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Sunday, 1 April, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes	* Non-disintegration of the Union	* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity	* Perpetuation of Sovereignty
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Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and party leave for Cambodia to attend 20th ASEAN Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—A delegation led by Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint left here by air at 9 am today to attend the 20th ASEAN Summit to be held in Cambodia.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung and officials.

The Myanmar delegation comprised Director-General of the Hluttaw Office U Kyaw Soe, Director U Thiha Han of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials.

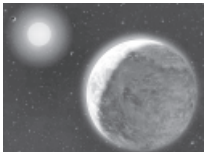
MNA



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and officials see off a delegation led by Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint on their departure for Cambodia to attend 20th ASEAN Summit.

MNA

Super-Earth unlikely able to transfer life to other planets



SCIENCE DAILY, 31 March— While scientists believe conditions suitable for life might exist on the so-called “super-Earth” in the Gliese 581 system, it’s unlikely to be transferred to other planets within that solar system.

“One of the big scientific questions is how did life get started and how did

it spread through the universe,” said Jay Melosh, distinguished professor of earth and atmospheric sciences. “That question used to be limited to just the Earth, but we now know in our solar system there is a lot of exchange that takes place, and it’s quite possible life started on Mars and came to Earth. There’s also been a great deal of discussion about the possible spread of life in the universe from star to star.”

Moon rocks and Mars meteorites have been found on Earth, which led Melosh

to previously suggest living microbes could be exchanged among planets in a similar manner.

A Purdue research team has found that, in contrast to our own solar system, the exchange of living microbes between “super-Earth” and planets in that solar system is not likely to occur.

Laci Brock, a student studying interdisciplinary physics and planetary science, and Melosh will present those findings March 20 at the 43rd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in The Woodlands, Texas.

Internet

Pyinnya Alin Library put into service

YANGON, 31 March—A ceremony to open Pyinnya Alin Library built by Dr Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min-Danubyu), wife Daw Su Su Nwe and daughter Ma Thu Thu Nwe Aye was held near Kyintani Village of Danubyu Township, Maubin District on 29 March noon.

Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Nyunt Swe made a speech. Wellwisher Dr Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min-Danubyu) explained the purpose of donation, Member of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Chit Naing (Chit Naing-Psychology) talked about advantages of

reading.

Vice-Chairman U Nyunt Swe donated over 400 books and publications, Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) 90 books and literary houses 557 books to the library.

Danubyu Township

Administrator U Tin Hlaing also donated K 50,000 to the fund of the library and Assistant Director of Ayeyawady Region Information and Public Relations Department U Ngwe Tun over 150 books to the library.—MNA

Significant night temperatures (31-3-2012)

Chauk (42° C)
Myingyan (41° C)

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (31-3-2012)

Myitkyina 0.08 inch

Preservation, Participation and Promotion of Public Awareness on ICH in Myanmar



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Bracing for the changing season



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Phayagon Reservoir in Taunggyi of Shan State (South) distributes irrigation water for summer paddy.

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PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 1 April, 2012

Be of service to the people

“Leave your pride and luxury at your home.” The placard is very common at most of buses in Myanmar. It is second only to the phrase, “Please don’t ask time,” as Myanmar drivers have long believed telling time to a passenger may lengthen the trip. But I do not understand why they do not prefer to let passengers’ feelings and indulgence enter the doors of their buses.

For years, Myanmar people were quite a stranger to service industry. And they are naturally unproblematic. They will never express rage if the train is half a day late or if electricity cut lasts a week. They are too contented. Less than a decade, some entrepreneurs have chosen to add the word “service” at signboards of their businesses. But, do the people really access the comprehensive services yet?

An internet cafe in Yangon will still ask you to pull off your footwear outside the door. A teashop waiter will still ask you, “Are you going to pay bill, Sir?” if you have spent over half an hour there. A salesgirl of supermarket will still tail you with suspicion. With or without the placard, it is sure that they could not guarantee the quality customer services. They are seemed to be more determined to require customers to adapt to their services, rather than adjusting their services to consumers. Don’t they really know that customer is always right?

Now, the government is committed to provide adequate public services. It is made clear in each speech of the President. A series of reforms in the service sector is tangible.

