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Thursday, 8 March, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes * Non-disintegration of the Union | * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity | * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win attend religious titles conferring ceremony, rice offering ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—A ceremony to confer religious titles for 2012 and offer rice to members of the Sangha was held at Sasana Maha Beikmandaw in the precinct of Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda this afternoon.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win conferred religious titles on the recipient Sayadaws and offered rice to members of the Sangha.

Also present on the occasions were Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, and Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General

Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thein Soe, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Lt-Gen Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Union ministers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and their wives, deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental heads, officials of the foreign embassies in Yangon, members of religious associations, responsible persons of social organizations, staff of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, title recipient lay persons at home and abroad, disciples and wellwishers.

At first, the State orchestra of the Ministry of Culture played



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein offers religious title and certificate to a Sayadaw.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein offers religious title and certificate to a layperson.—MNA

Dhamma songs starting 11 am.

Members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title recipient Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title recipient Sayadaws, Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Sayadaws and Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title recipient Sayadaws were ushered into the designated places and the recipient Sayadaws, nuns and laypersons into the designated places.

At 12 noon, the ceremony commenced with three-time recitation of Namō Tassa.

The congregation took the Five Precepts from Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka of Bhamo Monastery of Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara.

Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Presiding Nayaka of Mandalay Masoeyin Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title recipient

Bhaddanta Tejosarabhivamsa gave a Sammodaniya Ovada Katha.

Next, President U Thein Sein conferred title of Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru and certificates on Abbot of Masoeyintaik Nikaya Newpadetha Monastery of Dewun East Ward in Mahaangmye Township of Mandalay Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejosarabhivamsa and Abbot of Mahitayon Monastery of Kanaungsu Ward in Hinthada of Ayeawady Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indriyasabha.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo also offered titles of Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru and certificates to Abbot of Myatheindan Pariyatti Monastery from Ward 10 in Pazundaung Township of Yangon Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara and Abbot of Sasana Mandaing Pali Tekkatho Monastery of Bago Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Samvara.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham offered Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title and certificates to Abbot of Maha Yadanabonsan Myataung Monastery of Wachet Village in Sagaing of Sagaing Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Dhammaloka, Abbot of Kyayok Pariyatti Monastery of Kyaungtetlan Ward in Sittway of Rakhine State Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jayanta and Abbot of Myataungtaik Pitakat Propagation Monastery of Yadana West Ward in Mahaangmye Township of Mandalay Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Candima.

Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann presented Agga Maha Pandita title and certificates to Ven Pallthara Sri Sumanajothi Thero of Subadrarama Purana of Maligaspe, Galle of Sri Lanka, Abbot of Myasigon Pariyatti Monastery of Ward 14 of Toungoo of Bago Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijaya and Abbot of Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery of Ywauk Ward in Pyinmana Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammasara.

Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint offered Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title and certificates to Abbot of West Kyaunggyi Pariyatti Monastery of Setyon Ward in Kawlin of Sagaing Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Mandala, (See page 16)

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 8 March, 2012

Poverty alleviator

Poverty like all other calamities such as natural disasters, bad weather and war is a major blow to national economic development. But unlike most of those calamities, poverty usually lingers on causing chronic problems and in some cases inviting famine or widening the rich-and-poor gap.

Poverty can be found everywhere whether in villages, or towns or cities, but the rural people are more vulnerable to it. As the rural is home to over 70% of our population and the rural production businesses are the nation's main production forces, the Rural Socio-Economic Development Supporting Committee was formed to address the problems of village people through action plans covering education, health, human resources development, transport, communication and clean water supply.

Now, the Supporting Committee of the Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Work Committee is helping school age children pursue primary education, opening affiliated primary schools for children of migrant workers and people of sparsely populated villages, and making arrangements for rural students to pursue higher education.

Its assignment for the health sector includes extension of rural health centres, birth spacing and maternal and child welfare, mobile vaccination teams, anti-venom and first aid kit distribution and field trip treatments.

As for human resources development, the committee with the participation of Information Ministry and Myanmar Libraries Foundation is setting up standard rural libraries and helping every village get access to mass media.

It is also developing rural transport and communication apart from sinking new wells, building water tanks, and water supply systems for availability of clean water even in the remote areas.

The duty of the committee or the poverty alleviator mainly run by MOI is to combat poverty through rural socio-economic development and it is gaining more ground with the participation of other related ministries, organizations and well-wishers.

Discussion between Union A&I Minister, Union Commerce Minister and WILMAR International Limited Chairman and guests



Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing and U Win Myint receive WILMAR International Limited Chairman Mr Kuok Khoon Hong.—MNA

Pagodas, Buddha images crowded on Fullmoon Day of Taboung



Uppatasanti Pagoda packed with pilgrims on Fullmoon day of Taboung.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Pagodas and Buddha images were thronged with devotees on Fullmoon Day Taboung today to do meditation and meritorious deeds.

At Uppatasanti Pagoda here, a fourth ceremony to paste gold leaves on the pagoda and to consecrate it was held today. Devotees lit 90,000 candles and recited religious

verses at the pagoda.

At Lawkamaraein Pagoda in Pyinmana in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Buddhist devotees donated provisions to members of the sangha and nuns to mark the 139th Buddha Pujaniya ceremony at the pagoda.

Similarly, Datusaya Pagoda in Zabuthiri Township,

Religious organizations reciting Parittas at Uppatasanti Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Taboung.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received a delegation led by Chairman Mr. Kuok Khoon Hong of WILMAR International Limited at the A&I

Union Ministry here at 2:30 pm yesterday.

Besides matters related to cooperation tasks to be done for promotion of agricultural sector, as well as trading high-cost agricultural products, they discussed greater emphasis on emergence of sugar mills to create job prospects for farmers by making benefits from mechanized crop sugarcane plantations with the help of technology and investment both, implementation of rice mills in addition being able to produce high quality marketable paddy strains, and the subject matter refers to have a cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Commerce in firmly making Myanmar agricultural

Phaya Kosu Pagoda, Koekhangyi Buddha Image and Hlekhwintaung Pagoda in Pyinmana were crowded with pilgrims on the Fullmoon Day of Taboung.

At Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, devotees offered flowers and water and lit candles at the four corners of the pagoda to the Buddha to mark the closing of 15-day religious ceremony to mark the 2600th anniversary of the pagoda and also shared merits gained today.

At Botahtaung, Sule, Shwephonepint, Kyaikwaing, Kaba Aye, Maha Wizaya, Kyaikkasan, Okkalapa, Melamu, Kyaikkalo and Kyaikkate pagodas and other Buddha Images in Yangon, Kyauktan, Kyaikhmawwun, Kyaikkhauk and Padagyi in Thanlyin Township and other pagodas in Yangon Region were also thronged with pilgrims on the Fullmoon Day of Taboung.

MNA

produce marketable ones.

The discussion was involved by Deputy Minister U Ohn Than and Director-General of the Agriculture and Irrigation Department, Director U Aung Soe of the Directorate of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce, Advisor Dr

Maung Aung, Executive Directors of Singaporean business delegates Mr. Martua Sitorus, Mr. Bryan Gaw, Mr. Kuok Meng Wei, and officials concerned of local agricultural companies—Green Asia Co and Great Wall Co Ltd and Yan Gyi Aung Co Ltd.—MNA

Romney wins Ohio GOP primary, 5 states in all



Former Massachusetts Gov Mitt Romney

WASHINGTON, 7 March—Mitt Romney has won Ohio's Republican presidential primary, narrowly defeating Rick Santorum in the most critical and hard-fought of the Super Tuesday contests. In all, Romney has gained

victories in five Super Tuesday states.

The other states he's won are Massachusetts, Vermont, Virginia and Idaho. Santorum has won Tennessee, Oklahoma and North Dakota, while Newt Gingrich has won his home state of Georgia. Results from Alaska's caucuses have not yet been reported.

Internet

Mitt Romney waves to supporters along with his wife Ann at his "Super Tuesday" primary election night rally in Boston, Massachusetts, on 6 March, 2012.



Two dead in shooting at Florida high school

MIAMI, 7 March—A teacher who had been fired earlier in the day returned to a Florida high school on Tuesday with an assault rifle and fatally shot the headmistress before killing himself, a sheriff's spokesman said. The murder-suicide occurred at Episcopal High School in the northeast Florida City of Jacksonville. No students were hurt or involved, investigators said.

Undersheriff Dwain Senterfitt said the shooter, identified as 28-year-old Spanish teacher Shane Schumert, was fired on Tuesday morning. He returned to the campus at lunchtime with the rifle hidden in a guitar case, went to the office of headmistress Dale Regan and shot her several times, Senterfitt said. Regan had been with the private school for 34 years as an English teacher and the last seven years as headmistress, said the school's dean, Katherine Moorehead.—Reuters

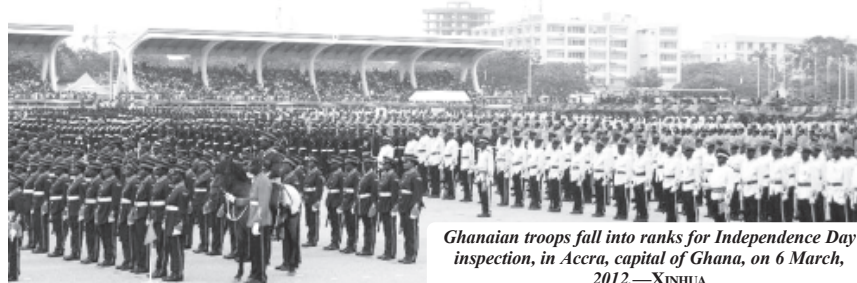
Six UK soldiers killed in Afghanistan explosion

LASHKAR GAH, 7 March—Six British soldiers were feared killed after an explosion hit their armored vehicle in southwestern Afghanistan, Britain's Ministry of Defence said on Wednesday. If confirmed, it would be the biggest loss of life for British forces in the country since a plane crash in 2006. The soldiers were on patrol in Helmand province at the time of the blast on Tuesday evening. The military did not explain why they were unable to confirm whether the soldiers were killed.

