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True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

President U Thein Sein to pay State visits to Vietnam, Lao PDR, Cambodia

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Majesty King Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni of the Kingdom of Cambodia and His Excellency Mr Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay State visits to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Kingdom of Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the near future.

MNA

President U Thein Sein receives Laotian Public Works and Transport Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr Sommad Pholsena of the Lao People's Democratic Republic at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 4 pm today.

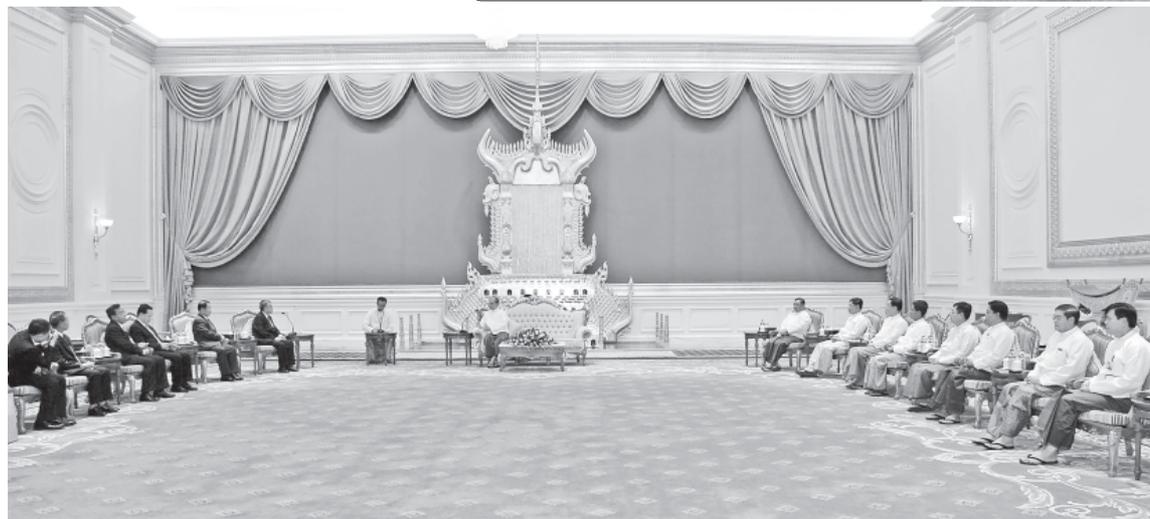
Present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Transport U

Nyan Tun Aung, Director-General of the President Office U Min Zaw and Director-General U Aye Thaw of Protocol Department under Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

The Laotian delegation was accompanied by Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nilahath Sayarath.

The meeting focused on further deepening the amity, cooperation in construction projects, and increased implementation of regional transport contributory works.—MNA

President U Thein Sein cordially greets Laotian Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr Sommad Pholsena at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Laotian Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr Sommad Pholsena and party at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Higher educational infrastructures in Ayeyawady Region turning out human resources for the State and the region

PAGE 6



Myanmar, Laos eye for soonest completion of Mekong Bridge

PAGE 2

Myanmar, ILO sign MoU to eradicate forced labour

PAGE 9

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 17 March, 2012

Competition and cohesion

In this age of IT, the world really is a tough place in which global countries are vying with one another for economic, technological and military superiority. And at the same time, they are relying on each other to overcome challenges the age is constantly generating in environmental, social, health, education and many other sectors.

Truly, no country can live alone in this world as connections at regional and global levels are easier and quicker than ever before thanks to the world-wide electronic communication networks like the Gmail or Internet that are making the world a fully wired village. So global countries search common ground to work on mutual interest and live in cohesion making this earth a safer and more secure place for them. Peaceful co-existence in fact is the best way for perpetual existence of the countries and the world they are in.

Like the international community human society has its own rules, rivalries, limits, opportunities and benefits. Men compete with one another for opportunities and benefits while living by their own rules within the limits of their capacity. But they need social contacts and dealings as they cannot live in isolation. Men need to work together with others, live in communities, and rely on each other for their own benefit. Keeping oneself aloof from others invites detriment rather than benefits.

More often than not, competition is the source of success for men. Human community makes progresses through the competitions between its own members. Besides, it is the competition that generates inventions, innovations, changes and developments, helping human society face and overcome many challenges throughout the successive periods.

Without doubt, competition is an essential part of human race. But competition alone cannot build a stronger human society. It is the unity that strengthens the bonds of mankind. In consequence, human race must live in harmony and cohesion understanding the importance of every individual while making fair and constructive competitions for its progress and perpetuity.

Myanmar, Laos eye for soonest completion of Mekong Bridge

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint and Laotian Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr Sommad Pholsena holding talks.—MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint and visiting Laotian Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr Sommad Pholsena held talks on bilateral cooperation at the Construction Ministry here this noon.

The Union Construction Minister expressed his belief for strengthened bonds between the two countries thanks to the cooperation between the Construction Ministry of Myanmar and Public Works and Transport Ministry of Laos, adding that commodity flow between the two countries

would become speedier upon completion of Mekong River-spanning Bridge linking Kyaiklat of Myanmar and Zingok of Laos.

The Laotian minister then talked about matters related to promotion of Myanmar-Laos ties. Next, Managing-Director U Kyaw Lin of Public Works explained salient facts about bridges in Myanmar, construction records of Leinli Suspension Bridge and Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) to which the Laotian delegation is going to visit and construction plan of Mekong River-crossing Bridge.—MNA

Union Health Minister receives East Meets West Foundation, IRC

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Chairman Mr Paolo Bride of East Meets West Foundation, Neonatal Care Association, Trento, Italy, Main Donor at

the ministry, here, at 11 am and Country Director Ms Gordana Ivkovic-Grujic of International Rescue Committee at the ministry at 11.30 am yesterday.

At the call with East

Meets West Foundation, they discussed donation of necessary equipment to 10 general hospitals after donating the equipment to four Children's Hospitals for betterment of infant care

services, provision of necessary hospital equipment for upgrading the infant care units of general hospitals, and training the doctors, nurses and skilled workers for uplift of their proficiency.

In meeting with IRC, their discussions focused on signing MoU for undertaking maternal and child welfare tasks, nutrition care tasks, sanitation of water and environment in Paletwa, Buthidaung and Myebon townships after providing health care services in Cyclone Nargis-hit areas in cooperation with the Ministry of Health as of 2008, and nurturing volunteer health workers for these tasks.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint, Director-General Dr Tun Naing Oo of Health Department, Director-General Dr Than Zaw Myint of Medical Science Department and officials.

MNA



Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin receives Chairman Mr Paolo Bride of East Meets West Foundation, Neonatal Care Association, Trento, Italy.—MNA

YANGON, 16 March—For successfully holding of Myanmar Traditional Water Festival (1373 ME) in Yangon Region, a work coordination meeting of the Traditional Culture Conservation and Prize Presenting Committee took place at the City Hall here this afternoon.

At the meeting, Chairman of the committee Yangon Mayor Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint made an opening speech and Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Kyaw Soe presented reports on holding it in line with the tradition.—MNA

Yangon Mayor Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint gives an opening speech at the meeting.—MNA

Work-coordination meeting on Yangon Region Maha Thingyan



Myanma Gems Emporium continues for 8th day

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—Eighth day of 49th Myanma Gems Emporium, organized by the Central Committee for holding Myanma Gems Emporium 2012, continued at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, today.

The emporium was packed with gems merchants from home and abroad. Today, altogether of 38 jade lots were sold through competitive bidding system. The emporium will continue till 18 March.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Indonesia warns of 'mistrust' over US Marine deployment plan



Marty Natalegawa.—INTERNET

SYDNEY, 16 March—Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa on Friday said the stationing of US Marines in Australia needed to be better explained to all countries in Asia to avoid "mistrust".

In an interview with the Sydney Morning Herald, Natalegawa also called on Australia to "wage aggressive peace" in the region and accept that the rise of China was natural and not threatening.

The United States announced in November a plan to station some 2,500 Marines in remote Darwin by 2017, which was seen by

some as an acknowledgement of Washington's concern about China's growing assertiveness.

Natalegawa said he understood the deployment of Marines was not directed at Indonesia "but unless (understanding) is properly disseminated, it could create mistrust among others".

"There are so many potential triggers" for conflict, he added, after talks with his Australian counterpart Bob Carr.

"If we make the anarchical assumption, everyone will behave according to the worst-case scenario."

Natalegawa argued for policies to accommodate a rising China, saying a consequence of the rising prosperity of Asia was military modernisation.

"That's fine and normal as long as we do not attach unnecessary aggressive intent to it," he said.

"Countries rising and falling is natural. Once you accept that, it will not be seen as threatening."

The US currently has only a limited deployment in longstanding ally Australia, including the Pine Gap Joint Defence Facility spy station near Alice Springs.—*Internet*



Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard (C) meets with Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa (L) and Indonesian Defence Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro (R) at her office at Parliament House in Canberra on 15 March, 2012.—INTERNET

Afghanistan seeks early security handover

KABUL, 16 March—The US and the Afghan governments should work together for an early handover of security responsibility, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai has said.

According to a Karzai office statement, the Afghan president told visiting US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta Thursday that "both sides should work together for a security handover from international forces to Afghan troops to take place by 2013 instead of 2014".

"The Afghan government is ready to take overall security responsibility,"

reports of insurgent action in the area. Turkey's foreign minister also said the cause was apparently a technical fault. "Both the location and the way the crash happened makes the impression that it's due to technical failure," Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told reporters in Istanbul. "It's a cause of great pain, I am sending my condolences once again to the families and the general staff."—*MNA/Reuters*

Xinhua quoted Karzai as saying in the statement. On Wednesday, US President Barack Obama said that the NATO forces in Afghanistan will shift to a support role in 2013, a year ahead of the scheduled date to complete troop withdrawal from the war-torn country.

According to the statement, Karzai also told Panetta that the US should pull out its troops from Afghan villages, where they have military camps and outposts, and relocate them in their bases across the country. The

Afghan president made the comments in the wake of a shooting spree by a US soldier that left 16 Afghan civilians dead in Kandahar Province, the Taliban group's birthplace and stronghold.

Panetta during the meet told Karzai that the US has vowed to hold fully accountable anyone found responsible for the killing of civilians in Afghanistan.

On Thursday, the Taliban outfit announced that it has suspend preliminary peace talks with the US.

Internet

16 injured as passenger van hit by bomb in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 16 March—At least 16 people were injured when a passenger van was hit by a remote-controlled bomb in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of Kurram Agency on Friday morning, reported local Urdu TV channel Samaa.

According to the report, the incident took place at about 10:40 am local time when a passenger van was hit by a roadside-planted remote control bomb while on its way from Parachinar, capital City of Kurram Agency, to Peshawar, the largest city in northwest Pakistan.

It is not known how many people were on the van when it was hit by the blast, nor is it clear at this point about the conditions of the injured people.

Xinhua

NATO helicopter crash kills 16 people in Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 March—A NATO helicopter crashed into a house on the outskirts of the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Friday, killing 12 Turkish soldiers on board and four Afghan civilians on the ground, Turkey's military and a senior Afghan police official said. The crash came amid growing unease among NATO partner countries about the increasingly unpopular and costly war nearly 11 years into the conflict as most foreign combat troops set to leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014. "Twelve of our military personnel on board the helicopter have been martyred," the Turkish general staff said in a statement in Ankara.

