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Our Three Main National Causes

- * Non-disintegration of the Union
- * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
- * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Three powers have been equally shared

“Three powers have been equally shared in the Constitution which is a charter framework of democratic transition. After practicing these powers equally, the media sector which is fourth estate and our government, people and the Tatmadaw which form fifth estate, are to march towards the democratic transition with full understanding and trust. Only then, would our country become a modern, developed and democratic one we all want.”

President U Thein Sein

(Excerpt from the address delivered at the regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 1-3-2012)

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Bangladeshi President

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March— On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence and National Day of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26th March, 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mohammed Zillur Rahman, President of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Bangladeshi Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March— On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence and National Day of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26th March, 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

As the government has conducted rural development and poverty alleviation scheme which is topping agenda far and wide, it has promoted the role of private sector in rice sector reforms
Guarantee purchase system has been introduced to make sure farmers earn deservedly after the harvest



President U Thein Sein delivers a speech at a meeting in Patheingyi Town Hall.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, accompanied by Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing, U Soe Thein, U Thein Nyunt, U Khin Maung Myint, U Aye Myint and Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and departmental heads, left here by air this afternoon and arrived in Patheingyi of Ayeyawady Region at 1 pm yesterday.

The President and party were welcomed at Patheingyi Airport by Union Minister U Ohn Myint, Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung, Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw U Hsan Hsint, Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Thein, Deputy Minister U Soe Tint, Deputy Minister U Than Tun, region ministers, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

The departmental personnel and local people also heartily welcomed the President along the road to Patheingyi and local roads waving miniature flags.

At the city hall in Patheingyi, the President attended the meeting with local people.

Also present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Union ministers, the speaker of the region Hluttaw, the commander of South-West Command, deputy ministers, region ministers, region Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads and officials, the principals of universities in Patheingyi, faculty members and members of social organizations.

First, Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung reported on locations of townships and towns in Ayeyawady Region, number of houses, households and population, cultivation of paddy and other nine major crops,
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PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 26 March, 2012

A firm stance against fire

No country is immune from fire and Myanmar is no exception.

Fire cases often lead to loss of human lives and properties. The value of property loss depends on the fire intensity, the location and the duration of the blaze.

It is learnt that fire hazards account for 70 per cent of disasters in the country and annual losses are approximately one billion kyats.

The high incidents of fire in the country are due to climate conditions including soaring temperature, use of flammable construction materials, increasing urban development and people's negligence when using fire. And uncovered cinders left after cooking with wood, candles left alight after use, exposure of naked flames, careless handling of electric appliances and fuels and unattended mosquito coils may also lead to accidental fire.

With soaring temperature which usually reaches up to 40° C, now is the time when fire preventive measures are to be taken seriously as the majority of households in the country live in dwellings with thatched roofs, bamboo walls, wood plank floors which are flammable materials.

Fire is a good servant but a bad master. Realizing the advantages and disadvantages of fire, each and every people is to be serious about fire hazards. Only when people are serious about fire hazards will a firm stance against fire be possible.

Pobbathiri Township receiving free dental care

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is receiving free dental care treated by Aung Thiri Foundation starting from this morning.

At No. 5 Basic Education Middle School in Seiknantone Village, a total of 20 dentists and 20 assistances took care of patients from Seiknantone, Nyaungbinkyesu, Ywathit, Koeywa Thabyaekone, Thabyaeden Village-tracts in Pobbathiri Township.

There were a total of 209 patients who received free dental treatment on today's records from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Likewise, tomorrow is planned for free dental treatment to patients from Ayemyint Thaya, Ywataw Village-tracts, Aungthaya Ward in Pobbathiri Township.—MNA



President U Thein Sein meets staff of embassy and military attaché in Vientiane



Myanmar Embassy staff and families in Vientiane pay respects to President U Thein Sein.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met Myanmar Ambassador to Lao People's Democratic Republic U Kyaw Soe Win and wife, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Win Maung and wife, staff of embassy and military attaché, families and trainees in Laos at the State Guest House in Vientiane of Lao at 11.30 am on 23 March.

The staff and families of the embassy and military attaches led by the Ambassador and the Military Attaché paid respects to the President.

In his instructions, the President said that Myanmar and Laos are in good relationships in the history and it is a good neighbor. Likewise, he said that the people of both

countries have similar religion, traditional culture and customs and the two countries have mutual respects. Thus, he said that it is necessary to further strengthen the friendly relationship between the two countries. The families of embassy and military attaché are to unitedly discharge duties assigned by the State. He stressed the need for the staff to emphasize the smooth relations between the two countries and to learn Laotian language during the assignment period.

Later, the President presented cash assistance, gifts for staff and families and Myanmar trainees and 10 sets of Sky Net receivers to the embassy and military attaché office.—MNA

Home Affairs Minister meets Laotian public security minister

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Member of goodwill delegation led by President U Thein Sein, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko met Minister of Public Security of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Thongbanh Seng-aphone on 23 March at the latter's office in Vientiane on 23 March. They frankly discussed matters related to further cementing Myanmar-Lao friendship ties and mutual cooperation.

Also present at the call together with the Union Minister were Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Director-General of Political Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Hauk Do Swan,



Myanmar Military Attaché to Lao Brig-Gen Win Maung and officials.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko meets Minister of Public Security of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Thongbanh Seng-aphone in Vientiane.—MNA

YANGON, 25 March—Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman's Cup Men's Hockey Tournament was launched at Theinbyu artificial lawns at 3:30 pm yesterday, attended by Yangon Region Ministers Dr U Myint Thein, U Than Myint, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik and officials. Chairman of Myanmar Hockey Federation, member of Yangon City Development Committee U Htin Zaw Win and CEC members, Hockey fans and participants.

On the occasion, the director-general gave an opening speech. At today's event, Northern Command played against Myanmar Police Force.

Men's Hockey Tournament kicks off



The participant teams are Tatmadaw (Navy), Tatmadaw (Air), Nay Pyi Taw Command, Northern Command, Triangle Region Command, Yangon Command, South-West Command,

North-West Command, No. (1) Light Infantry Division, Myanmar Police Force. Its awarding-ceremony will be held on 7 April, 2012.—NLM

Six children, two adults die in West Virginia house fire

CHARLESTON, 25 March—Eight people, including six children under the age of nine, died early Saturday when a fast-moving fire swept a two-story wood house in Charleston, West Virginia, in the worst house-fire death toll ever in the state's capital city, officials said.

The dead included a woman who turned 26 on Saturday whose birthday was being celebrated Friday night at the house, Charleston Assistant Fire Chief Bob Sharp said.

Ten people were staying at the house when the fire was reported at 3:30 am Saturday: two sisters in their 20s, a boyfriend of one of the sisters and seven children from 1 to 8 years old, officials said.

The seventh child, a boy, was in a hospital intensive care unit and "not doing great," Sharp said, and the lone surviving adult, a woman who reported the fire, was "very traumatized" and taken to the hospital for treatment.

"This is the worst house fire in the history of Charleston and maybe in West Virginia," Charleston

Mayor Danny Jones told a news conference. "I don't know of another house fire, anywhere, where eight people have died." Officials said the fire burned quickly and left many parts of the house intact, giving investigators confidence that they can determine what caused the fire. They believe they know where the fire started on the first floor of the rented house.

Authorities have no reason to suspect the fire was set, but have ruled nothing out in the investigation, Sharp said. One working smoke detector was found in the house, on a kitchen counter, rather than on a ceiling where it would provide the best warning for residents in an emergency, Sharp said. Another smoke detector in a stairwell was not working, he said.

The deaths appeared to be from smoke inhalation — bodies were found still in sleeping positions in beds, by beds, on mattresses or couches, Sharp said.

The fire was under control within minutes after firefighters arrived and carried the children out of the house, where paramedics attempted to revive them, Sharp said.—Reuters



Mayor Danny Jones (2nd L) speaks to first responders and investigators aftermath of a house fire where six children and two adults were killed in an early morning fire in Charleston, West Virginia, on 24 March, 2012. This was the deadliest fire in Charleston since the 1949 fire at the Woolworth department store in downtown Charleston, where seven firefighters were killed. All of the victims found in the two-story wood frame house in the state capital were related, though it was not known whether all of them were living together in the home.—INTERNET



This 12 Nov, 2011 photo shows a view of the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma, Japan.—INTERNET

TOKYO, 25 March—The US had repeatedly warned Japan about vulnerabilities at its nuclear plants in case of a 11 Sept-style terror attack. It turned out Washington was

right about the soft spots, but wrong about the enemy that would strike them. When nature unleashed its own fury on Japan last year with a devastating tsunami, a list of

Japan to push anti-terror measures at nuke plants

US recommendations proved highly prescient. The elements Washington identified as most vulnerable in an attack — spent fuel pools, cooling systems, backup electricity — were the ones worst hit in Japan's disaster. Tokyo had ignored the recommendations, which were implemented at US nuclear sites, because Japanese officials thought the chances of terrorist-flown aircraft striking its plants were remote.

But as leaders from around the world head to Seoul for a major summit this week on nuclear security,

Japan's disaster at its Fukushima plant has provided a salient example of how solid protections against terrorist attacks go hand in hand with protections against natural disasters. The summit is primarily about ways to keep nuclear materials out of the hands of terrorists, but the Japanese government plans to propose a series of Fukushima-inspired measures to enhance emergency power backup systems and advocate a closer link between anti-terror security and general safety issues.—Internet

Australia hit by biggest quake in 15 years

SYDNEY, 25 March—Australia has been hit by its biggest earthquake in 15 years, seismologists said, rattling a remote part of the desert with local Aboriginals reporting strong shaking but no major damage. The 6.1-magnitude earthquake had its epicentre near Ernabella, in the middle of Australia, at a shallow depth of three kilometres (1.8 miles), Geoscience Australia said on Saturday. Ernabella is an indigenous arts hub home to about 500 Aboriginal people, some 317 kilometres southwest of the popular Alice Springs. Seismologist David Jepsen said: "An event like this, there are a number of Aboriginal communities around there and they have experienced strong shaking."

"We've heard from them, people have felt strong shaking, but we haven't heard of any damage yet, but there is that possibility." It was Australia's biggest quake since a 6.3-magnitude one was recorded in West Australia in 1997. Resident Ria Nicholls told ABC radio houses shook and windows rattled for about 30 seconds with elderly people on her street terrified by late Friday's quake. "My husband and I just reassured them that it would be fine and it would pass, but they were frightened," she said.—Internet

One killed, three injured in shooting incident in S Philippines

MANILA, 25 March—A 44-year old man was killed and his three other companions were wounded after they were attacked by four armed men onboard two motorcycles on Friday in southern Philippine province of Bukidnon, police said on Saturday.

The suspects shot the victims while inside the vehicle along a highway in Dologan Village in Maramag Town at around 10:30 am, Philippine National Police spokesman Chief Superintendent Agrimero Cruz Jr said.