Their deaths would take the overall tally of British forces killed in Afghanistan to 404 since the 2001 US-led invasion to oust the Taliban. The soldiers, five from the 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment and one from the 1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, were on a mounted patrol on Tuesday when their Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle was struck, the ministry said. In Helmand, a spokesman for the British Task Force said the families of the British soldiers have been informed. "I utterly condemn those responsible for this incident who will ultimately fail to derail a mission that is protecting our national security at home and making real progress in Helmand Province," Britain's defence secretary Philip Hammond said in a statement.

"It is because of the continuing efforts of our armed forces that we are on course to build an Afghanistan that can stand on its own two feet when UK combat operations cease at the end of 2014," British Prime Minister David Cameron said it was "a desperately sad day for our country."—Internet

Ghana Celebrates 55th Independence Anniversary



Ghanaian troops fall into ranks for Independence Day inspection, in Accra, capital of Ghana, on 6 March, 2012.—XINHUA

ACCRA, 7 March—Ghana's President HE John Evans Atta Mills, has pledged his commitment "to ensure that Ghana remains peaceful, before, during and after this year's election" and called on all to further ensure the country sustained its integrity in setting up examples for African Continent. Speaking at the 55th Independence Day Parade in Accra, the President reaffirmed his commitment that this year's elections will pass off successful without any hindrance and has cautioned Ghanaians to desist from actions that would cause violence.

The President charged politicians to respect and to co-exist with one another. He further charged them to desist from things that would undermine Ghana's democracy and will the children who are the future

leaders to leave in a peaceful environment in achieving their dreams.

He added that "the best we can do, is to contribute our quota to building a Better Ghana so that the coming generations will remember us for adding to the legacy of the Founding Fathers, and not remember us for destroying their heritage". "As a Nation, we have no option but to sustain the peace we are enjoying in order to broaden

the frontiers of our democracy and development," he stressed. He added that "this day continues to be a constant reminder that given the opportunity, the African is capable of managing his or her own affairs and rising to the very top".

"This year's celebration will be meaningless if it is not linked to our collective resolve to join forces in ensuring that nothing is done to whittle away the sweat, blood and

toil of those who have made it possible for us to be where we are today," President Mills lamented.

President Mills again called on the youth to be patriotic, hard working and never give up in the face of challenges, adding that life without challenges was empty. He also used the opportunity to salute the gallant men and women who fought tirelessly especially the big six to make independence possible. The President acknowledged the contributions of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah whose statue was unveiled at the forecourt of African Union new building in Addis Ababa January this year. He commended Parade Commander, Colonel John Asabre and the various contingents on parade, for adding colour to this year's Anniversary Celebration.

Internet



Ghanaian president John Atta Mills gives a speech during the Independence Day celebration in Accra, capital of Ghana, on 6 March, 2012. Ghana celebrated its 55th Independence Day on Tuesday.—XINHUA

Child killed in Pakistan bomb blast

ISLAMABAD, 7 March—A nine-year-old child was killed and three other people were wounded Wednesday when a bomb exploded in the northwestern Pakistani City of Peshawar, police said.

The blast took place in the Scheme Chowk neighbourhood of Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province where Taliban militants have waged a campaign of bombing and suicide attacks.

"A nine-year old boy was killed and three others, two children and a man, were wounded in the bomb blast," senior police official Tahir Ayub told AFP.

It was a remote-controlled device, bomb disposal squad chief Hukam Khan said. Nobody claimed the responsibility for the blast but Islamist militants have carried out several attacks in the area.

Peshawar has a population of 2.5 million people and has long been on the frontline of violence blamed on an insurgency led by Taliban militants opposed to Islamabad's alliance with the United States.

Islamist militants have killed more than 4,900 people across Pakistan since government troops raided an extremist mosque in Islamabad in July 2007.

Internet



This file photo shows police commandos securing a site on the outskirts of the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, in 2011. A nine-year-old child was killed and three other people were wounded on Wednesday when a bomb planted in a sewer exploded in Peshawar, according to police.—INTERNET

Avalanche buries village in Afghanistan; 47 dead

KABUL, 7 March — Rescuers shoveled through deep snow Wednesday searching for victims of an avalanche that destroyed a village of 200 people in northeastern Afghanistan, authorities said. Forty-seven people have been confirmed dead. "We hope that some people were inside their homes and are still alive," said Shams Ul Rahman, the deputy governor of Badakhshan Province, where the avalanche occurred on Sunday night. "But if the snow was too heavy, they may all be dead." The Defence Ministry was sending helicopters to Dasty village on Wednesday to help with the rescue effort, Rahman said. People from a nearby village were the first to reach the site. They were joined on Tuesday by rescue workers from Darwaz District, who walked for two days to reach the remote area. About 100 rescuers equipped only with shovels were digging through mounds of snow looking for anyone who might have survived, Rahman said.—Internet



One in 10 children snore regularly.—INTERNET

‘Child behaviour link’ to snoring

LONDON, 7 March — Children who snore, or who have other night-time breathing conditions, are at risk from behavioural problems, according to a study. Sleep apnoea and snoring made conditions such as hyperactivity more likely later on, researchers said. The study, published in the US journal *Pediatrics*, looked at data on 11,000 children living in the UK. Lead researcher Dr Karen Bonuck said the sleep problems could be harming the developing brain.

One estimate suggests one in 10 children regularly snore and 2% to 4% suffer from sleep apnoea, which means the breathing is obstructed and interrupted during sleep. Often enlarged tonsils or adenoids are to blame for the conditions. In adults, the result can be severe day-time tiredness, and some studies have hinted that behavioural problems such as attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder might be linked to the condition in children. The latest study is sufficiently large to offer a clearer view of this.

Parents were asked to fill in a questionnaire in which both the level of snoring and apnoea were recorded in the first six or seven years of life, and contrasted with their own assessment of the child’s behaviour. Dr Bonuck, from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University in New York, said that children with breathing issues during sleep were between 40% and 100% more likely to develop “neurobehavioural problems” by the age of seven.

Internet

Hepatitis

- * **Hepatitis A** — the most common type and is usually caught via contaminated food or water. Usually short-lived. Vaccine is available
- * **Hepatitis B** — passed from person to person through unprotected sex or by sharing needles to inject drugs. Vaccine is available
- * **Hepatitis C** — usually transmitted through blood-to-blood contact. No vaccine
- * **Hepatitis D** — only possible to have hepatitis D if you have hepatitis B. Affects about 5% of those with hep B
- * **Hepatitis E** — rare in the UK and usually caught via contaminated food or water.—Internet

Infancy health risk linked to early birth by research



Dr Rosemary Leonard: “For GPs, this doesn’t make any difference at all”—INTERNET

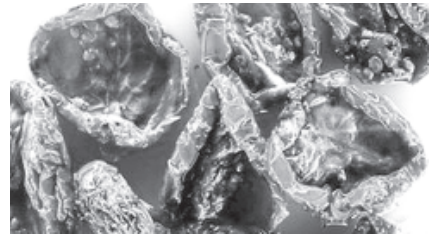
LONDON, 7 March — Babies born just a few weeks early have a slightly higher risk of health problems in infancy, research suggests. Doctors said their work challenged widely held views that babies born after 37 weeks had similar long-term

outcomes to those born at full term. The study in the *British Medical Journal* looked at 14,000 children, born 10 years ago, up to the age of five. It looked at health outcomes including admissions to hospital and having illnesses such as asthma.

Previous work has focused on babies born very prematurely, before 32 weeks. But this study suggests that the higher number of babies born later may also need extra attention. It found that babies born before 39 weeks have a slightly higher risk of health problems up to the age of five.

Internet

Sun-dried tomatoes linked to hepatitis A outbreak



Four of the seven infected people had consumed sun-dried tomatoes.—INTERNET

LONDON, 7 March — UK health experts believe sun-dried tomatoes could be the cause of a recent outbreak of hepatitis A. The Health Protection Agency and the Food Standards Agency fear contaminated samples were to blame for the infection that hospitalised four people and caused illness in another three people in late 2011. Hepatitis A virus is carried by human faeces and can be passed on through contact with food or

water. Severe cases can lead to liver failure. All of the seven people infected have since made a recovery. One of the strains of hepatitis A identified in two of the patients was identical to a strain that caused a similar outbreak linked with sun-dried tomatoes in the Netherlands in 2010, says a report.

Four of the patients in this latest outbreak in England said they had consumed sun-dried tomatoes. Officials are on the alert for further cases. But they say they do not know which brands of sun-dried tomatoes might be involved. This is because there is no reliable test to find the virus in food.

Internet



Opel Ampera elected “Car of the Year”

GENEVA, 7 March — Opel Ampera (or Chevrolet Volt) was announced as “Car of the Year (CoTY) 2012” at the Palexpo in Geneva on Monday, on the eve of the 82nd Geneva International Motor Show. “The Ampera/Volt, with a petrol engine operating as a generator when needed, faces the so called ‘range anxiety’ of battery-driven car users with the concept of an ‘Extended range EV,’” said the official website of the CoTY Organizing Committee.

“GM has addressed the concerns on heat control of the lithium-ion battery pack with new solutions. The problem with the batteries is solved,” it said. After almost half a century of publishing the result on late November, the CoTY Organizing Committee has reached an agreement with the Swiss annual show to disclose the winner in Palexpo each Monday prior to the first press day. The candidates have been selected among the cars put on sale in Europe during the previous calendar year with foreseeable yearly sales of at least 5,000 units.

A short list of seven finalists has been



Opel Ampera (or Chevrolet Volt) was announced as “Car of the Year (CoTY) 2012” at the Palexpo in Geneva on Monday.

