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Tuesday, 20 March, 2012

**Our Three Main
National Causes**

* Non-disintegration of
the Union

* Non-disintegration of
National Solidarity

* Perpetuation of
Sovereignty

President U Thein Sein attends ceremony to honour specialists who had made field trips to Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to provide free medical treatment

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—President U Thein Sein attended a ceremony to honour the specialists who had made field trips to the wards and villages in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to provide free medical treatment, held at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) this morning, after he had visited the staff who underwent cataract operation at Pynmana Hospital (200-bed).

On arrival at Pynmana Hospital (200-bed), President U Thein Sein was welcomed by Union ministers, deputy ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, departmental heads, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi, specialists, assistant doctors and nurses. Next, he comforted and greeted the service personnel and their family members who had undergone cataract operation.

The President put sunglasses on them and provided cash assistance. The Union ministers and deputy ministers also put sunglasses on the patients and provided cash assistance.

The President and party proceeded to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) where they were welcomed by Union ministers, deputy ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Phyu Phyu and doctors and nurses.

The President and party put sunglasses on the service personnel and their families who had undergone cataract operation and provided cash assistance.

The President and party attended the ceremony to honour the specialists who had made field trips to the wards and villages in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to provide free medical treatment, held at the meeting room of the hospital.

In his report on public healthcare services, Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt said the Nay Pyi Taw Council in cooperation with the Health Ministry provided free public healthcare services to the townships of the council area – 1054 people in Zabuthiri Township on 3 February, 1029 in Ottarathiri Township



President U Thein Sein puts sunglasses to a patient at Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana Hospital (200-bed).—MNA

on 10 February, 1017 in Dekkhinathiri Township on 17 February and 1252 in Pobbathiri Township on 9 March totalling

4352. With the arrangement of the council, 274 were sent to hospital for treatment.

He added that successful operations were performed for 38 eye patients at Pynmana Hospital (200-bed) and the remaining 52 will receive surgical operation. In accordance with the guidance of the President, free healthcare (See page 8)



President U Thein Sein gives encouragement to patients at Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana Hospital (200-bed).—MNA

**Union Minister for
Information and for Culture
U Kyaw Hsan addresses
Conference on Media
Development in Myanmar**

PAGE 2

**Third regular session of first
Pyithu Hluttaw continues for
16th day**

PAGE 9

**Third regular session of first
Amyotha Hluttaw continues for
16th day**

PAGE 9

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 20 March, 2012

Towards an equal society for all genders

Myanmar is well recognized by foreign scholars for reserving a high status for women. Majority of the population in Myanmar is highly valued by its society. Gandhi and Sir George Scott (pseudonym Shwe Yoe) are among the foreigners who praised the relatively greater freedom and independence of Myanmar women compared with that of other eastern and even western countries. Contrary to some other societies where wives are not allowed to get

involved in family business, Myanmar wives are named "chancellors her husband's exchequer" or "keepers of the family purse". Despite some male chauvinists as elsewhere in the world, Myanmar women enjoy equal, if not exceeded, freedom as their counterparts in each corner of the globe.

If so, why is the special bus for women running in Yangon? Why does whistle for help campaign, which distributes whistles to female passengers on buses to seek help in the face of sexual insults, hit the road? These are just the signs how we obsess with our high valuation on our women.

Myanmar really has gender equality? Men will say "no". These activities themselves, some argue, are some sorts of gender discrimination. It will not be fair to stereotype all the men as

offenders. Gender equality is not only for women. We should consider how Myanmar men are treated nowadays. Most of job vacancies clearly mention they prefer only female applicants. Many a woman used to threaten men that they will go to women's affairs offices where women can complain of their grief, with some being made up.

We must create an equal society for all genders. We should help our women, who are known to be less strong, build up strength. Still some women in Myanmar are supposed to do homemaking alone. We all need to help them out. But we must show our respect to all the men while we are empowering the women. We should head towards the society where we talk of no gender differences.

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan addresses Conference on Media Development in Myanmar

YANGON, 19 March—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan addressed Conference on Media Development in Myanmar, jointly organized by Ministry of Information and United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), at Chatrium Hotel here this morning.

The conference was attended by departmental heads and officials of the Information Ministry, UN agencies, ambassadors and

officials from foreign embassies in Yangon, local and foreign media men, resource persons and guests.

The Union Minister said: Now we all are at this Conference on Media Development in Myanmar which in fact is of vital importance for our country's media reform process. So it is my pleasure to express special thanks to UNESCO for its cooperation with our ministry to make this conference a reality and the resource persons for presenting papers despite their tight schedules.

In truth, this conference is a result of our media reforms taking place since 2008 the year which saw the



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan delivers an address at Conference on Media Development in Myanmar.
MNA



Mr. Etienne Clement, Deputy Director of UNESCO Bangkok-based, making a speech at Conference on Media Development in Myanmar.
MNA



Director of Global Forum for Media Development Ms. Bettina Peters speaking at Conference on Media Development in Myanmar.
MNA

ratification of the Constitution through a referendum. Since then the Information Ministry has been implementing the three-step media reforms with the aim of enabling our citizens exercise their constitutional rights. In the first step we exercising the powers entrusted to us by the existing Registration of Printers and Publishers Law (1962)

have been easing the press scrutiny rules phase by phase. In this step, we are paving the way for domestic periodicals to work in harmony with the future print media law. Today, 173 journals and 124 magazines are going through publishing-before-scrutiny system.

In the second step, we will abolish the Registration of Printers and Publishers Law (1962) and are making preparation for writing and adopting a new print media law that ensures press freedom within the framework of the Constitution. We in cooperation with regional media organizations have been studying the international media laws, and collecting and studying information on press freedom and ethics appearing in the domestic periodicals since 2008.

The Union Attorney-General Office had already sent back our first draft together with its suggestions. Currently, we are in the process of compiling the second draft. We will submit this bill to the next session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval.

The third stage concerns with the Information Ministry's role in helping journals harmoniously exercise freedom and accountability and freedom and rationality under the print media law passed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

President U Thein Sein in his address to the Union Government on 31 March 2011 made it clear that new laws and rules should not be an obstacle to the fundamental rights of citizens; instead, they should serve as a check and balance for correctly exercising the fundamental rights of citizens without harming the interest of the Union and human society. Accordingly, we are not drafting the new print media law with the intention of banning or hampering the press freedom. Our aim is to facilitate the correct use of press freedom for long-term progress of Myanmar media world without damaging the interest of human society.

We have heard criticism from some quarters saying that the government has no right to supervise press freedom as it is granted by the Article 19 of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights. However, its Article 29 calls for securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society in exercising the rights stipulated in the Article 19. We all must take this fact into consideration. The goal of our current media reforms is the emergence of a genuine fourth estate in our democratization process where journalists have the right to seek, receive and impart information and news that are accurate, objective, fair and balanced.

We are sure Myanmar media world will have more transparency and freedom in the future. However, together with transparency come the challenges for the domestic media. Some of the main challenges will be the observance of journalism ethics, the survival in a highly competitive media industry, the adaptation to advancing technology and capacity building.

The Information Ministry on its part still has many remaining work programs. It will have to make way for the press freedom and the freedom of gathering news in line with the forthcoming print media law, to draft a new TV and radio broadcasting law that is in accordance with the Constitution, to help State-owned media satisfy the readers and reflect public views through changes both in appearance and essence.

We have made a resolve for the success of our ongoing media reforms. Likewise, we will help domestic media overcome challenges.

Here, international cooperation is very much important. The Information Ministry wishes to cooperate with other countries, UN agencies, and NGOs, and this conference is the first product of international cooperation. We believe that the outcomes of this conference will be much helpful for our media reforms and the initiation of further cooperation.

We are sure first-time comers to Myanmar as well as people having doubt on our reforms are included in this
(See page 7)



US Army PFC Bradley Manning, seen in this undated file photo, is accused of leaking classified information to WikiLeaks. Manning faces a court martial which could land him in prison for life.—INTERNET

Bradley Manning accused of aiding al-Qaeda

FORT MEADE, 19 March—US prosecutors say alleged WikiLeaks source Bradley Manning aided al-Qaeda by leaking hundreds of thousands of diplomatic cables and military reports.

Politico said the information revealed Thursday at a hearing at Fort Meade, Md, was no great surprise, although there had been some speculation the “enemy” in the charges against Manning was the Web site WikiLeaks.

Manning, a US Army private first class and an intelligence analyst, was arrested at a military base near Baghdad in May 2010 on 22 counts of aiding the enemy in an alleged leak of state secrets.

At the hearing Thursday, prosecutors appeared to suggest they did not plan to argue Manning broke into government computers but instead used his own password to download information to be sent to WikiLeaks, Politico said.

Internet

Stolen NATO army kits on sale in Pakistan!

LONDON, 19 March—Stockpiles of NATO military equipment meant for use against the Taliban are being sold in Pakistan’s black market, a British media report said.

Stolen military-issue knives, Kevlar bulletproof vests, toolkits, flares, first aid kits and even official stationery are on sale in Pakistan, *The Daily Express* reported.

According to the report, in Pakistan’s Karkhano market in Peshawar City, near Afghan border, merchants display masses of camouflage

Four shot dead at French Jewish school

TOULOUSE, 19 March—A gunman on a motorbike shot dead at least four people, including three children, at a Jewish school in Toulouse on Monday, just days after three soldiers were killed in similar shootings in the same area of southwest France.

“I saw two people dead in front of the school, an adult and a child ... Inside, it was a vision of horror, the bodies of two small children,” one father, searching for his son at the Ozar Hatorah school among crowds of distraught parents and children, told RTL radio.

The gunman killed a 30-year old Hebrew teacher, his



two children aged three and six, and another child, Toulouse prosecutor Michel Valet said. A 17-year-old was wounded.

“The attacker was shooting people outside the school, then pursued children

Police officers and firefighters gather at the site of a shooting in Toulouse, southwestern France on 19 March, 2012. A shooter opened fire in front of a Jewish school killing a number of people, the Toulouse prosecutor said on Monday.—INTERNET

into the school, before fleeing on a heavy motorbike,” Valet told reporters.

The soldiers, one of Caribbean and two of Muslim origin, also been killed in drive-by shootings and prosecutors opened an anti-terrorism investigation into all three attacks although it was not clear whether the motive was political or purely racist.—Reuters

American held captive in Iraq released

WASHINGTON, 19 March—An American national reportedly held captive for around nine months in Iraq has been handed over to the US embassy, CNN reported.

The man had earlier been handed over to the UN office in Baghdad by a movement led by a radical Shia cleric named Muqtada al-Sadr, the UN mission in Iraq said.

The American, wearing a military uniform, spoke to reporters in Baghdad but did not provide his name. He said he deployed to Iraq in 2003 and spent 15 months in a military capacity.

The al-Sadr identified him as Randy Michael. He said he was taken hostage by activists of the Yom al-Maoud - also known as the Promised Day Brigade — under the direction of Muqtada al-Sadr, and kept at various locations within Baghdad.—Internet



An Afghan policeman sweeps broken glass at the scene of a bomb explosion in Kandahar south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 14 March, 2012. A delegation investigating Sunday’s shooting killing civilians in Panjwai, Kandahar by a US soldier was meeting in the southern city of Kandahar on Wednesday when a bomb hidden in a motorcycle exploded about 600 yards away. The blast killed one Afghan intelligence official and wounded three other people, but the delegation members were unharmed.

