

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIX, Number 317

11th Waxing of Taboung 1373 ME

Saturday, 3 March, 2012

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Bulgarian President

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Rossen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March, 2012.—MNA

Union Minister for Information and for Culture addresses meeting on rural socioeconomic development



Chairman of Rural Socioeconomic Development Subcommittee Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan presents cash donation to fund for construction of library in Thitkyitang Village of Pale Township.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March —Chairman of Rural Socioeconomic Development Subcommittee Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan addressed a meeting on rural socioeconomic development held at the Sasana Beikman Hall of Pale Township, Sagaing Region, on 26 February morning.

It was attended by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Thang Sein and Region Hluttaw Representative U Tin Swe, Region Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Sein Win, departmental officials, members of social organizations, more than 3000 local people from two wards and 59 village-tracts in Pale Township.

In his speech, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said today's meeting was held to let the local people know how the government and officials

True patriotism

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

are trying for their socioeconomic development, to discuss how the local people have to cooperate in the drive and to urge them to participate in their own regional development work with mutual understanding and collaboration.

As the government has been elected by the people, it has been working ardently for the people's socioeconomic progress. It is also taking measures for further improvement of various sectors such as irrigation water supply, road transport, education and health making best use of sound foundations built by the previous government, added the Union Minister.

In the economic sector, the investment law has been amended so as to create more job prospects and foreign investments. Similarly, the mercantile law has been amended and eased to attract more foreign trade and contacts and relations have been restored with in-

ternational organizations like the World Bank, ADB and IMF.

Moreover, the government is implementing the eight rural development and poverty alleviation tasks. According to respective work plans, a Union Minister each is acting as chairman, and he is working for socioeconomic development of rural people by serving as Chairman of Rural Socioeconomic Development Subcommittee, said the Union Minister.

As part of healthcare programme for local people from the western bank of Chindwin River, free surgical operations were carried out at Pale Township People's Hospital from 23 to 27 February. In 2009 free operations were performed on eye patients for the first time and in 2010 free medical treatments were given to local patients for the second time. This time, specialists from Yangon, Mandalay, (See page 8)

YANGON, 2 March—Honouring the Peasants Day, the ceremony to launch Ngamoeyek Sluice Gate was held at the hall of the sluice gate in Dagon Myothit (East) Township today.

Ngamoeyek Sluice Gate is to supply 48780 million gallons of fresh water of Ngamoeyek Dam to the local people, prevent inflow of seawater and silt to the dam in summer and inflow of tidal water in the rainy season and to irrigate about 10,000 acres of monsoon and summer paddy in the region.

The project was implemented in January 2010-2011 fiscal year. After one year, the facility was put into service successfully.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said that as mechanized farming has been undertaken on about 10,000 acres of farmlands in Dagon Myothit since 2008, today's farmlands achieve nearly cent per cent success. On behalf of the farmers, he thanked Palethwe hybrid paddy production companies, namely Green Asia Co Ltd, Dagon International Co Ltd and Sun Moon Star Co Ltd for distribution of quality paddy seeds to farmers so as to ensure paddy for prosperity. Production and milling of paddy with the use of modern farming equipment and its exporting will double the income of the farmers on a basis of total solution system.

(See page 9)

Milling and exporting of paddy with use of modern farming equipment to double income of farmers

Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister U Myint Hlaing and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe greet attendees at opening of Ngamoeyek Sluice Gate.
MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 3 March, 2012

A good legacy

Since taking office, the government has been endeavouring to fulfill the two main wishes of the entire people. Of course, the people want to live in peace and stability, and that is their first wish. With this public wish in mind, the government has been giving priority to political process for national reconsolidation and eternal peace.

Placing people's wish in the fore, it has paved the way for all the stakeholders to have a place in the political process with national reconsolidation and eternal peace as the core. Accordingly, it has adopted the "all-inclusive political process" in the interest of the Union and the people. Thanks to this political process, we can now see all the domestic political forces trying with enthusiasm to become people's representatives practicing democracy within the framework of the Constitution.

Moreover, the government's sincere peace initiatives are showing sound results as many of the armed national races groups are now at different levels of peace process.

After peace and stability, what else? It's the prosperity people also want. However, the country cannot enjoy prosperity without robust national economic growth. Consequently, the government is introducing economic reforms to fulfill the second wish of the people - national development couple with healthy economy.

The reforms cover the emergence of a market economic system suitable to the nation's objective conditions. Besides, short- and long-term projects have been adopted for flourishing of macro-economy. Meanwhile, the government is trying to increase the population of middle class the key force for economic and democracy reforms apart from creating a sound economic environment by inviting technical know-how, capital investment, expertise and management internally and internationally. The purpose is to improve per capita income of the grassroots, create more job opportunities and develop the whole national economic structure in various sectors.

The government understands well that the degree of stability and durability of its reform process will become the legacy for the future successive governments.

Accordingly, sine qua non of the government's reform process is to fulfill the people's wishes and to leave behind a good legacy for the posterity.

Union Minister for Construction receives Chief Rep of JGC Corporation

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Chief Representative Mr. Ikuo Hoshino of JGC Corporation (Hanoi Representative Office) of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and party had a courtesy call on Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint at the latter's office, here, at 7 pm yesterday. They held discussion on construction sectors between the two nations.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers U Soe Tint and U Kyaw Lwin, Managing Director U Kyaw Lin of Public Works, Director-General U Min Htein of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development and responsible personnel.—MNA

Union Commerce Minister meets Japanese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March— Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received Japanese delegation led by Vice Chairman of JICA Mr. Izumi Arai at his office here yesterday morning.

Both sides discussed matters relating to bilateral cooperation in promotion of human resource development.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan and officials concerned.—MNA

Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye attends opening of self-reliant Yeykankyaung and Dawna Roads in Dawnachan Ward of Monywa on 29 February. (News reported)

MNA



Dy Information Minister attends 11th AMRI in Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win attended 11th Conference of ASEAN Minister Responsible for Information-11th AMRI in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 28 February to 1 March.

The opening session of the conference took place at the Royale Chulan Hotel in

Kuala Lumpur yesterday, attended by Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd Yassin, ASEAN information ministers, the ASEAN deputy secretary-general, high-ranking officials and representatives of information sector from ASEAN countries, and invited guests.

The Malaysian deputy prime minister emphasized importance of quick data flow, and condition to make way to social media so that ASEAN people keep pace with global people keeping in touch with accurate information.

The 11th AMRI closed-door meeting chaired by

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun inspects Shwe Hintha jewellery shop of Mandalay Region Cooperative Syndicate in Mandalay on 31 December.—NLM

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Bulgarian Foreign Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Nikolay Mladenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March, 2012.—MNA

Union I&P Minister discusses census collection process

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi received Resident Representative of the UNFPA Mr Mohamed S Abdel-Ahad, Technical Advisor (census and data) Mr Christophe Lefranc of Thailand, Bangkok-based Asia and Pacific Region and census Chief Technical Advisor Mr Ricardo Neupert at the ministry here yesterday.

They discussed cooperation between the ministry and the UNFPA on country-wide census collection, measures to be taken in advance for census collection, technical and mechanical assistance, experiences from other countries, preparative measures, field trip study, requirements to conduct courses, possible difficulties and solutions, and organizational table.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Kyaw Kyaw Win and officials concerned.

MNA



Malaysian Information, Communication and Culture Minister Mr Dato Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim and co-chaired by Deputy Minister U Soe Win followed.

At the meeting, the heading "Media: Connecting Peoples and Bridging Cultures Towards One ASEAN Community" which was theme of the conference was discussed.

Deputy Minister U Soe Win and his entourage discussed developing media to be applied to benefits of ASEAN people, more cooperation in information sector among ASEAN countries, further assistance from information sector for implementation of ASEAN community, promotion of information sector with three partner countries, measures being taken by Myanmar government for media as fourth pillar, significant reforms and relaxing for media freedom.

The conference

covered affluence of knowledge for ASEAN people, ASEAN information projects for implementation of ASEAN community, follow-up plans, information cooperation with three partner countries—China, Japan and Korea.

Deputy Minister U Soe Win also attended 2nd AMRI+3 for which he acted as a vice-chairman.

After the conference, Malaysian information minister and Deputy Minister U Soe Win replied to queries of pressmen at the press conference.

Director-General U Thein Aung of Myanma Radio and Television and party attended 11th AMRI, Senior Official Meeting on 28 February and 2nd SOMRI+3 on 29 February.

Myanmar is scheduled to hold 12th ASEAN Information Conference and related meetings in 2014.

MNA

India Vice President meets with Visiting Chinese FM

NEW DELHI, 2 March— Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari met with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in New Delhi.

Hamid Ansari said India-China relations are moving forward on the right track. The Indian side is pleased to see productive results in bilateral cooperation in various fields.

India and China are committed to promoting regional peace, stability and prosperity.

The two sides should further expand mutual investment, increase exchanges between business leaders, promote provincial and local-level exchanges and push for further growth of friendly cooperations to the benefit of the two peoples, the vice

president said. India and China have identical positions on such major global issues as climate changes and it will be important for India and China to step up coordination and jointly uphold the common interests of the two countries and the developing countries as a whole, he added.

For his part, Yang said that the relations between China and India had kept a sound momentum of steady growth in recent years. There have been frequent visits and contacts between leaders of the two countries.

Political mutual trust has been increasing and economic cooperation and trade are growing rapidly. The two sides are exploring ways to expand practical cooperation and have good coordination



Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari (R) meets with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in New Delhi, India, on 1 March, 2012. —XINHUA

with each other on international and regional issues. Yang said that China and India are important neighbours to each other. They are both major developing countries and

emerging economies. Faced with the common task of accelerating economic development, they share extensive common interests.

Under the current international situation, the two

countries are blessed with important opportunities to develop their relations. China stands ready to work together with India to uphold good-neighbourly friendship, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, increase people-to-people exchanges and enhance coordination on international and regional issues, thus advancing China-India relations to new heights, he added.

The foreign minister emphasized that the Chinese side is ready to fully cooperate with the Indian side to make the BRICS Summit to be held in New Delhi at the end of March a success. Yang arrived here on Wednesday evening for an official visit to India.

Xinhua

Flights hit as fire erupts at Bangladesh airport

DHAKA, 2 March— Many flights were cancelled after a fire broke out on Thursday at the Shah Amanat International Airport in Bangladesh's Chittagong City. There were, however, no casualties. Rajib Kanti Dey, an assistant sub-inspector, told the *Daily Star* that the fire originated on the second floor of a terminal building around 4 pm. Fire Service and civil defence officials said no one was reported hurt.

All takeoffs and landings were cancelled due to the fire that badly damaged the second floor of the building. Police suspected the blaze might have originated from an electrical short circuiting.—Internet

Obama says 2012 election will be 'close'

NEW YORK, 2 March— US President Barack Obama said on Thursday the 2012 election will be close but on individual issues, Democrats win the "argument every time."

Speaking at a Democratic Party fundraiser in New York, the president — as has become his election-year custom — took credit for improvement in employment, expanded credit flow, the auto industry recovery and

expanded US manufacturing. However, he also told donors "there are a lot of folks out there who are still having a tough time."

"There are a lot of small businesses that still have trouble getting credit. The unemployment rate remains too high," he said.

"But the trend lines are good," Obama said. "The economy is stronger, we are more productive, and we are poised to be able to take

advantage of a moment where all the things that we're good at — innovation, dynamism, entrepreneurship — all those things are going to be at a greater premium than ever before."

The president told supporters he is "pretty confident" Democrats can win in November but "this is going to be a close election."

"Nobody is under any illusion that this isn't going to be a tight race for us," he said. "But as I travel around the country and I talk to folks, including people who don't support me, when you break down the individual items that are being debated right now — how do we balance this budget, what our tax policy should be, should we be investing in education, should we make sure that science and basic research continue to be paramount in our economy, do we have an obligation to make sure that our seniors can retire with dignity and respect — we win that argument every time."