INTERNET

issued early January, following a simple vote by the 59 Jury members representing 23 European countries. Among the finalists are Citroen DS5, Fiat Panda, Ford Focus, Opel (Vauxhall) Ampera, Range Rover Evoque, Toyota Yaris and Volkswagen UP. The 82nd Geneva Motor Show will open to the public since 8 March and will last 10 days.—Xinhua

Yahoo plans major restructuring, layoffs

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 March — Yahoo’s new Chief Executive Officer Scott Thompson is preparing a major restructuring of the company that could result in significant layoffs, local media reported on Monday. The layoffs “are likely to number in the thousands,” technology news site AllThingsD reported, citing multiple sources inside and outside Yahoo. It said “much of the change, which could be announced as soon as the end of this month, is being aimed at Yahoo’s large products organization, as well as other arenas in which the company has lagged in.”

On Sunday, Yahoo confirmed that Prabhakar Raghavan, a well-known

computer scientist who served as the company’s head of Labs and head of strategy, is leaving. According to AllThingsD, the departure came ahead of the possibly deep cuts in Raghavan’s division. The report said Raghavan, who has been working at Yahoo

for seven years, is going to take a job at Google. At the end of its last quarterly report, Yahoo has around 14,100 employees.

Yahoo has been struggling to restore its former glory in recent years. After turning down Microsoft’s 48 billion



Report says Yahoo plans major restructuring, layoffs.—XINHUA

Nissan set to create 2,000 jobs

LONDON, 7 March — Nissan is to build a new model at its Sunderland factory, a move that will create 2,000 jobs. The Japanese carmaker, which will officially make the announcement later at the Geneva motor show, is set to invest £125m in the programme. Production of the new compact car is scheduled to start from mid-2013, and the government is supporting the project with a £9.3m grant. The jobs will be created at the factory, and among its suppliers.

Business Secretary Vince Cable told the BBC that the news was “a really great announcement”. He added: “It is very positive, but you can’t see this in isolation, because the other big car companies have also made major commitments to the UK. “Jaguar Land Rover, Ford, BMW Mini, are all putting in more money and bringing back supply chain.” The additional investment in Nissan’s Sunderland facility will increase its workforce to 6,000, a record high for the factory.—Internet

takeover bid in 2008, Yahoo partners with the software giant on internet search and advertising, but the partnership has not lived up to expectations. On the other hand, its search engine rankings has fallen behind Microsoft’s Bing last December.—Xinhua



Nissan already produces 480,000 vehicles per year at its Sunderland factory.—INTERNET



Double Strong Championship for Sepak Takraw athletes

YANGON, 7 March—The Double Strong Championship, organized by Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation and sponsored by Myanmar Brewery Ltd, will be held in Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine.

The championship will be organized in Yangon from 25 to 29 April, in Mandalay from 23 to 27 May and in Mawlamyine from 9 to 15 July. After first round qualifiers in these townships, first, second and third prize winning

teams must take part in the final round in Mawlamyine. Cash award K 6.3 million will be awarded to the winners, and sports suits will be provided to the athletes. Travel allowance and daily allowance will be funded to qualified men's and women's teams. For further information, dial 01-577461 of the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation, 09-5128985 of U Kyaw Zin Moe (Secretary), and 09-49572377 of Coach U Than Lwin.—MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister meets JGC Corporation guests

YANGON, 7 March— Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win received President Yasuko Yumoto and Senior Manager Tsutomu Sasahara of JGC Corporation based in Japan, at the regional government Office yesterday.

The meeting concentrated on matters relating to making investments.—MNA

Higher learning institutions in Shan State (East) contributing to development of human resources

Archive:
Maung Nyein Aye



With the emergence of Kengtung University in Kengtung, Shan State (East), local national race youths are now in a position to pursue higher education within their reach.

The advent of University of Computer Studies (Kengtung) in Kengtung, Shan State (East) has enabled local national race youths to continue to pursue higher education in their region without going to other regions.

The opening of Technological University (Kengtung) in Kengtung, Shan State (East) has contributed a lot to turning out a large number of technician human resources in the region.

Outstanding students produced by basic education schools opened in Kengtung, Shan State (East) have now been able to continue their studies at the higher learning institutions.



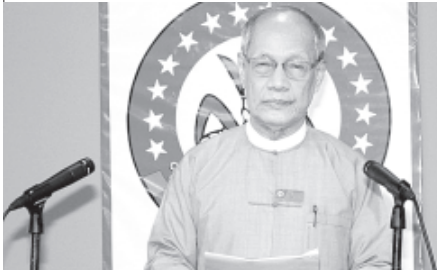
* The government has designated Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung and Panglong as four special development regions and built each university, each technological university and each university of computer studies in those regions to bring about development to keep pace with other regions in terms of development as Shan State is a region with a vast tract of area. * As Kengtung, Shan State (East) is facilitated with each technological university, each university of computer studies and each arts & science university, the number of human resources such as intellectuals and technocrats is increasing all the more.

(Translation: AMS)

National Unity Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Joint General Secretary of National Unity Party U Khin Maung Gyi presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 7 March.

The translation of his presentation is as follows:



Esteemed voters,

Firstly, I would like to extend my greetings to esteemed voters.

By-elections are coming near. I am going to brief on National Unity Party to help you voters make decision.

Our party was not built on an individual and we have organizational set-up which thoroughly defines policies and work programmes of the party. The policy the party pursues is welfare of the people, the way we pursue is Myanmar's way of helping the people, and the practice we employ is the middle way.

The National Unity Party is based on farmers, labour, youths and women and was formed with wide organizing vision of serving the entire people from intellectuals and intelligentsia, businessmen, civil servants to vendors.

Esteemed voters,

The National Unity Party has already publicized its election manifesto. This manifesto is the "pledge" of our party how we will serve the State and the people.

As we prefer authentic democracy, we guarantee to establish human rights based on worldly virtues: justice, liberty and equality.

Fundamental human rights include political fairness, economic fairness and social fairness. It must also include freedom of speech, freedom to canvass, freedom to practise any faith, freedom to reside in the country and freedom to earn for a living according to the constitution. Rights must be equal. There must be no man above the law. In doing so, we will recognize the role of news media, the Fourth Estate of the State, and back it up.

Esteemed voters,

I would like to present the attitude our party maintains towards each class of the people. Firstly, I will present our attitude to farmers, the majority of our country. As Myanmar will build market economy in accord with the constitution, we will ensure the farmers have the rights to grow, store and sell in the market economy freely.

We will protect the farmers from illegal farmland confiscations. If the State unavoidably happens to do so, we will ensure the farmers get appropriate compensation. They must receive agricultural loans reasonably. We guarantee that the farmers pay reasonable price for fertilizers and pesticides and fetch good price for crops they produce. We will work for helping farmers not to lose their entitlements and to enjoy more.

For agricultural development and fulfilling farmers' lives, those who run the farm must own the farm. Our party will cooperate in rural development and poverty alleviation tasks to achieve their objectives. Besides, our party favours emergence of a united farmers' organization which could serve and protect the farmers.

Esteemed voters,

Our party will continue to present the attitude towards labour. In bringing benefits to workers, we will demand their entitlements prescribed in the laws. We will strike a balance between payment of workers, pensions and other entitlements and staple food prices. We will support emergence of labour organizations under the law.

I will go on with the affair of youths. Youths are beloved sons of the country to whom the duties of the State will fall. The new generations for the future must be trained to excel in politics, economics and sociology in order that the State is able to depend on them. We will work for creating new employments for young workforce and to help them pursue education and work both at home and abroad depending on their performance. Our party will avoid exploiting the youths.

I would like to present our attitude towards women. Women are not only the majority but also the important force of the State. So, our party will respect and value development of the women. In doing so, we will ensure gender equality. We will strive for emergence of outstanding women and development of their social status and help them occupy higher positions at home and abroad.

Esteemed voters,

Intellectuals, intelligentsia and businessmen play and a very important role in modernization process of the nation. So, we assure that people who have right qualifications will be honoured with right positions and privileges.

For businessmen, we will make sure they have equal rights legally, do not have barriers in operating their businesses, no corruption and their competitiveness against international businessmen. We will encourage emergence of entrepreneurs and businessmen with international caliber.

We believe that it is instrumental to cooperate with the Armed Forces in building a modern, developed, democratic nation.

We will focus on convenient livelihood of people. What's more, we will make sure people have rights and freedom described in the laws and fight against bribery and corruption.

We will work for development of such social works as education, health and culture. We are determined to work for the success of free compulsory primary education system. We will make sure brilliant students complete their studies either at home or overseas. We will also work for betterment in capacity and integrity of teachers, which is pivotal in above-mentioned works.

As to the health sector, we will make sure hospitals and clinics have full medicine and medical equipment and the needy have access to public health care. In this effort, we will

also encourage development of traditional medicine.

Esteemed voters,

Our party, the National Unity Party, will adopt and implement "independent national economic policy" for socio-economic development of the entire nation.

Targeting for the prosperous future of the nation, we will implement the market economy which will bring about harmonious socio-economy, allowing the entire nation joining hands in the effort and sharing the fruits equally out of humanity. In so doing, we will prevent against patronage network and make sure leaving inexhaustible natural resources to the future generations.

Esteemed voters,

Our party attaches greatest importance to and cherishes and values the national unity in our country, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, constituted is diverse national races. With regard to national races, our party's standpoint is—equality of national races, rights to enjoy freedom in accordance with the constitution, rights to stand as a national race and equitable development among national races. Our party embraces the concept that the strength of the nation lies within and thus believes that mutual negotiations between internal elements is the better solution to get the wishes of the national races fulfilled. So, we support the negotiations aiming to cease armed conflicts. We will also cooperate with national elements.

With regard to national races, we will focus our attention on emergence of harmoniously integrated Myanmar society as a result of reciprocal contribution between the Union and the Union members.

Esteemed voters,

Myanmar, geographically, holds strategic position and rich in above and underground natural resources, drawing international attention.

So, our party will practice independent and active foreign policy. In so doing, we will make more frequent contacts and establish friendly ties with the global family members, upholding the long-maintained Bandung five principles of co-existence. Especially, we will maintain neighbourly relations with the bordering countries and also participate actively in the works of the UN and international organizations.