INTERNET

Pakistani parliament to review ties with US

BEIJING, 19 March—Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has expressed concern over Pakistan-US relations during the country’s parliamentary session on Saturday. He emphasized the importance of Pakistan re-engaging with the US.

Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistani president, said, “Pakistan-United States relations are multi-dimensional and important. 2011 was a challenging year. We seek to engage meaningfully with the US on

the basis of mutual interests and mutual respect. We are looking forward to your recommendations for re-engaging with the United States.”

Pakistan’s parliament convened in the capital to review its troubled relations with the United States. Asif Ali Zardari also lauded his government’s commitment to democracy and claimed successes in his country’s fight against Islamist militancy.

Pakistan’s parliament is set to reveal new terms of

engagement with the United States next week. This comes almost five months after a cross-border skirmish with NATO forces that left 24 Pakistani soldiers dead.

The new terms will likely include the re-opening of supply lines to US-led NATO troops in Afghanistan—closed since 26 Nov—but with many new qualifications and restrictions. One new measure could include a convoy tax on NATO supplies, instead of the cost-free arrangement held before.

Xinhua

Iraqi security forces inspect the scene of a car bomb attack in the Mansour neighbourhood of Baghdad, Iraq recently. Iraqi officials say a car bomb has killed and wounded several people in a commercial area full of shops and clinics in western Baghdad.—INTERNET



Terror suspects in Bali killed

Boy Raffi Amar said. “All of them died in shoot-outs. They opened fire at the police while trying to escape.”

The suspects planned to carry out a series of robberies including at money changers to fund future attacks, he said. Police seized two firearms and dozens of bullets.

Sanur in the south of Bali where three suspects were killed in a villa, *AFP’s* correspondent said.

Muslim majority Indonesia has been rocked by a series of attacks staged by regional terror network Jemaah Islamiyah in recent years, including the 2002 Bali bombings which killed 202 people.

Internet



Majority of netizens disapproved of search engines keeping track of their searches, regarding it as an invasion of privacy, and also disliked targeted advertising.—INTERNET

'Netizens against their searches being tracked'

HOUSTON, 19 March—Majority of netizens disapproved of search engines keeping track of their searches, regarding it as an invasion of privacy, and also disliked targeted advertising, a new study has claimed. About two-thirds of search engine users disapprove of the collection of information on their searches for the purpose of personalising their future search results, says Pew Internet & American Life Project, Search Engine Use study, 2012. An equal proportion of all internet users disapprove of being tracked for the purpose of getting targeted ads. Around 73 percent of

search users disapproved a search engine keeping track of their searches and using that information to personalise future search results because they felt it was an invasion of their privacy, the study said. While 65 percent of search users, according to the study, disliked a search engine collecting information about their searches and then using it to rank future search results, because it may limit the information they get online. Around 68 percent said they were not in favour of targeted advertising because they disapproved of their online behaviour being tracked and analysed.

Internet

Slimmer MacBook Pros in production



Apple's highly popular MacBook Pro notebook INTERNET

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 March—Apple's highly popular MacBook Pro notebook has gone without a redesign for the past three generations, but if a DigiTimes report is to be believed a redesigned slimmer version of the notebook is already in production.

The report claims that Apple is targeting shipping between 100,000 and 150,000 units initially and expects that number with rise up to 900,000 units. According to the report, Apple has eliminated the optical drive in the 13-inch and 15-inch variants, enabling a slimmer profile. If this is true then Apple is incorporating more design elements from the MacBook Air. Having said this, the DigiTimes report claims that the MacBook Pro line of notebooks will continue their spec sheet superiority over the MacBook Air.

Most probably, the new

MacBook Pros will flaunt Intel's incoming Ivy Bridge line of processors which will deliver better battery efficiency, more processing power and improved integrated graphical abilities.

In addition to this, unlike the MacBook Air, users can expect the MacBook Pro models to come equipped with dedicated GPU units, and perhaps even a higher resolution display especially after Apple has armed the new iPad with a Retina display with a resolution of 2048x1536 pixels.

It should be noted that, while Apple only currently offers a Full HD resolution only in the 17-inch MacBook Pro, Apple has been arming its 27-inch iMac with a display with a resolution of 2560x1440 pixels, so a resolution update on the 13-inch and 15-inch MacBook Pro models will not be surprising.

Internet



Solar storms join floods, terrorism as risks to UK

LONDON, 19 March—Britain has added volcanoes and solar storms to floods, flu and terrorism on a list of threats to national security.

The highest-priority risks to Britain are pandemic influenza, coastal flooding, terrorist attacks and—a new addition — volcanic eruptions in Iceland, according to the recently published 2012 edition of the government's National Risk Register for Civil Emergencies. "Severe space weather" poses a threat to communications systems, electronic circuits and power grids, the list said. Solar storms — eruptions of magnetic energy and charged particles — are part of the sun's normal 11-year cycle, which is expected to reach a peak next year.

The storms can't hurt people, but can disturb electric grids, GPS systems and satellites. In 1989, a strong solar storm knocked out the power grid in Quebec,



The largest solar storm in five years sent a huge wave of radiation into earth's atmosphere creating a brilliant show of the aurora borealis near Yellowknife, North West Territories on 8 March, 2012. —INTERNET

cutting electricity to 6 million people. Last week, the strongest solar storm since 2004 passed without major disruptions.

Last month, Parliament's defense committee called on the government to prepare for disruptions to electrical supplies and satellites from electromagnetic pulses — whether caused by the sun or by a nuclear weapon exploded

in space. Space war is not included on the British government's risk register. "We are becoming more and more reliant on technology, and that technology is becoming more and more delicate," the committee's chairman, Conservative lawmaker James Arbuthnot, told Sunday's edition of The Observer newspaper. "Be afraid, very afraid."

Internet



British grave said to be early Christian

CAMBRIDGE, 19 March — An Anglo-Saxon grave uncovered near Cambridge in Britain could be one of the earliest examples of Christianity replacing paganism, archaeologists said.

The skeleton of a teenage girl was found buried on a wooden bed with a gold and garnet cross, a symbol of Christianity, on her chest in a grave thought to date from the mid-seventh century, when Christianity was beginning to be

archaeologists said. In the teenager's grave, the method of burial — on a bed — and the quality of the jewelry, including the cross, could indicate the girl was from a noble or royal family, researchers said.

"Christian conversion began at the top and percolated down," Sam Lucy, a specialist in Anglo-Saxon burial from Newnham College in Cambridge, said.

A bag of precious and semiprecious stones and a small knife were found with



The skull of an Anglo-Saxon girl was found with a jewelled symbol of Christianity.—INTERNET



introduced to the pagan Anglo-Saxon kings.

The grave of the teenager, believed to be about 16 years old, was one of a cluster of four uncovered at a site south of Cambridge, the BBC reported on Friday.

The three other graves were more typical Anglo-Saxon burials with no indications of Christianity,

the body but the idea of burying a body with "grave goods" for the afterlife was "counter to the Christian belief of soul and not body continuing after death," Lucy said.

The merging of burial rites, Lucy said, showed the grave was "right on the cusp of the shift from pagan to Christian."—Internet



The Torresol Energy Gemasolar plant in Fuentes de Andalucía near Seville.—INTERNET

Solar power station in Spain works at night

BARCELONA, 19 March—A unique thermosolar power station in southern Spain can shrug off cloudy days: energy stored when the sun shines lets it produce electricity even during the night. The Gemasolar station, up and running since last May, stands out in the plains of Andalusia.

From the road between Seville and Cordoba, one can see its central tower lit up like a beacon by 2,600 solar mirrors, each 120 square metres (28,500 square feet), that surround it in an immense 195-hectare (480-acre) circle.

"It is the first station in the world that works 24 hours a day, a solar power station that works day and night!" said Santiago Arias, technical director of Torresol Energy, which runs the station.

The mechanism is "very easy to explain," he said: the panels reflect the sun's rays on to the tower, transmitting energy at an intensity 1,000 times higher than that of the sun's rays reaching the earth.

Energy is stored in a vat filled with molten salts at a temperature of more than 500 degrees C (930 F). Those salts are used to produce steam to turn the turbines and produce electricity. It is the station's capacity to store energy that makes Gemasolar so different because it allows the plant to transmit power during the night, relying on energy that has accumulated during the day.

"I use that energy as I see fit, and not as the sun dictates," Arias explained.

As a result, the plant produces 60 percent more energy than a station without storage capacity because it can work 6,400 hours a year compared to 1,200-2,000 hours for other solar power stations, he said.

"The amount of energy we produce a year is equal to the consumption of 30,000 Spanish households," Arias said, an annual saving of 30,000 tonnes of CO₂.

Internet

Cord blood helps US girl recover from critical brain injury

WASHINGTON, 19 March—A little girl in US was able to get out the vegetative state she was reduced to after a brain injury, thanks to cord blood stem cells.

When Sparrow Morris fell into the family's swimming pool, she was left unconscious and without oxygen for 45 minutes.

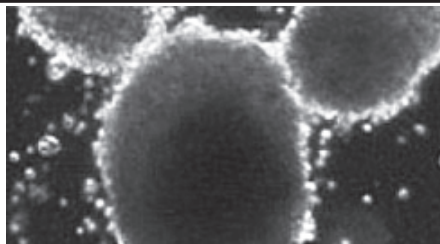
It caused severe brain damage and she was left in a vegetative state unable to sit or speak.

"She had a contorted body," *Fox News* quoted Tonya Morris, Sparrow's mother, as saying.

The Morris', who have 8 children, had decided to bank Sparrow's cord blood earlier but didn't think they'd ever need to use it.

Fifteen months after her injury, doctors refused the cord blood into Sparrow as part of a trial at Duke University.

Morris said she noticed a difference in her daughter



Cord blood helps US girl recover from critical brain injury.—INTERNET

the next day.

"She was excited, walking better... she spontaneously started talking to me," she said.

"We didn't think we'd ever have to use (the cord blood). We just saw the value

in it and decided it was money well-spent," she added.

Doctors are discovering that cord blood can have a positive effect on all kinds of medical conditions - from cancer to cerebral palsy to hearing loss.—*Internet*

continued to participate and didn't have an issue with attrition because they finally didn't feel uncomfortable exercising.—*Internet*



Shrimp shell to help heal wounds and reduce wrinkles?

WASHINGTON, 19 March—Scientists have described how they have prepared nanoparticles of chitosan that could have potential in preventing infection in wounds as well as enhancing the wound-healing process itself by stimulating skin cell growth. Chitosan is a natural, non-toxic and biodegradable, polysaccharide readily obtained from chitin, the main component of the shells of shrimp, lobster and the beak of the octopus and squid.

Nanoparticles containing chitosan have been shown to have effective antimicrobial activity against *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* and *Escherichia coli*.

The antimicrobial activity of Chitosan is well known and has been exploited in dentistry to prevent caries and as preservative applications in food packaging. It has even been tested as an additive for antimicrobial textiles used in clothing for healthcare and other workers.

Mihaela Leonida of Fairleigh Dickinson University, in Teaneck, New Jersey and colleagues made their chitosan nanoparticles (CNP) using an ionic gelation process with sodium tripolyphosphate. This process involves the formation of bonds between polymers strands, a so-called cross-linking process. Conducted in these conditions it precludes the need for complex preparative chemistry or toxic solvents.—*Internet*



Cooling hands improves fitness of obese

SAN DIEGO, 19 March—A small study of obese women found a device that cooled their hands while exercising helped their exercise tolerance and fitness, US researchers found.