The victims were

identified as Bobby Virtudazo, 44; George Aleria, 33; Mira Aleria, 28; and Nelson Daguplo, 18.

Initial investigation revealed that the car where the victims were onboard was forced to stop because of an ongoing road repair project in the area. The two motorcycles where the suspects were riding on suddenly appeared and open fire. Virtudazo died on the spot while the three other victims were wounded.

Cruz said that the suspects fled to unknown direction and investigation has been ongoing. MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills ten in S Afghan town

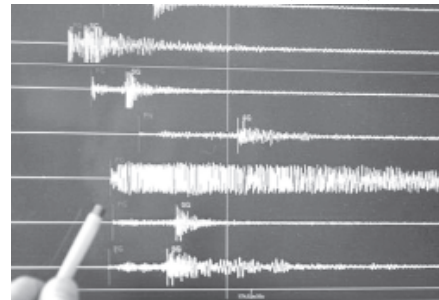
KANDAHAR, 25 March—A roadside bomb struck military vehicle in Arghandab District of southern Kandahar Province 450 kilometres south of capital Kabul on Saturday evening claiming nine lives and injuring one, a local official said on Sunday.

"The incident took place at 07:30 pm local time in a village of Arghandab District when a mine planted by insurgents struck a military vehicle, as a result, nine people including five

policemen, a foreign soldier and a local interpreter were killed," the governor of Arghandab District Shah Mohammad told Xinhua.

Another police sustained injuries in the blast, he further said.

Meantime, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi who claims to speak for the Taleban outfit in talks with media via telephone from undisclosed location claimed of responsibility and said the Taleban loyalists organized the roadside bombing against security forces.—MNA/Xinhua



This file illustration photo shows a seismograph, pictured in 2004. Australia has been hit by its biggest earthquake in 15 years, seismologists said on Saturday, rattling a remote part of the desert with local Aboriginals reporting strong shaking but no major damage. INTERNET

Archive photo shows rescuers and police at the scene of crash on the M5 motorway in south-west England in November 2011. A coach and a lorry have crashed on the M5 in the West Midlands, killing one person and injuring 27 others.—INTERNET

One killed, 27 injured in M5 coach crash

LONDON, 25 March—One person was killed and 27 others were injured when a coach and a lorry crashed on the M5 in the West Midlands on Saturday morning, ambulance services said.

Forty people were treated at the scene of the accident, of which 27 were then taken to various hospitals, West Midlands Ambulance Service said.

The crash happened on the southbound carriageway of the motorway between junctions 3 and 4.

West Midlands Police sought to reassure worried parents in the area that no children were involved in the accident, which came less than two weeks after a coach crash in Switzerland killed 22 children and six adults.

"Lots of calls from worried parents are coming in. No children were involved in this crash," the force said in a Twitter message.

The person killed and one of those seriously injured had been on the coach. The driver of the lorry was also in a serious condition.—Internet



As the government has conducted rural development and poverty...

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construction of the road network and bridge projects, implementation of GDP in 2011-2012 and per capita income.

He then submitted detailed reports on accomplishments of rural development and poverty alleviation, matters related to agriculture, meat and fish, cooperative, small-scale industry, private micro-credit societies and environmental conservation, and implementation of the Pathein Port and Special Economic Zone.

Speaking on the occasion, President U Thein Sein said: I wish the Union Ministers, Hluttaw representatives, Region Chief Minister and cabinet members, the Commander of South-West Command and military officials, townsenders and members of social organizations physical and mental wellbeing.

I am here to attend the inauguration of Paybin River-crossing Bridge which has been built on Pathein-Ngapudaw Road, No.11 Highway of Ayeyawady Delta Road Network Project.

As you all know, our Ayeyawady Region, being a delta, is teeming with rivers and creeks and we find it difficult to travel by road. Particularly, Ngapudaw relies mainly on water route due to its difficult road transport. Although we had to take about four hours to reach Pathein in the past, now we can go there within about one hour thanks to the newly-built Pathein-Ngapudaw Road, through which all parts of Myanmar can be accessible. But, here, I would like to express my deep condolences for the loss of lives of people before the inauguration of the bridge and road due to a vessel capsizing. The bridge construction



President U Thein Sein cordially greets those present at the meeting held at Pathein Town Hall.—MNA

abroad for various reasons rendered their help as much as possible. Moreover, philanthropic societies, NGOs and other organizations made their contributions. As a result of this, such societies and organizations are emerging one after another across the country to help the needy people and fulfill requirements.

Now it is heartening to see that the storm-affected regions have been able to renew their strength. But our Ayeyawady dwellers still have to do more. We have to continue our concerted efforts so that the whole Ayeyawady Region can yield more fruitful results to surprise the whole world. We are now planning to build a deep-sea port in this region inviting local and foreign investments. As efforts

deaths in the emergency rescue periods. Then, we made reconstruction efforts with the belief that every survivor must reach a situation that was far better than that of the past. And then we continued our endeavours with our conviction that the entire region must develop in all aspects having resilience over natural disaster. With this expectation, we built roads and bridges for regional development. We will continue to work to make sure that the region has economic networks through transport networks.

Although Ayeyawady Region has not been perfect in all aspects, it has reached a new era. Upon completion of three special industrial zones, the region's status will change all of a sudden. Our young people who are working abroad or in such regions as Yangon and Mandalay because of few job opportunities will be able to work in their own region. With industrial development plus more job prospects, our youths will have to work harder. They need to promote their quality by learning modern science and technologies. It is also necessary to change the conventional farming into industrial farming with a blend of modern agricultural methods. We also need to try to manufacture value-added products by changing the status in which we sell our products as raw materials.

I was born of two natives of this region. Like the young people who are here attending the ceremony, I grew up in a far-away village of this region with very few roads, hospitals and clinics. When I have become President, my native place has yet to develop like in the past. I am the one who is promoting the interests of all the Myanmar citizens. I am discharging for the entire nation and the entire people. It is my duty. I would like you to understand I am taking a leading role not only for development of my native place but for the whole Union.

It was extremely difficult to pursue education in our childhood. I have grown up in rural area where the life is tough and hard. So, I have almost led that kind of life of the people. Because of those experiences, I have prioritized rural development and poverty alleviation in my presidency. It is my wish to help the poor of our country walk out of poverty. I am vowed to fight tooth and nail to realize this wish.

Our citizens were among major scholars who contributed pearls of wisdom and took part in modernization of regional countries which have developed nations. Myanmar national scholars spread all over the world even in international aerospace technological field. Overwhelmed by political reforms of the country, migrant Myanmar citizens are coming back home to serve the nation as possibly as they can. Their expertise, experiences and wisdom are priceless forces for us. We are keeping the door open for the remaining national brethren. Please come back! Cooperate with us for national development. Doors are always for you.

Likewise, the youth of the country have to work much harder. Our country is still one of the least developed nations. The youth must make relentless efforts today in order that Myanmar can walk with her head held high on global stage in the future. Youths of today including those from remote areas where eternal peace is still a dream are the leaders of the future Myanmar. The nation-building strategy is something to be implemented in full consideration

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President U Thein Sein cordially greets those present at the meeting held at Pathein Town Hall.—MNA

started on 10-1-2011 and we took more than a year to complete it. Ayeyawady Region produces abundance of salt, timber, rice and marine products. With its development of road transport infrastructures, the regional trade as well as socio-economy of the local people in such sectors as education and health will improve.

This delta region, which suffered a lot of damage and destruction in a naturally-unavoidable cyclone Nargis, has steadfastly carried out its reconstruction efforts through the unyielding spirit of the storm-stricken people. And this Pathein-Ngapudaw Bridge is part of their relentless efforts. With the concept that earth bricks will be replaced with stone bricks, our Ayeyawady dwellers have worked the hardest to reach the current situation that is far better than the previous one. This is our invaluable experience. At a time when we were working for the reconstruction of the storm-hit region, we saw the courage of the affected people, unity between the State and the national people including the Tatmadaw and humanitarian assistance from our neighbouring countries and from the international community. At the same time, our citizens who were

have been made to ensure direct exportation of products by upgrading Pathein Port, we have been able to export rice from the delta's granary directly from the region. We are also planning to establish three special industrial zones in the region. The scene of the previously storm-hit region is now greatly different.

As you all know, I, a native of Ayeyawady, made frequent visits to our storm-affected region at that time in my capacity as chairman of National Disaster Risk Preparedness Central Committee to make close supervision. Cyclone Nargis indeed is the largest natural disaster of our history. When I am here now, I remember the dire situation of the region at that time. More than 130,000 people were killed or went missing and the survivors got into trouble having various needs such as meals, accommodation and clothing. While we felt sorry for the casualties of our people, we had a great deal to do for the survivors. The best thing we could do then for the dead was giving all our energy into reconstruction efforts for the survivors. With the vow that every survivor must continue to live, we made our rescue efforts. We tried not to cause consequential

President U Thein Sein pays homage to ancient Buddha Images in Vientiane

Museum.

Afterwards, the President was briefed on the most ancient temple in Vientiane which was built in late 15th Century AD and over 10000 Buddha Images of different sizes kept in the Museum by the In-charge of Vientiane Ancient Culture Heritage Preservation.

Later, the President and party viewed round the ancient Buddha Images in the Museum. Next, the President proceeded to Hophrakeo Museum where he offered flowers, water and light to the ancient Buddha Image and paid homage to it.

The President was briefed on the background history of ancient Buddha Images in the Museum which are related to Myanmar culture and over 1000 Buddha Images kept there by the In-charge of Vientiane Ancient Culture Heritage Preservation.

After viewing round the Museum, the President made cash donations for the preservation of ancient Buddha Images.

Next, the President signed in the visitors' book and left for the State Guest House.—MNA



President U Thein Sein offers flowers, water and light to Buddha Image at Hophrakeo Museum.
MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, accompanied by the delegation members and Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR, visited Sisaket Museum in Vientiane, Lao PDR at 9.15 am on 23 March. Next, the President and party paid homage to ancient Buddha Images in the

As the government has conducted rural development...

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of future of the younger generation. We have to bolster up the youth. We have to enhance their quality and caliber. We have to create opportunities for them. We, the older generation, must selflessly help the younger generation, the future leaders for their improvement. In the coming years, we will increase education and health expenditure which is important for the future of the youth. We have also initiated capacity-enhancing programmes for them in cooperation with international organizations and governments. Whenever I pay visit to foreign countries, I always propose to allow our youths pursue education at well-known universities of those countries. To enable our youths keep abreast of international community is also one of our nation-building plans.

As we have conducted rural development and poverty alleviation scheme which is topping our agenda far and wide, we have promoted the role of private sector in rice sector reforms. We are also taking measures to provide essential inputs and capitals for cultivation. Likewise, we have introduced guarantee purchase system to make sure farmers earn deservedly after the harvest. We are taking actions to establish a public-owned enterprise constituted with different social classes ranging from growers to exporters. It is still a long way, but we will have to surmount the difficulties in cooperation and coordination. This year, due to climate change and pests, there have been cases of decrease in yield and reduction in quality of various crops, affecting the price.