Esteemed voters,

We are making all-out efforts both inside and outside parliament to honour our promises to the people. We will be able to serve the interests of the nation and its people more on condition that we get more seats in the parliament.

The election is a chance for the people to choose their own destiny. It is important to elect the right candidates. So, we would like to urge you, voters to cast ballots for right men who can really serve the interests of the nation and its people.



Fertilizer broadcast on farmlands in Wakema

WAKEMA, 7 March—The broadcasting of fertilizer into paddy field was held at three-acre farmland of farmer U Khin Maung Swe in Lanthamaing Ywalay Village of Wakema Township on 22 February morning.

Under supervision of Township Administrator U Soe Tun and members, Township Manager U Than Aung of Myanma Agriculture Service and members of the Township Agricultural Boosting Production Committee, fertilizer broadcasting work was carried out.

Local farmers from Lanthamaing Ywagi, Kanasogon and Lanthamainglay villages observed broadcasting of fertilizer.

Six acres of farmlands are put under summer Paethwe paddy in Ukyun Village, one acre in Ugyidaw Village, three acres in Bobay Anyasu Village and three acres in Lanthamainglay villages of Wakema Township. Plan is under way to extend cultivation of summer Paethwe hybrid paddy in the township.

Myanma Alin

Hatching of fingerlings demonstrated

THAYAWADY, 7 March—With a view to contributing to the rural development and poverty alleviation and enabling the local people to hatch fingerlings, a demonstration on hatching of Hamilton's Carp was held at Okpo fishery station in Thayawady District on 25 February morning.

In the presence of Bago Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Tin Soe, Head of Region Fisheries Department U Hla Tun, Head of Region

Cooperative Department Daw Myint Myint Wai, Head of District Fisheries Department U Sein Myint and officials and departmental personnel from eight townships, in-charge of the farm U Than Naing demonstrated practical hatching of fingerlings in the pond and replied to the queries raised by those present.—District IPRD

District News

Lahu National Development Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Vice-Chairman of Lahu National Development Party U Yaw Thup presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 7 March evening.

The translation of his presentation is as follows:-



Esteemed voters,

First and foremost, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Union Election Commission for permitting our party to present our stance and work programmes through radio and TV.

I am Vice-Chairman U Yaw Thup from Lahu National Development Party.

I myself will participate in vacancy of Shan State (North) Constituency No. 3 in the by-election to be held on 1 April 2012. At first, I would like to present policies and stance of Lahu National Development Party. Our party's policies and stances are:-

Our party believes that only when the national races in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar follow and practise the genuine democracy, will the whole nation achieve the goal of building a modern and developed nation.

We formed Lahu National Development Party with the aim of organizing people of various national races in the region in which Lahu nationals reside to participate in building a modern, developed nation that practises democracy.

Our party is Lahu Chawkyu Ulamartu Party in Lahu language and Lahu National Development Party in English.

I would like to present some points about our party's flag. Our party's flag is five feet long and 2.5 feet wide. A white triangle is in the east part of the flag. Upper half of

the flag is red colour and the lower half of the flag is sky blue colour.

With the white triangle in the background, there are two Lahu traditional bottle gourd flutes in the shape of a cross. Over the cross point is an ear of paddy. And over the ear of paddy is a red star.

The white triangle, bottle gourd flutes, ear of paddy and red star has their meaning each.

- **White colour** represents simplicity, cleanliness, uprightness and loyalty. **Red colour** represents bravery, activeness and steadiness. **Sky blue colour** represents coldness, stability, peace and unity.

- **A triangle** represents strong belief in the Buddha and Dhamma, patriotism and sense of cherishing motherland.

- **Bottle gourd flutes** represent Lahu nationals' culture, unity, sacredness and loyalty, and on days of significance, Lahu people dance with bottle gourd flute accompaniment to strengthen unity.

- **Ear of paddy** represents the main business of Lahu nationals which has been run since our forefathers.

- **Red star** represents the entire Lahu nationals.

Our party's seal is in circular shape. Words "Lahu National Development Party" are embodied in Myanmar language at the top of the seal, and in Lahu language at the bottom of the seal. There are two stars; one on the Myanmar language side and another, on the Lahu language side. In the centre of the seal is a cross of two bottle gourd flutes. On the cross point is an ear of paddy. At the top of the ear of paddy is a star. Under the cross of two flutes are a group of words "LNDP" which is the acronym of our party.

The objectives of our party are:-

- to ensure that sovereignty is in force in the whole country, non-disintegration of the national solidarity, and perpetuation of independence in line with the democratic practice,

- to develop Lahu nationals' literature, culture, customs and arts,

- to ensure every citizen enjoying equal rights, the rule of law, and to work for political, economic,

social and organizing works in our region,

- to improve the living status of Lahu people, and

- to take lessons and procedures from developed nations for development of the nation and Lahu region.

I would like to continue my presentation on future programmes.

Our party's future plans are:-

- We will arouse the political, economic, social and organizing senses of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and local people living in Lahu region and improve the image of our party.

- We will persuade groups to give up armed insurgency that harms rights of the national people and development of the region and pushes the human beings into miseries and democratically seek ways in the framework of the law.

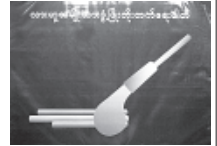
- We will show equality to all congenial political parties and occasionally join hands, make ally and give help to them.

- We will ward off poppy farming that has been major business since our forefathers, and organize local people to run agricultural farming, livestock breeding and exploitation of natural resources instead of poppy farming. In that regard, we will provide necessary intellectuals and intelligentsia and investments.

- We will exercise independent and active foreign policy and the policy of peaceful coexistences.

- We will encourage developing literature, culture, custom and arts of Lahu national people.

- In conclusion, I would like to pledge that we will improve transport, and we will make sure that the people, regardless of wealth, have access to free medical treatment and every citizen has access to formal education. They are our party's stances and work programmes.



Free clinic serves local people in Pakokku

PAKOKKU, 7 March—Thugati free clinic, established by Thugati Cetana Social Association, was opened in Khandaw Ward 12 in Pakokku on 12 February.

Chairman of Township Writers and Journalists Association Daw Saw Kyaing (retired professor), Chairman of the Clinic U Tint Swe and Supervisor of the clinic U Kaung Hsint formally opened the clinic.

Under the patronage of Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, altogether 24 wellwishers of Khandaw 12 Ward funded K 1.5 million for the clinic for providing health care services to the people regardless of nationals,

religions and poor and rich persons.

The clinic is being kept open every Saturday and Wednesday.

Member of the free clinic Dr Daw Htay, Dr Theingi Swe (Pakokku General Hospital) and Dr Tin Aung Cho (Chan Myae Clinic) supervise the health care services together with nurses Daw Nu Nu Win, U Kyaw Nyi Nyi Lwin (Pakokku General Hospital), Daw Nan Swe Myint (MCWA) and Daw Nyein Nyein Thant (midwife).

Up to now, over 150 people receive medical treatment at the clinic weekly.

Myanma Alin

Literary talks given in Kyaukdaga

KYAUKDAGA, 7 March—The 10th literary talk, jointly organized by No. 91 Saw Mill of Myanmar Timber Enterprise under Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and Literary and Culture Committee, was staged in front of the saw mill in Pado Village-tract in Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region, on 25 February evening.

Pado Village-tract Administrator U Aung Hsan Lin and No. 91 Saw Mill Manager

U Naing Lin Aung made speeches.

The manager presented K 50,000 to the fund of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association (Central) through Chairman of the MWJA (Central) writer Ledwintha Saw Chit before the literary talks.

Later, wellknown writers Ledwintha Saw Chit, Theikpan Hmutin and Dr Khin Maung Nyo gave talks on literary affairs.

Myanma Alin

Myanmar CP Tennis Tournament 17-23 March

YANGON, 7 March—Jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Tennis Federation, with the sponsorship of Myanmar CP Co Ltd, the Myanmar CP Open Tennis Tournament will be held at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, from 17 to 23 March.

The tournament will be categorized as inter-club event, men's open singles event and doubles event, women's open singles event and doubles event, mix-doubles event, boys' and girls' U-10, U-12, U-14 and U-16 singles events.

The federation will provide K 35,000 each as travel allowance to tennis teams outside Yangon Region and K 50,000 each

to those of regions and states.

Tournament arrangements will be made for creating better opportunities to tennis teams from regions and states. The federation will take responsibility for travel allowance and accommodation of the tennis players.

Those wishing to take part in the tournament may enlist at Myanmar Tennis Federation (Theinbyu Tennis Court), not later than 10 am on 16 March. For further information, dial 372360, 381991, 381992, extension (0) and 097312249.

The MTF plans to present about K 3 million as cash awards to the winners and tennis teams.—*Myanma Alin*

Repaved road commissioned into service

HSENWI, 7 March—Bandoola Road, repaved with asphalt by Hsenwi Township Development Affairs Committee in 2011-2012 fiscal year was inaugurated at the road in Ward 3 of Hsenwi on 10 February.

Engineer-in-charge U Khin Maung Kyaw of the Township Development Affairs

Committee explained repaving of the road. Ward 3 administrator U Phaw Da Tun and Executive Officer U Khin Saw of Township Development Affairs Committee formally opened the repaved road. The committee has spent K 1,873,060 on 920 feet long and 12 feet wide road.—*Myanma Alin*

President U Thein Sein,...

(from page 16)

Aungthida Ward 8 in Lashio of Shan State.

President U Thein Sein conferred Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title and certificates on U Myint Thein of Mahaungmye Township of Mandalay Region and U Kyaw Khin Myint of Pabedan Township of Yangon Region and Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara title and certificate on U Khin Maung of Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo conferred Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara title and certificates on Dr Soe Myint of Kyimyindine Township of Yangon Region and U Kyaw Soe Win (a) U Khant Sithu of Bahan Township of Yangon Region and Thudhamma Manijotadhara title and certificate on U Kyi Maung of Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham conferred Thudhamma Manijotadhara title and certificates on U Htay Hlaing of Salingyi Township of Sagaing Region and U Myo Hset of Mayangon Township of Yangon Region and Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title and certificate on U Kyaw Wai of Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay



President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win present rice and offertories to members of Sangha. MNA



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo offers religious title and insignia to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham offers religious title and insignia to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann offers religious title and insignia to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint offers religious title and insignia to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Region.