Lead author Stacy T Sims of Stanford University in California said the cooling device called the

AvaCore Rapid Thermal Exchange chilled the palms of the hand and circulating blood, pulling heat off the body.

The 12-week study, involved 24 obese women, ages 30-45. Half worked out with their hands in a cylinder containing water at 60.8 degrees Fahrenheit.

The other half used the

same device with water at 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit — body temperature. Participants didn't know the difference in their devices and did the same fitness activities.

"The control group dropped out quite early," Sims said in a statement.

"The women who had the cooling device

Kia Motors says to suspend US plant; shares drop

SEOUL, 19 March—South Korean carmaker Kia Motors <000270.KS> said on Monday that it would suspend production at its US plant on Monday and on Tuesday, after media reported said a fire broke out at a parts supplier.

The news sent shares in Kia and parent Hyundai Motor <005380.KS> down on concerns about possible output disruptions.

Kia's US plant in Georgia, with an annual production capacity of 300,000 vehicles, produces the Optima sedan, the Sorento SUV and Hyundai Motor's Santa Fe SUV.

A South Korean media report said on Monday that a fire had struck a Georgia factory operated by Daehan

Solution, an unlisted South Korean parts supplier for Kia. An official at Daehan Solution declined to comment.

Kia did not identify the

reason for the plant suspension, with a spokesman saying that it would have a limited impact on sales as the facility had an inventory of 1.9 months.

"Production is currently scheduled to resume at 6:30 am EDT on Wednesday, 21 March," Kia said in a statement.

Ahn Se-hwan, an analyst at IBK Securities, said the closure could lead to short-term production disruptions for the Santa Fe and Sorento.

Shares in Kia Motors were down 1.9 percent and Hyundai Motor was down 0.7 percent in a wider market <KS1> that was up 0.3 percent as of 0312 GMT.

Kia, an affiliate of Hyundai Motor, saw its monthly sales jump 37 percent to a new record high in February from a year earlier.

Reuters



An A380 aircraft is seen through a window with an Airbus logo during the EADS / Airbus 'New Year Press Conference' in Hamburg on 17 January, 2012.

REUTERS

Airbus expects years of grappling with A380 cracks

FRANKFURT, 19 March—Airbus will need years to get past problems with wing cracks on its flagship A380 passenger jet, the executive vice president of programs at Airbus told a German magazine.

"This problem will keep us busy for years," weekly *Der Spiegel* quoted Tom Williams as saying in an article published on Sunday.

European air safety regulators last month ordered checks for A380 wing cracks for the entire superjumbo fleet after safety engineers found cracks in almost all planes inspected.

Airbus, the plane maker owned by EADS, has said a combination of design and manufacturing slips put too much stress on a handful of the 2,000 brackets that fix the exterior of each wing to the ribcage beneath.

The magazine said Williams aimed to present a solution for the problem in April, and Airbus will start installing new parts in planes by the end of the year.

Reuters



Visitors talk on the KIA Motors booth during the second media day of the 82nd Geneva Car Show at the Palexpo Arena in Geneva on 7 March, 2012.—REUTERS

Fannie Mae's property sales generate investor interest

WASHINGTON, 19 March—Some big investors have shown interest in buying foreclosed properties being sold in bulk by Fannie Mae, the largest US home funding source, the *Wall Street Journal* said citing people familiar with the process.

Under the deal, the investors would have to rent out the properties they buy from Fannie and not sell them for several years, the Journal said.

The sale consists of 2,500 homes divided into eight regional pools that have a current market value of \$320 million, and the bids are due by mid-April, the Journal said, citing an offering document prepared by Fannie's adviser Credit Suisse.

Officials are looking to complete the first transactions by late May, the Journal said.

The Journal named New York-based broker-dealer Amherst Securities Group and a fund run by mortgage-bond pioneer Lewis Ranieri as interested bidders. Hedge-

A sign in front of the Fannie Mae headquarters is photographed in Washington on 11 Feb, 2011.—REUTERS



fund manager Paulson & Co and private-equity investors Colony Capital LLC are also considering bids, the Journal said. Spokesmen for Fannie Mae and Credit Suisse declined to comment to the *Wall Street Journal* on the sale.

Reuters



Swimsuit model held for heading global drug ring

LONDON, 19 March—A swimsuit model, who was once voted one of FHM magazine's "sexiest women in the world", has been arrested in Australia on charges of heading an international drugs ring, a media report here said.

Simone Farrow was found hiding in a cheap motel on Queensland's Gold Coast. She will be extradited

to Britain from Sydney, the *Daily Mail* reported.

The 37-year-old Farrow, accused of trafficking drugs in bags of bath salts from Hollywood - had at least 19 aliases, and was on the run for a month.

Farrow allegedly called for crystal methamphetamine drugs to be mailed to New South Wales and Victoria hidden in

parcels containing bath products.

Drug buyers sent cash to Farrow through post or deposited it at National Australia Bank branches into her bank account.

A member of the drug syndicate has committed suicide in a Hollywood motel, Sydney's *Sunday Telegraph* revealed.

Internet



A man cools off in the Wawa Dam spillway in Rizal Province, the Philippines, on 18 March, 2012. The Wawa Dam is an abandoned water reservoir that was turned into a travel destination for local and foreign tourists.—XINHUA

Bird flu detected at Dutch turkey farm

LIMBURE, 19 March—Bird flu was detected among turkeys at a farm in the Dutch province of Limburg, officials said.

At midnight Saturday, the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority enforced a transport ban on poultry and eggs within a 1.8-mile radius after the flu was discovered. The region is home to about 25 poultry farms, Radio Netherlands Worldwide reported.

All of the farm's 42,700 turkeys were slated to be destroyed, officials said.

Last year, there were several bird flu outbreaks across the Netherlands, mostly in Gelderland, Zeeland and Flevoland.

Internet



2,150 men shave simultaneously in Thessaloniki, Greece, in a bid to break the previous Guinness record set by 1,863 men in India.—INTERNET

Biofuel cell-implanted snails can generate months of electricity

WASHINGTON, 19 March—Researchers have for the first time implanted a biofuel battery in a living snail, which can produce electrical power over a long period of time using the shelled creature's physiologically produced glucose as a fuel.

The electrified snail, being a biotechnological living device, was able to regenerate glucose consumed by biocatalytic electrodes, upon appropriate feeding and relaxing, and then produce a new portion of electrical energy.

According to the study led by Evgeny Katz of Clarkson University, the snail with the implanted biofuel cell will be able to operate in a natural environment, producing sustainable electrical micropower for activating various bioelectronic devices.

Implantable biofuel cells have been suggested as sustainable micropower sources operating in living organisms, but such bioelectronic systems are still exotic and very challenging to design.

Research like this by Katz and other scientists is working toward a goal of creating insect cyborgs, an idea that has been funded by the US Department of Defence.

Very few examples of abiotic and enzyme-based biofuel cells operating in living animals have been reported. Implantation of biocatalytic electrodes and extraction of electrical power from small living creatures is even more difficult and has not been achieved to date.

The study has been published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.—Internet

Arizona gets 5+ feet of snow

FLAGSTAFF, 19 March—While it was unseasonably warm across most of the United States Sunday, a late winter storm dropped upward of 5 feet of snow on Arizona's mountains.

KTVK-TV, Phoenix, reported some parts of Arizona's high country had received more than 5 feet of snow with more expected Sunday night. The Arizona Snowbowl in Flagstaff reported 3 feet, the TV station

said. The snow forced the closure of numerous roads and there were reports of many vehicles skidding into ditches and other accidents.

Interstate 40 was still closed Sunday evening from Holbrook to Ash Fork, and US 180 was closed west of Arizona Snowbowl, KTVK-TV said.

A winter storm warning was in effect from the Mexican border to the

northern outskirts of Utah Sunday, the National Weather Service said, at the same time the East and Midwest was experiencing temperatures in the 70s—76 in Bangor, Maine—and even the 80s—Chicago enjoyed its fifth straight 80-plus day in a row.

Rain and wind lingered along the Pacific Coast Sunday as the brunt of the storm pushed east.

Internet

Colorado wildfire forces evacuations

ECKLEY, 19 March—A wind-driven wildfire in northeastern Colorado prompted authorities to evacuate 200-300 homes Sunday, officials said.

The Yuma County fire destroyed two homes and left three firefighters injured, Denver's KUSA-TV reported.

Sheriff Chad Day said one firefighter suffered minor facial burns, another had

minor burns on the arms and the third was treated for smoke inhalation, KUSA-TV said. Yuma County sheriff's deputies said the evacuation zone was about 16 miles long and 14 miles wide and included the town of Eckley.

"It just keeps rearing its ugly head," area resident Gary Hoffner said. "The smoke and the dirt are blowing so bad."

The TV station said

winds were gusting between 50 and 70 mph.

Day said there were several traffic accidents in the area caused by distracted drivers looking at the fire.

The cause of the fire was under investigation but a local newspaper attributed it to a downed power line, KUSA-TV said. It wasn't clear how many acres had been burned.—Internet

Ten severed heads found in western Mexican town

ACAPULCO, 19 March—Mexican authorities on Sunday found the severed heads of 10 people killed in a suspected outbreak of drug gang violence in a small city north of Acapulco.

The heads were lined up on a street outside a slaughterhouse

in Teloloapan, about 170 miles (274 kilometres) from Acapulco and about 155 miles (249 kilometres) south of Mexico City, according to a statement from the

Guerrero state attorney general's office. Teloloapan is in the Tierra Caliente region of Guerrero, where the La Familia cartel and its offshoot, Los Caballeros Templarios (The Knights Templar), are fighting for territory.

Seven of the heads belonged to men and three to women, all between 20 and 35 years old, the state attorney general's offices said. The bodies have not been located.

MNA/Reuters



Horse riders warm up their horses during a tent pegging competition in Islamabad. The competition is taking place for the first time since 2004.—INTERNET

Save Kosi river corridor, save tigers: WWF

NEW DELHI, 19 March—Highlighting the importance of the Kosi river corridor in the Corbett tiger reserve in Uttarakhand, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) said Sunday that the crucial pathway is facing a threat from upcoming resorts and hotels.

Recent photos taken in the corridor, situated in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) at the heart of which lies the Corbett tiger reserve, have shown as many as 13 tigers using the pathway.

In one of the photos, a tigress with her two sub-adult cubs was camera trapped in west Terai feeding on a domestic cow.

"In January 2012, the same tigress was photographed carrying an approximately one-month-old cub in her mouth, further south in the Kosi corridor," said Meraj Anwar, Senior Project Officer, WWF.

"The sighting comes a few weeks after the first photo of a tiger crossing the corridor," he added.

However, an ever increasing number of resorts to cater to tourists is threatening the tigers with an increase in the number of conflicts between the big cat and humans.

"Ramnagar forest division has witnessed increased human-animal conflict over the years owing to human movement in forests and the expansion of tourism in the area, particularly the tourist resorts that have sprung up here in the recent past," said KD Kandpal, Landscape Coordinator, TAL.