A team had been sent to the scene to investigate, it said. Wreckage as well as corpses and body parts



Turkish soldiers from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) load the remains of a helicopter which crashed on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 16 March, 2012.

littered the site. Relief workers and Turkish soldiers covered bodies with red and purple blankets on a ground in front of a smoking hole in a two-storey house. Two women and two children were among those killed when the helicopter crashed into the

house, an Afghan police officer said. The officer said the cause of the crash appeared to be a technical fault. NATO's International Security Assistance Force said earlier that the cause of the crash was still unknown but that there had been no

Three Indonesians wounded in Java bomb

SEMARANG, 16 March—Three construction workers were wounded on Thursday after a small bomb exploded on Indonesia's Java island, police said.

A garbage collector found the homemade bomb, made up of a plastic pipe filled with cable wires and explosive materials, in a drain in a residential complex in Semarang City in Central Java Province around midday.

"He then gave the bomb to the three men but it exploded as they were examining it. It was a low-explosive bomb," local police chief Elan Subilan told *AFP*.

One man had a finger blown off in the explosion and two others sustained light injuries, Subilan said, without confirming if a terror group was behind the incident.

"We are investigating who were behind the explosion and their motive. In the meantime, we have increased security in the city," he said. Indonesia has arrested and jailed dozens of members of a new militant cell behind a series of attacks, including parcel bombs sent to liberal Muslim leaders and a counter-terrorism official.

Nobody was killed in those incidents.

The cell was believed to be responsible for suicide bomb attacks at a police mosque last April in West Java and in a church five months later in Central Java.

Internet

Four terrorists stand beside their explosive devices and weapons after being captured by the Afghan national security forces in Herat Province, west of Afghanistan's capital of Kabul, on 15 March, 2012.—XINHUA



Afghan policewomen march during a graduation ceremony at a police training centre in Herat following their eight-week training course at Ansar 606 police training centre.

INTERNET

TECHNOLOGY

People discovery app connects us as never before



Director Philippe Falardeau, nominated for the Canadian film "Monsieur Lazhar", has his photograph taken on an iPhone during an event for foreign film nominees during preparations for the 84th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California on 24 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

TORONTO, 16 March—Looking to find new friends or business partners among the hundreds of people you encounter each week? A new app may help.

The iPhone app called Highlight aims to transform how people meet by alerting users when they are physically near people with whom they share a connection such as mutual friends, similar interests or the same hometown. "Nothing affects our happiness or influences our lives more than the people around us. But the way we find or learn about them, is — and always has been — completely random and inefficient," said Paul Davison, the founder of Highlight.

"Take San Francisco as an example. It's a city of 800,000 strangers. We sit on the bus and stand in line next to each other. But you don't know anything about anyone that you pass by. That doesn't seem weird, because it's always been that way. But if you think about it, it's kind of ridiculous," he said. The Highlight app runs in the background on users' devices. When it makes a connection it sends each user the other's profile, including information such as names, photos, mutual connections and interests.—Reuters

Beijing takes a brand-new approach to "Made in China"

BEIJING, 16 March—Two new Chinese LCD screens in Beijing's imposing Great Hall of the People will replace screens made by a Japanese competitor, in a sign of resolve to supply the world with Chinese brands and not just Made in China products.

The screens are made by Chinese electronics giant TCL. At 110 inches, they are the world's largest high-definition 3-D LCD screens, just a touch wider than the 108-inch Panasonic <6752.T> models they will replace.

"We have broken through the Japanese and South Korean monopoly of big flat-screen TVs!" TCL <000100.SZ> chairman Li Dongsheng boasted at a launch ceremony on Friday. Officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), and the government of Shenzhen, TCL's hometown, clapped and nodded. The government is encouraging its companies to move up the value chain and develop margin-producing brands, partly as a matter of national pride but also to shift the world's second-biggest economy away from gritty, low-profit manufacturing.—Reuters



TCL Multimedia employees work at a production line in a factory in Huizhou, in China's southern Guangdong Province on 8 Oct, 2010.—REUTERS

Eye problems common in astronauts, study says

WASHINGTON, 16 March—Brain and eye problems have surfaced in astronauts who spent more than a month in space, marking a potential setback to plans for longer deep space missions, according to a US study.

The research in the journal *Radiology* analyzed magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans of 27 astronauts with an average of 108 days in space, either on space shuttle missions or aboard the International Space Station.

Shuttle missions typically lasted a couple of weeks, while ISS stints can last more than six months. A Mars mission to bring astronauts to the red planet in the coming decades could last a year and a half.

Among the astronauts who spent more than a month in space over their lifetimes, researchers found

a variety of complications that appear similar to a syndrome caused by unexplained pressure on the brain.

These symptoms included excess cerebrospinal fluid around the optic nerve in 33 percent of the astronauts studied and flattening of the back of the eyeball in 22 percent of them.

Fifteen percent had a bulging optic nerve and 11 percent showed changes to the pituitary gland — which is located between the optic nerves, secreting sex hormones and regulating the thyroid — and its connection to the brain.

Similar effects, which can lead to problems with vision, have been observed in non-space travelers who suffer from unexplained pressure buildup in the brain, a condition known as intracranial hypertension.

"Microgravity-induced intracranial hypertension



This file photo, released by NASA in 2009, shows a cosmonaut performing a maintenance task outside the International Space Station.—INTERNET

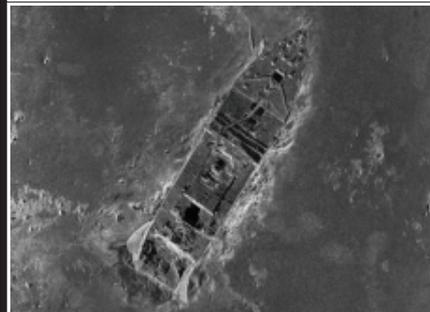
represents a hypothetical risk factor and a potential limitation to long-duration space travel," said lead author Larry Kramer, professor of diagnostic and interventional imaging at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston. "The MRI findings revealed various combinations of abnormalities following both short- and long-term cumulative exposure to microgravity also seen with idiopathic intracranial hypertension."

While bone loss and temporary muscular aches and nerve abnormalities

have been known to afflict astronauts in the past, the new data on eye problems has many at NASA concerned about the health of its spaceflight corps.

"NASA has placed this problem high on its list of human risks, has initiated a comprehensive programme to study its mechanisms and implications, and will continue to closely monitor the situation," said William Tarver, chief of the flight medicine clinic at NASA's Johnson Space Centre.

Internet



The front section of the Titanic taken from a comprehensive map of the 3-by-5 mile debris field.

INTERNET

New map of Titanic wreck site created

FALLMOUTH, (Mass), 16 March—A map of the Titanic wreck site has been made using thousands of photos taken by underwater robots in the depths of the North Atlantic Ocean, researchers say. The map, created with 130,000 photos pieced together, shows debris and ship parts scattered across a 15 square-mile patch of ocean floor and might provide new clues about what happened after the "unsinkable" British luxury liner hit an iceberg and sank in April 1912 with the loss of more than 1,500 of the 2,200 passengers and crew on board, they said.

"If we are going to do our best to manage the Titanic wreck site as a testament to those that sailed on her, we need to understand the disposition and physical state of what's there," Titanic expedition co-leader David Gallo, director of special projects at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Falmouth, Mass, told *Discovery News*.

The expedition to the wreck to take photos using an ROV — remote operated vehicle — fitted with cameras was led by RMS Titanic Inc, the legal custodian of the wreck, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Waitt Institute of La Jolla, Calif.

The thousands high-resolution photos were stitched together by computer to create a detailed photomosaic map of sunken liner and the surrounding ocean bottom.

"The images are staggering. There you are on the bottom of the ocean, transported to the sea floor," Gallo said. "It's mind boggling; even veterans who have been to Titanic numerous times are slack-jawed."—Internet



New age is confirmed for Spanish dinosaur

ZARAGOZA, (Spain), 16 March—The first dinosaur found in Spain is a younger species than first thought and the ancestor of Titanosauriforms, the Earth's biggest dinosaurs, scientists say.

Twenty-five years ago when the *Aragosaurus* sauropod dinosaur fossil was first described in Spain its age was never clear, but new research has discovered it is 15 million years younger than previously estimated, a release from the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology reported on Monday.

This would make it the only dinosaur of the Hauterivian age — from 136 million to 130 million years ago — to be found in Spain, researchers said, and *Aragosaurus* fills in the transitional period between the Jurassic and Cretaceous

periods, of which little is known.

"This is the only dinosaur of this period found in Spain and is also the most intact in Europe," Jose Ignacio Canudo, a researcher at the University of Zaragoza, said.

"It can be categorized amongst the well-known sauropods of the Jurassic-Cretaceous transition [135 million years ago], the most abundant species during the Barremian age [116 million years ago]. As this group has been studied the least, the *Aragosaurus* fills the gap."

"*Aragosaurus* would have therefore been a primitive ancestor of the titanosaurs sauropods that would later dominate Europe and Asia during the Late Cretaceous Period."

Internet



Aragosaurus is the oldest of its kind and could even be a common ancestor.—INTERNET



White rice increases risk of type 2 diabetes. INTERNET

White rice link seen with Type 2 diabetes, says study

WASHINGTON, 16 March—Health researchers said on Thursday they had found a troubling link between higher consumption of rice and Type 2 diabetes, a disease that in some countries is becoming an epidemic. Further work is needed to probe the apparent association and diets that are notoriously high in sugar and fats should remain on the no-go list, they cautioned. “What we’ve found is white rice is likely to increase the risk of Type 2 diabetes, especially at high consumption levels such as in Asian populations,” Qi Sun of the Harvard School of Public Health told AFP. “But at the same time

people should pay close attention to the other things they eat. “It’s very important to address not just a single food but the whole pattern of consumption.” In the *British Medical Journal (BMJ)*, Sun’s team said the link emerged from an analysis of four previously published studies, carried out in China, Japan, Australia and the United States. These studies followed 350,000 people over a timescale from four to 22 years. More than 13,000 people developed Type 2 diabetes. In the studies carried out in China and Japan, those who ate most rice were 55 percent likelier to develop the disease than those who ate least.—*Internet*

Dutch recommend removal of PIP implants done before 2001

AMSTERDAM, 16 March—Dutch health authorities on Thursday recommended the removal of breast implants manufactured by French company Poly Implant Prothese that were done before 2001. “Women who had a PIP breast implant before 2001 should have themselves examined by a doctor and, in consultation, eventually have the implants removed,” the Dutch government’s health watchdog said in a statement. The Dutch Health Inspectorate (IGZ) call followed a probe by Dutch investigative TV programme Zembla, which discovered that “several hundred” women received PIP implants since 1997, public broadcaster NOS reported. “Until now, the IGZ believed that only Dutch women who received the implants from 2001 onwards were at risk,” the IGZ added. The company, which shut in 2010, also said previously that only PIP implants used after 2001 had been made with a substandard, industrial-grade silicone gel that had caused an increased risk of rupture. Dutch health authorities on 11 January recommended the removal of PIP implants done after 2001, which affects around 1,000 women in the Netherlands. The country’s health insurance federation said the same month that women wanting to replace the potentially defective



Dutch health authorities on Thursday recommended the removal of breast implants manufactured by French company Poly Implant Prothese done before 2001. INTERNET

implants would be paid back in full. Initially, the Dutch health authority recommended only that women with PIP implants—sold in the Netherlands under the name “M-Implants”—should see their doctors, but changed its stance after confusion over the issue. PIP implants have been banned in the Netherlands since early 2010. More than 400,000 women around the world are thought to have received PIP implants which has sparked a global health scare. *Internet*

Health

Health Tip: Bringing home a premature baby

Caring for a premature baby, born before 37 weeks’ gestation, requires extra care and attention. The American Academy of Pediatrics says new parents of preemies should ask these questions before leaving the hospital:

- What special care will I need to give baby at home?
- What should trigger a call to the doctor’s office, or a trip to the hospital?
- How will I know if baby is eating and sleeping enough, and gaining enough weight?
- Do I need to give baby any medication?
- How frequently will I need to bring baby in for a checkup?