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein, presented Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi titles and certificates to Daw Khin Cho Ohn of Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region and Daw Win Win Htay (a) Ma Nge of Mayangon Township of Yangon Region and Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title and certificate to Daw San Kyu of Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region.

Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President Thiha

Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, presented Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title and certificates to Daw Swe Thazin of Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region, Daw San San of Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay Region, Daw Khin Swe Oo of Dagon Myothit (South) Township of Yangon Region and Daw Ei Kay Thwe Min of Dagon Township of Yangon Region.

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, presented Thudhamma Theingi title and certificates to Daw Aye Myint of Sangyoung Township of

Yangon Region, Daw Mya Yin of Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region and Daw Kalawady (a) Daw San San of Mogok of Mandalay Region.

Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, conferred Thudhamma Theingi title and certificates on Daw Than Htay of ChaungU of Sagaing Region, Daw Mya Mya Htay of Hlegu Township of Yangon Region and Daw Htwe Htwe (a) Daw Yi Yi Htwe of Chanayethazan (See page 9)



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein, presents certificate to a recipient.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife present offertories to a Sayadaw.

MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife present offertories to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo presents certificates to a recipient.

MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet present offertories to a Sayadaw.

MNA



Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, confers certificates on a layperson.—MNA



Nyunt of Tamway Township of Yangon Region, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Daw Win Maw Tun of Yenangyoung of Magway Region and Daw Tin Tin of Mahaangmye Township of Mandalay Region.

Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, presented Thudamma Theingi titles and certificates to Daw Ohnma Lwin of Sangyong Township of Yangon Region, Daw Aye Aye Myint of Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region and Daw Aye Aye Aung of Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region.

(See page 10)



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint presents offertories to a Sayadaw.—MNA

President U Thein Sein, ...

(from page 8)
Township of Mandalay Region.
Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife

of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, presented Thudamma Theingi titles and certificates to Daw Khin



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, offers religious title and insignia to a nun.
MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents certificate to a layperson.
MNA



Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, presenting certificate and insignia to a laywoman.
MNA



Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, presents certificate to a nun.—MNA



Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, presenting religious title to a nun.
MNA

President U Thein Sein,...

(from page 9)

Dr Daw Myint Htay, wife of the Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, presented Thudamma Thiengi title and certificates to Daw Ma Ma (a) Daw Kyi Kyi Mya of Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region, Daw Khin Thida of Mayangon Township of Yangon Region and Daw Htay Htay Khaing of Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region.

The Union Minister for Religious Affairs supplicated on religious affairs.

Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Sasana Nuggaha Monastery of Chaukhtegy Taik of Bahan Township in Yangon Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kheminda delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

The ceremony came to

an end with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Thitthatu.

Religious associations of the President Office, the Union government office, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Supreme Court of the Union, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the Union Election Commission Office, Union ministries, the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union, the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, the Office of the Union Civil Services Board, the Nay Pyi Law Council and townships of Nay Pyi Law Council, social organizations, companies and wellwishers offered rice and alms to members of the Sangha.

On the gala occasion, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin

Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thein Soe, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye and wife, the Union ministers, deputy ministers and their wives, departmental heads, staff families and wellwishers offered rice and provisions to members of the Sangha and nuns along the entrance road to the southern stairways of Nay Pyi Law Uppatasanti Pagoda and the ringroad of the pagoda.

MNA



Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, conferring religious title on a nun.
MNA

Shwedagon Pagoda 2600th Anniversary Buddha Pujaniya concludes

YANGON, 7 March—A ceremony to mark the success of 2600th Anniversary Shwedagon Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya, along with the title conferring was held at the precinct of Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of Sangha, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife, the Yangon Region Hluttaw, the Region High Court Chief Justice, the deputy Hluttaw Speaker, region ministers and their wives, members of the leading committee for organizing 2600th Anniversary Buddha Pujaniya, departmental personnel, donors and members of religious associations.

U Sein Win Aung rotating chairman of Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees announced the successful completion of Pujaniya and letter of pleasure on title-conferring.

The congregation then received nine precepts from State Ovadaçariya Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees TheingiU Monastery Sayadaw of Chaukhtetkyi Pagoda Monastery in Bahan Township, Yangon Region Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Baddanta Nandobhasa, followed by Miitta Sutta recitation of the members of Sangha.

The region minister then conferred Seingottara Pavarasiri Maha Dhammaraja Singottara title on the TheingiU Monastery Sayadaw, Nyaungdon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Baddanta Sobhana, and Sobhanavasa Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamajotika Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadaja Baddanta Sobhana of Myatheindan Pariyatti Monastery, Pazundaung Township.—MNA



Shwedagon Pagoda crowded with devotees on Fullmoon day of Taboung.

MNA

Katha fire leaves 15 buildings and 347 shops burnt down



Union Minister U Khin Yi meets officials, media men

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi on 3 March held a meeting with representatives of Sagaing Region, Ward/Village Administrators of Monywa Township, including media men.

In his speech at the meeting, the Union Minister called those present for informing the public about progress of issuing census

and citizenship scrutiny cards at reasonable price with their rapid efforts in line with Moeypwint (2) plan, tasks to be carried out and being done for taking a census in the whole country in 2014, hoping better smooth effectiveness.

After that, he answered the queries shot by those present.

MNA

KATHA, 7 March—A fire broke out in Katha No.2 Ward about 4 am today, burning down nearby 15 residential and other buildings and 347 shops of Katha Myoma Market on the either side of downtown motor road.

The fire was the result of the fluorescent lamp electric shock from PandawU snack shop, Room No.4 of the ground floor of the 12-quarter two-storey building on Yadana Road, No. 2 Ward of

Katha.

It is learnt that the overheated fluorescent lamps which were left turned caused the fire which was finally put out at 7 am, leaving no casualties. The fire victims were temporarily accommodated at Laytset Monastery in No.3 Ward with authorities concerned giving assistance.

Katha Police Office is arranging to bring the shopkeeper concerned to the trial.

MNA

Untimely rain impedes Alaungdaw Kasapa pilgrimage

YANGON, 7 March—Recent untimely rain blocked the road to Alaungdaw Kasapa (Kasapa the Remains), said pilgrims.

Some pilgrims

canceled their visit and some delayed on the mountain for a night following the road block. Alaungdaw Kasapa lies in sanctuary in Sagaing 20 miles from Kapaing village which is the last focal

point along the trip and beyond which the forest awaits. It is most common that the pilgrims have to delay their trip if untimely rain deteriorates the road transportation.

There are one gate for vehicles in Kapaing village and one other on the route. "If the road goes slippery in the rain, the gates do not allow vehicles to pass over," a Kapaing villager said. Sometimes, cars stuck in mud have to be rescued by elephants. "Pilgrims do not want to turn back as they have taken a great deal of difficulties."

On public holidays on 2, 3 and 4 March, Alaungdaw



Kasapa hosted a huge crowd of visitors. The troublesome rain fell on 3 March, burdening the visitors with a load of delays. Some bold travelers risked a night on

the mountain to reach the holiday destination. Pilgrims add one more prayer for smooth road transportation of the trip of limited periods. Devotees

mostly flood in the place of pilgrimage on Fullmoon days of Tabodwe and Taboung.

(Su Hnin Lé)
Translation: HKA



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (110N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (110N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2012 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Fifteen killed in train collision in Poland

WARSAW, 7 March—Fifteen people were killed and 60 others injured in a train collision in southern Poland on Saturday as rescue work is on the way, local media reported.

Poland's Interior Minister confirmed the new death toll about the train clash, as hundreds of firefighters and policemen were working hard on the scene to help and rescue passengers trapped inside the train. More fatalities in the accident, which Polish Transport Minister Slawomir Nowak described as the "most serious railway catastrophes" in Poland's recent history, were not ruled out.—Xinhua



The screenshot taken on 3 March, 2012 from TV programme of TVP, the Poland national TV station shows rescuers are working at the train collision site. An uncertain number of people were killed and around 60 were injured in a train collision in southern Poland on Saturday, the country's transport minister told a local TV station.—XINHUA

10,000 visit Lei Feng "supermarket"

BEIJING, 7 March—A supermarket of charity services dedicated to Lei Feng opened on Sunday attracting thousands of people in Zhengzhou, Henan Daily reported on Monday.

The programme launched by the Communist Youth League of China provides "goods" including volunteer services and hope projects.

People of 14 years or older can apply any programme for free. The volunteer service covers broad areas including poverty relief, environmental protection, public service, and community development.

On the first day when the charity supermarket opened it attracted about ten thousand people, among whom 2,000 applied for items.—Xinhua

Rescuers work at the spot of accident in Lingdingyang estuary, south China's Guangdong Province, on 3 March, 2012. The freighter "Boyun 018" sank following collision with a Panamanian cargo ship "Dream Star" from Shanghai to Xinsha Harbour on Lingdingyang estuary at 9 pm on Friday. Of the total 10 crew members aboard the sunk vessel, 2 were rescued and the rest were still missing. One of Dream Star's oil bunker broken and leaked some oil.

XINHUA



A visitor looks at the exhibited tea-sets on an exhibition for creative gifts and crafts in Beijing, capital of China, on 2 March, 2012. Over 700 exhibitors from home and abroad participated in the 2012 Beijing International Creative Gifts and Crafts Exhibition which kicked off here on Friday.—XINHUA

600 residents ordered to evacuate as flood threat spreads in Australia

SYDNEY, 7 March—Rising floodwaters are threatening the southern New South Wales (NSW) city of Griffith and surrounding areas in Australia, with about 600 people ordered to evacuate from the region, local media reported on Wednesday.