Internet



US President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington, on 29 Feb, 2012. —INTERNET



A man walks past the remains of a vehicle used in a bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad on 23 Feb, 2012. Two car bombs exploded in a quick succession in different districts wounding 20 people, including 15 policemen, in Kirkuk, police said.

INTERNET

Three terrorist suspects arrested, deported back to Singapore

SINGAPORE, 2 March— Three Singaporean members of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network have been arrested after they fled the country in 2001 and returned to Singapore, local media reported on Friday.

The latest arrests came after intelligence authorities worked with their overseas counterparts, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said one of the arrested was Sahrudin Mohd Sopian, who was described as a "pioneer member" of the Singapore Jemaah Islamiyah network, and was said to have gone to Afghanistan for terrorist training in 2000. He had recruited new members for the terror network and scouted Singapore for sites to attack, the ministry said.

After fleeing the country, he was tracked

down by the Internal Security Department and arrested in January.

The ministry did not say where Sahrudin was found. He was deported to Singapore last month and detained under the Internal Security Act. The other two were brothers Mohamed Rafee Abdul Rahman and Abd Rahim Abdul Rahman. Mohamed Rafee also had terrorist training in Afghanistan and was described as having provided logistical support for the regional Jemaah Islamiyah network.

He was returned to Singapore in January. His brother Abd Rahim was brought back last month and is being investigated.

The ministry also gave updates on some detentions and releases. There are now 17 people detained under the Internal Security Act, it said.—Xinhua

Seven troops killed by militants in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 2 March— At least seven Pakistani soldiers were killed and eight others were injured in a clash with militants in Pakistan's northwestern tribal area of Khyber Agency on Friday morning, reported local Urdu TV channel Express, adding that five militants were also killed in the clash.

Xinhua

Two coalition troops die in attack

KABUL, 2 March— Two coalition service members were killed on Thursday when two Afghans fired on the service members, the International Security Assistance Force said.

"Two individuals, one believed to be an Afghan National Army service member and the other in civilian clothing, turned their weapons indiscriminately against International Security Assistance Force and Afghan National Security Force service members in southern Afghanistan today [Thurs-

day], killing two ISAF service members," the ISAF said in a statement. The ISAF did not identify the nationality of the military personnel. However, the *Los Angeles Times* said it was told the victims were American. Niaz Mohammad Sarhadi, chief of Kandahar's Zhari District, told the *Los Angeles Times* the attack occurred at a coalition-Afghan outpost in Sangisar. He said the assailant was a civilian working for the Afghan military who took a weapon from an Afghan soldier. Sarhadi said a third

US fighter was wounded. He told the *Los Angeles Times* the assailant and an Afghan soldier were killed and a second Afghan soldier was injured. Two deaths occurred in the Afghan Interior Ministry Saturday, prompting NATO to withdraw military advisers and trainers from government ministries in Kabul. NATO spokesman Brig Gen Lewis Boone said Thursday some advisers returned to the ministries without specifying where, *The New York Times* reported.—Internet



A destroyed shop is seen at the rocket attack site in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar on 1 March, 2012. At least four people were injured as unknown militants fired two rockets on a commercial market in Peshawar on Thursday night. —XINHUA

Chemical in bad breath 'influences' dental stem cells



A use for bad breath?—INTERNET

LONDON, 2 March—Hydrogen sulphide, the gas famed for generating the stench in stink bombs, flatulence and bad breath, has been harnessed by stem cell researchers in Japan. Their study, in the *Journal of Breath Research*, investigated using it to help convert stem cells from human teeth into liver cells. The scientists claimed the gas increased the purity of the stem cells. Small amounts of hydrogen sulphide are made by the body. It is also

produced by bacteria and is toxic in large quantities.

A group in China has already reported using the gas to enhance the survival of mesenchymal stem cells taken from the bone marrow of rats. Researchers at the Nippon Dental University were investigating stem cells from dental pulp—the bit in the middle of the tooth. They said using the gas increased the proportion of stem cells which were converted to liver cells when used alongside other chemicals. The idea is that liver cells produced from stem cells could be used to repair the organ if it was damaged.

Dr Ken Yaegaki, from Nippon Dental University in Japan, said: "High purity means there are less 'wrong cells' that are being

differentiated to other tissues, or remaining as stem cells." One of the concerns with dental pulp as a source of stem cells is the number that can be harvested. However, the study did not say how many cells were actually produced. Prof Chris Mason, a specialist in regenerative medicine at University College London, said: "It would be interesting to see how hydrogen sulphide works with other cells types."— *Internet*

Women have rare egg-producing stem cells

WASHINGTON, 2 March—For 60 years, doctors have believed women were born with all the eggs they'll ever have. Now Harvard scientists are challenging that dogma, saying they've discovered the ovaries of young women harbor very rare stem cells capable of producing new eggs. If Sunday's report is confirmed, harnessing those stem cells might one day lead to better treatments for women left infertile because of disease—or simply because they're getting older.

"Our current views of ovarian aging are incomplete. There's much more to the story than simply the trickling away of a fixed pool of eggs," said lead researcher Jonathan Tilly of Harvard's Massachusetts General Hospital,

who has long hunted these cells in a series of controversial studies. Tilly's previous work drew fierce skepticism, and independent experts urged caution about the latest findings.

A key next step is to see whether other laboratories can verify the work. If so, then it would take years of additional research to learn how to use the cells, said Teresa Woodruff, fertility preservation chief at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Still, even a leading critic said such research may help dispel some of the enduring mystery surrounding how human eggs are born and mature.

— *Internet*

Child motor neurone disease treatment clue

EDINBURGH, 2 March—Scottish research has shown it could be possible to reverse the muscle damage seen in children with a form of motor neurone disease. Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)—'floppy baby syndrome'—is the leading genetic cause of death in children. It affects one in 6,000 births, but 50% of those with the most severe form die before the age of two. The University of Edinburgh mouse study suggests a drug could boost levels of a protein and so reverse muscle damage. Children with SMA experience progressive muscle wastage, loss of



Babies with the most severe form of SMA often fail to cry when they are born.—INTERNET

mobility and motor function. One in 40 people carry the genetic mutation that causes the disease. It is estimated that, at any one time, up to 6,000 people in the UK have SMA.

There are three grades of the condition, with type one being the most severe. Most cases are detected when a baby is very young and displays problems eating, swallowing and breathing.

Often they can also fail to cry when they are born. Type 1 babies have floppy limbs and "flickering" tongues. Type 2 is usually picked up when children are between six and 18 months old. Affected children are able to sit, but cannot walk. Type 3 is the mildest form of the disease. Children are usually diagnosed over the age of two. Many have problems walking and may require a wheelchair. However, SMA does not affect children's mental abilities. It was known that in the condition, there is damage to the nerves.— *Internet*



Brazil wants more IMF power for extra eurozone funds

MEXICO CITY, 2 March—Brazil has said that developing nations would be happy to provide more money to ease the eurozone's debt crisis, in return for more power within the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The comments were made by Brazilian Finance Minister Guido Mantega as he met with his opposite numbers at a G20 meeting in Mexico. He also called on eurozone countries to contribute more of their own funds. This position was echoed by UK Chancellor George Osborne.

Mr Mantega said: "Emerging countries will only help under two conditions; first that they strengthen their firewall and second for the IMF [voting rights] reform be implemented. I see most countries sharing a similar opinion that the Europeans have to strengthen their firewall." Mr Mantega, and other G20 finance ministers, want eurozone nations to put more funds into the European Stability Mechanism, the fund set up to bail out nations struggling with their sovereign debt.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaueble said eurozone nations would look next month at increasing the size of the ESM. Mr Osborne, speaking to Sky News, said

Guido Mantega wants eurozone nations to put forward more of their own funds.—INTERNET



the UK was waiting for this to happen. "We are prepared to consider [increasing] IMF resources but only once we see colour of eurozone money and we have not seen this," he said. "While at this G20 conference there are a lot of things to discuss, I don't think you're going to see any extra resources committed here because eurozone countries have not committed additional resources themselves, and I think that quid pro quo will be clearly established here in Mexico City."— *Internet*

BP considering \$14 billion oil spill settlement



A BP petrol station sign is seen at dawn in west London.—INTERNET

LONDON, 2 March—British oil giant BP Plc and

plaintiffs suing over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill are discussing a \$14 billion settlement that is nearing completion. Bloomberg said, citing three people familiar with the talks. The settlement would be funded with money originally set aside by the BP for out-of-court settlements, the agency said.

BP would agree to close down its \$20 billion Gulf Coast

Claims Facility and shift the remaining \$14 billion to plaintiffs who contend the spill harmed their businesses and properties, the sources told the agency. BP could not immediately be reached for comment by Reuters outside regular US business hours. BP had set up the claims fund in August 2010. The fund has paid out about \$6 billion so far, according to its website.

Apart from BP, which owned 65 percent of the Macondo well, the main corporate defendants are Transocean Ltd, which owned the Deepwater Horizon rig, and Houston-based Halliburton Co, which provided cementing services for the well. They are also suing each other. Several other companies are also involved in the trial.— *Internet*

Business

Billabong rejects TPG takeover bid calling it too low

LONDON, 2 March — Australian surf wear maker Billabong has rejected a takeover bid from TPG Capital but said it is still negotiating with the investment firm. TPG had offered 765m Australian dollars (\$823m; \$520m), or A\$3 per share, which Billabong said was too low. Billabong has seen its fortunes decline in recent years due to falling global demand. Its net profit fell 72% to A\$16m in the six months to the end of December. A rising Australian dollar has also impacted its overseas sales making Billabong goods more expensive to foreign buyers. The Australian currency has risen more than 11% against the US Dollar since October last year.

Billabong shares, which have gained more than 60% since the takeover bid, rose another 2.4% on Monday at the Australia Securities Exchange after the firm said it was still in talks with TPG. However, Billabong said that "it is not known at this stage whether those discussions will result in an improved proposal from TPG". Its shares have also been boosted by the announcement of a restructuring plan by the firm, raising hopes of a recovery in its business.— *Internet*



Billabong has seen its profits slump in recent months amid slowing demand for its products.—INTERNET

Early ripening of grapes pinned to warming, soil moisture

CANBERRA, 2 March — Researchers in Australia say they have pinpointed key factors in the early ripening of grapes, providing potential answers for wine growers threatened by global warming. In Australia and Western Europe, there is an abundance of anecdotal evidence linking higher temperatures with earlier grape maturation, a

phenomenon that can affect the quality of table wine. But wine growing and climate change are each highly complex questions. Until now, no-one has sorted out how the variables — warming, sunlight, soil moisture and vineyard management — each play a role in grape maturation. A team led by Leanne Webb at Australia's national science agency, the

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), looked at 10 sites in southern Australia where there were highly detailed records, stretching from 1985 to 2009, for all of these factors. Only at one site — at Margaret River on Australia's southwestern tip — did the grapes ripen later. For the others, maturation occurred between six to 34 days earlier.

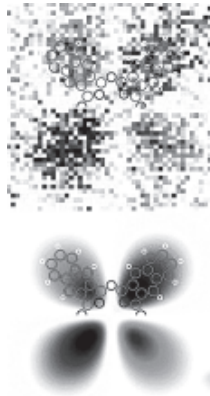
The commonest driver of earlier ripening was higher temperature, deemed a significant factor at seven sites. Lower soil moisture, particularly in the drought-stricken southeast, was a major factor for earlier harvests at five sites.

Drier soils lead to higher levels of a stress hormone called abscisic acid in vine roots, which drives the plant's fruit to earlier ripening. But vineyard management was also important.



Researchers in Australia say they have pinpointed key factors in the early ripening of grapes, providing potential answers for wine growers threatened by global warming.—INTERNET

Single molecule's electric charges seen in first image



The team's first-ever charge distribution measurements (top) matched neatly with theory.—INTERNET

ZURICH, 2 March — Researchers have shown off the first images of the "charge distribution" in a single molecule, showing an intricate dance of electrons at tiny

scales.