Internet

S&P ends over 1,400 for first time since 2008 credit crisis



The exterior of the NASDAQ Market Site in New York’s Times Square, on 13 March, 2012. INTERNET

NEW YORK, 16 March—The S&P 500 closed above 1,400 for the first time since the 2008 financial crisis on Thursday as stocks resumed the upward climb that has produced a steady stream of gains this year. The benchmark index is up for six of the past seven sessions and is on target for its best week since early February. Financial stocks <GSPP>, which have dragged lately, led the day with the S&P sector index up 1.9 percent as another round of better-than-expected economic data bolstered investors’ enthusiasm. “The data is lifting us

today, but so is the momentum of the market,” said Rex Macey, chief investment officer at Wilmington Trust in Atlanta, Georgia, which manages about \$60 billion. “People are getting more comfortable with the S&P above 1,400 and financials leading, which by itself is indicative of a sigh of relief. The trend is your friend, and lately the trend has been higher.” Though 1,400, which marks the highest level for the index since June 2008, does not have much technical importance, it is viewed as a bullish psychological marker. Some investors have called for a pullback, given the 11 percent rise in the S&P 500 since the start of the year. However, interruptions in the rally have been brief, lasting only a couple of days at the most.—*Internet*

Jobless claims fall, manufacturing holds up

WASHINGTON, 16 March—Economic growth showed signs of becoming more self-sustaining as the number of Americans claiming new jobless benefits fell back to a four-year low last week and manufacturing activity in the Northeast picked up this month. But the impact of higher oil prices also was starting to be seen in data on Thursday. Producer prices racked up their biggest increase in five months in February, while manufacturers in New York State reported a surge in input costs in March. The recent gains in oil and gasoline prices have raised concerns the higher costs could start to squeeze businesses and consumers and put a dent in the recovery. Still, producer prices last month did not rise as much as economists had expected, and underlying inflation pressures were contained. The Federal Reserve



A man looks on inside a job fair in New York on 24 October, 2011.—REUTERS

Thursday’s initial claims data for state unemployment benefits was further evidence of an improving labor market after the jobless rate held at a three-year low of 8.3 percent in February. “This suggests that the recovery is firmly on track,” said Scott Brown, chief economist at Raymond James in St Petersburg, Florida. The Federal Reserve earlier this week acknowledged the recent improvement in the labor market, but remained concerned with the still-high unemployment rate. The central bank also reiterated its expectation it will keep interest rates at ultra-low levels through late-2014 as part of its efforts to support the economy. *Reuters*

Iran cut off from global financial system

BRUSSELS, 16 March—Dozens of Iranian banks were blocked from doing business with much of the world as the West tightens the financial screws on a country it wants to prevent from developing nuclear weapons. The Belgium-based company that facilitates most international bank transfers on Thursday took the unprecedented step of blocking 30 Iranian banks from using its service. The move is likely to hurt Iran’s all-important oil industry and make it difficult for citizens to receive money from relatives living abroad.



A currency exchange bureau worker counts US dollars, as Iranian bank notes are seen at right with portrait of late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, in downtown Teheran, Iran, in this on 21 Dec, 2011 file photo. INTERNET

Business

The move by the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, or SWIFT, is part of a broader effort by Western nations to isolate Iran financially and force it to demonstrate that it is not trying to develop nuclear weapons. Iran says that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only, but officials in many other countries believe otherwise. SWIFT said it was forced by recent European Union sanctions to discontinue service to the Iranian banks beginning Saturday.—*Internet*



Higher educational infrastructures in Ayeyawady Region turning out human resources for the State and the region

- * Education sector in Ayeyawady Region is striving to drive local youths in the region off family businesses with poor education and inspire them to accomplish higher education. It means they are encouraging youths to redefine traditional industry.
- * The region has tended to cultivate new generation youths who master in their own subjects.
- To provide higher education and technologies in the region, universities of arts and science, universities of computer studies and technological universities have been opened.



Technological University (Hinthada) allows the region's young learners opt to study leading-edge technologies. (Translation: HKA) **Archive: Maung Nyein Aye**

Technological University (Patheingyi) brings advanced technologies to youths in Ayeyawady Region. (Top)

Campus of Patheingyi University turns native youths to graduates. (Upper and Lower)

Suicides up last year among Japan students

TOKYO, 16 March—The number of students who took their own lives in Japan in 2011 was up almost 11 percent from the previous year, the National Police Agency reports.

The total number of suicides fell by more than 3 percent to 30,651, The Yomiuri Shimbun reported.

The year was the 14th straight when more than 30,000 people committed suicide in the country.

There were 1,029 student suicides, up by 101 from 2010. Where a reason for the suicide could be determined, 140 were motivated by academic problems and 136 by worries over

what they would do after they left university, the NPA report said.

There were 5,547 suicides among people in their 60s, the largest number for any age bracket.

Overall, health problems were the biggest reason for suicide, with 65 percent of those who left notes or other evidence citing poor health.

The Cabinet Office reported that 56 people took their own lives in the second half of the year for reasons related to the devastating 11 March earthquake and tsunami.

Internet

Iran plans to sell more arms to "friendly" states: military official

TEHERAN, 16 March—Iran's Deputy Defence Minister Majid Bokaei said Saturday that Iran plans to sell more arms to "friendly" and neighbouring countries in the new Iranian calendar year starting on 20 March, the local *Mehr* news agency reported.

Bokaei did not mention the name of the friendly states that Iran plans to sell arms to, but in February, he said to Lebanese Defence Minister Fayez Ghunz that Iran is seeking to strengthen defence ties with friendly countries.

On 26 Feb, Iran's Defence Minister

Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi and his Lebanese counterpart held talks on defence cooperation in Teheran.

During the meeting, Vahidi said that one of Iran's strategic policies was to strengthen the Lebanese army. Lebanon should have a strong army to defend its interests in the region and Lebanon should be protected against the threats, Vahidi said.

Ghunz's visit to Iran provided a good opportunity for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the area of defence, Vahidi said.—*Xinhua*

49th Myanmar Gems Emporium packed with local and foreign gem merchants

Article: *Nyi Nyi Tun;*
Photos: *Myo Maung Maung*

The 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium is in progress at Mani Yadana Jade Hall. We saw bustling of local and foreign gem merchants among jade lots displayed in a row. We witnessed that a total of 1951 gem merchants from 432 gem companies from eight countries and over 3000 gem merchants from 694 local gem companies were buying many lots of jade, gems and pearl through competitive bidding system.

totalling 16452 through open tender and 245 lots of uncut jade through competitive bidding system. A total of 16697 lots of jade were put on sales through tender and competitive bidding system. Many jade lots were sold through competitive bidding system including 41 lots of jade worth above one million Euro each at reserve price. The jade lot at 5 million Euro of highest reserve price was excavated from Mamon Mine of



Local and foreign gem merchants inspect jade lots at Myanmar Gems Emporium.

Various items of jewellery such as uncut jade stone, polished jade, uncut gem stones and finished jewellery, pieces of pearl, ornaments made of jade, gems and pearl, jade like stones, uncut petrified wood and finished products, figurines, crystals, mosaic paintings and silver wares are put on sales. In enquiries, I have learnt that there were 16697 lots of jade, 227 lots of gems and 367 lots of pearl.

In the emporium being held from 9 to 18 March, the lots of pearl were displayed on 8 March and sold on the floor of Yadana Market of Myanmar Gems Mart on 9 and 10 March through open tender and competitive bidding system. Lots of gems were also put on display from 6 to 9 March and sold at Mani Yadana Jade Hall on 10 March through open tender and competitive bidding

Lonkhin-Phakant gems land by Jade Dragon Jewellery Company which is undertaking joint-venture works with the State. Likewise, Maha Asa Pahtama Jewellery Company displayed to sell a jade lot worth 3.8 million Euro, Sein Treasury Jewellery Company and Aung Shwe Nann Jewellery Company, a jade lot worth 3.66 million Euro and Aung Aung Naing Naing Jewellery Company, a jade lot worth 3.2 million Euro. Some gem merchants estimated that as the gem merchants buy lots of jade in competitiveness at the gem emporiums paying the highest prices many times than the reserve prices, the prices of jade lots may get higher prices than the expected.

A local gem merchant who bought jade lots expressed his opinion that if value-added jade lots with masterpiece works are sold as

finished goods instead of uncut jade stones, the products will get better prices. Local entrepreneurs should strive for taking modern technology for making finished products, he said. With regard to fine arts, culture and religion, he continued that although works on Guanyin statues and dragon statues of Chinese entrepreneurs of finished goods industry are better than us, their works cannot meet standards of Buddha images and Myanmar traditional statues of us. However, he noted that if anyone wishes to get good prices, it should produce advanced products of statues and figurines for foreign countries.

At the emporium, joint venture companies and private companies



Local and foreign gem merchants inspect jade lots at Myanmar Gems Emporium.

participated in displays of jewellery. A total of 277 gems displayed by 35 companies were sold as 49 lots through competitive bidding system and 178 lots through open tender. As the highest reserve prices, Moe Cherry Joint Venture Company sold one piece of pinky sapphire worth 350,000 Euro, Myanmar Lahba Joint Venture Company one piece of uncut sapphire worth 250,000 Euro, Arrow Brothers Company one piece of ruby feather worth 120,000 Euro, Merciful Company one piece of uncut ruby worth 100,000 Euro and Four Star Company, one piece of uncut ruby worth 75,000 Euro. The gem merchants from Thailand purchased the most value of gems at every gems emporium. They focused on pieces of uncut Mongshu ruby to polish them in Thailand so as to fetch many benefits by for exporting the finished works. In fact, ruby and sapphire of Myanmar are rare gems across the world. If the gems market achieves more flourishing in Myanmar, not only the State but also national gems entrepreneurs will enjoy much benefit.