The NSW State Emergency Service (SES) issued a flood evacuation order for parts of Griffith on early Wednesday morning, advising residents of the low-lying parts of Griffith and its surroundings to evacuate immediately.

"Do not delay your evacuation," the SES said in the order.

"Roads may be congested or closed which could result in you becoming stranded and requiring rescuing," Keith Favell from the SES has told the Australian Broadcasting

Corporation (ABC) Radio it is hard to predict how the flooding in Griffith will unfold.

"It's a bit of an unprecedented flood. We don't often see water like this coming into Griffith because it's not under a defined river system," he said.

"Overland flooding is a little bit more difficult to predict exactly when it's going to arrive, because we don't have gauge locations and a history of flow times."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Julia Gillard is to tour the flood-hit area of Wagga Wagga in southern NSW on Wednesday.

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell declared a state of emergency on Tuesday, as 9,000 people were evacuated from Wagga Wagga.

Xinhua

China's submersible to try 7,000-metre dive in June-July

BEIJING, 7 March—China's manned deep-diving submersible, the Jiaolong, will try a 7,000-metre dive in the Pacific Ocean between June and July this year, Liu Cigui, director of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) said on Sunday. Liu told Xinhua before the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, that all preparatory work for the submersible's 7,000-metre dive is now going on smoothly.

The Chinese manned submersible succeeded in diving 5,188 metres below the sea in the Pacific Ocean between July and August last year, enabling China to conduct scientific surveys in 70 percent of the world's seabed areas.

China's maritime authority shoulders heavy tasks carrying out scientific research on oceans this year, said Liu, who is also a deputy to the NPC.

He said China will continue to proceed with oceanic surveys and environmental investigations and push forward legislation on oceans this year.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 2 March, 2012 shows rimous farmland in Longpeng Township of Honghe Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan Province. Since December 2011, the drought ravaging Yunnan's 15 prefectures and municipalities, has left 3.19 million people and 1.58 million livestock short of drinking water, according to the provincial government. Meteorological authority carried out artificial precipitation on Friday and Saturday when weather permitted.—XINHUA

Indian police arrest Iranian over Israel embassy car attack

NEW DELHI, 7 March—Indian police have detained an Iranian freelance journalist in the Indian Capital over his suspected role in the bomb attack on an Israeli embassy car last month, said a local newspaper on Wednesday.

Syed Ahmed Kazmi, 50, freelance journalist from Teheran, has been arrested from Lodhi colony in central Delhi by special forces in connection with the Israeli embassy car blast case, the daily Hindustan Times said in its electronic edition.

Kazmi, a resident of Teheran, helped plan the attack. He is now being questioned by Indian security agencies, said the report quoting unnamed sources.

Israeli diplomat Tal Yehoshua, her Indian driver as well as two other passers-by were injured in the blast after a magnetic bomb stuck to the vehicle went off on 13 Feb in central Delhi.—Xinhua



340-ton boulder begins trek to California museum

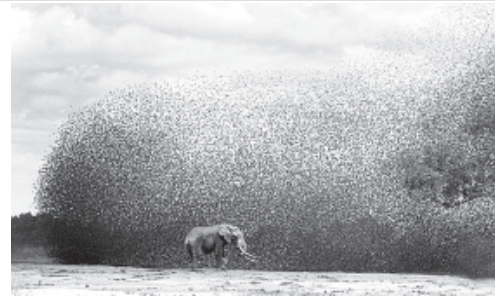
The 340-ton granite boulder chosen to be part of a Los Angeles County Museum of Art installation has completed the first 5 miles of its 106-mile journey. Mark Albrecht, project manager Emmert International, which is handling transportation of the massive rock, said the boulder left the Stone Valley

quarry in Riverside Tuesday night and came to rest early Wednesday about 5 miles away at the intersection of Mission Boulevard and Bellegrave Avenue in Ontario, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on Wednesday.

"We want to limit our travel tonight," Albrecht said prior to the 5-mile trek. "We don't want to bite off more

than we can chew."

Albrecht said the 200-foot apparatus used to transport the boulder and its 20-strong fleet of support vehicles makes fast travel difficult. The boulder is scheduled to arrive at the museum after 11 days of travel to become the centerpiece of artist Michael Heizer's "Levitated Mass" sculpture.



A jumbo-sized cloud of queleas swarm around an elephant in East Tsavo, Kenya. The red-billed queleas frightened a pair of elephants away as they tried to drink at the Satao Camp water hole in East Tsavo, Kenya.

Canada town has dibs on world's best water

The tiny Canadian town of Greenwood, British Columbia, has the world's best tap water, judges at an international water tasting competition determined.

Nipper Kettle, the mayor of the British Columbia hamlet of 676 people, shipped a sample of Greenwood's drinking water — which comes from underground aquifers and is untreated — to the 22nd annual international water

tasting competition in Berkeley Springs, W.Va., where judges gave it a score of 40 out of a possible 44.

Water from the communities that entered was assessed for appearance, odor, flavor, mouth feel, aftertaste and overall impressions.

"I know the quality of the water," Kettle told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. "When I first moved here I used to buy bottled water and

I thought, 'Why am I wasting my time buying bottled water when we have the best water?'" Over at Greenwood's Deadwood Junction coffee shop, Debbie Ruley said she "felt very honoured but wasn't surprised."

"I always felt ours was the best in the world," she said. "When I drink water in other places it's just not the same." Besides worldwide bragging rights, the town receives a trophy.

2,600-year-old helmet found in Israel

A bronze Greek warrior helmet dating back to the 6th or 5th century BC has been discovered on a seabed in Israel, the *Daily Mail* reported on Thursday.

Jacob Sharvit, director of the Marine Archaeology Unit with the Israel Antiquities Authority, said: "The gilding and figural ornaments make this one of the most ornate pieces of early Greek armour discovered."

How it ended up on the

seabed in Haifa Harbour remains unknown.

One theory is that it belonged to a warrior stationed on one of the warships of the Greek fleet that fought the Persians, who ruled the country at the time.

The Israel Antiquities Authority determined that it

was fabricated by experts from a single sheet of bronze by means of heating and hammering.

This technique made it possible to reduce the weight of the helmet without diminishing its capacity to protect the head of the warrior.

News Album



Anthony Hopkins, a cast member in the motion picture thriller "The Rite", attends the premiere of the film at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles on 26 January, 2011.

INTERNET

Hopkins, Mirren to star in 'Making of Psycho'

LOS ANGELES, 7 March—Anthony Hopkins, Helen Mirren and Scarlett Johansson have joined the cast of "Alfred Hitchcock and the Making of Psycho," *The Hollywood Reporter* said.

Hopkins is to play Hitchcock, Mirren his wife Alma Reville and Johansson Janet Leigh, the actress who played the doomed heroine in the classic horror flick, the entertainment industry trade newspaper said.

To be directed by Sacha Gervasi, the film about the making of "Psycho" is being produced by Fox Searchlight and is based on the non-fiction book by Stephen Rebello, *The Hollywood Reporter* said.

Internet

Knight to create heroine in 'new' Williams play

NEW YORK, 7 March—Shirley Knight is to create the role of Clarissa "Babe" Foxworth in the world premiere staging of Tennessee Williams' last full-length drama in New York. "In *Masks Outrageous and Austere*" will begin performances 5 April, with an opening night set for 16 April at Culture Project at 45 Bleecker at Lafayette Street, it was announced Monday by producers Victor Szymis, Carl Rumbaugh and Susan Batson. The production, directed by David Schweizer, is scheduled to play through



Actress Shirley Knight

26 May.

"We are thrilled to have Shirley Knight with us to bring

"In *Masks Outrageous and Austere*" to life on the stage for the very first time," Schweizer said in a statement. "Her long, vivid and sensitive association with Tennessee and his work is well known, of course. She collaborated with him actively and brilliantly when he was alive throughout his and her careers. What especially excites me is the fierce intelligence and bold virtuosity of her work, this towering role has finally been given the gift of the actress who can truly make it sing."

Internet

Rihanna eyeing fashion career?

LOS ANGELES, 7 March—Singer Rihanna, who has worked with designer Giorgio Armani, is now eyeing a career in the world of fashion.

The 24-year-old recently designed a collection for Armani, and she said she has been playing around with style designs and even tries to give him some advice.

"We have a pretty good relationship now since we have been working together on the campaigns and I've been designing a capsule

line for his collection so he trusts my designs a little bit now so I get to play with him. It's great," showbizspy.com quoted Rihanna as saying.

"I designed it with Giorgio. It was a collaboration and I helped him design it. I wanted something a little bit Michelle Pfeiffer in *Scarface*... simple but sexy and a little gangster at the same time. I think it just showed that we work really well together," she added.

Internet



Singer Rihanna

Christina Hendricks's phone hacked



Actress Christina Hendricks

LONDON, 7 March—Actress Christina Hendricks's mobile phone has been hacked and several photos of the "Mad Men" actress have been stolen.

The 36-year-old was left furious after discovering a hacker had bypassed the security settings on her handset and downloaded several images, including shots in which she is scantily clad and not wearing make-

up, according to contactmusic.com. An alleged topless photograph of Hendricks appeared along with other shots on website Motherless.com on Sunday, but her representative denied it was the actress in the picture.

However, the representative did confirm the hacking. "Christina's phone was in fact hacked and photos were stolen.

Internet

Zach Quinto, a cast member in the motion picture comedy "What's Your Number?", attends the premiere of the film at the Regency Village Theatre in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles on 22 May, 2011.—INTERNET



Rabe, Quinto return for more 'Horror'

LOS ANGELES, 7 March—Sarah Paulson, Evan Peters, Lily Rabe and Zachary Quinto will return for Season 2 of "American Horror Story," the show's co-creator said.

Executive producer Ryan Murphy confirmed the Season 1 cast members would be back, along with previously announced fan favorite Jessica Lange, playing different characters in a new setting, *TVGuide.com* reported.