The government supplies fertilizer, one of the major inputs of agriculture sector but insufficiently. Consequently, farmers have to import fertilizer at high price with some inputs low in quality and inauthentic. The solution to this situation is none other than increased formation of farmers organizations including agriculture produce cooperative associations that can solve the problems and fulfill the requirements of farmers.

We have known that there were cases of slip of time management as farmers had already grown when the agricultural loans were disbursed. Specialized companies and government departments usually put off the date of loan repayment. In the last year, as the exchange rate had decreased, growers and breeders suffered losses. Like the rice growers, beans and pulses growers also suffered the same losses. We are dispatching market survey teams in search of new markets as our farmers suffer losses when the markets of the regular buyers of our products are filled with uncertainties. Likewise, domestic foodstuff manufacturers had faced the consequential effects, who were followed by exporters. So, the entire chain of agriculture and breeding businesses had underwent the same fate.

We have been closely cooperating with international and local scholars and institutions to adjust exchange rate appropriately and as a result, we will be able to set a stable rate in near future. We can adjust the rate in short time on our own. But, we are taking time to make sure its long-term stability,

profitability, international credit and hardness in global stock market, trading and money transfer.

Meanwhile, MPs are discussing at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to amend farmland laws and vacant and virgin land laws in accordance with the changing situations to enact as laws to make sure every one who runs the farm owns the farm. Although those laws were written to be agreeable to the current situations, it needs to amend and supplement them in response to the changes for their comprehensiveness.

Labour Law and rules for formation of labour unions have been enacted. I would like to urge the Region governments to strive for improving lives of farmers and workers and creating positive atmosphere for small and medium entrepreneurs. In forming good governance under the law, it is to be noticed that we need to avoid situations of exploiting and misunderstanding laws. Authorities at each level will work cautiously to ensure equality and social security of our citizens under the law in transition period.

Region and state governments need to exercise executive power in accord with the constitution. Though our Union government drew up budgets in transition period, region/state governments will have to allocate budgets on their own as from the coming fiscal year. I would like to ask region/state governments to adhere to the constitution in order that they will be able to appropriately and fully exercise the powers invested in them, solidifying the sharing of powers. In this aspect, administration staff at the lower levels play an important role. They must work to enable the people enjoy rights granted in the constitution. Region/state governments need to work under the constitution.

Notices and warnings are being issued and actions being taken against corruption, abuse of power and misappropriation. Corruption, born with a system, is not only burden to the people but hindrance for building the nation. Only when we get rid of this thorn, will our trip be smooth. Although we do not publicize the actions for various reasons, our government is taking actions against corruption. I have already said that honest mistake could be forgiven, but actions would be taken against deliberate violations in accord with the law. Actions are being initiated against every case of corruption now. I would like to call

on administration staff for giving the people the pleasure and for taking pragmatic measures to create good governance under the law.

All in all, by-elections are nearing. The election commission chairman is trying to organize the free and fair elections. Despite difficulties in compiling ballot lists, it is found that the commission is addressing the issues to prevent loss of any political parties. The election commission alone is not enough to organize free and fair elections. Respective political parties, our government, media and the entire people will have to cooperate with the commission. All the citizens have to cooperate with the commission as it is a concern of all the citizens.

The election commission announced notifications to inform every eligible voter to contact respective subcommissions to be enlisted in order to cast vote and political parties to ensure their supporters enlisted. It also urged to stick to laws and rules and regulations in compiling the ballot lists. As there are unnecessary errors in the ballot lists, the deadline for confirmation was postponed to 24-3-2012, bestowing favour to political parties and voters.

Winners and losers will emerge in the by-elections as per usual. We all need to work together to ensure that the outcome is accepted by all the people. Respecting the decision of the people, we need bear to loss. All political parties need to understand that the decision made by the people is key decision.

As the commission is doing its best to make the by-elections free and fair, our government has invited international monitors to offer testimony. Attention of the whole world has focused on the by-elections to be held for the first time while the incumbent government is in office. All our citizens need to support the bid to hold the free and fair by-elections to be watched by the international community. I would like to conclude my address, urging to lend a helping hand to the commission in accord with laws and rules and regulations understanding the labour, financial and technical difficulties of the commission and keeping in mind that the help should be neither interference nor hindrance. After the meeting, the President cordially greeted those present.—MNA



President U Thein Sein lays wreath at the unknown soldiers' mausoleum in Vientiane. (News on page 16)—MNA

President U Thein Sein receives Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman

President U Thein Sein receives Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman Mr Phanduongchit Vonsa.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman Mr Phanduongchit Vonsa at the State Guest House in Vientiane of Lao PDR at 10.40 am local time on 23 March.

Also present the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Myint Hlaing, U Khin Maung Myint, U Win Tun, U Win Myint and U Tint Hsan, the Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR and departmental heads.

The Chairman of the Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association was accompanied by the vice-chairman, executives and the Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar.

They discussed tasks of the association, and further promoting of religious affairs and culture, economic development and relations between the peoples of the two countries.—MNA



Laotian President hosts dinner to Myanmar President



President U Thein Sein and Laotian President enjoy cultural dances at the dinner.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Choummaly Sayasone hosted dinner to President U Thein Sein at Grand Hall in State Guest House, Vientiane, Laos at 7 pm on 22 March.

Present at the dinner together with President U Thein Sein were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Lt-Gen Soe Win, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister U Myint Hlaing, Union Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation

and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Kyaw Soe Win and departmental heads. The Laotian President was accompanied by Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong, ministers and high-ranking officials.

The Laotian President extended greetings and proposed a toast. The Myanmar President said he visited Laos for the first time in November, 2007 in his capacity as prime

minister, during which he enjoyed the picturesque view of Laos and experienced the hospitality of Lao people. He added that he visited Laos for second time in March, 2008 and he was pleased in visiting Laos again now. Although the visit was short, he could further cement the friendly ties and learn the dramatic developments of Laos in recent years.

Myanmar and Laos were not only neighbours but had a lot common in culture, tradition and religion. Those relationships and close contacts between the peoples of the two nations since immemorial forged the long-existed amity and cooperation. Those facts had been proven by the roaring success of the bilateral relations in recent years. He continued that he noticed the relationship between the two countries, who are not only ASEAN members but also neighbours, was very encouraging. Myanmar and Laos today were benefitting from the efforts of the successive leaders of the two countries who had cultivated mutual understanding and cooperation without a single pause. The peace and harmony between Myanmar and Laos would go down until the end of the world. In the past, Mekong separated the two nations, being the barrier against trading, and transaction between the people of the two countries. Now, two work committees had been formed to construct a bridge across Mekong River to overcome that obstacle.

As Myanmar was trying for its political, economic and social development, it observed that nation-building works of Lao people were a big success. He said he had strong belief that development Laos and its people would achieve more significant progress in the future. He then proposed a toast for prosperity of Laos, physical and mental wellbeing of the Laotian President, and eternity of friendship between Lao people and Myanmar people.

Then, the two presidents had dinner together, enjoying the cultural dances of songs of the two nations performed by Laotian cultural troupe.

The Myanmar President and the Laotian President presented bouquet to the Laotian cultural troupe and posed for documentary photo together with them.—MNA

President U Thein Sein arrives in Nay Pyi Taw



Laotian Minister at the President Office Mr Phongsavath Bouppha and personnel see off President U Thein Sein at Wattay International Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein accompanied by the delegation members, left the State Guest House in Vientiane where he is staying for the Wattay International Airport to conclude his visits after paying a State visit to Lao People's Democratic Republic in the afternoon of 23 March.

The President and party were seen off at the airport by Laotian Minister at the President Office Mr Phongsavath Bouppha, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Vientiane Mayor, the Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR U Kyaw Soe Win, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Win Maung and staff of the embassy and military attaché office.

The President and party left Vientiane by special flight for Myanmar at 2.10 pm and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Laotian National Assembly President

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President U Thein Sein met President of National Assembly of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mrs Pany Tathortou at the hall of the assembly in Vientiane on 22 March evening.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Myanmar delegation members and the Myanmar ambassador to Laos and the president of the Laotian national assembly were Minister Head of the President's Office Mr Phongsavath Boupha, representatives of the assembly, the Laotian ambassador to Myanmar, departmental heads and officials.

The President explained formation of Myanmar Hluttaws and democratic check and balance system among legislation, executive and judicial estates. Both sides frankly discussed matters related to further strengthening of existing friendship, mutual cooperation in various fields, cooperation and sharing experiences between the two Hluttaws, cooperation between Myanmar Hluttaws and ASEAN parliaments and maintaining fine tradition of supporting each other.

The President of National Assembly of Laos handed



President U Thein Sein her invitation to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker to pay a visit to Laos at an opportune time.—MNA
President U Thein Sein meets Laotian National Assembly President Mrs Pany Tathortou at National Assembly in Vientiane.—MNA

I am glad to see Laos...

(from page 16)

President was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Thong Loun Sisoulith and Minister Head of the President's Office Mr Phongsavath Boupha, the Laotian ambassador to Myanmar and departmental heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Laotian President said: He warmly welcomes the Myanmar President and his delegation members. The President has paid a lot of visits to Laos. Myanmar and Laos are neighbouring countries helping each other. Myanmar is well on the way to democracy after

economy of the Myanmar people. He honours Myanmar for its coordination to achieve internal peace. Eternal peace, economic progress and investments of Laos are in normal condition. The country is trying to acquire more foreign investments. It has adopted four future plans—policy thinking, human resource development, technique and administration and uplift of living conditions. Those plans are being carried out with the aim of alleviating poverty before 2015 and becoming a developed country by 2020. Laos is steadfastly working in the area of bilateral relations, relations with ASEAN and international relations. It is also trying to promote investment in cooperation with monetary organizations.

will develop more upon completion of Mekong River Friendship Bridge. It is also necessary to cooperate in other sectors such as agriculture and minerals. He believes that the plan to launch direct flight between Vientiane and Yangon for tourism development can be implemented. He urges both countries to coordinate training exchange programmes in the education sector. Bilateral expertise will benefit both countries. He and his people express thanks to Myanmar for its assistance to Laos throughout history. Laos will also support the Myanmar government and its people for successful democratization. Laos will continue its support for Myanmar in the regional and international issues. He is glad that Myanmar

see that Laos is progressing day by day under the good leadership of the government headed by the Laotian President.

Every country needs to prioritize food security when the population grows larger. Agriculture plays a key role in food security. Myanmar, China and Vietnam are working in cooperation to develop special high-yield paddy strains. We need to cooperate with Laos. In producing rice, new techniques are being sought not only for local food sufficiency but also for foreign export. He would provide Lao with help if it tends to observe these efforts. Construction of Mekong Bridge will soon be implemented.