The service industry is seemed to become more lively in the country. Unfortunately, it still shows some disregard of consumers’ feelings. However good we could produce a goods, if with poor services, it would be undervalued. Have a heart, the service industry!

Diplomats, observers, reporters from news agencies to visit and study constituencies on by-election day

YANGON, 31 March — Permission has been granted for diplomats, international observers and reporters from news agencies to visit the constituencies where by-elections will take place on 1 April 2012 and to cover news.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin met diplomats

and international observers at the ministry in Yangon on 29 March and made a clarification on their study visits to respective constituencies for their convenience and other necessary points. Besides, arrangements have been made to send liaison officers to respective constituencies.



Correspondent identity cards being issued to correspondents from respective news agencies who will visit constituencies in by-election to be held on 1 April 2012, at the reception counter opened at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Union Health Minister meets guests from foreign educational institutions

NAYPYITAW, 31 March— Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Assistant Professor Dr Myaing Myaing Nyunt and party of Johns Hopkins University at his office at 1.30 pm yesterday and Dr James HB Kong of Asia Royal Australasian College at his office at 3 pm.

In meeting with the team of Johns Hopkins University, they discussed cooperation matters, academic matters, rural health care and upgrading health standard, and cooperation with private and NGOs in private health care sector.

At the call paid by Asia Royal Australasian College team, they cordially discussed treatment at injuries, emergency health care task,



training and academic matters for effective prevention and treatment tasks.—MNA

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin receives Dr James HB Kong of Asia Royal Australasian College.—MNA

NAYPYITAW, 30 March— A ceremony to disburse microfinance loans to four villages in NyaungU district, supervised by Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and sponsored by A.C.E Construction and arranged by NyaungU Township Cooperatives Department, took place at Ayar Hotel in Bagan yesterday afternoon, with an address by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung.

Ministry of Hotels and

Microfinance loans disbursed to four villages in NyaungU District

Tourism is carrying out loan disbursement with the help of Ministry of Cooperatives. It is the second time and aims to develop tourism industry more in Bagan-NyaungU Region. At the ceremony, supervisory committee was formed for effective use of loan interests in village development tasks.

MNA

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung presents microfinance loans for the second time to local people of villages in NyaungU District.—MNA



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs made plans for 156 diplomats and international observers to be able to visit the places they wished to go.

Similarly, the Ministry of Information is issuing correspondents’ identity cards to correspondents from

foreign news agencies after systematic scrutiny and registration at the reception counter of Yangon International Airport. Up to 31 March, a total of 137 correspondents from external news agencies had arrived in Myanmar to cover the election news.

Moreover, reporter’s identity cards have been issued out to 27 reporters from Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and 427 journalists and reporters from domestic journals so as to cover the news conveniently.

MNA

First Anniversary of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone marked in Hopong

NAYPYITAW, 31 March— To mark the 1st Anniversary of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in Hopong, Shan State, a celebration yesterday took place at the office of the Chairman of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Leading Body in the town, in collaboration with a handing-over ceremony of staff quarters and an opening ceremony of Shwewuthmon

concrete bridge.

At the events, Chairman of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Leading Body U Khun San Lwin, Shan State Minister for Transport U Sai Naw Kham and State Minister for Development Affairs U Tu Maung formally opened the ceremonies. After that, Chairman U Khun San Lwin delivered an address at the celebration.—MNA

UMFCCI President, Vice-Presidents to attend 2nd ASEAN-EU Summit

YANGON, 30 March— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung and Vice-President U Thuang Tin left here yesterday morning for Phnom Penh of Cambodia to

attend 2nd ASEAN-EU Summit 2012 on 1st April. Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win, Dr Maung Maung Lay and CEC member U Aung Soe Tha also left here

to attend the summit this morning, who were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-President U Tun Aung and personnel.

MNA

Donate blood

France detains 19 suspected extremists

PARIS, 31 March—Police led pre-dawn raids across France on Friday in a crackdown against suspected extremists, arresting 19 people and carting off automatic rifles and other guns in authorities' latest response to a wave of terrorism that has shaken the country.