Among 367 lots of pearl displayed by Myanmar Pearl Enterprise and four companies, 36 lots of pearl were sold through competitive bidding system and 331 lots through open tender. Many pieces of Myanmar golden pearl and silver pearl that the merchants across the world prefer were also put on sales. The pearl produced by Myanmar is the type of South Sea Pearl. The Myanmar golden pearl is the best quality among three South Sea Pearl producer countries namely the Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar and the most favorite type of pearl throughout the world.

Moreover, as Myanmar sells its pearl in natural colour without any makeup decoration like that of pearls from other countries, the pearl of Myanmar is famous in the world pearl market, said Daw Su Su Lwin of Myanmar Oriental Pearl Company. Although the quality-enhanced pearl can lose its colour in the long run, the natural pearl never loses its colour from original style. Regarding the pearl production, natural pearl oysters were searched to culture and produce pearl in the past. At present, pearl production is bigger and bigger as pearl oysters can be bred at home. As a result, production of pearl cannot harm the environment, she explained.

U Myat Soe of Snow Pearl Jewellery Shop at Bogoyoke Aung San Market of Yangon

who purchased pieces of pearl at the emporium said, "I saw larger number of golden pearl at the emporium. The pearl merchants prefer both golden and silver pearls. I think silver pearl should be displayed more than the present number of pieces to fetch greater income."

The largest number of merchants from Singapore and Japan arrived at the pearl sale. We have learnt that not only Japanese merchants but also Indians engaging in pearl industry in Japan arrived there to buy pearl.

Sales of Myanmar Gems Emporiums with more and more achievements are earning a greater sum of foreign exchange for the State and citizen gem entrepreneurs. Serving the interests of the State and citizen entrepreneurs, the Central Committee for Organizing the Myanmar Gems Emporium is making arrangements for holding the gems emporiums at least thrice a year.

We saw that cards were made through RFID technology for systematic entrance and exit of local and foreign gem merchants, and they were allowed to pass the RFID shutter gates. The gem merchants applied Emporium Sale Information System KIOSK Module system and machines to quickly know numbers of jade and gem lots they bought at the end of the emporium.

Hong Kong Airlines Limited, C-Z Airlines Limited, Air Macao Company and MAI managed smooth aviation for seven round trips to 1147 foreign merchants from Hong Kong, Shandong, Guangzhou and Macao to Nay Pyi Taw. As a result, the gem merchants arrived at the emporium smoothly. Moreover, Parami Bus Association and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee provided the gem merchants with taxis for convenient of transport.

Furthermore, various work committees under the Central managed better and smooth facilities on accommodation, transport, food, easy observation to jade and gem lots and communication for local and foreign gem merchants. Therefore, we saw that the gem merchants had the pleasure of viewing and buying jade, gems and pearl at the emporium.

On our visit to the emporium, we witnessed the 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium was held on a grander scale in greater achievement and smoothness.

Translation: TTA



Two merchants checking quality of pearl.

Likewise, lots of jade were sold at Mani Yadana Jade Hall through open tender from 11 to 15 March and competitive bidding system from 16 to 18 March.

The emporium displayed and sold a total of 16247 lots of uncut jade stones and six lots of Ingyin fossil of 361 companies, 31 lots of State-owned polished jade, 31 lots of private-owned polished jade, 137 lots of non-jade minerals,

21st day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw...

(from page 16)

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein submitted the proposal to approve the whole national planning bill of the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U San Pyae of Kachin State Constituency (7) seconded the proposal and the Hluttaw approved it.

After that, the Speaker said that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has approved the 2012-2013 national planning bill with today's amendments; that starting 20-3-2012, the 2012 Union Budget bill and its principles and nature will be discussed

at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; and that therefore, the Union Government is to promptly send the 2012 Union Budget Bill that is in conformity with the provisions of the 2012-2013 national planning bill which has been approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with amendments.

The Speaker submitted to the Hluttaw the matter of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's admission to Inter-Parliamentary Union and the formation of Myanmar Parliament Association in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with suitable persons. As the Hluttaw agreed to it, the matter was approved.

Then, the Speaker said that he will deliver a speech on the ongoing and future tasks of the Hluttaws at a preliminary session on discussion of the statement (draft) of ASEAN Members of Parliament Conference Chairman before the

meeting of Head/Leaders of ASEAN countries and ASEAN MPs Conference leaders is held on 2 and 3 April and he submitted to the Hluttaw about it. And it was recorded as the Hluttaw agreed to it.

Joint Bill Committee member U Hsai Paung Nat explained observations and opinions about environmental conservation bill, member U Myint Tun about vacant, fallow and virgin land management bill and member U Thuang about the 2011 farmland bill.

Those representatives wishing to discuss the bills may send their brief discussions to the director-general of the Hluttaw Office.

Today's session concluded at 11 am and the 22nd session will be held on at 10 am on 19 March.—MNA

15th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw...

(from page 16)

In the bill approval sector, the Hluttaw representatives submitted amendments for paragraphs and sub-paragraphs and discussed the Foreign Investment Bill sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw with its approval.

As the Hluttaw approved the Labour Dispute Settlement Bill sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw in line with its amendments, the bill was approved.

Today's session came to an end at 3.25 pm.—MNA

Political party waiting for permission

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—Those wishing to set up a political party has been applying for permission of the Union Election Commission. A total of 15 members including U Khun Tun Oo today submitted an application to found Shan Nationalities Democracy League to the commission.

The commission requested the respective ministries to scrutinize that application if it is in line with political parties registration law article 4 and 6.—MNA

Union I&P Minister receives guests of Harvard Team



Union I&P Minister U Khin Yi receives Mr. Thomas John Valley of Harvard Team and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi received Mr Thomas John Valley and party of Harvard Team, who are currently here at the invitation of International Development Enterprises (IDE) Proximity Designs of Yangon, at his office on 13 March afternoon.

They frankly discussed matters related to rural development and poverty alleviation programmes, peace-making process, and prospects of IDE to provide necessary assistance for regional development tasks.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General of Immigration and National Registration Department U Maung Maung Than, Director-General of Population Department U Myint Kyang and officials.—MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister on inspection tour of progress of Kawhmu Tsp

YANGON, 16 March—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe inspected extending road on the section of Painnaegon Village at Twantay-Kawhmu-Kungyangon-Dedaye Road and completion of building tank at Tarlanthit Ward in Kawhmu on 13 March. And he donated offertories to Sayadaw at Myoma Naemaintaryon Monastery.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe views extension of Twantay-Kawhmu-Kungyangon-Dedaye road.—MNA

He also met local people in Warthinga Village and explained to them program on providing necessity for people and for the region as region government.

Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin and Kayin national minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint reported development program of the region to the region chief minister. After hearing reports, he left necessary instructions.

On the same day at 2 pm, the region chief minister received Bangladeshi Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Maj-Gen Anup Kumar Chakma, ndc, psc at his office, here.—MNA



Shan State Hluttaw continues for fifth day

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—The third regular session of the first Shan State Hluttaw held for the fifth day on 15 March morning.

It was attended by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Speaker of the Hluttaw U Sai Lon Hsaing and 128 representatives.

At the session, 11 questions were answered,

one proposal submitted and discussed, the Regional Project Bill of Shan State Government for 2012-2013 fiscal year and the Shan State Budget Bill 2012 put on record and Shan State Village Firewood Plantation Bill submitted.

The session came to an end at 2 pm.

MNA

Marubeni Corporation GM calls on MRJA Chairman

YANGON, 16 March—General Manager Mr Hiroshi Mochizuki of Agricultural Product Department of Marubeni Corporation from Japan paid a call on the chairman, general secretary and CEC members of Rice Industry Association at its office on Minyekyawswa Street in Lanmadaw

Township here on 14 March.

They discussed matters related to fertilizer input and agro-based industries, modernized storage and processing of rice and other agricultural produce, investment in ports of exportation and purchase of Myanmar rice.—MNA



Mr. Y. Ueda of Miyako Service Co. Ltd in Kyoto of Japan donated medical equipments amounted K 2 million to Jivatadhana Sangha Hospital (Yangon) through Chairman of the administrative board of the hospital U Maung Maung on 16 March.—MNA

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief views joint military exercise of infantry, artillery and armored units

General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, views joint military exercise of infantry, artillery and armored units.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, viewed joint military exercise of infantry, artillery and armored units intended to strengthen the defence power of the Tatmadaw.

Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win and senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief's Office.

The Commander-in-Chief viewed a force member explaining the course of action for maneuvers with the sand map. Then, infantry and armored forces marched to the front line from the gathering point and took positions to launch attack.

While the forces were marching to the front line, the artillery forces bombarded the targets. The infantry and armored forces smashed through the enemy line and attacked the enemy base.

Meanwhile, the commando and artillery forces raided the artillery camp and



back security forces of the enemy and blocked their escape routes. Then, the maneuver came to an end.

General Min Aung Hlaing then in his instructions to the personnel underscored

the importance of military exercise in enhancing the capacity of the forces to protect the nation, calling on them to access the exercise right and reasonably. He stressed the importance of careful preparation in any

case. He urged them to trust in arms and ammunition of own forces and systematically train for timing and harmony, especially the coordination between the participating forces.—MNA

Sagaing Region Chief Minister attends opening of repaved roads

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye on 13 March morning met the chairman, members of Board of Directors, factory

farm of the company.

On 14 March, the Region Chief Minister, Speaker of Sagaing Region Hluttaw U Thin Hlaing and officials attended the opening ceremony

Naing and road construction committee member U Myo Myint formally opened the repaved road.

The Region Chief Minister also attended the

Union Education Minister receives Chairman of English Language Institute, China

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye received Chairman Mr Timothy Davis and party of English Language Institute, China at

his office, here, this morning.

At the call, the Union ministers said that the welcomes the institute to fulfill the

needs of basic education teachers in English, giving necessary assistance.

MNA



Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye attends opening of Aye Yeiktha self-reliant asphalt road in Nandawun Ward in Monywa.
MNA

manager and workers at the hall of Foundry Plant of Thiha Tun Co Ltd in Monywa.

He inspected thriving Ngwechi-6 cotton and maize plantations on integrated

of self-reliant asphalt Market Road in Sulegon Ward of Monywa. Region Minister for Forestry, Mining and Energy U Than Htaik, Region Hluttaw representative U Tint

Aye Yeiktha self-reliant asphalt road in Nandawun Ward and Minkyang asphalt road in Natlu Hteikpan Ward.

MNA

Kayin State Chief Minister looks into development undertakings

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min inspected construction of Papun General Hospital (100-bed) on 9 March and gave instructions on supervision for building to meet set standards.

At the office of Township Development Affairs Committee, he attended to the needs of supplying water to Papun and inspected thriving model teak plantation and MRTV re-transmission station. After comforting the patients at Papun Township Hospital, he presented cash to the funds of the hospital supervisory committee and cash assistance for hospital staff.

MNA

Myanmar, ILO sign MoU to eradicate forced labour

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — The Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and International Labour Organization (ILO) signed MoU on eradication of forced labour at the Ministry of Labour

here today.