Upon completion of the bridge, Myanmar is accessible from Da Nang of Vietnam through Lao. Turning to the north, Yunnan Province of China is accessible. Vietnam will offer help in implementation of railroad. Tourism industry will be developed if there are flights between the two countries.

The Laotian President said: He agreed everything the Myanmar President had said. He will also extend help. Pragmatic cooperation is needed for border affairs. Furthermore, demarcation between the two countries should be taken with seriousness. Laos is interested to cooperate with Myanmar in agriculture. Especially, Myanmar's agricultural sector has superior technology. He will happily cooperate with Myanmar. He was heartened by existing mutual ties, collaboration among the peoples and cooperation in various fields. He invited the Myanmar President to attend 9th ASEAN-EU Summit to be held in 2012. The Myanmar President expressed his wish for prosperity of the Vietnamese President and Laotian people.

After the meeting, bilateral agreement signing ceremony was held. In the presence of the two Presidents, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint and Laotian Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr Sommad Pholsena signed an agreement on Myanmar-Laos Mekong River Friendship Bridge construction and exchanged the notes.

Later, the two Presidents posed for documentary photos together with their entourages.—MNA



President U Thein Sein and Laotian President Mr Choummaly Sayasone take the salute of the Guard of Honour.—MNA



laying down and successfully implementing the seven-step road map. So, it is a great pleasure for the Myanmar government and its people. Having stood together peacefully for ages, both countries have mutual understanding and that has been the symbol of success between the governments and the peoples.

The Myanmar President said: He has been on a friendly terms with the Laotian President for many years and he feels that they are like old friends. It is his view that he and his counterpart are like relatives as has made frequent visits to Laos. Although the two countries share over 140 miles of border, there has been no problem between them. When issues arose, they both had mutually supported. The establishment of diplomatic ties is nearly 60 years old. His current goodwill visit will further promote the existing amity and cooperation between the two countries.

The Laotian President said: The current goodwill visit is important for the two countries. He expressed his belief that the visit will maintain continued friendship and collaboration between the two countries. He praises the Myanmar President and his cabinet for their successful leadership. It is also heartening to see that the government is doing its best for more improvement of the socio-

Laos will accept to host the 9th ASEAN-EU Summit this year and will try its best to ensure success. Agreements between the two countries on bilateral cooperation in various sectors must be reached practically. Laos is working on border region security and development by calling territorial and cross-border meetings. It is necessary to seek ways in coordinating economic, trade and investment matters of the two countries. Joint cooperation meetings between the two countries are important and it is required to quickly implement the results of those meetings. The bilateral border affairs require more cooperation that guarantees peace and amity. Bilateral trade

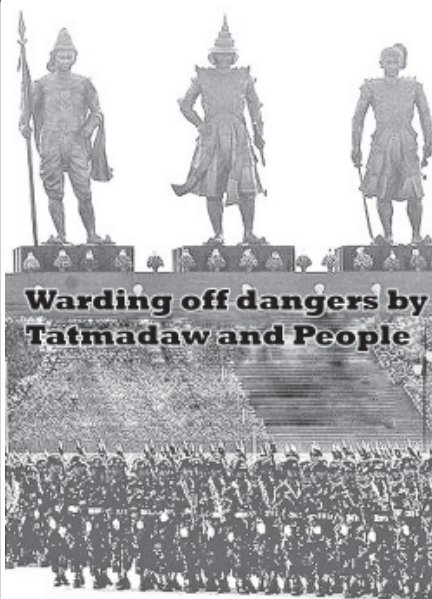
will host SEA Games in 2013 and take ASEAN chairmanship in 2014.

President U Thein Sein said: As earlier said by the Laotian President, both countries have similar tradition, culture and religion and there has been no problem between Myanmar and Laos whenever difficulty arose and Laos has always stood by Myanmar in the regional and international issues. He expresses his thanks for that support. He is also grateful to Laos for its support for Myanmar to take chair in ASEAN in 2014. Myanmar also owes gratitude to Laos for its support in demanding the relaxation of Western countries' economic sanctions against Myanmar at ASEAN Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting held in Cambodia earlier this year. He is glad to



President U Thein Sein and Laotian President Mr Choummaly Sayasone hold talks at Presidential House.

MNA



Dear Aung Thura,

I am writing this letter in remembrance of you, my nephew. I always pray for the health of you and all members of the Armed Forces safeguarding the nation at the front line. I have received your letter sent from the front line with pay group. In your letter, you said you could see slivery shining ice-caped mountains in the distant east from your army camps on the mountains. Mists and cloud were covering all the directions, making you remind of friends and family far apart. But, you as a member of the Armed Forces protecting the nation at the front line don't have time to miss and remember. You are right, my nephew. Soldiers are also made of flesh and blood. They do have a heart. But, it would be fairer to say they are persons who are don't have free time for missing and remembering of friends and families.

To join the army is a hard test of spirit. Only the men imbued with spirit to cherish and safeguard the nation and risk life for the motherland can be a tower of strength for the nation. If someone has joined the services, he must have stamina to run nonstop five miles in armour carrying three-day rations, and to walk 10 miles without a pause. He has to meet the stamina criteria of the Armed Forces to march 30 miles in a single day. He has to stick to 60 codes of military conduct. And then, he must always be ready for training, have military alertness and be ready for fight. In addition, he must be equipped with military outlook, political outlook, economic outlook and administrative outlook.

You have been a brilliant soldier. It can be said like father, like son to you because your grandpa Col Tun Myat sacrificed his life for the nation in Mekong operation to drive out the invaders KMT. Likewise, your father Sergeant Ba Khat fell in 40-day Kunlong battle bravely fighting the BCP forces. Your uncle lost left leg in Mongyan battle, fired by the enemy in the BCP's attempt to seize power. So, I am always proud of you, a good captain following the examples of predecessors.

Dear Aung Thura,

Every nation had armed forces to protect itself and every armed forces has its own history. The significant historical background of Myanmar Tatmadaw is it was first formed by thirty soldiers led by General Aung San in response to national requirement and historical requirement on 26 December, 1941 to free the nation from the yoke of colonialists. Myanmar Tatmadaw with distinct historical background is equipped with ten strengths namely, royalty, obedience, mental strength, diligence and valour, militarily disciplined, relevant training experiences, fighting skills, physical strength,

Hailing the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Historical milestone

Kyaw Min Khaung

comradeship, lover for risks, dogged determination to accomplish the mission.

Dear Aung Thura,

Myanmar Tatmadaw which has always been safeguarding the nation has also safeguarded Our Three Main National Causes, the lifeblood of the nation at the risk of life throughout successive periods in the course of history.

Just after it regained independence, the nation was blazing with the flame of internal multi-coloured insurgency stemming from diverse ideological beliefs and sectarianism, with national unity deteriorating day after day gradually driving the Union to the verge of collapse. As the nation was facing the endless nightmare, Myanmar Tatmadaw tried to crack down the multi-coloured insurgents with its ten battalions. Tatmadaw scarified lots of lives, blood and sweat to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes for perpetual existence of the Union. It has ever been the prominent part of national history.

In 1950, Kuomintang troops fleeing from China after losing the battle, invaded Myanmar in mass, threatening the territorial integrity of the nation. Myanmar Tatmadawmen drove them out of Myanmar territory conducting such operations as Naganang, Bayintnaung, Yangyaung, Sinbyushin, Mekong and so on, scarifying lives and limbs. It was a historic event proving that Myanmar Tatmadaw had safeguarded Our Three Main National Causes at the risk of life for perpetual sovereignty of the nation.

In 1958, the AFPFL leading the nation saw factional disputes within it and the factions were vying with each other for power setting up pocket armies. The underground insurgents taking advantages of factions within the league rose into rebellion. The nation was again on the brink of turmoil. Facing such situation, Myanmar Tatmadaw assumed the responsibilities of interim government on 28 October, 1958, safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes. On 6 February, 1960, it held free and fair election and handed over the State power to Pa Hta Sa government who won in election.

Again in 1962, the federal policy which can split up the nation emerged and the Tatmadaw on 2 March, 1962 saved the nation from destruction, safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes.

In 1988, the nation saw the terrifying uprising with brutal killing stemming from demonstrations of people who did not support single party system and again in this time, the Tatmadaw upholding Our Three Main National Causes saved the nation from the verge of abyss on 18 September, 1988. In the two-decade long period of at the helm of State's affairs, the Tatmadaw had laid down sound foundations across the nation, taking the nation to the gate of democracy. After the free and fair elections, it handed over the State's responsibility to civilian government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by President U Thein Sein on 30 March, 2011.

Dear Aung Thura,

As I have said above, those are the firm evidences that Myanmar Tatmadaw, whenever the state faced the threat to Union, national unity and sovereignty, protected Our Three Main National causes at the risk of life.

Dear Aung Thura,

In the present time, its next duty to safeguarding the nation is safeguarding the constitution, the soul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Myanmar Tatmadaw which has accomplished the historic duties and national duties throughout successive periods will be relentlessly discharging national political duties assigned by the State in building modern, developed, democratic, new nation.

(See page 9)

Hailing the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

POEM

Brave and outstanding soldiers

- * **Tatmadaw drove out colonialists
Launched anti-Fascists resistance
Its courage so high
Underpinned with efficiency
Ever valiant for country
No place unattended
All across the country
No stone unturned
Strength to the highest degree
For a better tomorrow
Independence it values
Its member sacrificed lives
For the race called Myanmar
In the service of nation**
- * **To destroy the Fascists
Was no unexpected job
The order Tatmadaw received
Was to raise the flag
And fight the enemy within
With weapons for justice
Vigorous every serviceman was
Born was the Myanmar Tatmadaw
With victory and glory
All along the course of history**
- * **O.. amidst wayward winds
Early summer so dramatic
That day the 27th of March
Remains ever unforgettable
The glory of independence
In the vision of Myanmar
The celebrated moment
So prominent in history
Designated we all
The Armed Forces Day**
- * **A new democratic nation
On the path we now are
Just to enter golden age
The moment of grandeur
And the Tatmadaw
Always faithful and close
To country it serves
Noble soldiers
Actually are outstanding
High efficiency they have
Patriots of modern day
A powerful military institution
Ever helpful to country
Noble history it has
Legendary is the virtue**

Soe Myint Than Maung (Sarpay Beikman) (Trs)

Historical...

(from page 8)

Dear Aung Thura,

It is required to build Tatmadaw, the major defence forces of the nation to be strong, powerful, competent one for perpetual existence of future democratic nation. It is crystal clear that Myanmar lost independence and fell under the alien yoke as it had no modern national armed forces. Thus, it is desperately needed that the government, the Armed Forces and the entire national people join hands in building the present Myanmar Tatmadaw to be strong, powerful, competent, modern, patriotic armed forces. In his address to the first regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, President U Thein Sein instructed on building modern patriotic armed forces like this: "We will be bullied by others if the national defence power is weak. It is all because of a lack of modern armed forces that Myanmar dynasty that has existed for years countable by thousands easily fell under colonial rule in Konbaung Period."