"Every season is a new haunting," Murphy said. "There are so many great genre subsets of horror ... [and] there's only one rule for the show: no werewolves, no vampires."

"I don't think they've ever done a show where a group of actors then came back the next year and played entirely different people and even called it the same thing. Leave it to Ryan Murphy," *TVGuide.com* quoted Paulson as saying.

Shooting is to begin in July. Season 2 is expected to start airing on FX in October.—Internet

'Community' animated shorts to hit Web

CULVER CITY, 7 March—Shorts featuring the animated alter-egos and voices of the stars of the US sitcom "Community" are to debut online this week, Sony Pictures Television said.

The first of the three animated clips is to air Wednesday on Hulu, Hulu Plus and NBC.com. Fresh installments will air on Thursday and Friday.

"These animated shorts are a vital component to our multi-pronged campaign aimed at driving awareness to the show's return to NBC on 15 March," Chris Van Amburg, senior vice president of US marketing

for Sony Pictures Television, said in a statement. "The 'Community' actors and team were eager to lend their voices and support to an effort intended to engage their loyal fan base that has rabidly kept the show thriving via flash mobs, fan art, viral videos, dedicated fan sites and on Facebook and Twitter."

Internet



Comic actor Joel McHale

Brave Arsenal exit UEFA Champions League
Gunners beat Milan but go out on aggregate, while Chelsea win in FA Cup

Champions League: Arsenal 3-0 AC Milan (aggregate 3-4)

LONDON, 7 March — Arsenal produced a truly magnificent performance against seven-time winners AC Milan at the Emirates only to bow out of the Champions League at the last 16 stage. The Gunners lost the first leg 4-0 in Milan and needed a miracle to progress, but Laurent Koscielny gave them hope when he headed in Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's searly corner.

Tomas Rosicky



Robin van Persie's penalty gave Arsenal a 3-0 half-time lead against AC Milan.—INTERNET

doubled Arsenal's lead on the night when he slotted in after great work from Theo Walcott, and Robin van Persie struck from the penalty spot after Oxlade-Chamberlain was fouled. Arsenal suddenly only needed one goal to take it to extra-time and they went agonisingly close when

Gervinho's shot was blocked by Christian Abbiati and Van Persie's effort from the rebound was also brilliantly saved. But Arsene Wenger's side could not find a fourth goal and Milan held on nervously at the end to book their place in the last eight.

Internet

FA Cup: Birmingham 0-1 Chelsea

LONDON, 7 March — Chelsea began life after Andre Villas-Boas by booking their place in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup courtesy of a fifth round replay win at Birmingham.

Villas-Boas parted company with the Blues on Sunday as Roberto di Matteo took charge for the first time and Chelsea went in front in the second half when Juan Mata poked home inside the Birmingham box.

A superb goal doubled the lead as Raul Meireles rounded off an excellent move by hammering in from 25 yards, and though Mata had a penalty saved, Chelsea will now play Leicester in the last eight.

Internet



Karl Henry has made 24 Barclays Premier League appearances for Wolves this season.—INTERNET

Henry injury prompts Davis recall

LONDON, 7 March — Wolverhampton Wanderers midfielder Karl Henry is facing up to four weeks on the sidelines with a hamstring strain—prompting the club to recall on-loan David Davis from Chesterfield. Henry was forced off in the early stages of the 5-0 defeat by Fulham on Sunday and a scan has confirmed damage to his hamstring. Wolves are hopeful that the 29-year-old could return for the Barclays Premier League visit to Norwich on 24th March.

Davis, 21, has made nine appearances since joining League One Chesterfield on loan in January—including helping them to the Johnstone Paint Trophy final against Swindon at Wembley on 25th March. Wolves boss Terry Connor told the club's website: "Karl has had the scan which has shown up a hamstring strain, and he is expected to be out for three to four weeks. "As a result of this injury, and also Dave Edwards being unavailable at Fulham [through injury], we have decided to recall David Davis from his loan spell at Chesterfield.

"It gives us another option given the injuries and we've had David watched closely at both Inverness and Chesterfield this season where he has done very well." Davis, who made his senior debut for Wolves as a substitute in the 4-0 Carling Cup win at Northampton in August, joined with the Wanderers first team for training on Tuesday.—Internet

Spanish Cup final set for Vicente-Calderon

MADRID, 7 March — The Spanish Cup final between FC Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao will take place on 25 May at the Vicente-Calderon stadium of Atletico Madrid, the Spanish football federation (RFEF) announced on Tuesday. Both clubs had initially favoured the Santiago-Bernabeu, but Real Madrid officials ruled this out because of work being carried out at the stadium. Barcelona preferred the Vicente-Calderon with Athletic Bilbao favouring Sevilla's Cartuja stadium.

The final choice was made by the RFEF at a meeting which Barcelona officials did not attend in protest over their perceived treatment by referees this season. "We've decided not to attend this meeting of the federation as a sign of disenchantment. The force of our objective arguments has not been taken into account, so we are relying on the decision of the RFEF," club spokesman Toni Freixa said. The Catalan club are furious with match officials after defender Gerard Pique was sent off in Saturday's Primera Liga 3-1 win over Sporting Gijon at the Nou Camp.—Internet



View of the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid. The Spanish Cup final between FC Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao will take place on 25 May at the Vicente-Calderon stadium of Atletico Madrid, the Spanish football federation (RFEF) announced on Tuesday.—INTERNET

Victor Moses played in the second half of the defeat against Swansea.—INTERNET



LONDON, 7 March — Wigan Athletic's Victor

Moses backs Martinez's selection call

Moses has defended the decision of manager Roberto Martinez not to start him in

Swansea on Saturday. The 21-year-old winger came on as a half-time substitute in the 2-0 defeat at the DW Stadium against Swansea. That decision was questioned by chairman Dave Whelan, although he also offered public backing for Martinez, saying he had done a great job at the club.

Moses, who returned to Wigan after travelling to Rwanda to make his debut for Nigeria, said Martinez's decision was correct. "Obviously it's never nice when you're not playing, but it's the manager's decision and

I was feeling tired after being away with Nigeria," he said. "I'd done a lot of travelling in a short space of time and it's not an ideal way to prepare for a football match.

"The fans probably don't realize that travelling so far for a game in midweek really does take it out of you, out of your legs especially. "A couple of the other lads were the same - only getting back on Friday evening - and when you're going out there with tired legs, that's when you're risking getting injuries - which obviously the gaffer is trying to prevent."—Internet

Upbeat Federer back at beloved Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 7 March —With his confidence sky-high after winning five of his last seven tournaments, Roger Federer returns to one of his favourite venues for the Masters Series event starting this week. The Swiss world number three has triumphed three times at the state-of-the-art Indian Wells Tennis Garden and will be difficult to beat on the hardcourt surface with his

defensive skills now possibly better than ever.

Long regarded as one of the most elegant and aggressive serve-and-volley players of all time, Federer has had to improve the resilience of his baseline game in recent years in a bid to blunt the twin challenge of Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic. "I've just been confident," Federer told reporters in the build-up to the first Masters Series event

of the year, referring to his impressive run of form since his semi-final loss to Djokovic at last year's US Open.

"I've been playing aggressive, I was focused and I didn't doubt my ability. I'm defending much better than I was in the middle of last year when I felt like I couldn't come out of tough defensive positions. "I was able to sort of turn it around. Now I just have to keep it up."—Internet



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after winning his men's singles final match against Andy Murray of Britain during the Dubai Tennis Championships on 3 March, 2012.—INTERNET

Barca focus on retaining Champions League crown



Barcelona's coach Josep Guardiola gives a press conference before a training session at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, on the eve of their UEFA Champions League football match against Bayer 04 Leverkusen.—INTERNET

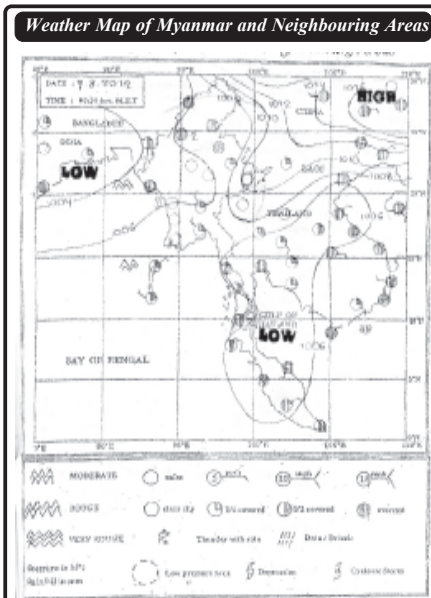
BARCELONA, 7 March — With Real Madrid crushing virtually all before them and holding a ten-point lead over Barcelona in Spain the Champions League has assumed greater importance for the Catalan side, who are on course to reach the quarter-finals. Barca entertain Bayer Leverkusen at the Nou Camp on Wednesday holding a 3-1 lead from the first leg. Jose Mourinho has converted Real into a formidable force in his second season in Madrid and they have now won 20 out of

21 games domestically with the only defeat coming against Barca at the Bernabeu.

The reigning Champions League and La Liga winners have failed to show the same consistency dropping too many points away from home but they know that in a one-off match they are still capable of beating anybody. "It is going to be very tough for us to win the league but now we must concentrate on Bayer Leverkusen. It has been a difficult season for us with so many injuries which has

meant that we have not been able to play at 100 percent but little by little we have been improving, said Adriano. The Brazilian utility player has been involved more than expected recently due to the number of absentees in Pep Guardiola's squad which has been criticised for being under strength. In the 3-1 weekend win over Sporting Gijon he played at left-back with Eric Abidal lying in the treatment room but he has also featured in midfield and in a more attacking role.—Internet

International Sports



Weather forecast for 8th March, 2012

No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	24/75	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
2	Kayah	32/90	12/54	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	38/100	18/64	Generally fair weather	
4	Chin	20/68	14/57	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	23/73	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
6	Lower Sagaing	30/100	18/64	Generally fair weather	
7	Taintharyi	36/97	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
8	Bago	36/97	20/68	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	39/102	19/66	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	37/99	20/68	Generally fair weather	
11	Man	37/99	20/68	Partly cloudy	60%
12	Yangon	37/99	20/68	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	27/81	11/52	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	30/86	17/52	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	13/55	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyarwady	37/99	21/70	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	39/102	16/61	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	37/99	20/68	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	37/99	20/68	Generally fair weather	

During the past 24 hours, light rain has been widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, isolated on Taintharyi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon Region, Shan State, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures was (4°C) below March average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, (9°C) below March average temperatures in Kachin State and about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Putao, Homalin and Kawtho (0.08) inch each.