Charges on single atoms have been measured before, but capturing the dance within a complex molecule is significantly more difficult. The pioneering measurement could shed light on a range of "charge-transfer" processes that are common in nature. Details are reported in the journal *Nature Nanotechnology*.

The work comes from a group at IBM Research Zurich that specialises in examining the world at the infinitesimal scale of atoms and molecules. The same team is responsible for the measurement of charge on single atoms, as well as the first image of a single molecule — in a sense the new work is a combination of those two views.

However, it makes use of a different technique, called Kelvin probe microscopy. It is a variant of the atomic force microscopy that allowed the first molecular image in 2009.

It requires a tiny bar just billionths of a metre across and with a sharp tip that ends in a single small molecule.

This bar, or cantilever, is held at a small voltage while it is scanned across the surface of a much larger, X-shaped molecule, naphthalocyanine. As the charged tip encounters charges within the naphthalocyanine, the cantilever begins wagging in a way that shows up precisely where the electrons are. The trick of naphthalocyanine, though, is that by applying a voltage to the molecule directly, two hydrogen atoms at its centre swap places, and the electrons reshuffle to opposite arms of the "X". With the team's technique, they were able to observe this change in charge distribution.

In combination with more established techniques, the approach will shed light on the nanoscale world that is promising not only for fundamental science, but also for future applications in which electric behaviour at such scales will be exploited.

Internet



Oxfam's Shelflife links goods with past using QR Codes

LONDON, 2 March — Oxfam is trying out a mobile phone scheme called Shelflife that lets customers find out the stories behind second-hand goods it sells. A Shelflife phone app links stories and pictures provided by donors to tags attached to the goods. Browsers in Oxfam shops can scan the tags using the app to find out about an individual item's past. The charity believes it can sell things more easily when they have stories attached to them.

"Someone might donate a record and add that it was the song that they danced to at their wedding to its tag," said Oxfam's Emma Joy. "We hope the pilot will prove that items with stories are

more valuable and establish the monetary value of a story," she said.

Shelflife uses technology developed for a project called Tales of Things and Electronic Memory (Totem), a collaboration of academics at five UK universities. Totem has built a database of more than 6,000 objects which have been linked to their stories with tags. Each Totem object has its own Twitter account, and tweets are sent out automatically to an object's "followers" every time its tag is scanned or new information is added to its story.

"We want to make every Oxfam shop into an interactive social museum," said Andrew Hudson-Smith, director of the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis at University

College London and a contributor to the Totem project.

"Second-hand goods are essentially meaningless, but when they are tagged we give them meaning," he said. The Shelflife system uses QR Codes—black and white patterns designed to be read easily by mobile phones —

printed on tags. The Totem project has supplied Oxfam with 10,000 tags with unique QR Codes for the Shelflife trial. Oxfam customers use the Shelflife iPhone app — a similar Android app is in the works — to read the QR Codes and find out about an item or add to its history.

Internet

Feud over iPad highlights faded tech firm's woes

SHANGHAI, 2 March — The battle between an ailing Chinese electronics maker and Apple Inc over the iPad name is just as much a tale of obsolescence in the fast-moving global technology industry as it is a legal row over a trademark.

When businessman Rowell Yang Long-san launched his own iPad-branded device in 2000, a decade before Apple unveiled its hit tablet, he declared it received an "overwhelming market response."

"We are confident that we will be one of the major players in the new post-PC era — the information appliance era," Yang said in the announcement of his new Internet Personal Access Device, which was jointly developed with National Semiconductor. But unlike

Apple's iPad, introduced in 2010, Proview's version failed to hit the market sweet spot that might have made it a hit. Today, the company is deeply in debt and threatened with removal from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

But Proview still claims ownership of the trademark in China and is waging its fight on multiple fronts: court cases, asking commercial authorities to ban iPad sales in dozens of Chinese cities, and seeking a ban on exports of iPads from China where Apple supplier Foxconn employs about a million people in manufacturing the sleek tablet computer. There has been no sign yet of intervention from Beijing but top officials are unlikely to allow serious disruption of a business that employs a significant number of people.—Internet



An Intel logo is seen at the company's offices in Petah Tikva, near Tel Aviv on 24 Oct, 2011.—INTERNET

Orange to offer smartphone with "Intel Inside"

SAN FRANCISCO, 2 March — The "Intel Inside" logo on hundreds of millions of personal computers is finally making its way onto a smartphone. France Telecom's mobile unit Orange will launch a smartphone in France and the United Kingdom this summer designed by Intel and using its newest processor. While the handset will be branded by Orange, its back cover will also boast the Intel swirl that consumers have come to expect to see on PCs over the past two decades.

That's a major milestone for Intel, whose chips are the brains in 80 percent of the world's laptops and desktop computers but power virtually no smartphones or tablets to date. With PC sales flagging in the United States

and Europe, nearly all smartphones and tablets, including Apple Inc's iPhones and iPads, use energy-efficient processors based on technology licensed to chip designers by Britain's ARM Holdings and made by Intel rivals like Samsung Electronics and Qualcomm Inc. The new smartphone will run Google's Android platform and be among others that Orange sells under its own brand. Aimed at Orange's entry level, pay-as-you-go clients, the phone is a copy of a reference handset Intel created to showcase its newest mobile chip to potential customers, with features like high-definition video and an 8-megapixel camera.—Internet



The Shelflife app lets everyday things tell tales. INTERNET



A Fascinating Glimpse into Bagan Conference: Benchmark for future collaborations

(DG DHR)

(continued from yesterday)

Dr Bob Hudson, Honorary Associate, Department of Archaeology in the University of Sydney, Australia, read Paper on "A Thousand Years Before Bagan: Carbon Dates and The Ancient Pyu Cities". This paper suggested to view the Pyu cities as autonomous, coterminous polities which shared cultural elements of both origin India and local inspiration. Not only early Myanmar links with India and Bengal but also link between Pyu cities and some implications for Bagan. In the light of the new data, some are our approaches to the periodisation and interpretation of the Pyu system may need to be modified.

U Win Kyaing, Principal of Field School of Archaeology in Pyay presented the paper titled "A Reconsidering of Bagan Temples Origin: A Critical Change of Tradition and Reappraisal on Emergence of Bagan Glory". In this paper, usual agreement on the fact "Bagan temple's origin come from Sriksetra" was discussed with evidences. Dr. Pamela Gutman, Honorary Associate, Department of Art History and Theory in the University of Sydney, Australia and Dr. Olga Deshpande, Senior Curator, Head of the Far Eastern Section, Oriental Department of Indian and Southeast Asian Collections, jointly presented the paper titled "A Visnu on Garuda from the Nat Hlaung Kyaung Temple, Bagan". This paper described Nat Hlaung Kyaung Temple is one of the oldest shrines at Bagan, in a privileged position in the old city, is the only Hindu shrine remaining at Bagan. A stylistic comparison with the Brahma sculptures of the Nanpaya reveals a common source of inspiration.

Dr. Lei Lei Win, Deputy Director of Department of Historical Research presented paper titled "A Study on Bagan Palace Inscription of King Kyanzittha". This paper described King Kyanzittha's new palace construction of Bagan in 1102 A.D. based on his own palace inscription which is the earliest document of palace construction and also one of the longest old Mon inscription of early Bagan period. In this inscription, the evidence of Indian cultural influences, Buddhist and Hindu ways of ritual ceremonies, worshipping of Vishnu and Saint Gavampati, worshipping of Naga and reciting of paritta, Lustration ceremonies for ground and posts, and offering of food for the spirits are described in every detail. King Kyanzittha new palace inscription witnesses the cultural and social conditions and



the belief system of Bagan society in the early 12th century A.D., when Myanmar established a Kingdom in the realm of early Southeast Asian nations.

Professor Michael Aung Thwin, Chair and professor of the Asian Studies Program, University of Hawaii at Manoa gave Keynote Lecture in which he presented history of ancient Myanmar cities, Sri Lanka, China and India which were isolated. Besides he evaluated not only about of Myanmar Neolithic culture, Southeast Asia Neolithic culture, but also about the books which were written by U Mya, U Thar Mya, U Myint Aung, U Aung Thaw, Mr. Taw Sein Ko and Dr. Than Tun, and then criticized about Myanmar stone Age.

Dr. Elizabeth Moore, Reader in the Department of Art and Archaeology at the school of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London and U Win Maung (Tampawady) presented the paper named "Making Traditions: The Ta Mok Shwe-gu-gyi Temple, Kyaukse". This paper expressed Ta

Mok Shwe-gu-gyi Temple is used to highlight the processes by which Buddhism was introduced and mediated in the culturally specific context of Kyaukse. The archaeology, art and architecture from the site describe a local identity which authenticates national traditions of the founding of the 11th Khayaing of Kyaukse by King Anawrahta (1044-1077 A.D.), Pyu (2nd and 9th century A.D.), and Bronze Age artifacts from Tamok set out earlier connections to other regions.

Dr. Goh Geok Yian, Assistant Professor of School of Humanities and Social Sciences in Nanyang Technological University at Singapore, presented the paper titled "Positioning Bagan in a Buddhist Oikoumene: The Aniruddha Trope and Regional Connections". Her paper focussed on the descriptions of Aniruddha in the Culavamsa and Jinakalamali. Through these accounts, the king's important and the position of his capital-kingdom, Bagan, are presented within the context of a regional Buddhist commonwealth or network, characterized by the idea of a Buddhist oikoumene. Besides textual accounts of Aniruddha and Bagan are presented to provide a characterization of the king and his polity during the 11th century. This paper proposed and outlined the viability of using other types of research, such as a study of ceramic distribution within the site of Bagan.

Dr. Samerchai Poolsuwan, Professor of Anthropology, Faculty of Sociology and Anthropology, Thammasat University in Thailand, presented the paper titled "Biography of the Lord Buddha Gotama's in Bagan Murals: A Consideration in the Theravada Buddhist Context of Southeast Asia". This paper focuses on Buddhist murals found at Bagan and dating from its dynastic period 11th-13th centuries. Bagan murals narrating life episodes of the Lord Gotama was investigated for their tradition, development and connection with older textual sources.

Professor Rila Mukherjee, Professor of Institute Chandemagor, Bengal, presented the paper named "Silver Links! Bagan-Bengal and the Mental Corridors into Bengal: 9th to 13th Centuries". Her paper described direct and circular relationship between spending on religion, increased agricultural production, proportional demographic expansion and state development.

(See page 7)



A Fascinating Glimpse into Bagan Conference: Benchmark for future collaborations

(DG DHR)

(from page 6)

Dr Tilman Frasch from Manchester Metropolitan University, U.K. presented the paper titled "Imperial Osmosis: Enquiring Buddhist (and other) Connections between Bagan and Angkor in the 12th and 13th centuries". This paper reassessed the material and epigraphic evidence from Bagan to explore the permeability of the Thanlwin border and present a fuller picture of the interactions and mutual influences that connected Angkor and Bagan. In particular, it presented further thoughts and evidence to question the Cambodian origin of Tamalinda on the one hand, and on the other hand locate the positions of both Bagan and Angkor in the (Theravada) Buddhist networks linking the India and Sri Lanka to the polities of the Southeast Asian mainland.

Ms Amandine Lepoutre, Researcher from Ecole Francaise d'Extreme Orient, Jakarta and Professor Arlo Griffiths, Ecole Francaise d'Extreme Orient, Jakarta, jointly presented the paper named "Campa Epigraphical Data on Polities and People of Ancient Myanmar (12th-13th Centuries)". This paper described the inscriptions of ancient Campa written in old Cam language show names that seem to denote the polities and/or ethnic groups of ancient Myanmar: Pagu (Bago), Pukam (Bagan) and Davvay (Dawei), possibly they show a further polity, but this Lauv could denote ancient China or Lawa. His presentation aimed to update the understanding of epigraphical data from Campa relevant to ancient Myanmar and to relations between Myanmar polities, Campa and other polities of mainland Southeast Asia.