"Thus, we must have one world-class armed forces to safeguard the nation. We must join hands in building the present Tatmadaw to be strong, powerful, modern, patriotic one. Every citizen is obliged to safeguard the nation. So, every citizen has to take responsibility in safeguarding the nation."

Dear Aung Thura,

In your letter, you wrote a pleasing tale that your platoon did a good deed to an old Kachin woman in a Kachin village you arrived unexpectedly. I am very proud of you and your subordinates for your act. In your letter, you wrote: We got to a Kachin village called Daunlwan at the foot of bluish Kachin mountain ranges one day while patrolling for regional security. We saw a crying old Kachin woman standing with the support of a staff in front of a ramshackle hut under the Kokko tree at the entrance to the village gazing us.

67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- * To firmly uphold the objectives, namely, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- * To play a leading role in national politics of the State with Union Spirit, the true patriotic spirit
- * To safeguard the constitution, the main responsibility of the Tatmadaw in building modern, developed democratic nation
- * To build a strong, competent, modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the State

As we asked about her, we heard a tragic story. Her name is Daw Jarnu and had a grandson called Zaw Dein, an honest Kachin youth who worked on farm looking after his grandma. One day, an insurgent group came to the village and took Zaw Dein and other youngsters to join their group. Since then, she lived in that hut with communal support of the village but in loneliness and isolation. Then, there came news two years ago that Zaw Dein was killed in a fight. We were touched by the bitter experiences of that old woman. So, we bought woods and bamboos from the village and built her hut to be firm. The medical assistant of the platoon also gave her necessary treatment. We also shared our savings, and rations to her as a sign of respect. When we paid homage to her before leaving the village, she blessed us in Myanmar with strong Kachin accent, stamping on our hearts.

I feel very pleased and proud of your noble, kind act. Your act also carries great value as it can somewhat reveal the genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw towards national brethren. You have practiced one of the ten ethics of Tatmadawmen for dealing with people—"Deal politely with the public. Act as moon

and water" in real world.

Dear Aung Thura,

Nowadays, the nation is marching at great pace towards the goal of modern, developed, democratic nation under the leadership of the civilian government. In the march, Tatmadaw will be relentlessly discharging the national political duties assigned by the State, safeguarding the constitution of the State at risk of life.

Likewise, Tatmadaw will always safeguard Our Three Main National Causes which is like lifeblood of our motherland.

"I pay heartfelt salute to all the Tatmadawmen who safeguarded Our Three Main National Causes at the risk of their lives and who scarified lives for the motherland in successive periods throughout the history on the occasion of the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day."

May you and all the Tatmadawmen free from dangers.

(Translation: TKK)

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects tasks for ICT development



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham speaks about preparations on development of information technology.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspected measures for development of information and communication technology being implemented by Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development this morning.

On arrival at the Ministry of Commerce, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham was welcomed by Union Minister of National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and departmental heads.

Union Minister U Win Myint in his report on tasks for development of ICT said that his ministry is speeding up e-government tasks, launching three web sites, printing one business weekly and one monthly magazine

and using 11 applications for ensuring smooth trade and office works.

Director of Import Division U Min Min reported on web sites launched by the ministry, developed applications, established networks and holding meetings by video conferencing.

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein then submitted the report on his ministry's measures taken for ICT development.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said he was there to inspect e-government systems of the ministries and observed e-government tasks of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development. For development of a country, both infrastructure and superstructure are needed, he said. Roads, bridges, communications and electricity are important in infrastructure sector, he said. The e-government system

must be developed for development of the country and the ministries have to continue implementing e-government systems, he added. Only then, will the country be able to keep abreast of other countries in ICT development, he said. He set the target that the e-government systems will have to allow the people establish online communication with government offices without requiring them to come to offices in person. If trained well, Myanmar citizens could be turned into skilled labour, he said. Reviewing the needs, the ministries have to make concerted efforts for implementation of e-government systems, he said. He called them for initiating staff capacity building measures and fulfilling the required equipment.

He also inspected running of computer programs developed by the ministry and server room.

MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Bangladeshi Foreign Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26th March, 2012, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

Meeting on GSM/UMTS mobile extension held

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March— A work-coordination meeting of GSM/UMTS mobile extension project was held at the meeting hall of the international foreign communication station in Mayangon Township here yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Tint Lwin called for ensuring that mobile communication

system is on high-quality condition.

The Deputy Minister today inspected progress of building GSM/UMTS mobile extension project tower on Thazin Road near YCDC Myodaw Golf Course and installation process at its BTS station, and those planted on Myayeik Condominium in Kamayut Township.

MNA



The 200-bed People's Hospital in new Thonminemyo Ward, Labutta, Ayeyawady Region.

Health infrastructures in Ayeyawady Region turning out healthy and fit citizens

* Nowadays, steps are being taken for truning out healthy and fit citizens. Plans are underway for citizens to enjoy longevity and to be free from diseases. As health care is being extended throughout the country the number of health infrastructures in Ayeyawady Region has been on the increase.

Translation: AKK



The station hospital in Sethsan Village, Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

The bird eye's view of the 100-bed Bogale Township Hospital, Ayeyawady Region, and the hospital .



DISTRICT NEWS



FINGERLING HUTCHED: As part of efforts to contribute towards rural development and poverty alleviation, a demonstration on hutching of golden Hamilton's Carp fingerlings was held at a private fish breeding pond in Muse on 16 March. District In-charge of Mandalay Natyaykan Fingerling Hutching Industry Daw Moe Thuza Aung explains hutching of fish.

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Veterinary clinic put into service

DEDAYE, 25 March—The veterinary clinic of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department was opened on Bogyoke Road in Ward 2 of Dedaye Township of Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region on 19 March.

Head of District LBVD Dr Kyi Kyi Thein and Township Administrator U Tin Shwe formally opened the clinic.

The facility is 40 feet x30 feet reinforced concrete building.

Township IPRD



DELEGATION LEAVES: A 13-member delegation comprising entrepreneurs and scholars of associations under Myanmar Fisheries Federation led by General Secretary of MFF U Win Kyaing left here by air for Vietnam to attend the 4th International Exhibition on Livestock, Dairy and Meat Processing & Aquaculture Expo ILDEX Vietnam 2012 to be held in New Saigon Exhibition & Convention Centre (SECC), 799 Nguyen Van Linh, District 7 of Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam from 22 to 24 March and observe the factories of Vietnam for breeding of fresh water and seawater fish and prawn breeding and production of aquafeed to be exported. The Myanmar delegation seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure for Vietnam.—MFF

Fire preventive measures taken in Labutta Township



LABUTTA, 25 March—A team led by Head of Township Fire Services U Kyaw Myo Myint held a talk on fire preventive measures in Pyinghtaungwin Village of Thabyugon Village-tract in Labutta Township on 8 March morning.

The talk was attended by local people from villages.

After the talks, the head of Township FSD and officials inspected systematic keeping of fire extinguishers in the village.—Myanma Alin

Sanpya library opened in Aungmyethazan Township

MANDALAY, 25 March—A ceremony to open Sanpya Library was held in Northern Thayetatne of Upokdaw Ward in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, on 10 March.

Deputy Director U Kyaw Than Tun of Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department, Administrator U Aung Naing of Aungmyethazan Township and Chairman of the library committee U Myint Than cut the ribbon to open the library.

The book donation

ceremony followed at Santhida Dhammayon. The Township Administrator and the Deputy Director of Region IPRD made speeches.

Next, the deputy director handed over books and publications donated by Mandalay Region IPRD and wellwishers, books and cash.

The chairman of Library Committee, Vice-Chairman U Mya Thein and librarian Daw Su Su Win accepted the donations.

The 20x40 feet library is one-storey building.

Myanma Alin

Free health care provided to rural people in Pyu

TOUNGOO, 25 March—A 50-member medical team comprising physicians, specialists and general practitioners of Bago Region General Hospital and Medical Association (Toungoo) made a field trip to grassroots level on 11 March.

In Okphyat Village-tract located on the bank of

Sittoung River, they broadened horizon of the local people with talks about health knowledge in Pyu Township of Toungoo District. The physicians and specialists also provided free health care services to 1460 local people and gave necessary medicines to them free of charge.

Myanma Alin

Talks on danger of fire given in Kalewa

KALEWA, 25 March—The talks on danger of fire took place at the Myoma Market of Kalewa Township Development Affairs Committee in Sagaing Region on 11 March.

It was attended by

Township Administrator U Myint Aung, Executive Officer U Khin Zaw of Township Development Affairs Committee and staff, Head of Township Fire Services Department U Aung Soe, members of Fire Brigade and families of the market.

Later, they participated in the fire drill.

Myanma Alin



CSC ISSUED: The issuance of citizenship scrutiny card was held in Ward 12 of Yankin Township on 18 March while implementing Moe Pwint-2 Plan. Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U San Shwe and Ward Administrator U Than Soe issue the cards to eligible persons individually.—MYANMA ALIN

Age-wise measles vaccination clarified in Sittway

SITTWAY, 25 March—A ceremony to make a clarification on age-wise measles vaccination programme 2012 at Rakhine State level was held at the hall of Rakhine State Health Department in Sittway on 6 March morning.

Rakhine State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Aung Kyaw Min made a speech. Head of State Health Department Dr Than Tun Aung explained age-wise measles vaccination tasks.

After that, the

attendees participated in the discussions and the officials replied to their queries.

Myanma Alin



MLF invites wellwishers to donate cash, books

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

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

Illegal two-digit lottery seller arrested

MEIKTILA, 25 March—SIP Zin Ko Ko of Meiktila District Crime Combating Squad, together with the authorities of North Pyithaya Ward, acting on tip-off, searched the house of Myo Win Tun between 4th and 5th streets in North Pyithaya Ward in Meiktila on 14 March.

They seized documents related to sales of illegal two-digit lottery and wager K 48600 in the presence of the witnesses. Action was taken against the illegal lottery seller under the law.—Myanma Alin

TE truck turns over near Indagaw

BAGO, 25 March—A TE driven by Tin Soe, 40 of the development affairs committee's compound in Shwepyitha Township turned

over between mile posts 36/5 and 36/6 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Indagaw Village of Bago Region at 6 pm on 20 March.

In the incident, some freight-handling workers were injured.

Indagaw Police Station opened the file against the traffic accident.

Myo Thein-Bago



Unique 35-year New Zealand road rule scrapped

AUCKLAND, 25 March—New Zealand on Sunday scrapped a unique 35-year-old “give way” experiment on its roads which has for decades bamboozled overseas drivers visiting the nation. The outgoing road rule, introduced in 1977 and unique to New Zealand, required motorists turning with the kerb at an intersection

to give way to a vehicle turning across the intersection. The Australian state of Victoria flirted with a similar law but abandoned it as unworkable in 1993 while New Zealand pressed on for reasons which traffic authorities never explained.