"If unchecked, the resorts mushrooming in the area will choke the corridor and block the free movement of tigers through it. If the tiger in India is to be saved for posterity, the Kosi River tiger corridor needs to be protected at all costs," he added.—Internet



A woman dressed as a geisha takes part in a Saint Patrick's day parade in Central London on 18 March, 2012. Thousands of people were out on the streets for the parade which started at Green Park. INTERNET

Union Minister for Information...

(from page 2)

conference. There are also faithful advocates rendering assistance and constant support to our media reforms and domestic journalists hoping for a greater transparency and freedom. We also know you have different views on press freedom and journalism ethics. Anyhow, we firmly believe you all have a sincere goodwill to witness the emergence of a genuine fourth estate in Myanmar. We trust you all will present valuable suggestions and seek best means based on common ground for Myanmar media development.

Deputy Director of UNESCO Office in Bangkok Mr Etienne Clement and Director

of Global Forum for Media Development Ms Bettina Peters addressed the conference.

Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information U Ye Htut and Chief Editor of Open News Weekly Journal U Thiha Saw presided over the conference. Chairman of Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA) Mr Kavi Chongkittavorn discussed "the role of the media for democratization in the ASEAN region and in Myanmar"; Chief Editor of The Voice Weekly Journal and Living Color Magazine U Kyaw Min Swe, "the needs and challenges of the media in Myanmar's democratic transition"; and former chairman of World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) Mr Steve Buckley, "the role of media in empowering communities".

Columnist and Contributing Editor of The People's Age Journal U Soe Thein (Maung Wun Tha) and Director of Mediterranean Region and Asia, Canal France International Mr Eric Soulier presided over the second session. Executive Director of Article 19 from Britain Dr Agnes Callemard discussed "the role of media, freedom of expression and information legislation in democratization processes"; Director of ABC International of Australia Dr Murray Gree, "the role of media regulation and the values of diversity", IPRD Director-General U Ye Htut, "new media laws and regulations in Myanmar" and Chief Executive Officer of Tempo International Media in Jakarta Mr Bambang Harymurti, "the fundamentals of laws, rules and codes of ethics concerning media practices".

Chairman of Yangan Media Group U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sethmu Tetkatho) and Director of Global Forum for Media Development Ms Bettina Peters presided over third session. Media Management and Marketing Specialist Ms Michelle J Foster discussed "creating a dynamic media environment; the business of news"; Publisher of Popular News Journal Daw Nan Kalya Win, "Myanmar media industry, its immediate challenges and new media business models"; and Managing Director of Express Newspaper Group and Chairman of Press Institute of Sri Lanka, "unity among different stakeholders for professionalization of media-Sri Lanka Experience". Resource personnel answered queries raised by those present.

The conference continues on 20 March. *MNA*



General Hospital in Kengtung, Shan State (East) is a health infrastructure for local people in border areas.

Health infrastructures built in Shan State to provide health care services to local national races in the region

The 50-bed People's Hospital in Namhsan, Shan State (North) is now providing health care services to local national races in the region.



The operation theatre (extension) of the 100-bed People's Hospital in Hsipaw, Shan State (North).



Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

Translation: TLA

The Women's and Children's Specialist Hospital opened in Taunggyi, Shan State (South) is a health facility that are providing health care services to women and children in the region.



President U Thein Sein attends ceremony to honour specialists...

(From page 1)

services were provided on 22 February to the staff families from 6232 rooms of 34 ministries in Pyinnyatheikdhi, Thukhaetheikdhi and Wunnatheikdhi wards at Zabuthiri Township Hospital (50-bed); the staff families from 7933 rooms of 29 ministries in Dhanatheikdhi, Balatheikdhi and Nyanatheikdhi wards at the pre-primary school in Balathiekdhi Ward; and the staff families from 3658 rooms of 35 ministries in Mingalatheikdhi and Bawgathiekdhi wards at Pre-primary School No.3 in Mingalatheikdhi Ward.

The Union Minister continued to say that free medical services were provided at three places in three groups on 25 and 26 Febru-

ary. For providing healthcare with traditional medicine, groups of traditional medical practitioners provided free healthcare to three places. A total of 8793 people were provided free healthcare - 615 with traditional medical treatment and 8178 with western medical treatment. Moreover, 358 patients were transferred to respective hospitals.

Next, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi of Pynmana People's Hospital (200-bed) reported on the providing of free medical treatment to the council area under the cooperation between Nay Pyi Taw Council and the Ministry of Health.

Then, the President presented K 10 million for field-trip healthcare services

donated by the President Office and K 1.5 million for providing medical treatment to service personnel donated by the President to Nay Pyi Taw Council member Dr Paing Soe.

Dr Paing Soe also accepted K 10 million donated by Nay Pyi Taw Council and K 24 million donated by Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

Then, the President accepted K 19.2 million donated by 32 Union ministers from Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko and Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing.

President U Thein Sein presented gifts to the specialists through Commandant Lt-Col Than Htut of No.2 Defence Services Obstetrics & Gynecology and Children Hospital, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Phyu Phyu and Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi.



President U Thein Sein presents donations for giving field-trip on free medical treatment made by 32 Union Ministers through Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko and Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing.—MNA



On behalf of the service personnel, Staff Officer of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office U Kyi Maung spoke words of thanks.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said he was grateful to Nay Pyi Taw Council for its arrangements for providing healthcare services and the specialists from three hospitals for their kind contributions to the services. As the health and fitness of citizens plays a part in measuring the development of a nation, the promotion of health standards is

necessary. Every citizen needs to have health knowledge for their longevity. Only then, will the health sector develop.

The field-trips of medical specialists themselves to provide public healthcare means they are playing their part in national development tasks. So, all urged to try to lead a healthy life.

After the ceremony, the President and party cordially greeted the specialists and the staff who had undergone cataract operation.

MNA

President U Thein Sein cordially greets specialists, doctors and nurses at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000 bed).—MNA

NGOs & INGOs Affairs Committee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Meeting (6/2012) of NGOs & INGOs Affairs Committee was held at Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Hall No.17 here this afternoon, attended by Committee Chairman U Win Naung and members.

The participants discussed matters related to rendering assistance to the citizens in line with the prescribed rules and procedures in their right to form associations and organizations in accord with Section (354) of the constitution regarding the tasks of the committee and development of operational bases such as rescue works, fight against poverty, environmental con-

servation and humanitarian assistance.

The committee chairman reviewed the discussions and fulfilled the requirements.

Before the meeting,

Chairman U Win Naung answered the questions raised by media and disclosed that the committee would launch its website to help the functions of NGOs and INGOs.

MNA

DY Construction Minister inspects Pyay-Paukhaung-Toungoo road

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint inspected Yangon-Mandalay Highways and Pyay-Paukhaung-Toungoo road in Bagon Region, on 16 March. He gave instructions on timely completion of maintenances of roads and bridges by Building Special Group No.3 and Road Special Group 7 in open season and maintenances of Mayanchaung Bridge. He met staff at Public Works Office in Paukhaung Township and superintending engineer's office in Pyay District.—MNA

XXVII SEA Games preparations explained to domestic media

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Chairman of the Preparedness for the XXVII SEA Games Leading Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan attended the launching ceremony for the XXVII SEA Games for 2013 which will be held in Myanmar in December 2013 at twelve noon, today. He then addressed the ceremony and responded questions asked by local media.

The union minister saying that the XXVII SEA Games are to be held in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay. On the face of it, the games will be held from

11 to 22 December, 2013 and 32 sports events are included in it. They might change according to the schedule. He also explained local media preparedness of the XXVII SEA Games and sports events which will be held in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

It was also attended by Secretary of the Preparedness for the XXVII SEA Games Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, responsible personnel, Pyay Myanmar, Yangon Times, The Voice, Tetlan, First Eleven Sports, 7 day News, Soccer

Myanmar Website & Journal, MRTV-4 and guests.

The attendees listened to the songs which will choose for the XXVII SEA Games. And the union minister and responsible persons made response to them.

The local media men visited Zabuthiri Sports Ground and Zeyathiri Sports Ground.—MNA

Beware of Fire

Third regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw continues for 16th day



NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Pyithu Hluttaw continued its 16th day session at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of the Hluttaw Building at 2:30 pm today, in the attendance of Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and a total of 331 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

At the event, Chairman of Bill Committee U T Khun Myat tabled amendment Amyotha Hluttaw bill sent by Amyotha Hluttaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw approved the bill for the representatives including the bill committee didn't submit the amendment proposal on the bill.

The meeting ended at 2:55 pm today. The Hluttaw will announce the date of holding its 17th day session.

MNA

The 16th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw in progress.

MNA

Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues for 16th day Two bills approved



The 16th day session of Amyotha Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for 16th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex here at 2.40 pm today.

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and 182 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives attended today's session.

The Speaker sought approval of Hluttaw on Bill amending 1955 Government Housing (Expelling) Act paragraph-wise.

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint submitted the proposal to approve the bill. Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 9 seconded the proposal.

The Hluttaw approved the bill.

Member of Bill Committee U Myint Tun submitted the report of the committee on **Assistance to Families of Disabled Tatmadawmen and Died or Fallen Tatmadawmen Bill** which the Pyithu Hluttaw had sent to the Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments. As there wasn't anyone to discuss the bill, Amyotha Hluttaw approved the bill paragraph-wise.

The Hluttaw approved the bill.

The 16th day session was adjourned at 3 pm.

Two bills were approved at today's session.

MNA

Third day's session of the third regular meeting of the first Thaninthayi Region Hluttaw held

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—The third day's session of the third regular meeting of the first Thaninthayi Region Hluttaw took place at 10:00 am today, in the attendance of Thaninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, Speaker of the Hluttaw U Htin Aung Kyaw, 27 representatives and members of region level organizations.

At the event, the Hluttaw approved the supplementary budget bills of the region for the years of 2011 and 2012 including a general project bill of the region. There were two proposals transformed into queries and two proposals tabled. The Hluttaw came to an end at 11:20 am.

MNA

Union Education Minister meets Japanese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye received a delegation led by former Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, Chairman of Asian Maternal Child Welfare Association (AMCWA) Mr Yoichi Yamaguchi and party, at his office this morning. They discussed sending of Myanmar students to Japan, let-

ting the students learn Japanese language after school hours and donation of new schools in Myanmar.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Ba Shwe, Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department and officials.

MNA

Special Appellate Court hears

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—The Special Appellate Court comprising of Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo of Supreme Court of

the Union, Judges of Supreme Court of the Union U Tha Htay and U Myint Aung decided four cases of civil general application (writ) and 12

special civil appeal cases at Room No. 1 of the Supreme Court of the Union. Besides, eight civil special appeal cases were heard.—MNA

23rd ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group Meeting held

YANGON, 19 March—The 23rd ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group Meeting, jointly organized by ASEAN countries and Department of Marine Administration under the Ministry of Transport, took place at Park Royal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road, here, this morning, with an opening address by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung.

The representatives discussed the matters relating to emergence of ASEAN single shipping market, development of emergency maritime rescue operation, safety of ships and jetties, emergence of human resources for security and environmental conservation, more cooperation with International Maritime Organization (IMO) and holding conventions after singing

with IMO, development of Yangon and Darnan (Vietnam) jetties, regional measures for inland water transport, cooperation of maritime transports with private organizations in ASEAN region, cooperation with dialogue partner countries—Korea, Japan, China, Russia and India and more joint cooperation with IMO and ASEAN.