On behalf of the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Deputy Minister for Labour U Myint Thein, and on behalf of the ILO, a liaison officer of the ILO in

Yangon signed the MoU.

Myanmar has signed MoUs with ILO and has been cooperating with ILO in combating the forced labour and is committed to eradicate it from the country by 2015.—MNA

On behalf of the Union Government, Deputy Minister for Labour U Myint Thein and on behalf of the ILO, a liaison officer of the ILO in Yangon sign MoU on eradication of force labour in Myanmar.—MNA



Diesel engine, uniforms for fire brigade donated



PYAWBWE, 16 March—The donation of one diesel engine to Pyawbwe Township Fire Brigade and 100 sets of uniforms to Auxiliary Fire Brigade was held at the camp of Township Fire Brigade on 8 March afternoon.

Pyithu Hluttaw

representative U Myint Soe, Chairman of Township Fire Preventive Measures committee Township Administrator U Kyaw Aung Hsan made speeches.

Patron U Maung Gyi, on behalf of Pyawbwe Township Bus-line Control Committee, handed over one

DISTRICT NEWS

diesel engine and its spare parts worth K 4305710, wellwisher U Nyaung Win-Daw Yin Yin Sein (Shwe Zin Yaw Trading) and family of Shanpwe Ward in Pyawbwe 100 sets of uniforms for auxiliary fire brigade, U Maung Gyi of Shwepyi Yanlon Ward in Pyawbwe K 300,000 for installation of diesel engine, U Myat Thein Tun (Moe Hein Dynam) of Shwepyi Yannaing Ward of Pyawbwe Township K 100,000 for maintenance of wiring system.

Officials accepted the cash donations.

Myanma Alin

Festival of reading skills held



NYAUNGU, 16 March—NyaungU District Information and Public Relations Department opened the festival to develop ward/village and school libraries and raise reading skill at Anawrahta hall in NyaungU on 24 February morning.

As part of efforts to develop ward/village and

school libraries and raise reading skill, literary talks were held in Sinku Village of NyaungU Township and Kalade Village of Ngathayauk Sub-Township on 24 and 25 February.

At the talks, writers Bo Cho Myay Tin Tin Win and Ma Nwe (Kalaw) explained advantages from reading.

Myanma Alin

Light fire engine handed over to village auxiliary fire brigade

SHWEGYIN, 16 March—The donation of a light fire engine and related parts was held in Donsayit Village-tract of Shwegyin Township in Bago Region on 7 March morning.

At first, the township administrator explained the purpose of donating light fire engine.

He then handed over the fire engine and related parts worth K 200,000 to the commander of Village Auxiliary Fire Company.

Myanma Alin

Fire fighting demonstrated in Kyimyindine Township

YANGON, 16 March—The talks on danger of fire and fire preventive measures was given in conjunction with the fire drill at Elite Petrochemical Co Ltd on Bo Saw Pu Road in Thayetaw (North) Ward of Kyimyindine Township on 3 March.

Company Manager U

Than Htay, Assistant Manager U Thet Swe and staff attended the talks.

Head of Township Fire Station U Than Htet Aung and fire brigade members demonstrated practical works for fighting fire with the use of fire extinguishers.

Myanma Alin



Citizenship scrutiny cards handed over

MONGPHYAT, 16 March—The issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards was held in Wampon of Mongphyat Township on 3 March.

Head of Shan State (East) Immigration and National Registration Department U Khin Soe handed over 187 CSCs for those of remote areas through local people U Kya Soe Bo.

District IPRD

MICTDC to hold annual meeting

YANGON, 16 March—Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation Ltd will hold the 10th Annual General Meeting for 2010-2011 fiscal year at MICTDC (Myanmar Info-Tech) meeting room in Hline Township, here, at 9 am on 24 March (Saturday).

Myanma Alin

Burnt monastery in Bahan Township repaired

YANGON, 16 March—A fire broke out starting from overheat of regulator at Zeyathukhakari Monastery in the precinct of Chaukhtetgyi Pagoda in East Shwegondine Ward in Bahan

Township at 10.45 am on 14 March.

Fire brigade members put out fire with the use of 36 fire engines of Myanmar Fire Brigade, seven management vehicles and two supporting vehicles and the fire died out at 11.20 am.

While breaking out the fire, members of the Sangha from the monastery went to residence of the disciples for day meals. In the fire, the whole upstairs of the monastery was burnt and all equipment were destroyed, said the abbot of Zeyathukhakari Monastery.

At present, wellwishers are repairing the monastery. And, wiring system of the monastery are under inspection. —Myanma Alin

Putao Township facilitated with rural library

PUTAO, 16 March—A ceremony to inaugurate Golden Eagle Library was held in front of the building in Phatmadi Village of Phatma Village-tract in Putao Township of Kachin State on 1 March morning.

First, Township Administrator U Lin Thu Maung, Staff Officer of District Information and Public Relations Department U Aung Kyaw Tun and Village-tract Administrator

U Ye Li formally opened the building.

At the ceremony, the Staff Officer of District IPRD explained five-point standards for perpetuity of library, and Deputy Head of Township IPRD U Phon Zee Di the purpose of opening the library and advantages of reading.

Next, District Information and Public Relations Department donated 166 copies of

publications and books, Deputy Commissioner U Hlaing Tun of District General Administration Department and family, District and Township level departmental personnel, Township Women's Affairs Organization, Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and wellwishers 273 copies of publications and books and rural people K 100,000 to the fund of the library. —District IPRD

Express mails of Lashio get smooth access to Yangon, Taunggyi, Nay Pyi Taw

LASHIO, 16 March—The express mails that arrived at Lashio of Shan State (North) at 11 am can be sent to Yangon, Taunggyi and Nay Pyi Taw smoothly.

The express buses leave Lashio for Yangon at 12 noon and for Taunggyi and Nay Pyi Taw at 6 pm.

If the express mails to Yangon are sent to the post

office, not later than 11 am, officials will send the letters to the destination by express bus at 12 noon.

Moreover, the express mails are accepted at 2 pm to

DISTRICT NEWS

send them to Nay Pyi Taw and Taunggyi, said an official of Post Office of Directorate of Telecommunications.

Ma Ma-Lashio

LOCAL SPORTS

Win Tun, May Hsu Lwin clinch title in chess championships



Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint awards championship shield to Win Tun who clinched title in Men's Chess Championship.

YANGON, 16 March—The prize presentation for the first Computerized Chess Tournament for Myanmar Selected Players, the Men's Chess Championship 2012 and the Women's Chess Championship 2012, jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation, was held at Central Hotel on Bogyoke Aung San Street, here, at 3 pm on 14 March.

Chairman of the Computerized Chess Committee of Myanmar Chess Federation U Tha Zan awarded Win Tun, Nay Kyaw Tun, Aung Myo Hlaing and Zaw Oo who participated in the Computerized Chess Tournament for Myanmar Selected Players.

Member of Myanmar Olympic Committee General Secretary of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw L Khun Yi presented the first prize to May Hsu Lwin, the second to May Hset Lwin and the third to Htet Htet Than Sein (Mingaladon Basic Education High School-2) in the 2012 Women's Chess Championship.

President of MCF U Maung Maung Lwin gave the first prize to Win Tun (Home Affairs Ministry) who clinched title in the Men's Chess Championship 2012, Vice-President U Win Aung, the second prize to Nay Oo Kyaw Tun (Ministry of Home Affairs) and Secretary of the federation U Khin Maung Oo, the third prize to Aung Myo Hlaing (Ministry of Home Affairs).

Yangon Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin awarded championship shield to May Hsu Lwin who stood first in the Women's Chess Championship 2012, and Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint the championship shield to Win Tun who secured first prize in the Men's Chess Championship 2012. —Myanma Alin

Reading skills raised, books and publications donated



MYAUNGMYA, 16 March—With the aim of developing rural libraries, the raising reading skills and book donation was held at Shwe Theinla Library in Theinla Chaungphya Village of Myaungmya Township on 3 March morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Min Htu Kyaw of Myaungmya District Administration Department made a speech. Head of Ayeyawady Region Information and Public Relations Department U Ngwe Tun gave talks on advantages of reading.

Officials donated books and publications worth K 500,000 to librarians of the village libraries.

After the ceremony of raising reading skills, Head of Region IPRD U Ngwe Tun presented prizes to the winners in the high school level essay contest, Deputy Commissioner U Min Htu Kyaw, the winners in the middle school level essay contest, Township Administrator U Ko Ko Latt, the winners in the primary school level essay contest, Staff Officer of District IPRD Daw Hla Kyi, the winners in the reading skill contest, the headmistress of Theinla Village Basic Education High School, the winners in the high school level poem recitation contest and Head of Township IPRD Daw Yi Yi Lwin, the winners in the junior level poem recitation contest.

District IPRD

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Kunlong Township

KUNLONG, 16 March—According to Moe Pwint-2 Plan, a ceremony to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens was held in Manpyein Village-tract in Kunlong Township on 28 February.

Head of District Immigration and National Registration Department Assistant Director U Ye Zin Latt and Head of Township INRD U Win Myint presented cards to 22 people.

Myanma Alin

Winners awarded in Men's Open Football Tournament

SHWEDAUNG, 16 March—The prize presentation for the Township Administrator's Cup Inter-Ward/Village-tract Men's Open Football Tournament took place at the Township People's Sports Ground on 7 March afternoon.

Before the prize presentation ceremony, Thayettaw (B) Ward beat Yuntan Ward 2-0 in the final match.

After that, Township Administrator U Thet Zaw Oo presented first prize championship trophy and K 300,000 to Thayettaw (B) Ward. Commander of Township Police Force



Police Captain Nyan Myint gave K 200,000 to Yuntan Ward.

Region Hluttaw representative U Tin Maung Myint presented K 100,000 to third prize winner

Duyingabo Village-tract. Later, townselders and entrepreneurs awarded individual medals and best player awards for the places to respective players.

Township IPRD

Fire preventive measures taken in Mawlamyinegyun

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 16 March—With a view to preventing danger of fire at Myoma People's Market in Mawlamyinegyun, the Township Development Affairs Committee and the Township Fire Brigade jointly organized the fire drill on the eastern and the western

wings of the market on 26 March afternoon.

Under the supervision of Township Administrator U Htay Maung, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Khin Soe, Staff Officer U Than Soe of Township Fire Services Department and Head of Township Development Affairs Committee U Myo Zaw, members of auxiliary fire brigade from wards and market fire brigade participated demonstrated on fire drill.

Myanma Alin



CITIZENSHIP CARDS ISSUED: In implementing Moe Pwint-2 Plan, citizenship scrutiny cards were issued at Ariyawuntha Dhammayon in Ward 43 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township in Yangon East District on 10 March.

Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Myo Myint presents CSCs for eligible citizens to ward administrator U Nay Myo Win.—TOWNSHIP INRD

Yangon North District WAO holds meeting



YANGON, 16 March—A clarification on Annual General Meeting of Yangon North District Women's Affairs Organization was made at the hall of District General Administration Department in Insein Township on 12 March morning.

Chairperson of the District WAO Daw Sein Sein Soe explained tasks of Women's Affairs Organization, matters related to conducting vocation training courses and future tasks of the organization.