The government launched an advertising blitz in a bid to educate drivers

about the change and avoid potential mayhem as New Zealand dropped the law.

But motoring experts have cast doubt over whether that will be enough to stop chaos on the nation’s roads.

The media blitz was “too little, too late,” said Clive Matthew-Wilson, editor of car-review guide, Dog and Lemon.

“This campaign is trying to change a lifetime of driving habits in just a couple of weeks. That’s not going to happen.” New Zealand police believe the changes will reduce intersection crashes by seven percent.

But indications of possible troubles ahead were already in evidence, according to newspaper reports. Auckland resident Kawhia Chambers told the *Herald* on Sunday newspaper he was caught in an angry exchange on Saturday as another driver applied the new rules a day early. —Internet



State Highway One in Auckland. New Zealand on Sunday scrapped a unique 35-year-old “give way” experiment on its roads which has for decades bamboozled overseas drivers visiting the nation. INTERNET

Thailand plans \$70 b infrastructure investment

BANGKOK, 25 March—Thailand will spend more than \$70 billion on infrastructure over the next five years, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra said as she outlined the challenges facing the country after last year’s floods.

In an address late Friday to the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Thailand, Yingluck said her government would pursue an economic policy aimed at boosting domestic demand.

It would also “approve a five-year plan to invest around \$72 billion in infrastructure and property enhancing Thailand’s long-term competitiveness and to improve the quality of life of Thai people,” she said, pointing to a planned high speed train line from Bangkok to the northern city of Chiang Mai.

Separately, she said the country would invest \$11.4 billion in water management

measures to ensure there was no repeat of the devastating floods which left more than 800 dead and deluged hundreds of thousands of homes.

Last year’s disaster also hit supply chains for Japanese automakers and Yingluck said steps would be taken to protect investment zones and industrial areas.

The floods were her first test after taking office in August following her party’s resounding election victory.

In response to a question, Yingluck said she did not believe the floods or an increase in the minimum wage would scare foreign away firms.

The rise from 215 baht to 300 baht (\$10) a day takes effect on April 1 in Bangkok and six other wealthier provinces. —Internet



A bus drives through floodwaters in Bangkok on 13 November, 2011. Thailand will spend more than \$70 billion on infrastructure over the next five years, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra said as she outlined the challenges facing the country after last year’s floods. INTERNET



A medical worker is pictured at a mobile testing facilities for Tuberculosis (TB) at Driefontein Gold Mine in Carletonville. South Africa on Saturday launched a plan to diagnose tuberculosis in the country’s gold mines, where the disease’s incidence is the highest in the world. —INTERNET

South Africa launches plan to curb rampant TB

PRETORIA, 25 March—South Africa on Saturday launched a plan to diagnose tuberculosis in the country’s gold mines, where the disease’s incidence is the highest in the world.

Speaking to mine managers in Driefontein, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe said the goal was to “ensure that all mine workers, particularly in the gold mining sector, are screened and tested for TB and HIV over the next 12 months.” The Driefontein Fields gold mine, located about 70 kilometres (40 miles) north of Johannesburg, is a

flagship for an industry that has been on the decline but remains lucrative and employs more than 160,000 people. Tuberculosis is rampant in all South African mines but incidence is particularly high in gold mines due to horrendous conditions causing illnesses such as silicosis, which destroys the lungs of miners exposed to silica dust.

Gold mines are often older than platinum mines for example and workers at Driefontein sometimes descend as deep as 12,000

feet below the surface to hoist back tonnes of rock.

“Most of us may not be aware that gold mines have three times the amount of TB compared to the general population,” Motlanthe said.

The campaign aims to equip the mines’ health teams with a new diagnosis system, GeneXpert.

Motlanthe said the latest screening campaign showed that seven percent of those tested positive were found to have drug-resistant tuberculosis. —Internet

Russian banker shot in London ‘wanted in Moldova’

LONDON, 25 March—A Russian banker who was shot in London and is now in a coma is wanted in Moldova over financial crimes, a Russian daily reported on Saturday.

Moldovan prosecutors opened several criminal probes into German Gorbuntsov, who was shot outside his home in east London on Tuesday, after a bank he owned there, Universalbank, was closed down in February, Komsomolskaya Pravda reported.

“We can write a thousand requests but Britain will never extradite him to us,” it quoted anti-corruption prosecutor Viorel Radetchi as saying.

A man named as German Gorbuntsov is listed as wanted on the website of Moldova’s Centre for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption (<http://ru.ccecc.md/wanted>).

But the *Kommersant* business daily wrote that

Gorbuntsov said he himself was a victim of a raider attack that caused him to lose his stake of more than 70 percent in Universalbank.

It also cited his Moldovan lawyer who said the attack was more likely to do with Gorbuntsov’s affairs in Russia. The banker’s lawyer Vadim Vedenin said Gorbuntsov had told him: “If I return to Russia, they will bury me.”

Kommersant said the banker’s lawyer believed the attack was connected to an assassination attempt on Gorbuntsov’s partner and co-owner of Konvers Group, Alexander Antonov, in 2009.

Vedenin said that in February he gave Moscow criminal investigators a statement by Gorbuntsov alleging that two top executives at a bank where he had a controlling share, Inkredbank, had threatened violence against Antonov over a debt he owed Gorbuntsov. —Internet



A Turkish army watchtower in Yemisli, Hakkari province, in southeastern Turkey. Fifteen rebel Kurds, all of them women, have been killed in fighting with Turkish security forces in the southeast of the country, the interior ministry said. —INTERNET

Turkish forces kill 15 women Kurd rebels

ISTANBUL, 25 March—Turkish security forces killed 15 rebel Kurds, all of them women, in fighting in the separatist heartland in the southeast of the country on Saturday, the interior ministry said.

The clashes erupted the day after the Turkish army and police wrapped up a massive offensive against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) near the Iraqi border.

Saturday’s fighting occurred in a rural area of the province of Bitlis, a centre of the armed rebellion being waged by the PKK, according to a statement carried by the official *Anatolia* news agency.

A local security source said the Kurd separatist movement had a number of women-only units and that one of these had been wiped out. The ministry statement also said a member of a local Kurdish force armed by Turkey was killed and three others wounded in the fighting.

On Friday, Turkish security forces wrapped up their largest operation this year against PKK militants that left seven policemen and six rebels dead.

The offensive around the Mount Cudi area near the Iraqi border involved thousands of members of the security forces, including police and the army, backed by helicopters and fighter jets.

Saturday’s deaths bring the number of Kurdish rebels killed in less than a week to 21, while eight members of the security forces have died, reflecting an upsurge in fighting with the approach of spring.

In recent months, the government has also intensified pressure on. —Internet



A general view of the financial district of Canary Wharf in east London. A Russian banker who was shot outside his home near Canary Wharf and is now in a coma is wanted in Moldova over financial crimes, a Russian daily has reported. —INTERNET



A 1.85-mile-long bridal train on a model's wedding dress was displayed in Romania's capital and was recognized as the longest one by The Guinness Book of World Records on Monday.

Wedding postponed to buy chemo for lizard

A British woman said she had to postpone her wedding after spending more than \$4,700 on chemotherapy for her pet lizard.

Lizzie Griffiths, 25, of London said she adopted George, her bearded dragon, last year and decided to postpone her wedding to Chris Fisher so she could spend their saved cash to treat the reptile's cancer, *The Sun* reported.

"Chris knows George will always come first," Griffiths said. "I fell in love with George the minute I saw him and knew I'd do anything to look after him properly. So right now we can't afford a wedding."

Griffiths said George, who became the first bearded dragon in Britain to undergo chemotherapy, is now in remission.

Fisher said he understands that George will always be "Lizzie's No 1."

Coroner: Houston used cocaine, drowned



Singer Whitney Houston

LOS ANGELES, 25 March—The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office said Whitney Houston used cocaine immediately before she drowned in a Beverly Hills, Calif, hotel bathtub.

The recording star died on 11 Feb at age

48 after battling drug and alcohol addiction for years. Officials waited until toxicology tests were completed before announcing the cause of death as accidental drowning.

TMZ quoted Coroner Chief Craig Harvey as saying test results suggested Whitney was a "chronic" cocaine user. Also found in her system were marijuana, Benadryl, Flexeril and Xanax, but Harvey said they did not significantly contribute to her death, TMZ reported.

A source close to Houston told the celebrity news Web site an individual removed cocaine from the hotel room before authorities arrived. The insider said the person who took the cocaine had also supplied it.—*Internet*

Pitbull writes, records 'MIB3' theme

CULVER CITY, 25 March—US recording artist Pitbull has written and recorded "Back in Time," the theme song to "Men in Black 3," said Sony Pictures Entertainment.

The song will be available as a digital single and released to radio Monday. Starring Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones and Josh Brolin, "Men in Black 3" will open in 3D in theaters nationwide on 25 May.

"It's an incredible

honour to be a part of such an amazing franchise as 'Men in Black' and I have so much respect for Will Smith, especially with our similar musical backgrounds," Pitbull said in a statement. "Wanting to keep the music fun yet modern, we used the slogan of the movie and flipped it back into the song that 'in order to understand the future, you have to go back in time.'"

Barry Sonnenfeld, the director of the film, said: "My



Pitbull performs in concert in the Y-100 Jingle Ball show at the BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise, Florida on 10 Dec, 2011.

INTERNET

19-year-old daughter turned me on to Pitbull. I'm thrilled that he wrote such a great song for our movie."

Internet

Madonna adds second Tel Aviv date to tour

TEL AVIV, 25 March—US pop star Madonna says she has added a second show at Ramat Gan Stadium in Tel Aviv to her upcoming concert tour. The singer has dubbed the 31 May show a "Concert for Peace" and is inviting several peace organizations to honor and acknowledge people seeking harmony in the Middle East.

Details about the participating organizations will be announced shortly, Live Nation said.

"Music is so universal and if there's any chance that through my performance I can bring further attention and enlightenment to honor the peace efforts in the Middle East and help people come

together, it would be an honor for me. It is my way of thanking those who are making so much effort toward bringing peace to the Middle East," Madonna said in a statement Wednesday.—*Internet*



Man fights to keep his 360 snakes

A Minnesota man is trying to change the minds of city officials who say his collection of 360 snakes and 60 lizards makes his home unfit for humans.

Scott Nellis of Coon Rapids said he began collecting the animals as pets and inventory to be sold at Midwestern reptile expos in 1996 and his menagerie dramatically increased in size in 2004, the *St Paul Pioneer-Press* reported.

City officials found out about Nellis' reptiles, as well as the 250 rodents and two tubs of cockroaches he keeps as a food source for the snakes and lizards, when a neighbour complained about the smell coming from discarded wood shavings in his back yard in October.

Inspectors said Nellis' home had been rendered unfit for human habitation and ordered him to get rid of the reptiles.

However, he said he is hoping to change their minds at Friday's city council meeting.

"This is my private life we're talking about," Nellis said. "It's my contention the city has no business whatsoever trying to dictate what I do legally inside my house."