MNA

Sanitation carried out at mote in Mandalay Nanmyo



NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Mandalay Region Irrigation Department is carrying out the tasks of weeding, sanitation and maintenance of retaining walls along the feeder canal to the mote of Mandalay with

the use of heavy machinery beginning 15 February 2012.

At present, the Irrigation Department is focusing on improvement of water supply facilities from the mote because the water level of mote declines at Nanmyo and its water supply facility is weak for Chanayethazan and Aungmyethazan townships.

Water from Hsedawgyi Dam is being supplied to the water sediment lake in front of the Nanmyo, and clean water is supplied to the mote.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

MFF plans to observe fish and prawn breeding in Vietnam

YANGON, 19 March—Responsible persons of Myanmar Fisheries Federation will visit the Animal Husbandry and Marine Products Expo to be held in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam to observe fish and prawn production of Vietnam.

The team will leave here on 20 March and arrive back here on 25 March.

A plan is under way to share knowledge from the visit and observation to local entrepreneurs, said a responsible person of Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

“We have a plan to observe successful livestock breeding tasks in Vietnam. Roughly, the excursion tour has been planned to observe techniques on breeding of

fish species such as banded snakeheads and climbing perches,” he said.

The team led by responsible persons of Myanmar Fisheries Federation will comprise 25 scholars from associations. *Kyemon*



CASH DONATED: Daw Khin Nyein of Laydauntkan in Yangon donated K 200,000 to the fund of Kyauktan Home for the Aged and construction of its hall on 10 March. Administrator of the home U Myint Aung accepts the cash donation.—Home for the Aged

Invitational photo contest to mark International Year of Cooperatives 2012

MANDALAY, 18 March—Mandalay Region Cooperative Department and Mandalay Region Cooperative Syndicate will jointly organize the invitational photo contest to mark the International Year of Cooperatives 2012.

The contestants across the nation may send three colour photo entries with the sizes between 10 inches by 12 inches and 10 inches and 15 inches. The contestants can win only one prize.

The entry must be own creation and it must not win any prize. The works must not be decorated through digital technology. The entries must be attached to full presentations of captions. The contestants must show

citizenship scrutiny card number, address and telephone number.

The first prize will be K 200,000, the second prize K 150,000, the third K 100,000 and three consolation prizes K 50,000 each. The entries must be sent to Mandalay Region Cooperative Department on 30 Street between 68th and 71st Streets, Yongyi compound, Mandalay, Tel: 092000649, 09-2022272 and 09-91056785, not later than 4 pm on 6 April.

The entries may cover activities of cooperative societies in addition to Cooperative Special Sales and Show to be held by Mandalay Zaygyodaw Market Cooperative Ltd.—*Kyemon*

Expectant mothers, children vaccinated

YANGON, 19 March—Under the supervision of Insein Township Health Department of Yangon Region, regular vaccinations for three diseases were provided to children from 45 days to one and a half years old and anti-tetanus vaccine injected to three-month expectant mothers at the administrative office in Myothit (C) Ward in Insein Township on 5 March afternoon.

Health staff Daw Aye Aye Tin and party

together with Ward Administrator U Hla Win and officials, members of Ward Maternal and Child Welfare Association injected the vaccines of TB, Polio and Hepatitis to the children and anti-tetanus vaccine to expectant mothers.

From 12 noon to 2 pm on that day, a total of 33 children and 15 expectant mothers received vaccinations in Insein Township.

Kyemon

Cash donated for pilgrimage of Insein Township WJA

YANGON, 19 March—A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for excursion tour and pilgrimage of Kyaikhtiyo, Kyaikthanlan, Kyaikkhami and Setse beach and pagodas in Mon State to be organized by Insein Township Writers and Journalists Association and Thitsa Service was held at the office of Insein Township WJA on 1 March.

Vice-Chairman of the Township WJA leader of the excursion U Bo Kyi (Dr Bo Thanmani-Taungdwingyi) donated K 100,000.

Chairman of the



Township WJA U Phone Wai (Director Phone Wai), Secretary U Soe Win Maung (Shwe Taik Soe) and executive accepted the cash

donation.

Those wishing to make cash donation may contact 647163.

Township WJA



Summer youth cultural course opens

NYAUNGDON, 19 March—The summer youth cultural course, conducted for the second time by Saya U Nyi Nyi Latt of Basic Education Middle School in Kyeinbinse Village, was opened at the BEMS in Kyeinbinse Village of Hsinhton Village-tract in Nyaungdon Township of

Ayeyawady Region on 4 February.

The course lasted one week.

At the training course, writer Cetana Hlaing (Yesago) and retired teacher U Saw Maung Soe gave talks on personal prestige and moral ethics for all the people. *Kyemon*

Road users need awareness of traffic accident



YESAGYO, 19 March—At about 9 pm on 7 March, Hein Zaw, 18, died on the spot with injury at his head as he and motorcycle plunged into

the 10 feet deep gap of the embankment section on the Yesago-Tamardan embankment, one furlong from Ward 6 of Yesago in Magway Region.

Local authorities posted bars to prevent the danger of road accidents.

Pe Tun Zaw (Yesago)

Kite Beauty and Kite Fighting Contests 3-8 April

YANGON, 19 March—The 8th Kite Beauty Contest and Kite Fighting Contest 2012 will be held at Kyaikkasan Grounds of Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) from 3 to 8 April.

Handsome prizes will be awarded to the winners.

The contest will be categorized as singles, inter-club and beauty kite contests.

Teams from ministries, Tatmadaw, regions and states, Myanmar Police Station, Fire Services

Department, townships, clubs and factories and workshops are allowed to take part in the contest. The competition will use knockout system.

The kite beauty contest will be held for the first time.

Those wishing to take part in the contest may enquire disciplines of the contest at Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation (in Aung San Stadium). Contestants may enlist from 14 to 29 March and contact 09-49254783.

Kyemon

Fire breaks out in Kalay

KALAY, 19 March—A fire broke out in Kalay at 4 pm on 14 March.

Electrical wire shock started the outbreak of fire upstairs of a two-storey building in Panglong Region 5 on Bogyoke Road in Kalay.

The Deputy Commissioner of the District General Administration Department and the Head of District Fire Services Department supervised putting out of fire. Members of fire brigade and local people participated in fighting of fire with the use of six fire engines and two water tankers of Development Affairs Committee. At 4.45 pm, they died out the fire.—*Myanma Alin*



Yellow leaves

We don't know why, but it's so emotional for us to watch yellow leaves falling to the ground. Especially when we were in our early teens the scene of trees shedding leaves amidst the wayward winds and eddies of early summer was really touching and giving us a tender feeling that we were going to miss our dearest friends or someone we loved during the long summer holidays.

Actually, it's just a natural phenomenon of the growth and reproduction of plants large and small of all species and their germination. When leaves turn yellow they are about to fall to the ground as their life-spans have reached the final stage. When they fall to the ground they become gradually decayed and with the help of bacteria living in the earth they are converted into nutrients trees need for their survival under the law of the jungle.

Every living being needs a constant supply of food for its existence and growth. Human beings earn money to buy food, predators go hunting, scavengers search for dead or dying animals, herbivores roam lush and green places and insectivores look for nests of tiny creatures with more than four legs. As they are immovable trees or plants create their own food, relying mostly on their own leaves as their main food suppliers.

Leaves also have a hand in the process of photosynthesis changing carbon dioxide and water into simple glucose sugars with

the help of sunlight. This food they produce is for the growth and reproduction of their mother tree. Leaves also make the oxygen in the air that we breathe, so they benefit the environment and other living beings too.

In addition, leaves provide shade and shelter to the stem and root system below and a large surface area for transpiration and gaseous exchange; and help in gathering water for the plant.

As leaves throughout their life are beneficial for the plant from which they grow and also for environment, we the human beings also should be helpful at least to our own community. Unlike the leaves we have more ways to serve the interest of our family, our community or even our own country.

First, we can start from our community or workplace or school, but how. Actually, there are simple and easy ways to serve the community. We can provide volunteer services at the home for the aged; join community-based organizations rendering financial assistance to the poor and underprivileged or health care and old age care, or educational assistance. We can set up social healing services like visiting, helping and consoling patients at hospitals and hospice centres and older people at their homes. We can also participate in anti-narcotic drugs drives especially in awareness campaigns or even in rehabilitation projects. We have other options such as literacy movements, poverty alleviation projects and rural development works all of which are

Tin Maung Than



beneficial to human society.

One way is to join a faith-based association that provides sanitation services at pagodas, keeps the shoes and slippers of visitors for their peaceful and convenient pilgrimage, supplies clean water for various purposes, and ensures every convenience for people practicing vipassana or meditation at the religious centres. We can serve our community by observing morals and manners, discipline, and social ethics as the practice promotes its image. Just putting a piece of garbage someone has thrown negligently on the platform into the dustbin is a social service only highly civilized people do. As for government employees their devotion and honesty to their own work and institution equals to serving the national interest.

And for a student youth, learning his lessons hard and trying to become outstanding amount to serving the community and the country as intellectuals and intelligentsia are valuable human resources for shaping brighter future. Boys and girls have many other ways to help the human society especially during their summer holidays.

The scene of yellow leaves falling to the ground may be very emotional for many people, but only few people know that they are on their final mission. Like the leaves, we need to benefit our own community and if possible our own country in one way or another throughout our entire life. What we need here is just find the best and most feasible way to do the job. And when there's a will there's always a way.

Saya Zawana's words

Than Daing Kaung (Meiktila)

Next to writing, conversing with friends ruled Saya Zawana's life so it is no surprise to his friends why Saya Zawana was so popular at social gatherings. We do not realize how the quality of our voices can affect our relations with others in everyday situations. But the famous writer always did. Once a stormy night, a close friend made complaints in a strident tone to Saya Zawana on sight as he looked as though he had a rain-soaked walk. The elderly writer just returned "Hello" in a calm voice. Picking up the

newspaper the next morning, the friend saw his mistake. The paper carried an article about city nightlife written by Saya Zawana. It shows that the famous journalist was a total realist in the way he approached everything.

Saya Zawana skyrocketed to fame after publishing *Collegian*—hilarious, touchingly human—a book of laughter. His experiences as a hostel student had been the whole theme of the story. When "*collegian*" was made a film, a star was born. The name of the star was *Collegian Ne Win*.

"When you work comedy into the act you get laughs. But the audience has to love you too. That's more important." Those are the words Saya Zawana told *Collegian Ne Win*.

Brain Trusts were annually held at Judson Hall of Yangon University. Saya Zawana was always among the guests invited. One year I dare say to him, "Saya, what on earth do you wish most?" Saya Zawana paused for a moment and after studying my face carefully, said, "Son, I've to repeat to you the Pope's words: How comforting it will be for you when you came to the close of your lives on earth, to be able to say to yourselves: We've served the truth, that's my conscience, my wish."

Work-coordination meeting on reviewing of 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium held

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—The work-coordination meeting on reviewing of the central committee for holding the 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium took place at Conference Room of Mani Yadana Jade Hall here at 3 pm today.

Patron of the central committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik delivered an address.

Also present on the occasion were member of the central committee Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, members of the committee, Vice-Chairmen of Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs' Association, secretaries and association members.