Dr. Claudine Bautze-Picron, Indian art historian, presented the paper titled "The Ornamental Decoration of the Bagan Murals: The Indian and Chinese Connections". This paper described Bagan murals offered a wide spectrum of aspects which have been only but partly studied. The iconography depicted in the temples of the site mainly traces its sources in the art of 'Eastern India'. The ornamental decoration encompasses different motifs, but he wish to draw here the attention to the specific and important motif of the floral intertwined volutes. Rich ornamentation was most probably made accessible to the painters through garments imported from India and China.

Daw Mya Oo, Director from the National Library of Myanmar, Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library under the Ministry of Culture, presented the paper titled "Depository for Buddhist Scriptures of 16th Century in Mrauk-U". In her paper, she described according to the chronicles, along with Bagan, there were contemporary Rakhine (Arakanese) kingdoms flourished at the northwest corner known as Dhanyawadi, Veisali, the cities of the Lemro valley and Mrauk-U. Through Buddhism, Rakhine came into contact with other remote countries including Sri Lanka, Nepal, Tibet and China as well as kingdoms of central Myanmar. With the long history of flourishing Buddhism in Rakhine, there were depositories for Buddhist scriptures in Mrauk-U city. There were altogether 48 libraries which were emotionally involved with the pagodas and monasteries during Mrauk-U period.

Dr. Hema Goonatilake, President of Social Science of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, an editor of Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka and Buddhist Times, presented the paper named "The Role and Status of Sinhalese Monks in 13th Century Bagan". Relations between Sri Lanka and Myanmar span a period of over 1,000 years from the time of the emergence of Bagan in the 11th century as the cradle of Myanmar culture. The role and status of the Sinhalese monks resident in Bagan in the 13th century, a part of a continuing study of the present author aided by visits to relevant Myanmar and Sri Lanka sites. The main source of information is Myanmar inscriptions and the remains of monasteries occupied by Sinhalese monks. In addition to Myanmar king's patronage



to Sinhalese monks, the support provided by a Sinhalese queen and a minister in the Bagan court was important.

Dr. Myint Myint San, Assistant Director of the Department of Historical Research, presented the paper titled "Relations between Myanmar and Sri Lanka in the 11th Century A.D." This paper focuses on the foreign relations of Myanmar with Sri Lanka in Bagan period. As the two countries, both are Theravada Buddhists, constant relations in religious affairs existed since ancient days. There thus arose a distinction between two countries monks who regarded on another as schismatic. The Sri Lanka (Sinhalese) type stupas were built at Bagan for worship. The Chapada stupa, in the form of Sri Lanka Dogob, in Nyaung-Oo was a typical landmark for the Myanmar-Sri Lanka's long-lasting relations.

Dr. Kyaw Lat, an Architect and Town Planner, presented the paper titled "Analysis of Construction Technologies in Pyu Cities and Bagan". This paper studies construction technologies applied at Pyu historical sites and Bagan, compares with technologies applied at some selected historical sites in Southeast Asia existed between the beginning period of urbanization until the end of Bagan period. This paper intends to present about technologies applied at Pyu cities and Bagan. Because of that citations related to general statements on history of ancient civilizations in East Asia have been avoided and only the citations on architecture and technologies are given.

Professor Dr John Miksic, Associate Professor of Southeast Asian Studies Department in National University of Singapore and the Head of the Archaeological Unit in the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, presented the paper titled "Orthogeneity, Settlement Patterns and Earthenware Pottery Distribution in Bagan". In this paper it was stated that archaeological observation at the sites of Bagan and Sriksetra (Pyay, Prome) was the beginning to shed light on the distribution of population and range of economic activity at these sites. Data obtained from the study of pottery distribution patterns is capable of measuring the degree of socio-economic complexity at a site. Preliminary analysis of recent discoveries indicates that Sriksetra and Bagan like Trowulan may have been hinterland capitals with some heterogenetic as well as orthogenetic characteristics. Preliminary pottery data indicates that Sriksetra and Bagan were similar but differed in several significant aspects, including internal settlement patterns and presence or absence of Chinese ceramics.

Those Papers presented were handled by the re-nowned Chairpersons like U Tun Aung Chain, former Secretary of Historical Commission, Dr Toe Hla, Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Historical Commission, Professor Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, Professor Tansen Sen, Head of the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) Singapore, and Dr Geoffery Wade, Senior Research Fellow with Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) Singapore and Professor Arlo Griffiths of Ecole Francaise d' Extreme Orient.

The appreciation of those Paper Presenters and Observers from overseas totally thirty five of them, was that of fascinating Bus Trip arranged to Bagan through Pyay and Taungdwingyi and the sightseeing programme at Bagan. Though they were tired of experiencing those bumping and scorching roads with hot weather and full of dust, they all amazed at those ancient sites being preserved and excavated by the Ministry of Culture. All historians and Archaeologists from abroad could stand all those long hours to take a bus and explorations and assumptions of viewing those newly exciting sites for them were claimed to the real essence of this Bagan Conference. They also credited the post conference sightseeing programme which allowed them to take photographs and make visits to interesting temples and pagodas in Bagan added with Sunset watching Programme which all enjoyed from the Pyathatgyi Temple.

This kind of conference will be one of the benchmarks to hold conferences for the global connections that Myanmar has made throughout its long history. Within the framework of the mission of the DHR, fostering those cross-cultural influences and interactions, records of diverse cultural and geographical settings have to be pursued with innovative approaches anyhow. We also need to make comparisons historically and comprehensively which will be ranged from spread of Buddhism and its perceptions, maritime trade and commerce, modifications of diverse views on Myanmar, etc. It is convinced that there is such a long way still remain ahead of this department to meet those challenges within our own capacity. To mark the long splendid history of Myanmar, this kind of engagement for holding joint conferences are welcome and with the analytical reviews, it is hoped that the legacy of Myanmar history will be always inspiration for new generations.



Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye presents cash donation to fund for construction of library in Kyeningyi Village of Pale Township.—MNA

established for farmers, live-stock breeders and those engaging in domestic science by providing a capital of K 100 million in Pale Township and K 50 million each in Kani, Yinmabin and Salingyi townships. Plans are under way to provide more micro-credit services.

Arrangements are being made to build a new canal to irrigate over 9000 acres of farmlands in the villages near Myaamyama Dam in Pale Township, which have not been provided with irrigation water. The ministry concerned and the region government are working together for per acre high yield and for test-growing of hybrid paddy strains, noted the Union Minister.

As for education promotion, continued assistance is being rendered for construction of school buildings in the villages and for opening village libraries for human resource development. For the betterment of rural road transport, a lot of inter-village roads have been built and in this open season, 22 more roads will be built on a priority list. In addition, as a drinking water supply programme, a plan has been made to build a water tank in Ohnhwayway Village.

At a time when the

government elected by the people is making all-out efforts for national development, for people's socio-economic development, for all the citizens to earn their living independently in accord with the law and for State peace and stability, the entire national people on their part are to actively participate in these efforts, urged Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan.

Next, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye explained the eight rural development and poverty alleviation tasks being undertaken by the Union government, Sagaing Region Hluttaw and Sagaing Region government, development of agriculture and livestock breeding, further development of light, medium and heavy industries, measures being taken for education, health, social and economic sectors, peace and stability measures in the region and

duties and responsibilities of the region government. He then urged the local people to take part in the efforts for regional peace, stability and progress.

Then, cash and kind were donated for rural socio-economic development. Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan presented K 1 million for Tanal Village school, K 1 million each for building libraries in Thitkyigaing, Watkya, Kanthit, Minma (North), Kyugyan and Yetha villages, 100 corrugated iron sheets for the school building of Htangingyi Village and 75 corrugated iron sheets each for Loktha and Kywekya villages.

Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye presented K 1 million each for building libraries in seven villages and 50 corrugated iron sheets each for schools in three villages. Then, Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U

Thaung Sein presented K 500,000 each for the libraries in five villages, K 400,000 for fencing Alin Saytaman Library in Alebon Village, K 300,000 for the water tank in Ohnhwayway Village and K 500,000 each for Monkyaing Village school, Lekan Village reservoir and Khawthandi Village culvert. Region Minister U Sein Win presented 1010 dozens of exercise books and 1010 set of school text books for village monastic education schools and Hluttaw Representative U Tin Swe 2520 publications for village libraries.

A local spoke words of thanks. After the meeting, the Union Minister, the Region Chief Minister and party cordially greeted those present. The cash donation for education, health and human resource development amounted to K 18.7 million.—MNA

Union Minister for Information and for Culture addresses meeting on...

(from page 1)

Sagaing and Monywa and Vitoria Hospital came out of goodwill to give free treatments. And the subcommittee would bear the costs of medicines and general ex-

penses, said Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan.

He continued that under the rural socio-economic development programme, a micro-credit institution has been

Mon State Chief Minister inspects rural development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March— Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint on 27 February inspected Zwegala-Muthin inter-village concrete Bailey bridge whose length is 110 feet and width, 16 feet, in Bilin Township.

He looked into silting mud up in Tatkalayo Canal in Zwegala with machinery. The canal is 10000 feet in length and 30 feet in width, 6 feet in depth. When its sanitation task

completed, it is sure that Zwegala, Anaingpon, Thittokyun villages would not be facing floods that were at risk to them in the rainy seasons.

The State Chief Minister and party proceeded to the construction site for a 25-bed hospital for rural development in Zothok Model Village, tarmarking work on Shweyayung Road in Bilin, progress of Phocho Bridge

with 20 feet in length and 16 feet in width, an RC type, and thriving of summer paddy in Bilin Township.

On his arrival at the office of the board of trustees of Santawshin Kyaikhtyo Bagoda in Kyaikto, the State Chief Minister left instructions on reservation of ancient images in Sasana Vunthanurekhhita Theintawgyi, and cordially greeted pilgrims.

MNA

Myanmar Geosciences Association holds AGM, paper-reading session

YANGON, 2 March— The Myanmar Geosciences Association organized the first Geoscience Workshop with participation of international and Myanmar geoscientists, the 8th Annual General Meeting of the association and the 3rd ceremony to pay respects to older geoscientists of the association at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, yesterday.

Chairman of the association Dr Win Swe extended greetings. Founder of the as-

sociation made a speech. Myanmar and international geoscientists discussed geotechnical engineering, economic geology, mining geology and regional geology. The chairman of the association delivered an opening address at the eighth annual general meeting. General Secretary U Aye Lwin submitted the annual report and financial statement. The meeting approved the amendment of the regulations of the association.

Gifts were presented

to resource persons from the paper-reading sessions in 2010 and 2011. Next, the best paper award was presented to the winners.

Patron of the association U Thein read the 20-member executive committee including Chairman U Soe Myint and General Secretary U Aye Lwin. The chairman extended greetings.

Later, they paid respects to 71 older geoscientists and presented gifts. The paper-reading session continues today.—MNA

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister inspects progress of development undertakings



Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung attends ceremony of signing Record of Discussion between Ayeyawady Region Government and Khan-na Company Ltd of Thailand.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March— Chief Minister U Thein Aung of Ayeyawady Region on 28 February donated cash to the fund for renovation of Shwenan U Myatheintan Pagoda in Thidakonbyin Station of Ngathaingyoung Sub-Township in Yekyi Township.

At Basic Education High School in the station, he met teachers and students and urged them to raise pass

rate in matriculation examination. He inspected construction of the new building at the station hospital, dredging of crossing canal at Ngawun River for prevention of floods at Ngathaingyoung and construction of GSM tower.

On 29 February, he attended the second workshop on all-round studies on household livelihoods at

Patheon Hotel.

At the office of the region government, the Region Chief Minister attended the signing ceremony of Record of Discussion between Ayeyawady Region Government and Khan-na Company Ltd of Thailand. The Chief Minister and Shareholder Representative, Board Committee Mr Pairat Rattanapibook of Khan-na Co Ltd.

MNA

Research papers discussed at 12th anniversary ceremony of Yadanabon University

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March— Yadanabon University held the research paper-reading session in commemoration of its 12th anniversary at the hall of the university on 21 February.