District IPRD

Fire drills demonstrated at raft jetties in Gyobingauk

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—The fire drills were demonstrated at raft jetty (A) and raft jetty (B) in Gyobingauk of Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Bago Region on 3 March.

Together with Supervisor U Than Htut of Raft Jetty (B) and Supervisor U Myint Thein of Raft Jetty (A) staff and workers, Zigon Timber Extraction Manager U Oo Than Myint, Assistant Manager U Nyi Min Lat, Head of Township Fire



Services Department Ye Kyawswa Phyu Win, Deputy Commanding Officer of

Auxiliary Fire Brigade U Zaw Win participated in the fire drills.—*Myanma Alin*

Architectural Works Show kicks off

YANGON, 16 March—In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of Myanmar Architects Association, the Architectural Works Show was opened at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road, here, on 15 March morning.

Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint, Patrons of Myanmar Architects Association U Than Tun and Daw Than Thin Aye, Chairman of the association U Thaw and Secretary of Myanmar Engineering Society U Ko

Ko Gyi formally opened the show.

The show will be kept open from 9 am to 6 pm daily up to 18 March. The show displays the booth on architectural history, the

booth on historical works of ancient Myanmar architects, designs of registered architects, booths on construction materials and the booth on construction technology.—*Myanma Alin*



Talk on implementation of ISO/HACCP systems held

YANGON, 16 March—A talk on implementation of ISO/HACCP systems for quality control of milling the paddy and local and foreign trade was held at UM FCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township, here, at 1 pm on 8 March.

General Secretary U Ye Min Aung of Myanmar Rice Industry Association spoke on the occasion.

Managing Director U Phyu Phyu Win of Global Group Myanmar handed over a certificate to Director U Ar Yu of Ayeayan Hinthar Group of Companies.

Hygiene & Sanitation Manager Dr Bo Bo of Traders Hotel shared his experiences on food danger free in conformity with HACCP system.

Managing Director Daw Phyu Phyu Win of Global Group Myanmar handed over a certificate to Director U Ar Yu of Ayeayan Hinthar Group of Companies.

MRIA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GREAT IMMENSITY VOY NO (1202)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GREAT IMMENSITY VOY NO (1202) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 CITIC SHIP
MANAGEMENT LTD CHINA**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZAMBALES VOY NO (99)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZAMBALES VOY NO (99) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W(1) 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: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD
JAPAN**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CHANG CHUAN VOY NO (169)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHANG CHUAN VOY NO (169) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 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: FORTUNE SHIPPING
AGENCY PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Schering-Plough (Ireland) Company, of Rathdrum, County Wicklow, IRELAND, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

RAPSIUS

Reg. No. 1303/2009

TRALPAR

Reg. No. 1304/2009

TRATHEM

Reg. No. 1305/2009

STRALYST

Reg. No. 1306/2009

in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.

for Schering-Plough

(Ireland) Company

P. O. Box 60, Yangon

makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm

Dated: 17 March 2012

Rescuers carry an injured worker into an ambulance at the Shimen iron ore mine in Lucheng Township, Cangshan County of the City of Linyi, east China's Shandong Province on 15 March, 2012. Several people were killed after a mining capsule fell out of control into a pit here at 1 am on Thursday.—XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1212)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1212) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DONG JIANG VOY NO (032)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DONG JIANG VOY NO (032) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2012 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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (437)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (437) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2012 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (298)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (298) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

One killed, five injured in water recycling centre fire in S Korea

SEOUL, 16 March—One worker was killed and five others were injured in a fire at a water recycling centre in Goyang, northwest of Seoul, on Friday, local media reported.

Seven workers were removing an old generator no longer in use when a gas explosion occurred, smashing windows and walls of the building, according to YTN television in Seoul.

Some witnesses reported hearing a loud boom or explosion sound before the fire began at around 11:05 am (local time), it said.

Fire officials suspect that the explosion occurred after a spark came into contact with gas leaking from a valve that was accidentally opened while cutting gas pipes to dismantle the generator.

Police are investigating the exact cause of the accident in cooperation with forensic experts, fire officials and gas experts.

Xinhua



China mine accident kills 13

BEIJING, 16 March—Thirteen people died after a capsule plunged into a pit at an iron ore mine in China's eastern Shandong Province Thursday, official state media reported.

The accident happened at the Shimen mine in the city of Linyi, Xinhua news agency said, quoting local authorities.

A search had been completed and 13 people were confirmed dead, said a provincial government official, according to the report.

Initial investigation suggested the capsule dropped after a steel rope broke, the official said.

The provincial government had set up an investigation team and a further probe was under way. Accidents are common in China's notoriously dangerous mining industry.—Xinhua

11 dead in Vietnam from hand-foot-mouth disease

HANOI, 16 March—At least 11 people have died and more than 12,400 cases of hand-foot-mouth (HFMD) disease have been reported in Vietnam this year, a media report said Thursday. The health ministry's Preventive Medicine Department said the figure was seven times higher than last year's, Xinhua reported citing Voice of Vietnam online. Nearly 400 cases of HFMD disease have been reported in central Binh Dinh Province, with children under five accounting for 80 percent of these patients. There have been over 900 cases in Ho Chi Minh City.

Hand-foot-mouth disease is a common infection viral infection that usually begins in the throat. It is caused by coxsackievirus A16, a member of the enterovirus family. People get the disease after coming into direct contact with nose and throat discharges, saliva, fluid from blisters, or stool of an infected person. The infection occurs most often in children under age 10, but can also be seen in adults. There is no specific treatment.—Internet

6-year-old heads to Scripps spelling bee

A 6-year-old Virginia girl has a chance to be the youngest Scripps National Spelling Bee winner, after beating out 21 other students to represent her county.

Lori Anne Madison, the youngest person in the 34th Prince William County Spelling Bee, told ABC News she was not intimidated by competing with older contestants.

"I have been in competitions with older kids before and I have many friends, some younger and some older, and I feel comfortable in any group," she said.

Madison said she started spelling and reading when she was 3 years old and finds it fun to be on stage.

"I started reading very early and I read a lot, and that helps," she said. "Plus, I work hard and love to find new interesting words in the dictionary."

If Madison wins the Scripps Bee — where she

will compete with spelling champions from across the globe for more than \$40,000 in prizes — she would be the youngest winner in the competition's history.

"I'm very excited," she told ABC News. "I want to have fun with other kids who love spelling and learn new words. And hope to do my best."

News Album

\$1,000 reward for finding man's true love

A Massachusetts florist says he is willing to pay \$1,000 to the person who introduces him to his true love. Dave Greenberg, owner of Main Street Florist in Watertown, said he had created business cards and a Web site, MarryDave.com, to get the word out about his quest for a bride and the \$1,000 reward, CBS News reported on Tuesday.

"At the end of the aisle they can be waiting there and I'll give them the cash," Greenberg said of the person who introduces him to his bride-to-be. "And they would be the guest of honor at the wedding too."

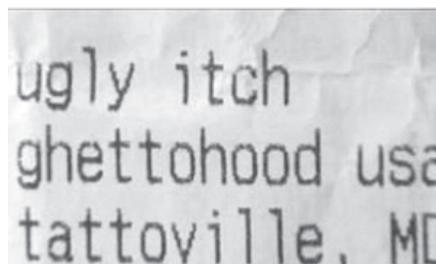
Greenberg said he is looking for women over the age of 50 who would be willing to retire with him in San Diego. He said he is looking for chemistry and happiness.

"I just want to meet a nice lady," he says. "We have to have chemistry, we have to have physical appeal and I believe in marriage."

Woman insulted by Radio Shack receipt

A Maryland woman said she was shocked when she saw her receipt from Radio Shack identified her as an "ugly itch" from "ghettohood, usa, tattoville, Maryland."

Shanae Lewis said she had a disagreement with a salesman at the Hillandale Radio Shack when she purchased a \$20 cassette adapter and the salesman told



her about Montgomery County's 5-cent bag tax, which she had never heard of because she is from Baltimore, WUSA-TV, Baltimore, reported on Tuesday.

Lewis said she argued with the salesman for a few minutes before asking for a refund, which she received along with a receipt.

She said she was shocked to find the words "ugly itch, ghettohood, usa,

tattoville, Maryland" typed at the bottom of the receipt.

Lewis said the salesman admitted to typing the words and said he was kidding, but she was not amused.

"I was shocked more so than anything, and then I became angry," Lewis said.

Lewis said she has contacted Radio Shack's corporate office and hopes to get the salesman fired.

Lohan clips man with Porsche

LOS ANGELES, 16 March—Actress Lindsay Lohan clipped, but did not injure, a man with her Porsche while trying to get past paparazzi in a Los Angeles parking lot, TMZ reported.

The celebrity news Web site said police investigated the incident outside the Sayers Club in Hollywood early Wednesday and consider the case closed unless the man Lohan hit contacts them later and reports an injury.

TMZ said the person she hit was the manager of the nearby Hookah Lounge, who was in the parking lot with patrons and photographers when Lohan was trying to leave. Lohan, 25, is a former child star with a string of hits behind her such as "The Parent Trap," "Freaky Friday" and "Mean Girls."

But her once-bright career has been eclipsed in recent years by legal problems stemming from her addictions to drugs and alcohol. She went through rehab and is on the comeback trail, having served as guest host on a recent episode of "Saturday Night Live" and been cast as screen icon Elizabeth Taylor in a TV movie.—Internet



Lindsay Lohan arrives for the amfAR's annual Fashion Week New York Gala at Cipriani Wall Street in New York on 8 Feb. 2012. INTERNET



"Twilight" star Robert Pattinson

Pattinson says no to topless acts

LOS ANGELES, 16 March — "Twilight" star Robert Pattinson says he doesn't want to do shirtless acting.

"I'd have to make a lifestyle change if I wanted to do shirtless acting. But it seems like every single actor in the world is going a 'Taylor Lautner' scene — it's crazy," showbizspy.com quoted him as saying.

"They have a scene where they walk out with like a 12-pack. It's like, 'Really? You're playing a normal guy! That doesn't make any sense,'" he said.

Internet

Manchester memorial held for Jones

MANCHESTER, 16 March—A private memorial has been held for British singer Davy Jones in his hometown of Manchester, England, his family said.

"We had a beautiful

service, and a wonderful celebration of his life, as a family," Jones' niece Beverley Barber told the BBC.

The 66-year-old front man of The Monkees died after suffering a heart attack last month. A private funeral was held for him in his adopted home of Florida. His remains were cremated and his ashes brought home to England for another service.

The BBC said Jones' wife Jessica and four daughters joined his British-based relatives at Sunday's Manchester service at Lees Street Congregational Church in the Openshaw area where Jones performed as a child in church plays. Barber did not

rule out the possibility a public memorial might be organized in the United States or United Kingdom, the BBC said.

Internet



Actor Peter Facinelli, a cast member in the romantic fantasy thriller motion picture "The Twilight Saga: New Moon", attends the premiere of the film with his wife, actress Jennie Garth in Los Angeles on 16 Nov. 2009. —INTERNET

Keough and Pettyfer are engaged

LOS ANGELES, 16 March—US model-actress Riley Keough, the granddaughter of rock 'n' roll icon Elvis Presley, is engaged to actor Alex Pettyfer, UsMagazine.com reported Tuesday.