Union Minister U Thein Htaik fulfilled the needs on reports presented the deputy ministers. The meeting came to an end with the Union Minister's concluding remarks.—*MNA*

Ten killed in Indonesia train, van crash

JAKARTA, 19 March—At least 10 people were killed Sunday when their van stalled at an unmanned railway crossing and was rammed by a train in Indonesia, police said. Four people, including the driver, were injured in the accident in Tasikmalaya in West Java, *Xinhua* reported.—*Internet*



Workers swap shovel for a snow-sweeping vehicle on the G10 national highway in Hailin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 17 March, 2012. The traffic of Mudanjiang to Harbin section of the G10 national highway was influenced due to the heavy snowfall in northeastern China.—*XINHUA*

Doubts cast over cell phone radiation risk to unborn babies

LONDON, 19 March—A recent study, which found evidence that mobile phones could harm unborn babies and make them prone to behavioural problems, may have been over-hyped.

The study, published in

Scientific Reports, exposed 33 pregnant mice to cell phone radiation, from a mobile phone set to permanent call, for 17 days - almost the full gestation period of mice.

Scientists compared

Man rescued from coal pile in Wisconsin

SUPERIOR, 19 March—A bulldozer operator was rescued by firefighters after being trapped in a stockpile of coal at Midwest Energy Terminal in Superior, Wis, officials said.

Firefighters were called to the scene Thursday morning after the man accidentally backed into a hole in the stockpile at the Lake Superior coal yard, leaving just the tip of the blade sticking out, the Duluth (Minn) *News Tribune*

and *Superior Telegram* reported.

Firefighters quickly descended into the hole to free him, the newspapers said. He suffered minor injuries and was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Midwest had said earlier in the week it was loading about 58,000 tons of coal Thursday for shipment to Presque Island Power Plant in Michigan, the newspapers said.

Internet

University, who was one of the researchers in the experiment, was quoted in several news articles saying that mobile phones might be "partly responsible for rising rates of behavioural disorders such as attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder".

Internet

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Sakura Tower,
Bogyoke Aung San Road,
Yangon, Myanmar
utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 20 March 2012

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG KACHAI VOY NO (109)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG KACHAI VOY NO (109) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T(2) 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.

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MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (150)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (150) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-2 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.

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Foot and mouth spreading in Egypt

CAIRO, 19 March—Foot and mouth disease has spread throughout Egypt, claiming more than 3,100 animals, government officials said this weekend.

The General Authority for Veterinary Services said the Sat 2 serotype of the livestock disease had turned up in governorates nationwide with well over 33,000 cases reported. The state MENA news agency said the outbreak appeared to be most serious in the Gharbiya and Dakahlia governorates.

Egypt last week suspended a vaccination programme so that it could be adjusted to be more effective against Sat 2. Farmers were also required to bury dead animals rather than disposing of them in drainage canals.

Internet

Picture of the accident scene at Budget Terminal where a man was hit by taxi allegedly driven by China passenger.

INTERNET

Sydney Harbour Bridge turns 80

19 March, 1932, joining the harbour's northern and

turning 80 this year—climbed to the top of the bridge's 134-metre high arch to perform for a select group of guests.

"The musicians performed Aaron Copland's 'Fanfare for the Common Man' plus the theme music from the movie Chariots of Fire," a Symphony spokeswoman said.

The small audience featured six "Bridge heroes" with a special connection to the structure, according to event organisers. They included descendants of the bridge's engineer JJC Bradfield, a man whose uncle placed the very first rivet, and one woman who was born in an ambulance on the span. The bridge is one of Sydney's most-photographed and best-known landmarks and is often the centrepiece of fireworks displays in the city.—Internet



Sydney's Harbour Bridge.—INTERNET

SYDNEY, 19 March—A group of Sydney Symphony Orchestra musicians scaled the city's Harbour Bridge for an exclusive concert Monday to celebrate the sweeping structure's 80th birthday.

Known as the "Grand Old Dame" of Sydney, or more colloquially "The Coathanger", the bridge was officially opened to traffic on

southern shores for the first time.

It was an ambitious project that took eight years to complete, with construction of the 1,149-metre (3,770-foot) span claiming the lives of 16 men.

To celebrate its 80th anniversary, 11 brass section musicians from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra—also

Art improves recovery from stroke

ROME, 19 March—Patients who appreciate music, painting and theatre have better chances of recovery from stroke than patients who do not, says a new study.

Stroke is the third cause of death or disability in the Western world. More and more older people are having strokes and undergoing recovery.

"We know that every six seconds there is a person affected by stroke in the world," said study co-author Ercole Vellone, assistant professor in nursing science at the School of Nursing, University Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy.

"Identifying strategies to improve stroke recovery and patients' quality of life represent a priority for the healthcare system and art exposure seems to be promising," added Vellone, according to a university statement. For the research, 192 stroke survivors (average age 70 years) were asked if they liked or did not like art (music, painting, theatre). Quality of life was compared for patients interested in art (105) and patients not interested in art (87). Patients interested in art had better general health, found it easier to walk, and had more energy. They were also happier, less anxious or depressed, and felt calmer. They had better memory and were superior communicators - speaking with other people, understanding of what people said, naming people and objects correctly.

Vellone said: "Stroke survivors who saw art as an integrated part of their former lifestyle, by expressing appreciation towards music, painting and theatre, showed better recovery skills than those who did not. The research was presented at the 12th Annual Spring Meeting on Cardiovascular Nursing, in Copenhagen, Denmark.—Internet



Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, talks to members of the Irish guards as she takes part in a St Patrick's Day parade while visiting Aldershot Barracks Aldershot Barracks on St Patrick's Day in Aldershot on 17 March, 2012.

INTERNET

Brain deficits may be behind shyness

WASHINGTON, 19 March—Shyness could be the consequence of deficits in two areas of the brain, a new study has revealed.

Extremely shy or inhibited individuals are typically slow to acclimate to new people.

The Vanderbilt University study found that individuals who identified themselves as inhibited may

experience habituation failure or the inability to adapt to new stimuli in the amygdala and the hippocampus regions of the brain. The researchers used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to examine adults with either an inhibited or uninhibited temperament. Study participants were shown pictures of unfamiliar faces multiple times.

Individuals with an uninhibited temperament demonstrated habituation in both the amygdala and hippocampus. Their brain response increased when the faces were new but declined as they became familiar.

In contrast, individuals with an inhibited temperament failed to habituate across repeated presentations of faces, meaning familiar faces triggered the same brain response as the unfamiliar. "This failure to habituate

provides a novel neural mechanism for understanding the shy and cautious behavior that is characteristic of inhibited individuals," said Jennifer Urbano Blackford, PhD, assistant professor of Psychiatry and Psychology and lead author of the study.

"Individuals who familiarize more slowly may find encounters with new people overwhelming and thus avoid new social experiences, whereas those who adjust more quickly may be more likely to seek novel social experiences," Blackford added.

Blackford and colleagues think that this failure to habituate may be a key cause of social anxiety disorder, the persistent, chronic fear of a specific social situation.

The study has been published in the journal *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*.—Internet

Global economic growth to slow this year: IMF's Zhu

HONG KONG, 19 March—Global economic growth will slow this year, though it is faring better with the United States looking much improved, the International Monetary Fund's deputy managing director Zhu Min said on Monday.

Speaking at the Credit Suisse Asian Investment Conference in Hong Kong, he said risks are still on the downside, with financial markets - particularly in the euro zone - remaining fragile.

Growth in emerging markets will be strong but may be weaker than expected as the full impact of the slowdown in developed economies has yet to fully filter through to them.

Zhu said a key challenge is to create strong economic growth in a deleveraging environment, and warned that global inflationary risks need to be monitored.

However, he expects the slowdown in emerging-market economies to stabilise

over the next few months, with an improving US economy giving people confidence in the global recovery.

He said that the European financial markets "are still very fragile" and there is "no room for any mistake, any slip-up in the market".

As for China, Zhu said the country must rebalance its economy to encourage stronger domestic demand, and it must move into a more flexible exchange rate regime.

Internet

Urologists offer pizza with a vasectomy

A Cape Cod, Mass., urologist is offering a free pizza to men who are seeking vasectomies in March, officials said. The Urology Associates of Cape Cod is running TV commercials offering a free pizza with a vasectomy, *the Cape Cod (Mass.) Times* reported Thursday.

March Madness is also tied into the deal as a way of enticing men to undergo the procedure, which requires

men to sit on the couch and rest for a few days.

The ads feature an attractive woman playing with a basketball and a voice over that asks: "Hey guys! Want to watch the college basketball tournament guilt-free?" Then, the free pizza with a vasectomy offer is presented. "You know you've been thinking about a vasectomy, anyway. Now's the time to get it done," the voice over says.

Urology Associates of

Cape Cod administrator Evan Cohen said March is the busiest time of year for vasectomies for his practice, with perhaps 45 to 60 being performed. He said he hopes the pizza promotion—a free one-topping pizza from Surf's Up Pizza and Seafood in Sandwich—drums up some extra business.

"It does actually come with one topping. Maybe you can put some meatballs on it," joked Cohen.



A Cape Cod, Mass., urologist is offering a free pizza to men who are seeking vasectomies in March, officials said.

Republican speaks at wrong convention

An Iowa Republican running for Congress said he arrived early for an event and accidentally ended up addressing a group of Democrats. Dan Dolan of Muscatine said he and a staffer arrived early Saturday for the Republican convention at the Monroe County Courthouse in Albia, *The Quad City Times* reported on Wednesday.

"My staffer runs up and says, 'Hey, Dan Dolan is here. Can he speak?' So they stopped everything, and I get up there and give my speech," Dolan said. "I get done, a guy raises his hand and says, 'I think you want to talk to the Republicans.'" "It was a crazy day," Dolan said. "We had scheduled 10 speaking engagements through the district."

"I'm not sure how many votes I won in the room that day," he said. "It was one of those silly things, but I think everybody was very, very good about it." Monroe County Supervisor Denny Ryansaid the mix-up is easy to understand, as the Democratic convention began at 11 am and the Republican convention began in the same building at 1 pm.

NEWS ALBUM

Man sets 14 records for free throws

A Kansas man who has set 14 Guinness World Records with his free throwing skills in the past 26 months says he has studied the art "more than anybody."

Bob Fisher, 54, of

Centralia, has set records in the past 26 months including making 33 free throws in 30 seconds, 50 free throws in a minute, 92 free throws in two minutes and 448 free throws in 10 minutes, *The New York Times* reported on Thursday.

Fisher said he has dozens of books on basketball and the art of shooting and he has binders full of photographs, diagrams and equations related to making free throws.

"I've studied it more than anybody," Fisher said.

Fisher broke six records last week at the Centralia High School in only one hour, including making 88 free throws made in two minutes with alternating hands.

"No one's going to break that one until they find out what I know," Fisher said of his technique.

Rochelle Wiseman's Twitter page hacked

LONDON, 19 March—British pop star Rochelle Wiseman was left fuming after hackers targeted her Twitter page.

The 22-year-old discovered an imposter had posted a bizarre picture on her page Saturday and she immediately warned her followers about the internet prankster, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

In a series of posts on her page, she writes, "Think I have been hacked. I did not tweet that pic! Since when have I signed out with 'Rochelle x'?" —Internet



British pop star Rochelle Wiseman

Nicollette Sheridan jurors deadlocked

LOS ANGELES, 19 March—A Los Angeles Superior Court judge told deadlocked jurors in actress Nicollette Sheridan's suit against ABC to take the weekend to consider the case.