Rector-in-charge Dr Khin Maung Oo, Pro-Rector Dr Si Si Hla Bu, faculty members and students attended the paper-reading session.

A total of 15 papers

on nine subjects were submitted to the paper-reading session.

Those present participated in discussions on the research papers.

MNA

Milling and exporting of paddy with use of ...

(from page 1)

He urged entrepreneurs to put investment in agro-based industries for raising the income of the farmers by producing value-added products including paddy and other agricultural produce. In conclusion, he called for working in concert to uplift incomes and living standards of the farmers from the model mechanized farming special zone to the whole nation.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe also delivered an address, saying that Ngamoeyeik Dam, Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate and Yangon Region River Water Pumping Project will benefit 9300 acres of farmlands in Letpan Region, 500 acres in Malit Village, 600 acres in Yekyaw Village, 2000 acres in South Pitpin Village, 3700 acres in Hsinphon Village, 300 acres in Barlar-1 and 760 acres in Barlar-2. He stressed the need for local people and agricultural companies to maintain the newly-opened sluice

gate for its durability.

Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate is located near South Sitpin Village of Dagon Myothit (East) Township. There are 27 x 16 feet valves of the sluice gate and it is of reinforced concrete facility. The water inlet channel is 1600 feet long.

The Union Minister and party viewed installation of paddy strain sorting machine and paddy dryer that can operate 50 baskets of paddy per hour at 500-acre paddy seed production of Palethwe hybrid strain of Dagon International Co.

He also inspected supply of water from Ngamoeyeik feeder canal with the use of electric motor, thriving 300-acre Palethwe paddy plantation of Sun Moon Star Co Ltd and paddy transplanting machine and modern farming equipment to be used at the seed bank and farmlands.

At the 500-acre paddy farm of Green Asia Co Ltd, the Union Minister and party also looked into paddy seed sorter, 2500-basket-capacity warehouse, paddy dryer that can operate 500 baskets of paddy per hour, modern farming machinery and pollination works.

MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister back from Russia

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin arrived back here by air this morning after paying a goodwill visit to the Russian Federation from 25 February to 1 March at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Mr Sargay Lavrov.

During the visit, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin attended bilateral talks with the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Sargay Lavrov at the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mansion in Moscow at 11 am on 27 February. At the bilateral talks, the two ministers exchanged their views on strengthening the existing friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The discussion focused on enhancing cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, information, culture and sports, health and education, science and technology, tourism, cooperation in military technology, mining and energy, human resource development and capacity building and cooperation in economic development.

Moreover, the two ministers had exchanged their views on regional and international issues. The Union Minister also briefed his counterpart on the implementation of democratization and the efforts on national reconsolidation in Myanmar.

The two foreign ministers then jointly met the press at the Ministry Mansion and answered questions raised by the journalists.

The Union Minister accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Min Thein and members of the delegation paid a courtesy call on Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation Mr Dmitry Rogozin at his office at 3 pm on 28 February. They held discussion on further promoting of friendly relations and cooperation.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party paid a courtesy call on Chairperson of the Council of Federation (Upper Chamber) of Russia Mrs Valentina Matvienko and they exchanged views on strengthening of friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and the Russian Federation.

The Union Minister on 29 February inspected the Myanmar Embassy in Moscow and gave necessary guidance to the staff members of the Embassy.—MNA

Union Transport Minister receives Vietnamese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung received Mr Ikuo Hshino of JGC Corporation (Hanoi Representative Office) of Vietnam at the Ministry of Transport here, yesterday evening.

They cordially discussed investment opportunity in building deep sea ports, special economic zones and airports.

MNA



Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung receives Mr Ikuo Hshino and party of JGC Corporation (Hanoi Representative Office).—MNA

Yangon Expo & Car Show attracts visitors

YANGON, 2 March—The Yangon Expo & Car Show was launched at Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Dagon Township here today.

Yangon Mayor Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint, Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint, Chairman of the Organizing Committee Managing Director of Smart Business Group U Aung Phone Myint and entrepreneurs formally opened the show.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and guests viewed cars, car parts, fuel and lubricants, electronic and electrical equipment, personal goods, household goods and furniture.

A total of 56 companies keep 147 booths open up to 5 March.

The Region Chief Minister received a delegation led by Vice-Chairman Mr Izumi Arai of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at the region government office and discussed cooperation in development of the region.—MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister discusses deal chances

YANGON, 2 March—Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win received Strategist Johnny Kamijo Shiro and Deputy Secretary-General Suparchai Tobhibul of 7 SEEDS International Co Ltd, and General Manager Bernard Teo Eng Hock of CSSD Co Ltd of China and General Manager He Bing Zhang of Suzhou Great Elevator Co Ltd separately at the Bago Region Government Office yesterday.

The Region Chief Minister discussed matters relating to investment opportunities with guests.

MNA



Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win receives Strategist Johnny Kamijo Shiro and Deputy Secretary-General Suparchai Tobhibul of 7 SEEDS International Co Ltd.—MNA

First-aid (basic) Course No. 1/2012 opens

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—The First-aid (basic) Course No. 1/2012 was opened at General Administration Department in Zeyathiri Township here this morning. The opening ceremony was attended by Member of Nay Pyi Taw

Council Col Myint Aung Than, Myanmar Red Cross Society Chairman Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe and executives, township Administrator U Myat Thein Tun and departmental officials.

Nay Pyi Taw Council

Member Col Myint Aung Than, the MRCS chairman and the township administrator gave opening speeches.

A total of 65 trainees attended the course that will end on 8 March.

MNA

DEP, UMFCCI to conduct training course

YANGON, 2 March—Department of Export Promotion (DEP) of Thailand and Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will jointly conduct the Training for Successful Business

Development-Retail Management (Phase II) from 19 to 21 March.

Those wishing to attend the course may take

out application at UMFCCI Office Tower and submit the applications at the UMFCCI, not later than 15 March.

MNA

Drive Safely

Education facilities offering higher education and technology to local youths in Loikaw Township, Kayah State

Archive: *Maung Nyein Aye*



Main building of Loikaw University in Loikaw offering higher education to national race youths in Kayah State.



Technological University (Loikaw).



- * In view of human resource development and having access to higher education for local national race youths in their own land, infrastructural buildings were constructed in Loikaw Township of Kayah State which is one of the projects of 24 Special Development Regions.
- * Loikaw Degree College was upgraded to a university in 2003. Construction works of three-storey main building of the university finished on 5 August, 2007. University of Computer Studies (Loikaw) was opened in 2008 and Technological University (Loikaw) in 2009.

Translation: ZZS



Fire preventive measures inspected at Myoma Market

YANGON, 2 March—Systematic installation of power lines and main switches, supply of electricity and installation of hose taps were inspected at Myoma Market in Hmawby Township with the aim of taking systematic fire preventive measures.



DISTRICT NEWS

On 24 February, Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe Lwin, Township Electrical Engineer U Win Ko of Yangon City Electricity Board, Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Ye Min Kyaw and Head of Township Fire Services Department disseminated knowledge about danger of fire and awareness of electricity at the Myoma Market.

Township IPRD

Signboard put up at new station hospital

YANGON, 2 March—A ceremony to put up the signboard of Station Hospital was held in conjunction with holding the prize presentation for the baby show and cash donation for Farming Ward No. 1 Maternal

and Child Welfare Association at the station hospital I Farming Ward No. 1 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon East District on 12 February.

Chairperson of the Ward MCWA Joint Secretary of

Township Writers and Journalists Association Myat Su Mo (Yangon University) donated K 250,000 to the Ward MCWA through treasurer of the association Daw Yi Yi Thet.

Myanma Alin

New BEPS building opened in Thazi

THAZI, 2 March—The opening of new building at Basic Education Primary School was held in Monbinson Village of Kywetson Village-tract in Thazi Township on 20 February morning.

Township Education Officer Daw Than Than Aye, Warden of Jail U Myint Thein of Myanmar Correctional Department and Headmistress Daw Kyawt Marlai Wai formally opened the new building.

The new school building is constituted with four 72 feet by 30 feet classrooms, built at a cost of K 13.6 million by the Ministry of Education and K 4.6 million by the local people.

Township IPRD

Literary talks given in Kungyangon

YANGON, 2 March—Kungyangon Township Writers and Journalists Association of Yangon Region organized the 24th literary talk in commemoration of the Literary Day.

In addition, the association displayed manuscripts of renowned writer Min Thu Wun and writer Nu Yin, photos, paintings, literary and book shows on the lawns of the National School (Basic Education High School No. 2) in Kungyangon Township on 18 February evening.

Township Administrator U Kyaw Zeyar

Lin made a speech.

Next, U Tin Myint (Maung Ni Dan) read the message sent by the chairman of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association.

After that, Chairman of the Township WJA U San Shwe (Tin Maung Htet-Kungyangon) extended greetings to the attendees.

Later, writers Chit Oo Nyo, San San Nwe (Thayawady) and Ko Khah (Kungyangon) gave literary talks.

Township WJA



Talks on eradication of illegal timber extraction held in Phayathonzu

PHAYATHONZU, 2 March—An educative talk on Forestry Law and eradication of illegal timber extraction was given at the hall of Phayathonzu General

Administration Department of Kyain-seikyi Township of Kayin State on 4 February morning.

First, Township Administrator U Thein Tun

delivered an address.

Senior Forester U Min Thein talked about eradication of illegal timber extraction and Forestry Law.—Township IPRD

WARD OFFICE OPENED: New

administrative office of Station Ward was opened on Gyohyu Lake Road in Taikkyi Township on 17 February. Township Administrator U Tin Swe Myint, Executive Officer of Township DAC U Soe Win and ward administrator U Thaug Sein opened new building.—Township IPRD



Basic gymnastics coaching and referee course commences

YANGON, 2 March—The "C" class basic gymnastics coaching and referee course 2012 was opened at the training camp of Myanmar Gymnastics Federation at Kyaikkasan Grounds in Tamway Township of Yangon Region on 27 February morning.

The course was jointly organized by Ministry of

Sports and Myanmar Gymnastics Federation.

On behalf of the president of the federation, executive U Khin Maung Win-2, chairman of the training course supervisory committee, made an opening address.

Former selected players U Zaw Win and U Thura Ko (technical officer of Sports

and Physical Education Department) are providing basic and advanced theoretical and practical lectures to the trainees up to 7 March. A plan is underway to give more training to outstanding trainees at the advanced gymnastics coaching and referee course to be opened in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Community-based TB disease prevention multiplier course conducted in Ywangan

YWANGAN, 2 March—Ywangan Township Women's Affairs Organization of Shan State opened the community-based TB disease prevention multiplier course at the hall of the Township General Administration Department in Ywangan on 26 February morning.

Township Medical Officer Dr Aye Lwin and Chairperson of the Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Yi Yi Khaing spoke on the occasion.

Executive of the township WAO course instructor Daw Thit Thit Oo provided lectures to the trainees.—Township IPRD

Women in traditional costumes staged

YANGON, 2 March—Jointly organized by Yangon South District Women's Affairs Organization and Technological University (Thanlyin), the Myanmar women's costume show took place at the hall of Technological University (Thanlyin) on 24 February afternoon.

Patron of Myanmar Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Aye Nwe made an introductory speech. Students of the university demonstrated on shows of Myanmar traditional costumes.

Chairperson of Yangon South District WAO Daw Ohnma Nay Tun presented membership applications to



Chairperson of Yangon Region WAO Daw Khin Swe Nyunt.

Responsible persons presented certificates of honour to wellwishers and prizes to winning students in the essay contest.

Patron of MWAFF Daw

Khin Aye Nwe, Chairperson of Yangon Region WAO Daw Khin Swe Nyunt, Rector of Technological University (Thanlyin) Dr Aung Kyaw Myat and officials awarded the winners in the costume show.