Man wards off muggers with tequila bottle

A 71-year-old Chicago liquor salesman said he fended off a group of young robbers by brandishing a sample bottle of tequila and threatening them with it.

Willie Whitehead said he was walking to his car in the Englewood neighbourhood Wednesday afternoon when four of the youths attempted to mug him while another stood watch at the corner, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

Whitehead said the muggers pulled on his briefcase and ripped his suit trying to reach his cellphone until he held the bottle of tequila over his head.

"I told them to come on with it. I was going to hit them with it," Whitehead said. The attackers fled and Whitehead called police, who said the suspects were arrested in the area.

News Album

Justin Bieber writes mum song as b'day gift



Justin Bieber

WASHINGTON, 25 March—Justin Bieber has paid a tribute to his mother, Pattie Mallette by writing a song for her as an early birthday present.

After a day out with her famous son, Mallette took to her Twitter account to express her joy. "Had the BEST mother-son date ever w @justinbieber. Dinner and a movie and gave me and early

bday present - he wrote me a song! #MomentsToCherish. (sic)" Contactmusic quoted her as tweeting.

The 18-year-old pop star responded: "love u (sic)"

While he is incredibly close to his mum, Bieber also has another lady in his life, Selena Gomez, and has said that he refuses to hide his relationship with her.

The couple, who first started dating in 2010, are often photographed holding hands or enjoying quality time together, and the 'Baby' hitmaker believes it would be "unhealthy" to have it any other way.—*Internet*

Underwood, Urban to perform at ACM Awards

LAS VEGAS, 25 March—Sara Evans, Carrie Underwood and Keith Urban are to perform at the 47th annual Academy of Country Music Awards ceremony in Las Vegas, CBS said.

Beth Behrs, star of the sitcom "2 Broke Girls," and "Entertainment Tonight" co-host Nancy O'Dell are scheduled to be presenters at the 1 April event at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Previously announced performers include Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, Kenny Chesney, Eric Church, Toby Keith, Miranda Lambert, Tim McGraw, Blake Shelton, Chris Young, The Band Perry, Lady Antebellum and Rascal Flatts.

Topics: Sara Evans, Carrie Underwood, Keith Urban, Nancy O'Dell, Kenny Chesney, Toby Keith, Miranda Lambert, Tim McGraw, Blake Shelton, Chris Young.—*Internet*



Carrie Underwood.
INTERNET

Jennifer Lawrence is scared of spiders



Actress Jennifer Lawrence

LONDON, 25 March—Actress Jennifer Lawrence was terrified of spiders and asked someone to remove them when she was about to climb a tree in "The Hunger Games".

The Oscar-nominated actress is so terrified of the eight legged creatures that she had to make sure any trees she was climbing were cleared of them. But Jennifer thinks she may have just been lied to many times when she asked if it was done, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"The worst part about

tree-climbing is the spiders. My biggest fear. I mean, we had bears, we had wolves, snakes, poison ivy, everything. Nothing got to me as much as spiders. And like daddy long legs - it doesn't matter how harmless they are, I'm terrified," the actress told Buzzlefilm.com.

"So they used to clean the spiders off the tree before I got up there. They'd be like, 'Yeah, yeah, we've got a spider killer up there.' And they would just lie to me and I'd be like, ok," she said.

Internet

Madonna performs during halftime at Super Bowl XLVI at Lucas Oil Stadium on 5 Feb, 2012 in Indianapolis.
INTERNET

Djokovic, Federer advance, Clijsters crashes



Novak Djokovic of Serbia serves against Marcos Baghdatis of Cypress during the at the ATP/WTA Miami Masters hardcourt tournament on 24 March, in Key Biscayne, Florida.—INTERNET

MIAMI, 25 March — Defending champ Novak Djokovic and world No 3 Roger Federer both advanced through the Miami Masters second round in straight sets, but crowd favourite Kim Clijsters crashed out of the women's draw. Top seed Djokovic easily defeated Marcos Baghdatis 6-4, 6-4 at the ATP/WTA Miami Masters hardcourt tournament on Saturday. Third-seeded Federer recorded his 23rd win of 2012 by beating 19-year-old American wild card Ryan Harrison 6-2, 7-6 (7/3). "I felt like I had to win the match three times at the end, so I was relieved to come through," Federer said. "And beating an American in America is

always a big deal, because this is here where they usually play their very best."

The Swiss superstar is bidding to capture his third Indian Wells-Miami title double, having also won the back-to-back US hardcourt Masters events in 2005 and 2006. Federer has now won 40 of his past 42 matches since the 2011 US Open semi-finals. "I guess I'm more confident now. I have been playing really nice as of late," Federer



Roger Federer of Switzerland.

Arsenal's revival 'feels like a dream' to Wenger

LONDON, 25 March — Arsene Wenger admits Arsenal's remarkable surge towards Champions League qualification seemed like an impossible dream just a few months ago. Wenger's side made it seven wins in a row on Saturday as Aston Villa were brushed aside in a 3-0 stroll at the Emirates Stadium. The victory strengthened Arsenal's hold on third place in the Premier League — a scenario that seemed far-fetched even to Wenger earlier this season.

The Gunners were languishing in 17th spot last September, but they have now moved three points above local rivals Tottenham and eight points ahead of Chelsea with just eight games left. And the Arsenal manager admits he could never have predicted the dramatic turnaround in fortunes that even saw the Frenchman come under

attack from his own supporters. "We have consistency at the moment. We are scoring goals and not conceding goals and we wait for the next game," Wenger said.

"But, given what's happened and where we were, at the time it was a dream to be in third or fourth now. "You come in next day and do your job and stay positive and work hard. That's what the players did. I was optimistic as the attitude of the players was positive every day. "We have gone through difficult times. But we have learned that nothing is guaranteed, you have to keep humility and focus and finish the season in a strong and convincing way. "I didn't expect to be in this position as it didn't just depend on us — we needed our results and results in our favour from our opponents."

INTERNET



Arsenal's Mikel Arteta celebrates scoring during their English Premier League match against Aston Villa at the Emirates Stadium in London. INTERNET

said. The 24-year-old Djokovic now has 15 wins and just two losses on the year. This was his first match since losing in three sets to American John Isner in the semis of the the Indian Wells Masters tournament. "I am really trying to have a positive attitude," Djokovic said. "I'm here to fight for the title just as all the other players are and not to defend it." Top seed Djokovic finished with two aces, one double fault and won 80 percent of his first-serve points in the 91 minute night match.

On the women's side of the draw, Russian second seed Maria Sharapova eased her way into the fourth round but Clijsters bit the dust after losing to Belgian compatriot Yanina Wickmayer in straight sets. Sharapova cruised into the next round by dominating American qualifier Sloane Stephens 6-4, 6-2. Sharapova, who is a three-time runner-up in Miami, advances to face unseeded Russian compatriot Ekaterina Makarova who beat Mona Barthel of Germany 6-2, 6-4. Former world number one Clijsters saved three match points against Wickmayer, the 23rd seed, before losing 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) in the third round.—INTERNET

Dalglish blames Liverpool slump on fatigue

LIVERPOOL, 25 March — Kenny Dalglish insists Liverpool's dismal 2-1 defeat against struggling Wigan can be blamed on fatigue caused by their success in two cup competitions. Gary Caldwell's second half winner sealed Wigan's first ever victory at Anfield after Luis Suarez had cancelled out Shaun Maloney's penalty opener for the Latics.

Suarez had a second equaliser ruled out for handball, much to Dalglish's anger, but the loss means Liverpool have won just five of their 15 home league games this season, a return which has left Champions League football a distant hope for his club.



Liverpool's manager Kenny Dalglish

Liverpool have already won the League Cup and have reached the FA Cup semi-finals this season and Reds boss Dalglish claims that the extra fixtures that come with



Liverpool's Luis Suarez (L) fights for the ball with Wigan Athletic's Gary Caldwell during their English Premier League match at Anfield in Liverpool. —INTERNET

that success have left his players drained of energy.

"I think we looked a bit tired. If you play Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday, it is going to take its toll," said Dalglish.

"However you play, you still need a bit of luck

sometimes and there was no rhyme or reason why the second goal was chalked off. "The ball hit his shoulder, he played it in with his shoulder, you must have a different television to me if you think it was handball.

INTERNET

Woods takes lead into final round at PGA Bay Hill

ORLANDO, 25 March — Tiger Woods, who is chasing his first win on the USPGA Tour in 30 months, fired a one-under par 71 for a one-shot lead heading into the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational. The 14-time major champion Woods has won a record six times on the Bay Hill course and is aiming for his first PGA Tour victory since the 2009 BMW Championship. "I enjoy it," Woods said on Saturday. "It's not like I'm slashing it all over the place and happened to be at 11-under par.

"If you're in the lead, you've done some good things. That's how I've always looked at it, and it's a nice position to be in." Woods finished three rounds at 11-



Tiger Woods plays a shot on the 9th hole during the third round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard at the Bay Hill Club and Lodge, on March 24, in Orlando, Florida. INTERNET

under par 205. He could have had a bigger lead but he posted a double bogey on No. 15 after hooking a tee shot out of bounds. He led by as much as four shots on the back nine in the third round. —INTERNET

Tseng leads Kia Classic golf by three shots

CARLSBAD, 25 March — Taipei's Yani Tseng, who is seeking her second consecutive LPGA Tour victory, fired a three-under 69 to seize a three-shot lead after three rounds of the Kia Classic. World number one Tseng had a bogey-free round to reach 12-under 204

heading into the final round at the La Costa Resort and Spa course. The 23-year-old Tseng is also gunning for her third title in five tournaments this year. South Korea's Jiyai Shin was second at nine-under 207 after a 68.

Sun Young Yoo, of South Korea, and Caroline Hedwall were seven under 209. Yoo had a 67 and Hedwall, of Sweden, made a bogey on the 18th to post a 70. Tseng managed to save par with an eight-foot putt on the par-four 18th. She earned her 14th career LPGA Tour title by capturing the LPGA Founders Cup last week in Phoenix. Tseng also won the LPGA Thailand event in February. She led the LPGA last year with seven victories, including the Women's British Open.—INTERNET



Yani Tseng of Taipei celebrates par on the 18th hole during the third round of the Kia Classic at the La Costa Resort and Spa on 24 March, in Carlsbad, California. INTERNET

International Sports



Montpellier's forward Olivier Giroud (C) celebrates with his teammates after scoring a goal during their French L1 football match against Saint Etienne at the Mosson stadium in Montpellier, southern France.—INTERNET

Giroud late show sends Montpellier top

MONTPELLIER, 25 March — An 89th-minute volley by Ligue 1 top scorer Olivier Giroud gave Montpellier a 1-0 win at home to Saint-Etienne on Saturday that saw them move a point above Paris Saint-Germain at the league summit. PSG will return to the top of the table if they beat Bordeaux on Sunday evening, but Giroud's last-gasp intervention enabled Rene Girard's side to claim a first win in three games in all competitions and confirm their title aspirations.