The jurors are deadlocked at an 8-4 vote, though which way the vote is leaning is unclear, *The Hollywood Reporter* said on Friday.

At stake is Sheridan's \$6 million civil lawsuit against ABC for wrongful dismissal from "Desperate Housewives." She said the network fired her for complaining about a confrontation she had with the show's executive producer, Marc Cherry, on set.

Sheridan's attorney, Mark Baute, said he believes the 8-4 is in her favor but thinks the presiding juror, who acts as a foreman for the group, is in the minority.

"The foreman is against us," Baute added. "He's the only juror I've seen in 26 years that came into the court in a panic and said they were deadlocked."

Judge Elizabeth Allen White said she doesn't think the extra time will push the jurors to a decision—nine of the jurors must agree for a valid verdict, *The Hollywood Reporter* said.

"The message is pretty clear," she said of the jury. "They don't feel they can cross that bridge."

Internet



Nicollette Sheridan attends the premiere of the sci-fi adventure motion picture "Star Trek", at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles on 30 April, 2009.

INTERNET



Sebastian Stan and Leighton Meester (R) watch the New York Knicks play the Charlotte Bobcats at Madison Square Garden in New York City on 7 March, 2009.

INTERNET

Stan lands role in 'Political Animals'

LOS ANGELES, 19 March—Sebastian Stan has joined the ensemble of the 6-hour series "Political Animals," USA Network said on Thursday.

The cast also includes Sigourney Weaver, Carla Gugino, James Wolk and Brittany Ishibashi.

The series is to air this summer on the cable network.

Stan will play Thomas "TJ" Hammond, the son of former first lady/newly appointed Secretary of State Elaine Barrish, played by Weaver, and her ex-husband, the former President Bud Hammond, who has not yet been cast.

Stan has appeared in the film "Captain America" and TV's "Gossip Girl." —Internet

Bono makes Zeta-Jones nervous

LOS ANGELES, 19 March—Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones has admitted that she gets nervous in front of U2 vocalist Bono. "I remember seeing U2 when they were just an Irish band before they made it big and it blows my mind that Bono says, 'Hi Catherine, how are you doing?' I'm like, 'Oh my God, it's Bono!'" people.com quoted Catherine as saying. The 42-year-old, who has two children with Michael Douglas, admits she has to pull herself together when she takes the kids to Bono's house.

"I can clearly remember going trick or treating with my kids to Bono's house, I had



Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones

to be really grown up and get it together," she added. —Internet

Meghan McCain a straight gal among gays

LOS ANGELES, 19 March—Meghan McCain, daughter of US Sen John McCain, R-Ariz, told *Playboy* although she's perfectly straight she enjoys gay nightclubs for the music and dancing.

McCain, 27, says she brushes off rumors she is homosexual.

"I'm not private about anything," she told the magazine. "I can't help it. I love sex and I love men."

McCain, who *People* magazine noted kept her clothes on for *Playboy*, said she enjoys partying at gay clubs "because they play the best music and my gay friends like to dance" and isn't put off by the advances of some women and the talk that circulates in the celebrity

gossip mill.

"You're nobody unless you have a gay rumor about you," she said. —Internet



Meghan McCain arrives for the Time 100 Gala at the Time Warner Centre in New York on 26 April, 2011. —INTERNET

Gerard Butler tees up new action movie

HOLLYWOOD, 19 March—Gerard Butler says he is developing a new action movie about a terrorist threat to the White House.

Butler, who starred in "300" and "The Bounty Hunter," said through his agency he has signed on for "Olympus Has Fallen,"

which centres on a Secret Service agent foiling a terror plot against 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

The Hollywood Reporter said Butler will be looking to reverse some recent box-office disappointments with the project, which is being written by Creighton

Rothenberger and Katrin Benedikt and will be filmed by Millennium Studios.

Internet

Actor Gerard Butler arrives at the 69th annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 15 January, 2012.

INTERNET



Chinese men seize team victory at sabre World Cup

Moscow, 19 March—China beat Russia 45-44 on Sunday to win the men's team crown at the 2012 Moscow Sabre World Cup.

Facing the defending champions, the Chinese team of Zhong Man, Wang Jingzhi, Jiang Kelu and Liu

Xiao, pulled off an impressive performance in the final, said Zhong Man, the first Chinese Olympic champion in the men's fencing.

"We played cool and were in great form," Zhong told *Xinhua* after the final. The Russians had once

led 25-21, but the Chinese fencers caught up and made it 41-41. The host fencers fought back to lead 44-42 before Zhong turned the tables with three straight points. In the third-place playoff, the United States downed Belarus 45-41.

Some 300 fencers from more than 40 countries and regions participated in the Moscow World Cup, which featured Grand Prix for women's individual and the World Cup for the men's individual and team.

The five Chinese men fared poorly in the individual event with none qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Chinese women's fencer Chen Xiaodong on Saturday finished second in the women's individual final, defeated by defending champion Sofia Velikaia from Russia 15-11.—*Xinhua*



Zhong Man (3rd R) of China's men's sabre team celebrates with teammates during the award ceremony for the men's sabre team at FIE Moscow Tournament in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 18 March, 2012. China defeated Russia 45-44 to claim the title.—*XINHUA*

Federer, Azarenka win titles in California desert

INDIAN WELLS, 19 March—Roger Federer is on a roll again, and Victoria Azarenka can't be stopped, either. They each won titles in straight sets at the BNP Paribas Open on Sunday and earned matching \$1 million paychecks, the richest in tournament history.

top-ranked Belarusian won her Tour-leading fourth title of the year. Federer, ranked third, avenged his two defeats in consecutive days at Indian Wells, putting away Nadal in the rain-delayed semifinals Saturday and then Isner in a final delayed 12 minutes in the



Victoria Azarenka (L) of Belarus and Maria Sharapova (R) of Russia pose with their trophies after Azarenka defeated Sharapova to win their women's final match at the Indian Wells WTA tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, on 18 March, 2012.—*REUTERS*

Federer defeated John Isner 7-6(7), 6-3 for his record fourth title at Indian Wells, avenging a loss to the American who beat him in Davis Cup play. Azarenka routed Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-3 in the WTA Tour's first final between the No 1 and No 2 players since 2008.

Federer improved to 39-2 since last year's US Open, with his only losses to No 2 Rafael Nadal in the semifinals of the Australian Open and the 11th-ranked Isner, who won on the Swiss star's home turf last month. Azarenka improved to 23-0 this year, the best start to a season since Martina Hingis went 37-0 to open 1997. The



Federer defeated Isner 7-6(7), 6-3 to win his record fourth BNP Paribas Open title.—*INTERNET*

Cazorla late goal stuns Real, gives Barca hope

MADRID, 19 March—Real Madrid's lead at the top of La Liga was cut to eight points on Sunday when a dramatic injury time goal from Santi Cazorla earned Malaga a 1-1 draw at the Bernabeu.

The home side had been heading for their 12th successive win following a Karim Benzema header after 35 minutes until a Cazorla free-kick flew into the corner in the 92nd minute.

The result left Real eight points clear of Barcelona after the defending champions had beaten Malaga 2-0 on Saturday, a victory that did nothing to force Barca coach Pep Guardiola to alter his opinion that Madrid will still take the title.

Real coach Jose Mourinho chose not to rest players after the Champions League victory over CSKA



Real Madrid's goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas tries to stop a goal of Malaga's midfielder Santiago Cazorla during the Spanish league football match Real Madrid vs Malaga at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid.—*INTERNET*

Moscow in midweek, other than bringing Lass Diarra in for Alvaro Arbeloa at right-back while Benzema was preferred to Gonzalo Higuain in attack.

Both keepers were busy in the opening exchanges

with Benzema and Cristiano Ronaldo forcing Willy Caballero into saves while, at the other end, Iker Casillas got down to parry a Jose Rondon strike from the edge of the area.

Internet



Lille's French midfielder Eden Hazard celebrates after scoring a goal during the French L1 football match Lille vs Valenciennes at Lille metropole stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq.—*INTERNET*

Lille's Hazard shines in front of Mancini

PARIS, 19 March—French champions Lille beat Valenciennes on Sunday to maintain their quest for a European place, with their sought-after young Belgium winger Eden Hazard among the scorers and featuring prominently in the 4-0 win.

Hazard scored the opening goal for the northeastern club and was involved in Lille's three other goals, doing his potential transfer prospects no harm with Manchester City coach Roberto Mancini watching in the stands.

Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson, one of a number of English Premier

League managers rumoured to be interested in the 21-year-old, was at Lille's previous match at Lyon, which saw the home side win 2-1. Hazard though said that while he knew Mancini was watching, he was concentrating on the task in hand, with the win against mid-table Valenciennes keeping Lille in contention in third spot as leaders Paris Saint-Germain and Mont-pellier faltered.

"I was aware that Roberto Mancini was there. The manager (Rudi Garcia) told me... I wasn't thinking about it. I was trying to play to the best of my abilities," he said. *Internet*

Udinese and Napoli miss chance to go third

UDINE, 19 March—Udinese and Napoli missed the chance to move into the Champions League qualifying positions following a 2-2 draw in Udine on Sunday.

Lazio's earlier 1-0 defeat at Catania meant that

through goals from Giampiero Pinzi and Antonio Di Natale. But after the Champions League qualifying positions following a 2-2 draw in Udine on Sunday. Lazio's earlier 1-0 defeat at Catania meant that

Udinese have now won



Udinese's Giampiero Pinzi (R) scores during the Italian Serie A football match between Udinese and Napoli at Friuli Stadium in Udine.—*INTERNET*

if either side had won, they would have gone third but instead the draw leaves them both a point behind the Romans. Udinese will be rueing a missed opportunity having led 2-0

only one of their last seven league games while Napoli's five-match winning run in Serie A came to an end.

And Udinese coach Francesco Guidolin, who was sent off as well for protesting against the penalty award, could not hide his disappointment. "There's a lot of bitterness, I had to spend quite some time in the dressing room calming down the lads," he said.

"But I don't want to talk about the referee or incidents, we hoped we'd get back to winning ways in my 100th game in charge of Udinese but it went badly."

Napoli boss Walter Mazzarri saw things quite differently. "We deserved to win, over the 90 minutes we played better," he said. *Internet*

Top-ranked Tseng storms to LPGA triumph

TAIPEI, 19 March—World No 1 Yani Tseng birdied five of the first six holes on the back nine after the second of three rain delays on her way to a one-stroke triumph at the LPGA Founders Cup Taiwan's Tseng on Sunday fired a four-under par 68 in the final round of the \$1.5 million event at Wildfire Golf Club to finish 72 holes on 18-under par 270, one stroke ahead of Japan's Ai Miyazato and South Korean World No 2 Na Yeon Choi.

Thunderstorm delays of 74 and 66 minutes stretched the day for the leaders, all

playing in the final threesome. But Tseng responded after the second stoppage with birdies at the par-4 10th and par-5 11th.

Sheran off another streak of three in a row ending at the par-5 15th that was interrupted by a 42-minute storm delay, then parred the final three holes in a gathering

gloom on the Arizona desert to take the victory.

It was Tseng's second triumph in four starts this year after a successful title defense last month in Thailand and her 14th career crown.