Myanma Alin

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1210)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1210) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2012 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 CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Having Already Been Engaged

Hasinar Bi Bi (alias) Yuzana Myint Thein (Thae Yu), holder of the Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (temporary stay in Singapore), a middle daughter of Haji Gulam Ahmed (alias) Haji U Myint Thein and Haji Mah Mu Da (alias) Haji Daw Khin Mya Win residing in Yangon, has already been engaged

to

Kamil Yusuf Raiden (alias) Kyaw, Min Lwin, holder of B.Sc (Physics) (temporary stay in UK), an eldest son of Haji Ahmed Yusuf Raiden (alias) Haji U Tin Hla (Retired Customs Officer) and Haji Si Ta Ra Bi Bi (alias) Haji Daw Than Shwe residing in Yangon, in the presence of the parents, relatives and honorable friends and acquaintances from bothsides on (17-2-2012) (Friday).

Kyaw, Min Lwin &
Yuzana Myint Thein and
Parents from bothsides.

Chinese Vice Premier meets US, British economic pundits



Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan (R) meets with Chairman Emeritus of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Leo Melamed in Beijing, capital of China, on 1 March, 2012.—XINHUA

BEIJING, 2 March—Vice Premier Wang Qishan on Thursday met with Leo Melamed, founder of The International Monetary Market, and John Micklethwait, editor of *The*

Economist, a leading British weekly on business and world affairs. During the meetings in Beijing, Wang and his guests discussed Chinese and world economic issues.—Xinhua

Man sentenced to seven years for flying pot

JEFFERSONVILLE, 2 March —A 72-year-old Alaska man was sentenced to seven years in prison in Indiana for flying a plane that was carrying 200 pounds of marijuana.

Allen Richter, of Ketchikan, Alaska, pleaded guilty earlier this week in Clark County (Ind) Circuit Court to felony dealing in marijuana and maintaining a common nuisance charges, the (*Jefferson, Ind*) *News and Tribune* reported.

Richter was arrested on 5 Nov after a search of the aircraft he landed at Clark Regional Airport in Indiana uncovered three duffel bags holding more than 30 pounds of high-grade hydroponic marijuana each in the back seat of the plane, as well as seven large bags of marijuana in the

storage area behind the passenger compartment, the newspaper said. Nearly 200 pounds of marijuana were recovered from the aircraft.

Clark County Deputy Prosecutor Jake Elder said the estimated value of the marijuana was between \$450,000 to \$500,000.

The airplane Richter was flying — a 1962 fixed-wing single-engine Piper PA-24-250 — was registered to another individual in Ketchikan. Richter admitted the plane, which originated in California, was stolen, officials said. Clark County Circuit Court Judge Jerry Jacobi sentenced Richter to eight years in prison, with one year suspended, for the dealing in marijuana charge and two years suspended, both suspended, for the

nuisance charge. Richter's age and health conditions were taken into account when he was sentenced, the *News and Tribune* reported. "We're very pleased with the sentence Judge Jacobi handed down," Elder said.—*Internet*



Local residents ride bikes near the 634-metre-tall Tokyo Sky Tree tower in eastern Tokyo 29 Feb, 2012. The construction of the Tokyo Sky Tree is to be completed on 29 Feb, 2012 after a two-month delay due to last year's quake and tsunami.

XINHUA

US soldiers say airport phones a rip-off

LEIPZIG, 2 March—Members of the US military say they have been overcharged by a US phone company for calls made during refueling stops in Germany. Sgt Richard Corder told NBC News he was charged \$41 for a 3-second call home from a pay phone at the Leipzig airport while he and his Army unit were en route to Iraq last May. He and his wife, Dhama, have filed a lawsuit against a San Diego-based company, BBG Communications.

"It's terrible that they would do that to us," Corder said. "I mean we volunteer to serve our country." Complaints about phone charges

at Leipzig date back to at least 2008, NBC said.

The Better Business Bureau says it has received more than 400 complaints and gives BBG an F. Hundreds of thousands of US military personnel have stopped off at Leipzig on their way to or from Afghanistan or Iraq and many have made calls from the bank of phones in the

secure area where they wait. A lawyer for BBG said it only handles billing for a Swiss-based company, BBG Global. That company told NBC the rates charged at Leipzig are set by the German national telephone company.

But Deutsche Telekom said the charge for Corder's call should have been no more than \$10.—*Internet*

LONDON, 2 March—An East London couple were convicted Thursday of murdering a teenager they suspected of performing witchcraft, officials said.

Eric Bikubi, 28, and Magalie Bamu, 29, denied killing Bamu's 15-year-old brother, Kristy, who drowned in a bathtub on Christmas Day 2010 during a purported exorcism, the BBC reported.

The couple, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, are scheduled to be sentenced Monday.

Bikubi attempted to plead guilty to manslaughter with diminished responsibility, but prosecutors rejected the motion.

"Kristy died in unimaginable circumstances at the hands of people who he loved and trusted," his family

said in a statement. "We will never forget, but to put our lives back into sync we must forgive. We take no comfort in the verdicts — we have been robbed of a beloved son, a daughter, a son-in-law."

Bamu had testified she was "very Westernized" and blamed the obsession with witchcraft on Bikubi, *The Guardian* said.

"Eric sometimes went off. He would talk about witchcraft, talk, talk, talk, then

stop," Bamu said. "I would be listening because that's the best thing to do when he's going on about something. When he gets it out of his system, you carry on with life. I don't have any views because I don't believe in it. To me it does not exist."

Judge David Paget said the case was so "harrowing" that jurors would be exempted from further jury duty for the rest of their lives.

Internet

\$167m awarded in wrongful termination

SACRAMENTO, 2 March —A jury has awarded a Sacramento woman \$167 million in her lawsuit against a hospital for workplace harassment and wrongful termination.

Former surgical physician's assistant Ani Chopourian filed the lawsuit against Mercy General Hospital for disciplining and harassing her because she complained about sexual harassment, poor patient treatment and lack of lunch breaks, the *Sacramento Bee* reported on Thursday.

The federal court jury backed Chopourian's claim Wednesday, assessing the hospital and its parent, Catholic Healthcare West, \$125 million in punitive damages and \$42.7 million as compensation for lost wages, mental suffering and loss of

enjoyment of life, damage to reputation and humiliation.

The hospital claimed there were "multiple issues for which [Chopourian] was written up and eventually fired," and Mercy President Denny Powell said he plans to appeal.

"We do not believe that the facts support this verdict or judgment.

We stand by the actions we took in ending our relationship with this former employee," he said.

"We are committed to providing a safe working environment, free from sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior, which is backed by strong policies and practices to protect our employees. Any complaint is thoroughly investigated and prompt action is taken," Powell said.

Internet



Dancers from the folk song and dance company of southwest China's Guizhou Province perform at Bruce Mansion Centre, in Auckland, New Zealand, on 29 Feb, 2012. Wind of Colorful Guizhou, a large song and dance performance with rich folk customs and local favour, was performed here on Wednesday.—XINHUA

Police: Man tried to rob store with finger

Police in Florida said an attempted robbery was foiled when a gas station clerk recognized the object poking out from the suspect's shirt was a finger.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office said a man with a plastic bag over his head walked into the Gate gas station on 103rd Street around 3 am Monday morning and acted like the finger poking inside of his shirt was a weapon. *The (Jacksonville) Florida Times-Union* reported on Thursday.

The man ordered the clerk to "open the register and give me all the money," the sheriff's office report said.

The clerk immediately recognized the object was a finger and refused to hand over any cash, leading the suspect to turn his attentions to a customer, who laughed at him.

Investigators said they are searching for the suspect, described as a white man between 5 feet, 7 inches and five feet, 9 inches tall with curly brown hair and brown eyes.



Some 3,000 students from Baekseok University make the shape of a drop of blood at a ski resort in Pyeongchang, about 180 km (112 miles) east of Seoul on 23 Feb, 2012. The Korean National Red Cross and the university held the event for a campaign to encourage blood donation, and plan to apply for a listing for the "World's largest blood drop" by Guinness World Records.

Melting evidence endangers case

A lawyer for two Massachusetts men accused of stealing the head from an ice sculpture said he wants the case dismissed after the evidence melted.

Attorney Marc Salinas said the case against William Hare, 47, and Rajendra Srivastava, 30, who were arrested on a larceny charge after allegedly taking the head from the dragon sculpture on 12 February, should be dismissed after the head melted while in a Salem Police Department freezer, the *Boston Herald* reported on Thursday.

Police said a faulty plug in their freezer led to the head, which had been court-ordered to be preserved until the trial, melting away into a puddle. "The Salem Police Department is one of the best on the North Shore and I'm sure this wasn't done intentionally," Salinas said. "But it doesn't change the fact that my clients have a right to confront the evidence brought against them in court."

News Album

Plane grounded due to pilots' ages

The British Civil Aviation Authority said a LOT Polish Airlines flight from London to Warsaw was grounded when both pilots were found to be over 60. The agency said inspectors had the flight grounded at London's Heathrow airport and

passengers had to wait 5 hours for a reserve pilot to be flown in from Poland after inspectors discovered both pilots were over the age of 60, a violation of international air regulations. *The Daily Telegraph* reported on Friday. "LOT knows the rules and strictly adheres to

them," the airline said in a statement. "But in this case there was an unfortunate coincidence. The crew roster was completed shortly before the aircraft left Warsaw, and the crew scheduling system did not issue a warning that both pilots were over 60, which it always does."

Asner to play newsman on 'The Middle'



Ed Asner arrives at the 82nd annual Academy Awards in Hollywood.

INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 2 March—Edward Asner is to guest star as a veteran newsman on the American family sitcom "The Middle," ABC announced.

One of Asner's most

famous roles is that of Lou Grant, a TV news director on the sitcom "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," and a newspaper city editor on the drama "Lou Grant."

He is to appear on the 14 March episode of "The Middle."

The show stars Patricia Heaton, Neil Flynn, Charlie McDermott, Eden Sher and Atticus Shaffer as the blue-collar Heck family, living in Indiana.

Heaton's father Chuck was a longtime sportswriter for *The (Cleveland) Plain-Dealer*.—*Internet*



Actress Octavia Spencer

Octavia Spencer to turn producer

LOS ANGELES, 2 March—Actress Octavia Spencer, who won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for "The Help," is planning to turn producer. "I don't have any role that I want to play. I want to be a producer. I want to be an activist. I was to be pro-active in bringing about work for men, women, boys, girls, everybody who is good at what they do and deserve a shot," contactmusic.com quoted her as saying.

After winning the golden statuette, Spencer admitted she was "humbled" by the accolade and hopes she could be a "beacon of hope" to aspiring actresses.

She said backstage: "I'm very humbled because I get to stand here and accept this award and I haven't really done anything. I hope that in some way I can be some kind of beacon of hope, especially am I am not the typical Hollywood beauty."

She will next be filming a role in an as-yet-untitled *Diablo Cody* project and will also work on "Snow Piercer".—*Internet*

Liu to play Watson to Miller's Holmes

LOS ANGELES, 2 March—Actress Lucy Liu is to play sidekick to Jonny Lee Miller's Sherlock Holmes in the US television pilot "Elementary," EW.com reported.

The CBS show will follow Holmes and Watson as they solve crimes in modern-day New York.

The first name of Liu's character, whom British Victorian-era author Arthur Conan Doyle initially created as a man, has not been reported.

"Sherlock," a series starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman as contemporary London sleuths Holmes and Watson, has been a huge hit in the United Kingdom on the BBC and in the United States on PBS. A third season is in production.

Liu is best known for her work on TV's "Ally McBeal" and "Southland," as well as the "Charlie's Angels" movies.

Internet



Actress Lucy Liu arrives at the Film Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, California on 25 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

Gerard Butler returns to party circuit

LOS ANGELES, 2 March—Just days after news of his recent stint in the rehab became public, actor Gerard Butler has returned to Hollywood's party circuit.

The actor recently completed a three-week programme at California's Betty Ford Centre for a prescription drug issue, but he wasn't about to avoid the pre-Oscars celebrations completely.

He showed up solo at The Weinstein Company's SoHo House bash in West Hollywood, reports *daily-star.co.uk*. Last week, a representative for Butler confirmed reports that the actor had sought help in rehab for substance abuse.