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

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

McIlroy rejects talk of Tiger rivalry

DORAL, 7 March—New world number one Rory McIlroy does not see Tiger Woods as a rival and said his toughest opponent is simply the golf course he faces each week. McIlroy ascended to the top of golf's world rankings with victory in the Honda Classic on Sunday, keeping his cool after Woods charged up the leaderboard with a final round 62. His triumph left his phone buzzing with messages of congratulations from Manchester United's manager Alex Ferguson and striker Wayne Rooney and also plenty of talk about the sport having a new rivalry at the top. Woods's best ever final round score indicated he could yet get back to something like the form that took him to 14 majors and be a regular Sunday challenger alongside 22-year-old McIlroy. "To be honest in golf, you can have a rival if you want, but at the end of the day, your biggest rival is a golf course. You have to be able to beat the golf course more often than not and that's all you are trying to do," said the



Tiger Woods (R) of the US watches Rory McIlroy (L) of Ireland putt on the practice green before the start of the US Open Golf Championship at Pebble Beach, California, on 16 June, 2010.—INTERNET

Northern Irishman, who features in this week's WGC-Cadillac Championship at Doral.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

- MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL (8-3-12 09:30 am - 9-3-12 09:30 am) MST**
- * News
 - * Early Myanmar & Its Global Connections (Part - 1)
 - * News
 - * Feel Pretty in a Rawan Outfit
 - * Charming & Fragrant Sabai
 - * News
 - * Music Programme
 - * The Exotic Land of Myanmar
 - * News
 - * City Light & Country Lamp
 - * News
 - * "Myanma Orchestra" The Magic of Melodious Music (Episode-1)
 - * News
 - * Let there be the light of Abhidhamma
 - * News
 - * Culture Stage
 - * News
 - * Travels in Monywa "Moe Hnyin Sam Buddhé Pagoda"
 - * Myanmar Movies "Love Triangle"
- MYANMAR TV (8-3-2012) (Thursday)**
- 7:00 am
 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw - Uppatasanti Paritta
 - 7:30 am
 2. Morning News
 - 8:00 am
 3. Health Programme
 - 8:20 am
 4. Documentary
 - 8:40 am
 5. International News
 - 5:00 pm
 6. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
 - 5:25 pm
 7. Songs in honour of (67th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day
 - 5:35 pm
 8. Documentary
 - 6:00 pm
 9. Evening News
 - 6:20 pm
 10. Myanmar Series
 - 6:35 pm
 11. TV Drama Series
 - 8:00 pm
 12. News
 13. How to Cast Vote (Myanmar Motion Picture Asiyayone)
 14. TV Drama Series
 15. TV Drama Series

Buoyant Benfica cruise past Zenit

LISBON, 7 March—Two injury-time goals courtesy of Maxi Pereira and Nelson Oliveira secured Benfica's passage to the Champions League quarter-finals Tuesday with a convincing 2-0 win over Zenit Saint-Petersburg. Jorge Jesus's side had succumbed 3-2 in Russia in the first leg of the knockout phase after Roman Shirokov stunned the Portuguese by scoring the second of a brace of goals in the 88th minute. Goals from Pereira, in first-half injury time, and Oliveira, at the tail end, capped a solid performance at the Stadium of Light and sent Benfica into the last eight of Europe's premier club competition for the first time since 2006. Pereira and Jesus now believe Benfica could go all the way. "We deserved to win and I'm really happy with this result," said Pereira. "Now we're in the quarter-finals and we can beat anybody." Jesus said: "We now go in to the quarter-finals with the same ambitions we had at the start of the season and, whoever we get in the draw, we think we can go far." Benfica made their intentions clear from the outset, keeping visiting goalkeeper Vyacheslav Malafeev on his toes throughout a lively first half which ended with the hosts 1-0 ahead.

Internet

Benfica's Brazilian defender Emerson (L), Spanish midfielder Javi Garcia (C) and Brazilian defender Jardel (R) celebrate their victory against FC Zenit Saint-Petersburg at the end of a Champions League round of 16 football match at the Luz Stadium in Lisbon.—INTERNET

Shooter Rhode sets her aim high for London

NEW YORK, 7 March—As an Olympic shooter, Kim Rhode knows it pays to aim high and hit your targets. Luckily for Rhode, she has done that and more. Still just 32, she has already appeared in four Olympics and won medals each time, including two gold. If she reaches the podium at the London Olympics, she will become the first American to win medals in individual events at five successive Olympics.



American shooter Kim Rhode poses with her collection of Olympic medals.

"If I could do that, it would be great, but I'm not counting my chickens," Rhode told Reuters. "The medals are great but that's not what it's all about for me. What really matters to me is the journey and hopefully mine isn't finished yet." Rhode's journey has been full of twists and turns and ups and downs since she was introduced to guns as a small child during camping vacations and hunting trips with her family. A natural with a steady arm and a good eye, she was persuaded to take up competitive shooting and proved an instant success. She won her first world championship, competing against adults, when she was 13, in double trap, where competitors use a shotgun to hit clay pigeons flung into the air from two different locations. A few days after her 17th birthday, Rhode won her first Olympic medal, a gold at the 1996 Atlanta Games. Four years later she earned a bronze medal at the Sydney Olympics and then won a second gold at Athens in 2004.

Internet

BEPS branch opened in Banmauk Township

BANMAUK, 7 March—The opening of Basic Education Primary School branch and handing over of new building were held at the school in Nyaunggaing Village of Lonkin Shwekyang

Village-tract in Banmauk Township, Katha District of Sagaing Region on 26 February. Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Shwe unveiled the signboard of the school.

Region Hluttaw representative U Hmaing Nyo, Nyaunggaing BEPS Headmistress Daw Myint Myint Sein, Myoma Post-Primary School Headmistress Daw Nyo Tin and townselder U Maung Hlaing cut the ribbon to open the school.



Townselder U Maung Hlaing handed over documents related to the school building to the Ministry of Education. Those present donated cash and kind to the fund for the school.

Township IPRD

District News

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win...

(from page 1)

Abbot of Dekkhinayon Monastery of Namkham of Shan State Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandaçariya and Ven Sayaamone Tepmounithone of Vieng Kham District, Pakkayoung Village of Vengchan Province.

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo presented Agga Maha Pandita title and certificates to Abbot of Maha Gandayon Monastery of Hsinsweput Ward in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janapati, Abbot of Saddhammapala Pariyatti Monastery of Ward 3 of Kyaukme of Shan State Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepulla and Abbot of Sasana Zawtayon Monastery of Naychinsaya Ward 5 in Madaya of Mandalay Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visuddhaçarabhivamsa.



Congregation led by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win receive five precepts from the chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.—MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing offered Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title and certificates to Ven Chuan Yin of Fa Yuan Si Monastery of Beijing of the People's Republic of China, Abbot of Kywekan Monastery of Kywekan Village of Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and Abbot of Ngwetaungpyay Pariyatti Monastery of Ngwetaung Model Village in Dimawso Township of Kayah State Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sirindaçara.

Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thein Soe conferred Agga Maha Pandita title and certificates on Ven Galayae Piyadassi Thero of Tissa Buddhism Centre at 309-311m, Kingsbury Road of London of England, Abbot of Oakhathiri Monastery of Nandawya Ward in Bago of Bago Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suriya and Abbot of Khemawady Monastery of Monywa of

Sagaing Region Bhaddanta Kesara.

Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye presented Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title and certificates to Abbot of Shwebontha Monastery of Leinpin Village in Pathein Township of Ayeyawady Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññinda, Abbot of TatU Mingon Monastic Education School of Mingon Model Village in Hlegu Township of Yangon Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasara and Abbot of Shwepyithar Monastic Education School of Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay Region Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janeya.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Lt-Gen Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Commander-in-Chief Office offered Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita, Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja titles

and certificates to title recipient Sayadaws.

The Union ministers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the deputy ministers and members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council also presented Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Pandita, Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya, Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita, Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Kammathanaçariya and Ganthavaçaka Pandita titles and certificates to respective recipient Sayadaws.

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein offered Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title and certificates to Nun Daw Çhandabhazi of Thameikdawdaya Nunnery of Thawtapan Ward in Sagaing of Sagaing Region and Nun Daw Vijjanandi of Khemethaka Corner of Thawtapan Ward of Sagaing of Sagaing Region.

Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint

Oo, presented Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title and certificates to Nun Daw Açariyañani of Sasana Beikman Nunnery of Shinphyu Shinhla Village of Sagaing Region and Nun Daw Silavati of Mya Theingi Nunnery (Parahita) of Paungku Nyana Ward of Mingaladon Township of Yangon Region.

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented Ganthavaçaka title and certificates to Nun Dr Daw Molini of Kathmandu Kimdol Nunnery of Nepal and Nun Daw Khemasingi of Yadana Manaung Nunnery of Karatpyin Ward of Dawei of Taninthayi Region.

Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, presented Ganthavaçaka Pandita title and certificates to Nun Daw Dhammesi of Dathuwady Nunnery of Ledi Ward of Monywa in Sagaing Region and Nun Daw Sunandi of Sasana Hitakari Nunnery of

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Higher learning institutions in Shan State (East) contributing to development of human resources

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Pagodas, Buddha images crowded on Fullmoon Day of Taboung

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Shwedagon Pagoda's 2600th Anniversary Buddha Pujaniya concludes

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