Tseng won 12 titles last year in a breakout season, seven of them in LPGA events and two at majors. She will try to add to her major total in two weeks at the Kraft Nabisco, where she was second last year to American Stacy Lewis.—*Internet*



Yani Tseng of Taiwan



Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(20-3-12 09:30 am ~ 21-3-12 09:30 am) MST

- News
- "Health - TB"
- News
- Min Sone Hill and its Star Tortoises
- News
- Myanmar Melody on Screen "Pann Pan Hlyet Par" (Still wearing the flowers)
- News
- The Four Sacred Replica Tooth Relics In Pyay
- News
- Topic on Journal "The Consequences of Climate Change"
- Let's Play Aqua Golf
- News
- Artist's Emotion "Sandar Khaing Solo Art Exhibition"
- News
- Demo's Birthday
- News
- Development of Rural Areas... Benefits of Milch Cow Breeding
- Myanmar Movie "Life is Struggling"

MYANMAR TV

(20-3-2012) (Tuesday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:40 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:20 am
- 3. One Village & One Product
- 8:30 am
- 4. Songs in honour of (67th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 4:00 pm
- 6. Martial Song
- 4:25 pm
- 7. Performance with song
- 4:50 pm
- 8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:00 pm
- 9. Teleplay (Traffic)
- 5:30 pm
- 10. Documentary
- 6:45 pm
- 11. TV Drama Series
- 7:40 pm
- 12. A zealous desire
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. Talk Of the Political Parties
- 15. Bakery World
- 16. India Drama Series



Academy Award-winning animatronics expert John Cox checks the teeth of the crocodile head at his new display "Monsters" that shows how cinematic creatures are made from storyboard to full size specimens, at the St Louis Science Centre in St Louis on 7 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Berbatov set to leave Man Utd at end of season

SOFIA, 19 March—Bulgarian striker Dimitar Berbatov is poised to leave Manchester United at the end of the season despite the English champions taking up an extra year's option on his contract, his agent said on Sunday.



Man Utd's Bulgarian striker Dimitar Berbatov

"I had three meetings with (United manager) Alex Ferguson," Emil Danchev told Bulgarian media. "We should accept that he'll try to build a team for the next three or four years and Berbatov will not be part of this team."

"Ferguson wants to change the playing style, to implement more speed,"

Danchev added. "I was pleased with United's position as they said they'll not oppose Berbatov's move in the summer."

Languid Berbatov, who is Bulgaria's all-time leading scorer with 48 goals, joined United from Tottenham Hotspur in 2008. "I understand he wants first-team football," Ferguson said earlier this week. "It's difficult for me to guarantee that so it could lead to him looking elsewhere."

Berbatov, joint top scorer in the Premier League last season, has lost his starting spot at United with Danchev saying the 31-year-old will attempt to revive his club career in another top European league. "Dimitar will most probably leave England but he doesn't want to move to the US, Japan, United Arab Emirates or championships like these," said Danchev. Several clubs from Spain, Germany and France have been linked in the media with signing Berbatov.—Reuters

Crocodiles are world-class chompers

TALLAHASSEE, Fla, 19 March—When it comes to biting, crocodiles are the heavyweight chomp champions of the animal world, Florida researchers say.

Greg Erickson of Florida State University said he and his colleagues had wondered just how hard alligators and crocodiles can bite.

The answer? A bite force value of 3,700 pounds for a 17-foot saltwater crocodile, the highest bite force ever recorded, Florida State reported Thursday.

But it's nothing compared with the largest extinct crocodylians, Erickson said, 35- to 40-foot animals that bit at forces as great as 23,100 pounds.

Measuring bite force in a

living crocodile or alligator is dangerous work, he said.

"I have to admit, the first time I placed our metre into the maw of an adult crocodile, I was nervous. It was all over in the blink of an eye."

"When it struck, it nearly wrested my grip from the handle."

The noise of the jaws coming together was like a gunshot.

The power of the animal was astounding, and the violence of the event frightening."

Gators and crocs have similar maximal bite-force capacity pound for pound, he said, because they basically all have the same musculoskeletal design, just different snouts and teeth.

Internet



Children suffering from nodding syndrome gather in Akoya-Lamin Omony village in Gulu district, 384 km (238 miles) north of Uganda's capital of Kampala on 19 Feb, 2012. Nodding syndrome, which mostly affects children under 15, was first documented in Tanzania as early as 1962. However, despite extensive investigations, researchers are still largely confounded by it. Most of the fatalities attributed to the disease are the result of secondary causes.

Children with nodding syndrome are prone to accidents such as drowning and burning.—REUTERS



CASHDONATED:

The second cash donation ceremony for supply of electricity to Kangyi Village of Mahlaing Township was held in the village on 25 February. Wellwisher U Win Sein-Daw Yu Yu Win family (Win Hilar Construction Company) of Meiktila present K 2.3 million for the second time to Electricity Supply Committee Chairman U Tun Yin.—MYANMA ALIN

Myittabyuha to donate blood for 115th time

YANGON, 20 March—The 27th Annual General Meeting of Myittabyuha Organization was held at Seikkan Dhammayon of Botahtaung Pagoda in Botahtaung Township of Yangon Region on 11 March morning.

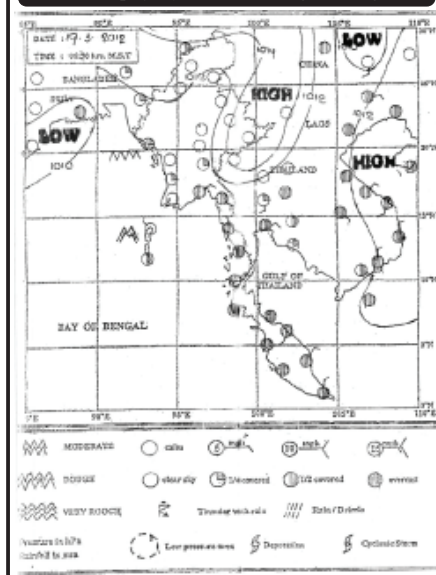
Patron U Ohn Myint of the organization gave words of advice. The meeting elected new

executives of the organization and passed the decision to donate blood for the 115th time on 8 April.

The organization has been donating over 20,000 bottles of blood for 114th time since April 1987. As the 115th time of blood donation will be held in April, the organization invited the blood donors.

Myanma Alin

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 20th March, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	31/88	13/55	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	32/90	09/48	Generally Fair Weather	
3	Kayin	38/100	20/68	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	22/72	07/45	Generally Fair Weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	32/90	15/59	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	34/93	19/66	Generally Fair Weather	
7	Tanintharyi	36/97	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
8	Bago	35/95	19/66	Generally Fair Weather	
9	Magway	38/100	19/66	Generally Fair Weather	
10	Mandalay	35/95	19/66	Generally Fair Weather	
11	Mon	37/99	22/72	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	35/95	20/68	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	31/88	20/68	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	29/84	10/50	Generally Fair Weather	
15	Northern Shan	31/88	09/48	Generally Fair Weather	
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	12/54	Generally Fair Weather	
17	Ayeyawady	36/97	21/70	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	37/99	17/63	Generally Fair Weather	
19	Neighbouring Yungon	35/95	20/68	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	19/66	Generally Fair Weather	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today: During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Magway, Yangon and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States and generally Fair in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (3°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin States and about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperature were Mibin (42°C) and Chaik (41°C).

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.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues for 22nd day

Environmental Conservation Bill, Vacant, Fellow and Virgin Land Management Bill, 2011 Farmland Bill approved



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives attend the meeting. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—The 22nd day Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session took place at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 516 MPs approving three bills. Approval was sought from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for amendments to the **Environmental Conservation Bill** made

by the Joint Bill Committee over the arguing points between the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun proposed the Hluttaw to pass the entire bill, which was seconded by MP U Saw Hla Tun of Chaung U Constituency. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sought confirmation

from the MPs to approve the entire Environmental Conservation Bill as amended and the Hluttaw passed the bill. MPs U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency and Daw Dwe Bu of Ingyanyan Constituency discussed the arguing points between Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw over **Vacant, Fellow and Virgin Land Management Bill** and amendments of the Joint Bill Committee, seeking opinion from Deputy Agriculture and Irrigation Minister U Ohn Than. The deputy minister proposed the Hluttaw to pass the entire bill, which was seconded by MP U Saw Hla Tun of Chaung U Constituency. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sought confirmation from the MPs to approve the entire Vacant, Fellow and Virgin Land Management Bill as amended and the Hluttaw passed the bill. MPs Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency (1), Daw Dwe Bu of Ingyanyan Constituency and U Ohn Ngwe of Myaung Constituency discussed the arguing points between Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw over **2011 Farmland Bill** and amendments of the Joint Bill Committee, seeking the opinions from bill proposer MP U Htay Oo of Hinthada Constituency and Deputy Agriculture and Irrigation Minister U Ohn Than. MP U Htay Oo of Hinthada Constituency proposed the Hluttaw to pass the entire bill, which was seconded by Defence Services Personnel MP Col Tint Hsan. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sought confirmation from the MPs to approve the entire Farmland Bill as amended and the Hluttaw passed the bill. Today's session came to an end at 1.25 pm and the 23rd day session continues at 10 am tomorrow.—MNA

Luis Suarez tells Liverpool he wants to stay at Anfield

LIVERPOOL, 19 March—Liverpool striker Luis Suarez has told the club he wants to stay at Anfield. Suarez, 25, served an eight-match ban for racially abusing Manchester United's Patrice Evra this season and has reportedly been the subject of interest from Paris St Germain. The Uruguay international told the club website: "There are a good few years left on my contract.

"I want to carry on enjoying myself because both my family and I feel really happy here." Suarez joined Liverpool from Ajax in January 2011, signing a five-and-a-half-year deal, and has since scored 15 goals in 42 appearances for the Reds. "I have spoken with people at the club," he added. "They know that I want to stay and that I am enjoying myself and am very happy here."



Internet

About 1,000 people evacuated after WWII bomb found in Marseille

MARSEILLE, 19 March—About 1,000 people were evacuated on Sunday after a big bomb dates back to World War II was found in the southern French port city of Marseille. The 1,400-pound (650kg) bomb, which was discovered a week ago by workers at a building site near the port, was removed on Sunday to a military base to be detonated.

According to local authorities, the ignition system of the bomb, which was likely buried by German troops during World War II, no longer works but the explosives are dangerous. According to the latest news, the evacuated have returned and port traffic resumed after the removal of the bomb to the military base, local media reported.—Xinhua

Natural Disaster Mitigation Training Course No. 3/2012 opened

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Chin State Natural Disaster Mitigation Training Course No. 3/2012 was launched at Haka Town Hall this morning, with an opening speech of Chin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Min Oo. The opening ceremony was attended by Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Hauk Khin Kham and state level organization members, departmental officials, townsenders, trainees of nine townships of the state.—MNA

In-charge DG visits matriculation exam centers in Dagon Myothit (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—In-charge Director-General U Aung Chain of No.3 Basic Education Department under the Ministry of Education looked round matriculation exam centers in Nos.1, 3 and 4 in Dagon Myothit (North) in Yangon Region, this morning.—MNA

Health infrastructures built in Shan State to provide health care services to local national races in the region

PAGE 7



Chinese men seize team victory at sabre World Cup

PAGE 14