No details regarding when they got engaged or whether they have set a wedding date were immediately available.

The couple met on the set of the soon-to-be-released film "Magic Mike" and have been dating for about six months, UsMagazine.com said.

Keough is the 22-year-old daughter of Presley's only child, singer-songwriter Lisa Marie Presley. Pettyfer, 21, has appeared in the films "I Am Number Four," "Beastly" and "In Time."—Internet

Jennifer Lopez's stunt double is actually a man

LONDON, 16 March—Jennifer Lopez is using a male stunt double for herself as she shoots her latest music video.

The 42-year-old singer

was seen on the set of "Follow The Leader" video in Mexico, alongside her stunt double.

The two struck remarkable similarities with both their physiques clad in tight black leggings and matching black zip tops, the Daily Mail reported.

The male extra even had his long brown hair braided at the side, just like the "American Idol" judge.

He watched intently as the Latin diva hopped into the back of a pick-up truck for the music video clip.

Lopez has been filming the clip for the last couple of days, and it hasn't been just her male stunt double that has had his eyes on the gorgeous woman.

The singer's toyboy lover Casper Smart has been with her on the Acapulco set



Riley Keough arrives for the Tribeca Film Festival premiere of "The Good Doctor" at the BMCC Tribeca PAC New York on 22 April, 2011. —INTERNET



Davy Jones with The Monkees performs in concert during their 45th year reunion tour at the Pompano Beach Amphitheater in Pompano Beach, Florida on 5 June, 2011. —INTERNET



Jennifer Lopez

since she filming started over the weekend.—Internet

Jennie Garth and Peter Facinelli split up

LOS ANGELES, 16 March—Publicists for Hollywood couple Peter Facinelli and Jennie Garth told People.com Tuesday the couple have separated. Facinelli and Garth met on the 1996 set of the TV movie, "An Unfinished Affair." They have been married for 11 years and are the parents of three daughters.

"While we have decided to end our marriage, we both share the same deep love and devotion to our children. We remain dedicated to raising our beautiful daughters together. We ask for privacy and respect during this time," the stars' representatives said in a joint statement issued to People.com.

Facinelli, 38, is best known for his work in the "Twilight" film franchise, as well as the TV series "Nurse Jackie."

Garth, 39, was the star of the small-screen hits "Beverly Hills, 90210" and "What I Like About You." She also competed on "Dancing with the Stars" in 2007.—Internet

Mancini targets Premier League after Euro exit



Sporting's Dutch forward Ricky Van Wolfswinkel (C) celebrates scoring during their UEFA Europa League Round of 16 second leg match against Manchester City at The Etihad Stadium in Manchester. Man City won the match 3-2 but were knocked out, losing on the away goals rule.—INTERNET

MANCHESTER, 16 March—Roberto Mancini saw his expensive Manchester City side fail in Europe once more on Thursday, but still insisted they can still win their first ever Premier League title.

The Italian held himself responsible for the end of their European interest, as a 3-2 second leg victory led to defeat on away goals against Sporting Lisbon, a team currently fourth in the Portuguese league.

City, who trail leaders Manchester United by one point in the Premier League, saw their local rivals also go out of the Europa League just two hours before they did.

Now, both clubs have

only the league title upon which they need concentrate.

"We were envious of United," joked Mancini. "They lost so we wanted to lose this game."

"I think it will be a good fight between them and us until the end of the season because we only have the Premier League and we can put all our strength into this. I think it will be good."

Mancini attempted to deflect pressure from his players by blaming himself for the setback, claiming he had failed to prepare his team adequately although he insisted he will not err again, especially with a home game against Chelsea looming on Wednesday.—*Internet*



Athletic Bilbao's forward Fernando Llorente (C) celebrates after scoring their first goal during the UEFA Europa round of 16 second leg football match Athletic Bilbao against Manchester United at San Mames stadium in Bilbao.—INTERNET

Brilliant Bilbao end United's Europa challenge

MANCHESTER, 16 March—Manchester United's bid to win a first Europa League title came to a juddering halt on Thursday after they were beaten 2-1 at Athletic Bilbao in the second leg of their last-16 tie. The result gave Marcelo Bielsa's effervescent young side a richly deserved 5-3 aggregate victory, following last week's equally impressive 3-2 win in the first leg at Old Trafford. Sir Alex Ferguson's team were bidding to emulate Chelsea's stirring comeback in their Champions League game with Napoli on Wednesday, but they fell to a stunning volley from Fernando Llorente and a second-half strike by Oscar de Marcos.

United replied with a fine goal from Wayne Rooney in the 80th minute, but the visitors could not find the two goals they needed to take the game to extra time. It was a chastening experience for last season's Champions League finalists, who will now have to plough all their resources into the defence of their Premier League crown, having stolen in front of title rivals Manchester City last weekend.—*Internet*

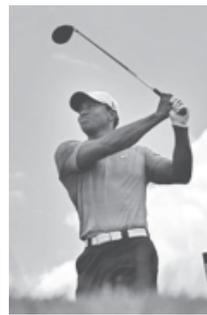
Tiger vows he will be ready for the Masters

DORAL, 16 March—Tiger Woods, nursing a strained left Achilles tendon, vowed Thursday on a US television show that he will be ready to play in next month's Masters, saying, "I'll be there. Don't worry about it."

Woods, who appeared on ABC's Good Morning America, also said that he has not yet hit a golf ball since walking off the course last Sunday at the World Golf Championships event at Doral after wincing following

his 12th hole tee shot. "I took a few days off," Woods said. "I will start hitting balls tomorrow. The stiffness is gone." Woods told ESPN that he has had treatment on the tendon every day and "each day it has gotten better" and that he has confidence in his body and his ability to hold up despite the latest setback.

"It feels good. I feel strong. I feel fit," Woods said. "I played more than I have in a long time. I'm practicing a lot more now."



Tiger Woods

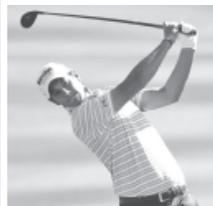
Woods said he is still hopeful of playing in next week's US PGA Tour event, the Arnold Palmer Invitational, his traditional final tuneup for the year's first major championship.

The interviews were part of a publicity boost for a new Woods golf videogame being released later this month, as was a Twitter answer session where Woods replied to selected questions and gave away little in personal details.

Internet

International Sports

Teen star Manassero equals Andalusia course record



Italian teenager Matteo Manassero

MARBELLA, 16 March—Italian teenager Matteo Manassero carded an eight-under-par 64 to equal the course record and claim a three-shot lead in the opening round of the Andalusia Open on Thursday.

The 18-year-old had nine birdies and just one bogey to carve out a convincing lead over a group of five players on five under — Sweden's Niclas Fasth, South Africa's Hennie Otto, Spain's Eduardo de la Riva and English duo Lloyd Kennedy and Anthony

Wall. Manassero enjoys the Spanish conditions—in 2010, he became the youngest ever winner on the European Tour when he triumphed in Castellon. "You need to put the ball in play and then do well around the greens. It's a course that suits me pretty well," said Manassero, who still has an outside chance of making the Masters next month. Manassero, who also captured the 2011 European Tour event in Malaysia, played the Masters in 2010 after qualifying as British amateur champion.

"This is a course that suits me and hopefully it will be my week," added the Italian. "It's my first time at Aloha. This course suits my game because it's not long, and I don't need to hit 300 yards to reach the par fives. You need accurate shots and a good strategy, and I enjoy this type of course." *Internet*

Vonn wins World Cup super-G title in Austria

SCHLADMING, 16 March—More accolades for Lindsey Vonn, and perhaps more to come. Vonn won her fourth World Cup super-G title Thursday by finishing sixth in the discipline's final race of the season. It was her 16th career crystal globe.

Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany was the winner, her first super-G victory. Julia Mancuso of the US was

second, followed by Marion Rolland of France. Another American, Leanne Smith, was fifth. Vonn, the overall World Cup champion, narrowly avoided skiing out on a blistering run, taking a 1.22-second advantage over Rebensburg into the final intermediate time check. She went off course and just made the next gate shortly before the finish.

"I had a great run, but was much too straight in that banana turn," Vonn said. "Coaches had told me I could approach that turn straight, but at my speed it was just impossible." Vonn had to slow down to get back on the course and lost almost two seconds to trail Rebensburg by 0.57 at the finish. Vonn has two races left to earn 53 points and overtake Austrian great Hermann Maier's record of 2,000 World Cup points in a single season. She is closing in on the women's mark of 1,980 points held by Janica Kostelic of Croatia.—*Internet*



Lindsey Vonn, of the United States, shows the trophy of the alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G discipline title, in Schladming, Austria, on 15 March, 2012.—INTERNET

Ana Ivanovic beats Bartoli to enter semis in Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 16 March—Ana Ivanovic handled crucial points tactfully in order to eliminate Marion Bartoli 6-3, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the 2012 BNP Paribas Open.

Ana Ivanovic lost her serve in the first game of the match but then broke back immediately and never looked back till she beat

Marion Bartoli in straight sets for a spot among the last four at the 2012 BNP Paribas Open.

After the initial breaks of serve the set when on with either players holding on to their serves till the eighth game where Ivanovic took the game up a notch and shifted gears the take her game through a path of aggression. She broke serve and consolidated within a blink of an eye to take the first set 6-3.

Ivanovic was quick to record a break of serve in the first game and went to record easy hold of serves till the end of the match.

Bartoli tried her best to snatch the break back but was unable to do so as Ivanovic breezed to straight set victory. She served five aces, got 51% first serves in and cracked 21 winners to win 6-3, 6-4 and progressed further in the tournament.



