Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Win and

officials reported on progress in construction of the road.

The construction of 200 feet long and 14 feet wide motor road started in February 2012. The board has spent over K 40 million. So far, the construction task has completed by over 50 percent.

And it is expected to open the road in October.

The state minister left instructions on keeping the precinct of the pagoda clean and pleasant and systematically place donation boxes.

MNA

Why bigger animals aren't always faster

SCIENCE DAILY, 1 May—New research in the journal *Physiological and Biochemical Zoology* shows why bigger isn't always better when it comes to sprinting speed. "Typically, bigger animals tend to run faster than smaller animals, because they have longer legs," said Christofer J Clemente of Harvard University, who led the research. "But this only works up to a point. The fastest land animal is neither the biggest nor the smallest, but something in between. Think about the size of an elephant, a mouse and a cheetah."



Clemente and his team studied monitor lizards to show that that the same principle applies within species as well as across species, and to identify why this is the case. Because adult monitor lizards vary substantially in size, they are

an ideal species for testing how size affects speed. The researchers timed and photographed monitors ranging from two to 12 pounds, as sprinted across a 45-foot track.

The researchers found that the midsize lizards were fastest and they discovered why. Using high-speed cameras and markers placed at key spots on the lizards' bodies, the researchers created computer models

comparing characteristics of the lizards' running strides.

"We then looked at how the mechanics of the stride changed with body size, and we found that the changes in the stride were consistent with the changes in speed," Clemente said. "Above a certain size, lizards were changing the way they ran, perhaps due to a decreased ability of the bones and muscles to support a larger body mass."—*Internet*

Arsenal seal deal for 'top-class' Lukas Podolski

LONDON, 1 May—Lukas Podolski is determined to take his second chance at "one of the top clubs in Europe" after it was officially confirmed he would join Arsenal next season.

The worst-kept secret in football was finally out in the open yesterday afternoon as the Gunners and Cologne announced Germany striker Podolski was moving to the Emirates Stadium after this summer's European Championships.

Despite being feted as a world-class talent thanks both to his exploits on the international stage and for his hometown club, Podolski will have a point to prove at Arsenal after flopping in a three-year spell at Bayern Munich.

However, he had no qualms about testing himself at another of Europe's giants, saying: "I'm so happy to be joining Arsenal Football Club

and to play in the Premier League.

"Arsenal is one of the top clubs in Europe, with a huge history. There are many top-quality players at Arsenal and the style of football which



Lukas Podolski will move to Arsenal for an undisclosed fee.

the team plays is fantastic.

I'm proud to become an Arsenal player and am looking

forward to playing my first match at Emirates Stadium and doing my best for all the Arsenal fans." The announcement of Podolski's signing for an undisclosed fee came just 48 hours after Wenger admitted Arsenal had been too reliant this season on Robin van Persie, who may be more inclined to sign a new contract this summer after yesterday's news. Wenger said: "We are delighted to secure the deal for Lukas Podolski and see him as an important part of our future."

He is a top-class player, a very good finisher and a proven performer at club and international level."

Internet

Chelsea reaches deal to sign Marin

LONDON, 1 May—Chelsea began preparing for next season on Saturday with an agreement to sign Germany midfielder Marko Marin from Werder Bremen.

The west London club, which still has a Champions League final to prepare for and three English Premier League games remaining, said on Saturday it has agreed to a fee for the 23-year-old playmaker and that Marin has accepted its offer of personal terms. Chelsea did not say how much it would pay for Marin.—*Internet*



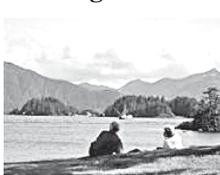
Marko Marin.

UNSG and party conclude visit



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Life begins at 60



Senior citizens too have future.

PAGE 7



Russian dancers perform ballet at the opening soiree of the 2012 China International Cartoon and Animation Festival (CICAF) in Hangzhou in China on 28 April, 2012.

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