Internet



Stephen King arrives for the premiere of "The Mist" at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York on 12 Nov, 2007.

INTERNET

'Smash' actor to headline 'Starcatcher'

NEW YORK, 2 March—The off-Broadway cast of "Peter and the Starcatcher" is to reunite for the show's Broadway premiere, the play's producers announced. Penned by Rick Elice, the production will star "Smash" cast member Christian Borle, as well as Adam Chanler-Berat and Celia Keenan-Bolger, who appeared together off-

Broadway in the show early last year.

"We are overjoyed to have this incredible company back together," producers Nancy Nagel Gibbs and Greg Schaffert said in a joint statement.

"And we are very grateful that Christian Borle was, in the end, able to work around his commitments to the TV series 'Smash' so that he can reprise his role as Black Stache." Based on the novel

Stephen King to narrate audiobook of 'Keyhole'

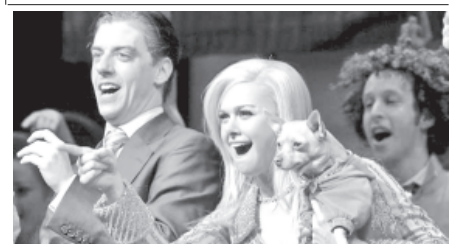
NEW YORK, 2 March—Bestselling American author Stephen King is to narrate "The Wind Through the Keyhole" for a new audiobook, Simon & Schuster Audio said on Tuesday. This marks the first time in more than a decade King narrates a full-length audiobook. Simon & Schuster Audio said it will

publish "The Wind Through the Keyhole" simultaneously with the Scribner hardcover and e-book on 24 April. "Keyhole" is the latest installment in King's "Dark Tower" series. The audiobook will also offer an exclusive audio preview King will read from his novel "Doctor Sleep," the eagerly

awaited sequel to his classic "The Shining," which is to be published in 2013.

"I've spent a lot of time with the character of Roland Deschain and the 'Dark Tower' universe over the years. Now that I am revisiting that world, it felt like a fine time to lend it my voice," King said in a statement. "We're thrilled that Steve wanted to return to the studio for 'The

Wind Through the Keyhole.' As his audio fans know, he is a terrific narrator," said Chris Lynch, executive vice president and publisher of Simon & Schuster Audio. "His choice to preview his follow-up to 'The Shining' exclusively on audio speaks volumes about his support for the format. We couldn't be happier." The last time King recorded a full audiobook was his 2000 memoir, "On Writing," the publisher said.—*Internet*



Actors Christian Borle and Laura Bell Bundy takes their opening night curtain call bows at New York's Palace theatre in the Broadway musical "Legally Blonde" on 29 April, 2007.—INTERNET

Germany get reality check in time for Euro 2012

BERLIN, 2 March — Germany's 2-1 defeat to France in their friendly in Bremen may have come at just the right time, giving the team who are one of the Euro 2012 favourites a reality check following their perfect qualifying campaign. The Germans qualified top of their group with 10 wins from 10 games and also scored confidence-boosting victories over top teams including Brazil, Uruguay and Netherlands in friendlies last year as talk of their first title since 1996 grew louder.

Wednesday's defeat against France, who less than two years ago spectacularly flopped at the World Cup in South Africa, was a sobering experience for Joachim Loew's team, highlighting the fact that it may not be plain sailing for them in Poland and Ukraine in June and July. "We

should complain because we could have conceded one or two more goals," said Germany's Thomas Mueller. "While we should not read too much into this result, we were not very disciplined in defence.

"We were too open at the back, we worked too little and left our defence without

backup," said the 2010 World Cup topscorer. Germany were missing injured captain Philipp Lahm at the back as well as central defender Per Mertesacker. In midfield, Bastian Schweinsteiger—nicknamed "the brain" by Loew—was also out injured, as were Mario Goetze and Lukas Podolski.—*Internet*



Germany's Cacau celebrates after scoring against France during their international friendly soccer match in Bremen on 29 Feb, 2012.—*INTERNET*

Leverkusen suffer treble blow

LEVERKUSEN, 2 March — Germany's remaining Champions League teams Bayer Leverkusen and Bayern Munich meet on Saturday with three of Leverkusen's stars having returned from international duty with injuries. Leverkusen are at Barcelona's Camp Nou Stadium next Wednesday needing to over-turn a 3-1

deficit from their first-leg Round of 16 tie, while Bayern host FC Basel on 13 March and need to claw back after their 1-0 defeat.

Having beaten strugglers Augsburg and Cologne in recent weeks to go fifth in the Bundesliga table, Leverkusen are hoping to topple second-place Bayern Munich, but have suffered casualties from Wednesday's

friendlies. Forwards Andre Schuerle, Eren Derdiyok and defender Vedran Corluka face a race against time to be fit for Bayern and Barcelona.

Schuerle, who has only just recovered from a black eye playing against Stuttgart last month, took an elbow in the face during Germany's 2-1 defeat to France and has suffered damage to the cartilage around the nasal bone.

"There's pressure on my nose, but I'm hoping it's not too serious and everything will be all right by the weekend," said Schuerle who is expected to face Bayern with a face mask.

Internet



Bayer Leverkusen striker Andre Schuerle during the Bundesliga football match against VfB Stuttgart in Leverkusen, Germany, on 4 February. Germany's remaining Champions League teams Bayer Leverkusen and Bayern Munich meet on Saturday with three of Leverkusen's stars having returned from international duty with injuries — Schuerle, Eren Derdiyok and Vedran Corluka.—*INTERNET*

FIFA processes \$3b in player transfers in 2011

ZURICH, 2 March — FIFA says it processed international transfer deals worth \$3 billion in 2011, and will share payment details with UEFA to help monitor European financial fair play rules. FIFA says 11,500 players made cross-border moves in the first calendar year operating its Transfer Matching System, which aims to curb money laundering and corrupt deals.

The mandatory online project requires buying and selling clubs to input matching information, including payment schedules, before a transfer is approved. FIFA says more than 1,500 Brazilian players were transferred internationally last year. The average transfer fee across all deals was \$1.5 million. The figures exclude players moving between clubs in the same country.—*Internet*

Fowler poised for Blackpool move

LONDON, 2 March — Former Liverpool and England striker Robbie Fowler is contemplating a return to English football with Championship side Blackpool after plans to play in India fell through. The 36-year-old has played in Australia and Thailand since leaving English football four years ago following a brief spell at Blackburn Rovers.

He was set to appear in the new Premier League Soccer (PLS) competition in India before its latest postponement saw him change tack and head back to north-west England, where he made his name with Liverpool. Now Fowler is training at nearby Blackpool, relegated from the lucrative English Premier League last season and currently pushing for an immediate return to the top flight. In a series of posts on their official Twitter page,

Love opens with 64 to take Honda Classic lead

PALM BEACH GARDENS, 2 March — Davis Love III made a hole-in-one and tied the course record at PGA National with a 6-under-64 for a two-shot lead in soft and relatively calm morning conditions at the Honda Classic on Thursday. Rory McIlroy was in the group at 66, needing a win this week to go to No 1 in the world. Tiger Woods needs a good round just to have a chance going into the weekend.

Playing the Honda Classic for the first time as a pro, Woods twice lost momentum with sloppy bogeys and failed to convert a routine up-and-down on the par-5 18th for a 1-over-71. He was seven shots out of the lead, right on the cut line going into Friday. But he played in tougher conditions, with stronger wind, in the afternoon and still hit the ball



Davis Love III tees off on the 11th hole during the first round of the Honda Classic golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla, on 1 March, 2012.—*INTERNET*

well, as he has been doing. "I didn't get a whole lot out of my round," Woods said. "I hit the ball a lot better than I scored, and I certainly putted well, and I didn't hardly get anything out of the round. Hopefully, tomorrow it will be better." Woods missed only three greens, but took 34 putts. The 47-year-old Love has been around long enough to know

that one round is nothing more than a good start, and he was happy to have that after a 5-iron to 18 feet for birdie on the 17th and a bunker shot to tap-in range for birdie on the par-5 18th. He hasn't won since Disney World at the end of 2008, and the last time he was atop the leaderboard after one round was at Bay Hill in 2010.

Internet



Andy Roddick

Roddick advances to quarters at Delray Beach

DELRAY BEACH, 2 March — Andy Roddick reached his second quarterfinal of the year with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan at the Delray Beach

International Tennis Championship on Thursday. Roddick avenged his loss to Istomin—in his other 2012 quarterfinal appearance—at last month's San Jose tournament.

Roddick is currently ranked No 30, which is the lowest he's been since he held that same ranking in 2001. He's been dealing with hamstring and ankle problems this year and he's struggling to find a range with his game. Roddick only got half his first serves in against the 51st-ranked Istomin. "I'm feeling better than I did a couple of matches ago," Roddick said. "I served horrendously and still won and was still able to break serve."

In the second set, Istomin led the penultimate game 40-15 but then made four consecutive unforced errors to hand Roddick the service break. Roddick eventually managed to serve out the match in the next game, but only after seeing off three break points and needing two match points.—*Internet*

F1 veteran Barrichello switching to IndyCar

SAO PAULO, 2 March — Brazilian Formula One veteran Rubens Barrichello is jumping to IndyCar racing, and will team up with compatriot Tony Kanaan at KV Racing Technology, according to the team. Barrichello, 39, raced in Formula One from 1993-2011, driving last season for Williams. His resume includes 11 F1 victories and he was runner-up in the Formula One championship in 2002 and 2004. Barrichello said he was excited at the prospect of taking up the US open-wheel series.

"I am thrilled, it is something very new to me," said Barrichello, who tested the new Dallara car powered by Chevrolet at Sebring International Raceway and Infineon Raceway in the past month.

"I need to thank everyone involved, especially Tony because he has been involved for a long time... With all my experience I will start as a rookie, but I think I will get better as the year progresses." KV Racing Technology confirmed Thursday that Kanaan, the 2004 IndyCar champion, has inked a two-year deal.—*Internet*



Brazilian F1 veteran Rubens Barrichello



Former Liverpool and England striker Robbie Fowler.—*INTERNET*

International Sports

Barcelona's Pedro: I hope Guardiola renews as soon as possible

BARCELONA 2 March — Speaking ahead of Barcelona's game against Sporting Gijon, Pedro stated that he hopes coach Pep Guardiola will stay on with the club.

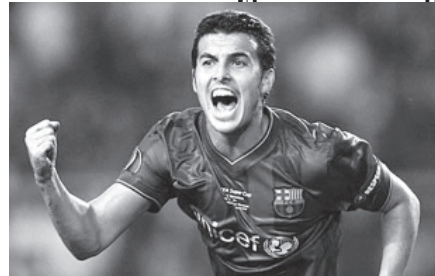
It has been speculated that the trainer could leave the Catalan club at the end of the season when his contract runs out, and reports suggest Inter president Massimo Moratti is hoping to bring him to the Giuseppe Meazza. Pedro stated that the players are certain

Guardiola will extend his deal, but reiterated that the 41-year-old has the final say on the matter.

"It is clear that we all will stand by his side and support him, we are sure he is going to renew his contract, that he will go on," he said.

"He is a very important person for the club, he knows how it works. I think all Barca fans want him as well and I hope he renews as soon as possible.

"As I say, he has the last word. He has to decide, but



we need to support him and hope for positive news, of course." Saturday's clash at Camp Nou between

Barcelona's forward Pedro Rodriguez. INTERNET

Barcelona and Sporting Gijon kicks off at 4:00 pm ET.

Internet

Djokovic sets up semifinal with Murray in Dubai

DUBAI, 2 March — Novak Djokovic defeated fellow Serb Janko Tipsarevic 6-1, 7-6 (6) Thursday to set up a Dubai Championships semifinal against Andy Murray, a rematch of a marathon five-setter at the Australian Open. Murray, who lost to Djokovic at the Australian Open each of the last two years, defeated fifth-seeded Tomas Berdych 6-3, 7-5 on Thursday. Roger Federer will face Juan Martin del Potro in the other semifinal. Del Potro beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6 (1), 6-2 for the second time in two weeks, while Federer improved to 12-0 against Mikhail Youzhny by eliminating him 6-3, 6-4.