Ana Ivanovic

Internet

Novak Djokovic edges past Almagro to enter BNP Paribas Open Semifinals



Two time champion Novak Djokovic

INDIAN WELLS, 16 March—Two time champion Novak Djokovic looked in supreme form as he took two well contested sets to beat Spaniard Nicolas Almagro and advance to the last four of the BNP Paribas Open. World No.1 and defending champion Novak Djokovic breezed past 12th seed Nicolas Almagro to enter the semifinals of the 2012 BNP Paribas Open, season's first masters series event being played here in Indian Wells,

California. Djokovic made a fine start to the match and got a break of serve in the fourth game to take a momentary 3-1 lead which was immediately squandered with a break back by Almagro. Another break of serve followed in Djokovic's favour which he maintained and wrapped up the 30 minute first set with an ace. The second set saw the best of both players as the first eight games went in server's favour. However, as Almagro faltered in the ninth game with a couple of uncharacteristic errors, Djokovic pounced at the opportunity and got the break to eventually complete the 6-3, 6-4 win in one hour and 22 minutes of play. Djokovic hit 5 aces and converted 3 out of 7 break point opportunities presented to him.—*Internet*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(17-3-12 09:30 am ~ 18-3-12 09:30 am) MST

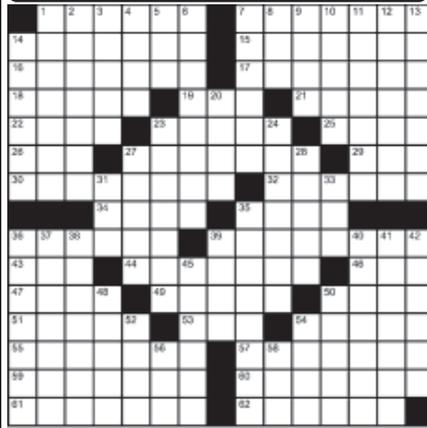
- * News
- * Talking with Diplomats (Part-1)
- * News
- * Talking with Diplomats (Part-2)
- * News
- * Today's Efficient Youth "Brighter Future"
- * News
- * A Holiday Paradise & Me
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Secret Palaces for Yummy Food "Suzuki Food & Drinks"
- * News
- * Demo's Birthday
- * News
- * Myanmar Movie "My Teacher"

MYANMAR TV

(17-3-2012) (Saturday)

- 7:00 am
 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:50 am
 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
 3. Health Programme
- 8:40 am
 4. International News
- 11:00 am
 5. Martial Song
- 1:50 pm
 6. Delicious Dishes
- 2:05 pm
 7. TV Drama Series
- 2:50 pm
 8. Dance Of National Races
- 4:20 pm
 9. Cultural Dance
- 4:45 pm
 10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 4:50 pm
 11. Beautiful "ASEAN"
- 5:15 pm
 12. Songs in honour of (67th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 5:30 pm
 13. Teleplay (Htar)
- 6:50 pm
 14. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
 15. News
 16. Talk Of the Political Parties
 17. Cartoon Series
 18. TV Drama Series

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Flattens on impact
7. Mysteries
11. Small crown
15. Odorless, colorless, flammable gas
16. Perceptively
17. Fits in
18. Lyres
19. ___-tzu
21. Pear-shaped stringed instruments
22. Prayer ending
23. Female sweetheart (pl.)
25. Dolly ___ of "Hello, Dolly!"
26. Vixen
27. Devices used to secure women's head coverings
29. Afflict
30. Twists together
32. Adjust

34. Sonata, e.g.
35. Length x width, for a rectangle
36. 100 centimos
39. More dirty due to smudges
43. Increase, with "up"
44. Area where fruit trees grow
46. Chain letters?
47. Bean ___
49. Complimentary close
50. Busiest
51. "Four Quartets" poet
53. Absorbed, as a cost
54. Heartthrob
55. More shrewd, esp. in business
57. Play ground?
59. Familiarizes
60. Underground passages
61. Change the look of
62. Haunt
10. Grave robber
11. Cloak
12. Resident of Anjou, France
13. Stalkless (leaves, e.g.)
14. Wine decanter
20. "The Sound of Music" backdrop
23. First month
24. Trappers using noose devices
27. Informed about latest trends (2 wd)
28. Lieu
31. Anguish
33. Toni Morrison's "___ Baby"
35. Alabama slammer ingredient
36. Lead auto on first race lap (2 wd)
37. Imitate
38. Short races at top speed
39. Close
40. Think
41. Paints with a hard, glossy finish
42. Autumn leaf gatherers
45. Lacking refinement
48. Coffee break snack
50. 747, e.g.
52. Very small
54. Sloughs
56. Moray, e.g.
58. Airline's home base (2 wd)

Down

1. Son of David and Bathsheba
2. Fictitious reason
3. "Two Women" Oscar winner
4. Aardvark fare
5. ___ el Amarna, Egypt
6. Early Christian ascetics who lived on top of high pillars
7. Bloodstream masses causing obstructions
8. Formerly known as
9. "___ be a cold day in hell ..."

Maria Sharapova edges past Kirilenko to reach semis in Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 16 March—Maria Sharapova lost initial flow and the first set but then came back furiously in the subsequent two sets to beat Maria Kirilenko 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the 2012 BNP Paribas Open. Maria Sharapova came back from a one set deficit to take out Maria Kirilenko in three tough sets and registered her place in the

semi-finals of the 2012 BNP Paribas Open. Kirilenko displayed a confident game and managed to pepper the line with her deep ground strokes. She counter punched with an erratic Sharapova and snatched crucial breaks of serve to stay ahead in the set. She also added a bunch of cannon first serves to hold serves and took the first set 6-3.

Sharapova kicked back with all her power and cracked massive forehands to get a grip of crucial holds of serve in the set. Kirilenko struggled with her movement around court due to a groin strain but then compensated with massive forehands at corners. As a result Sharapova



Maria Sharapova

managed to snatch the break of serve in the 12th game to take the second set 7-5. Sharapova then churned massive serves and cracked massive forehands to get the initial break of serve and raced to a brisk lead of 4-0 before losing two games in a row. But then she came back to score two consecutive games to seal the win. She served 6 aces, got 72% first serves in and clobbered 36 winners to win the match 3-6, 7-5, 6-2. She will be playing Ana Ivanovic in the semi-final of two former world number ones.

Internet



A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of the extended building was held at Tamu People's Hospital (100-bed) in Tamu of Tamu District in Sagaing Region on 7 March. Sagaing Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Soe Myint Oo drives stake for construction.

MYANMA ALIN

Self-reliant village library opened

HTANTABIN, 16 March—To be able to broaden horizons of the people, Lunge Ahman self-reliant library was opened in Shweinma Village of Talaing-aing Village-tract in Htantabin Township of Toungoo District in Bago Region on 29 February.

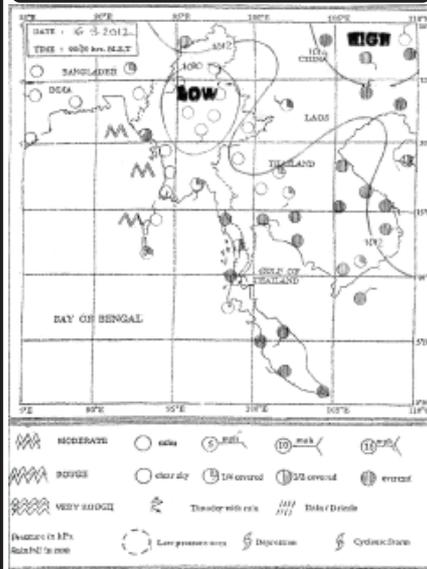
Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Tin Maung Win and village elder U Sein Hla Maung formally opened the library building.

Head of Township IPRD U Tin Maung Win explained the purpose of opening the library. After donating 200 copies of journals, he gave a guarantee for monthly donation of Doh Kyay Ywa journal and Kyemon daily to the library.

Chairman of the library committee U Thein Hla Maung and librarian U Soe Lwin accepted the donations.

Township IPRD

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 17th March, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		Forecast	Percent
		Maximum	Minimum		
1	Kachin	32/90	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
2	Kayah	34/93	15/59	Generally Fair Weather	
3	Kayah	38/100	22/72	Generally Fair Weather	
4	Chin	22/72	11/52	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	33/91	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
6	Lower Sagaing	40/104	17/63	Generally Fair Weather	
7	Tanintharyi	36/97	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
8	Bago	37/99	23/73	Generally Fair Weather	
9	Magway	40/104	21/70	Generally Fair Weather	
10	Mandalay	38/100	18/64	Generally Fair Weather	
11	Mon	38/100	24/75	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	38/100	23/73	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	33/91	20/68	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	30/86	14/57	Generally Fair Weather	
15	Northern Shan	32/90	19/48	Generally Fair Weather	
16	Eastern Shan	35/95	15/59	Generally Fair Weather	
17	Ayeyawady	37/99	24/75	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	40/104	18/64	Generally Fair Weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	38/100	23/73	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	38/100	18/64	Generally Fair Weather	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Tanintharyi Region and Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Regions, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayah and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Magway Region, Chin, Southern and Eastern Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperature were Chuk and Mambou (42°C) each, Nay Pyi Taw (Yezin), Meiktila, Nyaung-U, Magway, Taungthaung, Paun and Shwepyithar (40°C) each.

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

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally Fair in the whole country.

21st day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—The 21st day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw took place at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today, attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 508 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

At today's session, discussion of matters related to the national planning bill of the 2012-2013 fiscal year continued, it was presented again by respective Union level organizations and decision was sought from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve the whole bill; the matter of admission to the Inter-Parliamentary Union-IPU was submitted and decision was sought from the Hluttaw; the formation of Myanmar Parliament was submitted; the speech to be delivered by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker was submitted and recorded; and observations and opinions of the Joint Bill Committee regarding environmental conservation bill, vacant, fallow and virgin land management bill and the 2011 farmland bill were explained.

The Speaker said regarding the 2012-2013 national planning bill, Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency submitted a proposal on Myanmar National Human Rights Commission at the 20th day session on 15-3-2012. In connection with the proposal, the Joint Bill Committee remarked that the formation of MNHRC does not conform to the constitution and existing laws. So, he said, the Speaker decided that the inclusion of the commission in the leading committee and inclusion of the commission's expenses in the budget were cancelled.

Next, U Min Swe of DaikU Constituency submitted the proposal to reduce the work volume of Fines Arts



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book.—MNA

Department and Archaeology and National Museum and Library Department under the Ministry of Culture by 65.9 percent. Then, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan said he had no discussion of the proposal and the Hluttaw announced to approve it.

U Soe Tha of Twantay Constituency submitted the proposal to amend the supplement-2 title '2012-2013 State-owned Sector Investment Allocation' of the national

planning bill of the 2012-2013 fiscal year as '2012-2013 State-owned Sector Work Projects and Investment Allocation'. Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein said he had no discussion of the proposal and the Hluttaw announced to approve it. The Hluttaw also announced approval of the proposal as the whole Appendix-2 including its amendments should be part of the bill. (See page 8)

15th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw approves one proposal, two bills



The 15th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—The 15th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw continued at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 1.50 am today, attended by Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 324 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw made clarifications on facts about the final verdicts of International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on 14 March for disputed sea area between Myanmar and Bangladesh issued in today's dailies.

At today's session, one proposal was approved and two bills approved.

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw informed the Hluttaw about acceptance of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw with its approval.

With regard to approval of the proposal, as approval was sought from the Hluttaw about amendment for the Anti-Corruption Law to take deterrent action against corruption cases for emergence of a clean government and good governance, and then seeking the resolution from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for strictly abiding by the law after promulgation, the Hluttaw approved the proposal. (See page 8)

Eye problems common in astronauts, study says

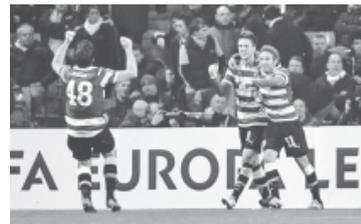


PAGE 4



White rice link seen with Type 2 diabetes, says study

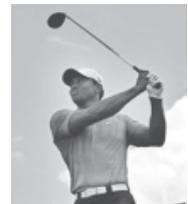
PAGE 5



Mancini targets Premier League after Euro exit

PAGE 14

Tiger vows he will be ready for the Masters



PAGE 14