Having been eliminated from the French Cup by third-tier Gazelec Ajaccio in mid-week, Montpellier saw their best efforts at goal thwarted by a succession of smart saves from Saint-Etienne goalkeeper Stephane Ruffier. The visitors were reduced to 10 men when Jean-Pascal Mignot saw red for a last-man foul on Remy Cabella, however, and Giroud finally made the breakthrough at the death, lashing home a 20-yard volley for his 18th league goal this term.

"I don't know if it's the best goal I've scored, but it was important," said Giroud. "When I saw it go in, it felt like deliverance. I hope it's the start of a great adventure in the final sprint." —INTERNET

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR TV

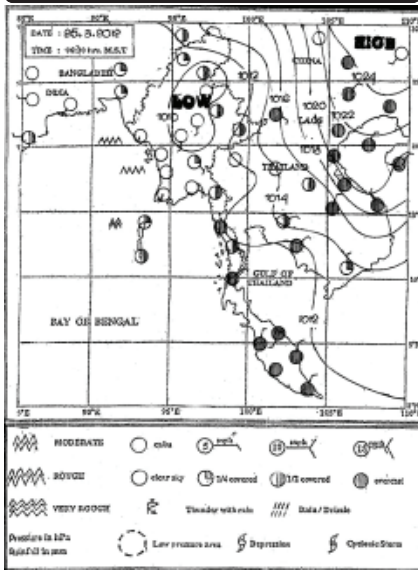
(26-3-2012) (Monday)

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|--|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 4:45 pm | 7. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 7:30 am | 2. Morning News | 5:25 pm | 8. Songs in honour of (67 th) Anniversary Armed forces Day |
| 8:20 am | 3. Nice & Sweet Song | 5:30 pm | 9. Myanmar Idol |
| 8:15 am | 4. Dance Of National Races | 6:00 pm | 10. Evening News |
| 8:40 am | 5. International News | 6:30 pm | 11. TV Drama Series |
| 4:00 pm | 6. Martial Song | 7:20 pm | 12. A zealous desire |
| | | 8:00 pm | 13. News |
| | | | 14. Teleplay |



ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED: The age-wise measles vaccination was launched at Anaukyaung (Basic Education Primary School) in Hmawby, Aungmyingala Basic Education Primary School in Tatgyigon Village and Hlapada Village Rural Health Branch on 22 March. Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe Lwin, Township Medical Officer Dr Kyaw Nyein and Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Wai Wai Aung formally launch the campaign.—MYANMA ALIN

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 26th March, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	33/91	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
2	Kayah	32/90	16/61	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayah	34/100	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
4	Chin	26/79	86/46	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sgawing	35/97	18/64	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sgawing	33/102	21/70	Generally fair weather	
7	Yamthayi	34/93	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
8	Bago	35/95	23/73	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	41/106	21/70	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	40/104	25/77	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	37/99	26/79	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
12	Yangon	37/99	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
13	Kakhshe	32/90	22/72	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	30/86	15/59	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
15	Northern Shan	35/95	13/55	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	33/91	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
17	Ayeyawady	36/97	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	40/104	21/70	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	37/99	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60%
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	40/104	25/77	Generally fair weather	

Age-wise measles vaccination explained in Kyaukse

KYAUKSE, 25 March—The talks on age-wise measles vaccination was given at Minsaing Hall of Kyaukse in Mandalay Region on 20 March afternoon. Deputy Commissioner U Ohn Than of District General Administration Department delivered an opening address. Medical Superintendent Daw Yin Thanda Lwin explained programmes for age-wise measles vaccination. A plan is under way to give age-wise measles vaccination to 24350 children between nine months and five years old from 22 to 31 March.—Mandalay Sub-printing House



Pakistan closed its Afghan border crossings in retaliation for US airstrikes that accidentally killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.—REUTERS

Pakistan Taleban says will attack lawmakers if Afghan supply routes reopen

MIRANSHAH, (Pakistan), 25 March—The Pakistan Taleban will attack lawmakers if they decide to re-open NATO supply routes to Afghanistan, the militant group's spokesman said on Sunday, a threat likely to complicate efforts to mend severely strained relations between the United States and Pakistan. "If the parliament decides to restore NATO supplies, we will attack parliamentarians and their overlords," Ehsanullah Ehsan, spokesman for the Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan (TTP) told Reuters. The US needs Pakistani permission to allow supplies to be trucked via two routes into Afghanistan, which prior to their closure, accounted for almost a third of all NATO cargo to Afghanistan. Pakistan's parliament is reviewing recommendations for a new direction in ties with Washington, including a possible re-opening of the supply routes for NATO forces in Afghanistan, which were shut last November after a cross-border skirmish with Nato forces killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. The national security committee said that if supplies to foreign forces in Afghanistan are resumed, the shipments must be taxed. MNA/Reuters

Mancini's silent night as City dismiss mind games

LONDON, 25 March—David Platt insisted Roberto Mancini will not be affected by mind games as the chase for the Premier League title reaches its climax. Mancini was furious after Manchester City's 1-1 draw at Stoke, despite Yaya Toure's equaliser hoisting his team back to the Premier League summit on goal difference from Manchester United. The City boss refused to shake the hand of Stoke manager Tony Pulis after the game and also declined to carry out any post-match interviews. United boss Sir Alex Ferguson had sniped at their bitter rivals by claiming bringing back Carlos Tevez smacked of desperation, but first-team coach Platt is convinced the Italian can handle the psychological warfare. "What are mind games? At the end of the day the team who wins the league will be said to have won the mind games. The be-all and end-all is about 11 players going out on the pitch and getting results. "Words don't win leagues. The issue of why we're not pulling clear in the title race is that both teams have done well. The fact we're not pulling away is down to

United having a good season. "It's not a case of Roberto being too angry as such, I think he's just worried he might say something that gets him in hot water. It was really about the way the game unfolded. It's difficult when you come here and look for a



Stoke City's Ryan Shawcross (L) clashes with Manchester City's Mario Balotelli during their English Premier League match at The Britannia stadium in Stoke-on-Trent. Man City's title hopes suffered a setback with a 1-1 draw.—INTERNET

season contender. Toure, the Ivory Coast international, said: "It's important now to not panic. It is always difficult to play Stoke and the important thing is to work hard and believe in ourselves. "I think we didn't deserve more than a draw because Stoke played very well. We made ourselves a lot of problems, but it's important to keep going and wait until Monday, to see what United do." Stoke's deserved point came at the end of a challenging sequence of fixtures that has seen them travel to Chelsea, Liverpool and Spurs in succession. Crouch's spectacular goal could have earned them a significant scalp but Pulis claims his team are inching closer towards their first ever top 10 finish. "We've just played three games against Chelsea, Liverpool and Spurs away from home on the run. We didn't get home until 12.30 in the morning on Thursday and it was a fantastic performance from our players," said Pulis.—Internet

At least 19 killed, 32 hurt in Algeria road crash

ALGIERS, 25 March—At least 19 people were killed and 32 others injured when a bus fell into a ravine in western Algeria early on Sunday, the official APS news agency reported. The accident happened when the driver lost control of the bus at a bend near the town of Tiaret about 250 km (156 miles) west of the capital Algiers, APS said, citing local sources. Authorities have adopted harsher fines and sanctions to curb road accidents which kill around 4,000 people every year in the North African country.—MNA/Reuters

I am glad to see Laos progressing day by day under good leadership of Laotian President and his government

President U Thein Sein

It is heartening that government is doing its best for more improvement of socio-economy of Myanmar people

Laotian President



President U Thein Sein and President Mr Choummaly Sayasone of Lao People's Democratic Republic inspect the Guard of Honour.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—A ceremony to welcome President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein by President Mr Choummaly Sayasone of Lao People's Democratic Republic was held at the Presidential House in Vientiane at 2 pm on 22 March.

On arrival at the Presidential House, President U Thein Sein was cordially greeted by the Laotian President. Next, President U Thein Sein and the Laotian President took the salute of the Guard of Honour on dais. Meanwhile, the state band played the national anthems of the two countries. Then, the Presidents inspected the Guard of Honour.

The Laotian President presented his ministers led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Thong Loun Sisoulith, heads of department and senior military officers to President U Thein Sein. Then, the Myanmar President introduced Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Lt-Gen Soe Win, Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister U Myint Hlaing, Union Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Kyaw Soe Win and departmental heads.

After the welcoming ceremony, the two Presidents held talks at the Presidential House. President U Thein Sein was accompanied by delegation members and the Myanmar ambassador while the Laotian

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President U Thein Sein meets Prime Minister of Lao PDR Mr Thongsing Thammavong

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President U Thein Sein met Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Thongsing Thammavong at government office in Vientiane of Laos on 22 March.

President U Thein Sein was accompanied by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Lt-Gen Soe Win, Union ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Myint Hlaing, U Khin Maung Myint, U Win Tun, U Win Myint, U Tint Hsan, the Shan State Chief Minister, the deputy Health Minister, the Myanmar Ambassador to Laos, and departmental heads, and the Laotian PM was accompanied by Minister, Head of the President's Office Mr Phongsavath Boupha, Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar and departmental heads from Foreign Ministry.

First, the Laotian PM extended warm welcome to the Myanmar President and party, expressing his pleasure of seeing the fruitful discussions for promotion of bilateral ties between the Laotian President and Myanmar President.

The Myanmar President said that it was a pleasure to see again the Laotian PM full of beans. Myanmar and Laos had been friends since yore. He added that the ties of brotherhood between the two nations had taken him

there to visit Laos.

The Laotian PM said that Myanmar held the same attitude towards Laos despite it is under the new government. It was required to promote cooperation between the two countries in border security, communication between two border peoples and economic activities. Mekong Bridge linking the two countries was situated on east-west economic corridor and was also the sign of friendship between the two neighbours. Laos would cooperate with Myanmar in other international issues based on bilateral cooperation.

The Myanmar President said that the agreement on air transportation between the two nations had not yet come into operation and thus it needed urgent implementation. As Bokeo and Louang Namtha provinces of Laos shared borders with Shan State, it was required to cooperate as early as possible in whatever possible. Likewise, the bridge construction was to be started urgently.

The Laotian PM said that he agreed to the points and would urge for actual implementation of the Myanmar President's proposals. After the meeting, the President proceeded to the unknown soldiers' mausoleum in Vientiane and laid a wreath.—MNA



President U Thein Sein cordially greets Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

MNA

Hailing the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Historical milestone

I feel very pleased and proud of your noble, kind act. Your act also carries great value as it can somewhat reveal the genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw towards national brethren.

PAGES 8+9

KYAW MIN KHAUNG

POEM Brave and outstanding soldiers

* Tatmadaw drove out colonialists
Launched anti-Fascists resistance
Its courage so high

Soe Myint Than Maung (Sarpay Beikman) (Trs)