The top-ranked Djokovic, seeking his fourth Dubai title in a row, broke the seventh-seeded Tipsarevic twice and closed out the first set when his opponent returned long. Tipsarevic rallied in the second set, holding his serve throughout and taking a 4-1 lead in the tiebreaker. Tipsarevic missed a set point at 6-5 when he double-faulted, and Djokovic won the next two points, too, to end it. "We know each other really well," Djokovic said. "We both got a little bit nervous toward the end, I guess, and it was just luck to prevail." Tipsarevic acknowledged he got jittery in the tiebreaker, but not because he was facing a friend.

"Obviously, it's like little butterflies in the stomach having the set point on 6-5 in the tiebreak after a one-hour set," Tipsarevic said. "It's not only against Novak. It would have happened against anyone. Normally you're trying your best on this point. It's just that I tried too much for no reason." Murray has lost his last three matches against Berdych but broke early to take control of the first set. In the second, the players twice traded breaks of serve. Murray broke to go up 6-5 but squandered six match points before clinching it when Berdych hit long. — Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

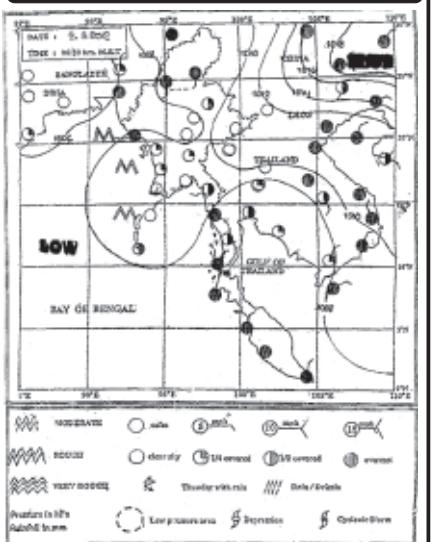
MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL (3-3-12 09:30 am - 4-3-12 09:30 am) MST

- Oversea Transmission**
- * News
 - * "Great Shwedagon" The Planetary Posts on the Platform of Shwedagon Pagoda
 - * News
 - * Kid's Talent
 - * News
 - * Responsible Tourism Workshops and Conference (Part - I)
 - * News
 - * Responsible Tourism Workshops and Conference (Part - II)
 - * News
 - * Culture Stage
 - * News
 - * Relax....at pet fish farm
 - * News
 - * Ayeeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part - I)
 - * News
 - * Monywa... Picturesque City of Pagodas
 - * Myanmar Movies
 - * "Uncontrollable Heartbeat"

MYANMAR TV (3-3-2012) (Saturday)

- 7:00 am 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 8:00 am 2. Health Programme
- 8:20 am 3. Poem Garden
- 8:45 am 4. Musical Programme
- 11:25 pm 5. Game For Children
- 11:50 pm 6. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News
- 1:50 pm 7. Delicious Dishes
- 2:45 pm 8. Song Of National Races
- 4:10 pm 9. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm 10. Teleplay (Health)
- 4:45 pm 11. University of distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (Psychology)
- 5:05 pm 12. Songs in honour of (67th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 5:15 pm 13. International Science News
- 5:50 pm 14. Beautiful "Asean"
- 8:00 pm 15. News
- 8:16 pm 16. Cartoon Series
- 17. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 3rd March, 2012

Sr No.	Regions/States	Temperature (C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	29/84	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
2	Kayah	31/88	12/54	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	38/100	17/63	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	17/63	10/50	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
5	Upper Sagaing	20/68	12/54	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
6	Lower Sagaing	34/93	18/64	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	36/97	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
8	Bago	36/97	19/66	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	38/100	20/68	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	34/93	22/72	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	37/98	19/66	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	37/98	20/68	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	30/86	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
14	Southern Shan	27/81	13/55	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	32/90	11/52	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
16	Eastern Shan	30/86	12/54	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	34/93	20/70	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	37/98	16/61	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	37/98	20/68	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	34/93	22/72	Partly cloudy	

During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershower have been scattered in Kachin and Chin States, isolated in Upper Sagaing, Tanintharyi Regions and Rakhine State and weather has been partly cloudy in Northern Shan State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (3°C) below March average temperatures in Mandalay Region and Kachin State and about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperature was Chaung (49°C). The noticeable amount of rainfalls recorded was Kawthoong (0.39) inch.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar areas.

Restless Guzan offered new contract by Aston Villa

BIRMINGHAM, 2 March — American goalkeeper Brad Guzan could leave Aston Villa despite being offered a new contract by the English Premier League team.

Manager Alex McLeish says the United States international could move when his current contract expires at the end of the season because he is unhappy at being backup to Shay Given.

Guzan has been with Villa for four years but has started only eight Premier League matches, seven of them this season when Ireland international Given



American goalkeeper Brad Guzan

was injured. McLeish says "we respect that Brad needs time to mull it over. I understand the dilemma he is facing." Internet

IFAB poised to agree on new four-substitute rule

LONDON, 2 March — FIFA's law-making body, the International Football Association Board (IFAB), will decide on Saturday whether teams can field a fourth substitute during extra time and also consider the future of goal-line technology and Islamic headscarves.

The 126th IFAB meeting in Bagshot, south west of London, will also debate the so-called "triple punishment" which is considered too severe for a player stopping a goalscoring opportunity as sanctions can include a penalty, a red card and a

suspension.

Another item on the agenda concerns the "vanishing spray" used at last year's Copa America where referees use a spray on the grass to mark the 10 yards defenders must retreat at free kicks, with the line vanishing after a few seconds.

IFAB will hear a proposal that increasing the current quota from three to four substitutes over 120 minutes when matches go to extra time would help improve games and reduce injuries.

The FIFA Task Force Football 2014, the medical committee and the football

committee support the proposal in order to maintain the technical level until the 120th minute and to protect the health of the players," FIFA said in a statement.

As the proposal comes from the Task Force and has been proposed by FIFA, it is unlikely to be blocked in a vote of the board which comprises four representatives from the world governing body and four from the British nations of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Any amendment to the laws needs a majority of six votes to be passed.

Internet

Recitation of Maha Pathana treatise launched

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—The 25th recitation of Maha Pathana at the fourth Buddha Pujaniya of Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda was held in the cave of the pagoda, here, yesterday morning.

Member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Shwe, Col Myint Aung Than, U Myo Nyunt and Secretary U Aung Khin, Deputy Director-General U Aung Thein

Nyunt of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees donated the book on Pathana treatise and alms to members of the Sangha.

Altogether 18 members of the Sangha will recite Pathana treatise in Pali from 4 to 7 March.

Theatrical drama troupes will perform entertainments at the precinct of the pagoda from 1 to 8 March.—MNA

Impromptu Talk Contest organized at Yadanabon University

YANGON, 2 March—According to the programme to promote the English proficiency of students from higher education sector, the English Department of Yadanabon University organized the Impromptu Talk Contest at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the university on 20 February

afternoon.

Altogether eight male and female students participated in the contest.

After the contest, Ma Khin Su Myat Aung secured the first prize, Ma Haymar Su Su San, the second prize and Ma Kyi Thawda Hsu, the third prize.—MNA

Redknapp could tempt Scholes back for England

LONDON, 2 March—Former Manchester United defender Gary Pallister believes Harry Redknapp is the only manager who could tempt Paul Scholes to play for England again.

Scholes, 37, quit playing for his country in 2004 but, having retired at the end of last season, returned for Manchester United in January.

“Harry’s got great powers of persuasion,” Pallister told BBC Sport.

“He could be the only man, apart from Sir Alex Ferguson, that could do that but my feeling is it won’t happen.”

Tottenham boss

Redknapp has been tipped by several England players to be the next manager after Fabio Capello resigned over the handling of John Terry being stripped of the captaincy in February.

And, although he has distanced himself from the job, the Spurs manager said Scholes should go to the 2012 European Championship in Poland and Ukraine this summer.

Scholes, who won 66 caps plating for England and scored 14 goals, retired from international football following Euro 2004 after being frustrated at being played out of position - and because he wanted to spend

more time with his family.

And Pallister, who was also capped 22 times, said: “Harry knows how good a player he is. Unfortunately, when he was playing for England, he got messed about.

“Ultimately that led to him walking away from that scenario because he was getting so frustrated, so I think he’s made his mind up once about it and it would be very much a surprise if he was to turn around now.

“Scholes is probably right in just concentrating on Manchester United and hopefully getting another season out of himself next year.”

Manchester United boss Ferguson said it would be a “big step” for Scholes to return for England.

But the midfielder surprised the football world when he came out of retirement to play for his club against Manchester City in their FA Cup third-round tie on 8 January.

Internet



Drama on history of Shwedagon Pagoda to be performed

YANGON, 2 March—Theatrical drama entertainments are being performed at the foot of Shwedagon Pagoda in its 2600th Buddha Pujaniya festival.

Under supervision of Rector U Kyaw Oo of National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) of Fine Arts Department, students of Films and Drama

Department of the NCEAU (Yangon) directed by script writer Tin Tun Oo (Culture), director Pyinmana Myint Hlaing and director Sale Shwe Kyi will perform free entertainment of a drama entitled Four Relics Myat Shwedagon at the western theatre of the pagoda beginning 9 pm daily from 2 to 7 March.—MNA

Men’s, Women’s Chess Championships commence

YANGON, 2 March—Jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation, the 38th Men’s Chess Championship 2012 and the 14th Women’s Chess Championship kicked off at Aung San Gymnasium, here, at 1 pm yesterday.

President of Myanmar Chess Federation U Maung Maung Lwin gave an

introductory speech.

The President of the MCF and Vice-President of the federation U Win Aung launched the championships by moving the first step of the chess in the first-day competition.

Altogether 16 men chess players and six women chess players are taking part in the championships that will last up to 12 March.

The championships will continue at the hall of Aung San Stadium.—MNA

Oscar winners to be screened at BJIFF



Oscar winners to be screened at BJIFF.

BEIJING, 2 March—The organizing committee for the 2nd Beijing International Film Festival (BJIFF) confirmed on March 1st that three of this year’s Oscar favorites will be screened in the Beijing Film Panorama section, chinesefilms.cn reports.

They are the Oscar’s Best Picture Award, The Artist, George Clooney’s

“The Descendants” and Best Foreign Language Film, “A Separation”.

The committee was able to gather a batch of big names for last year’s event, including “The King’s Speech,” “The Social Network,” “Black Swan” and “True Grit”. Director Darren Aronofsky also made an appearance at the opening ceremony of the 1st

Beijing International Film Festival.

An official unveiled they are currently busy inviting more Academy Award winners and nominees, and there is a chance that some of the actors and actresses will be in attendance for this year’s event.

Legendary director Martin Scorsese’s 3D blockbuster “Hugo” and Woody Allen’s fantasy romance “Midnight in Paris” are waiting for censorship approval from the Film Bureau of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT). If they succeed in passing, they will also be screened in the Beijing Film Panorama section.—Internet

Lady Gaga unveils Born This Way Foundation at Harvard



Lady Gaga

CAMBRIDGE, 2 March—Lady Gaga introduced her

Born This Way Foundation, the non-profit she created to empower youth and inspire creativity, at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

“The culture of love is not going to change overnight but youth are the answer to creating a braver, kinder world,” the singer told a crowd of policy makers,

non-profit organizations, foundation leaders, students and youth at the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Askwith Forum. “This might be one of the best days of my life.”

Among those who participated in Wednesday’s event were media mogul Oprah Winfrey, author Deepak Chopra and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius.—Internet

Education facilities offering higher education and technology to local youths in Loikaw Township, Kayah State

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Dancers from the folk song and dance company of southwest China’s Guizhou Province perform at Bruce Mansion Centre, in Auckland, New Zealand, on 29 Feb, 2012.

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