President Nicolas Sarkozy, intent on showing an all-out fight against terrorism as his re-election contest nears, promised more such raids as his conservative government responds to a spate of shootings in southern France by a radical

Islamist that left seven people dead and two wounded. Interior Minister Claude Gueant said there was "no known link" between those detained on Friday and Mohamed Merah, the 23-year-old Frenchman who claimed responsibility for the killings in Toulouse and Montauban. Merah was killed in a shootout with police after a 32-hour standoff last week.

The raids in or near the cities of Toulouse, Lyon, Marseille, Paris and Nantes involved the arrest of members of a radical Islamist group known as Forsane Alizza—the Knights of Pride

—that was banned last month. Gueant said several assault rifles and other guns were seized. The roundup was part of a judicial operation ordered by France's powerful anti-terrorism judges, who opened

an investigation into the group in October. Sarkozy gave no details about the reasons for the arrests.

Internet

France's President and candidate for the Presidential Election 2012, Nicolas Sarkozy.
INTERNET



Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, centre, attends the Arab League summit in Baghdad, Iraq, on 29 March, 2012.
INTERNET

Premier calls Arab summit 'turning point' for Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 March—Iraq's prime minister on Friday praised this week's Arab League summit in Baghdad

as a turning point in the emerging relationship between Iraq and the Arab world. In a televised speech, Nouri al-Maliki said that his government lived up to the technical, political and organizational challenges to hold the Arab summit, despite doubts that the war-battered country would be able to provide security and logistics for the 21 visiting delegations.

"The summit results, in which Iraq and Arab countries have resumed relations, represents a new turning point in the relations among Arab countries," he said. Only half of the heads of states of Arab League members attended the summit, reflecting deep divisions between Shiite and Sunni Muslim nations. Most Sunni leaders stayed away from Baghdad, ruled now by al-Maliki's Shiite-led coalition government. Al-Maliki offered his apologies to Baghdad residents for the

strict security lockdown that kept people from leaving their neighbourhoods. Also, cellular phone service was shut down across Baghdad for two days to keep insurgents from launching rockets with cell phone triggers.

Al-Maliki said the tough measures "were necessary to secure Baghdad during the summit." Insurgents threatened violence during the gathering, but no major attacks took place. Iraq's top Shiite cleric also praised the summit and called for further action to reintegrate his country into the world community, his spokesman said. Ahmed al-Safi, a representative of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, said lifting old UN sanctions is essential for the country to gain full sovereignty. He spoke during a Friday sermon in the Shiite holy city of Karbala.—Internet



New York police accused of "uncivilized" arrest of diplomat

UNITED NATIONS, 31 March—A senior Caribbean diplomat has accused the New York City Police Department of "flagrant violation" of the rules of diplomatic immunity and privileges by aggressively arresting the ambassador of St Vincent and the Grenadines. The New York police countered by saying that the envoy from the tiny island nation refused to identify himself after pushing past a security barrier intended to protect Israel's diplomatic headquarters in New York City from attack.

In a letter to US Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice, Delano Bart, ambassador of St Kitts

and Nevis and chairman of the UN caucus of the Caribbean nations group, known as CARICOM, said the incident occurred on Wednesday after St Vincent's envoy, Camillo Gonsalves, stepped out of his car. Bart said in the letter, which was obtained by Reuters on Friday, that Gonsalves walked past a police barrier to take the elevator to his office. "On his way to the elevator, he was shouted at and confronted by a police officer, who rudely questioned his action and then grabbed him by the neck and shoulder, displaying undue physical harassment against the ambassador," Bart wrote.

Reuters

Somali, African forces seize rebel bastion

MOGADISHU, 31 March—African forces backing Somali government troops said they took control of one of the Islamist rebellion's last strongholds on Friday, sparking intense clashes on the outskirts of Mogadishu. "Troops from the Somali army backed by

troops from the African Union Mission in Somalia on Friday morning seized the district of Deynile and routed the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Shebab terrorists," AMISOM spokesman Paddy Ankunda said in a statement.

But well after that statement, in early evening shooting could still be heard in the area, a humanitarian source in Mogadishu told AFP. Four AMISOM soldiers were wounded in the offensive, led by Burundian troops in the force, on the sprawling Deynile neighbourhood northwest of central Mogadishu which had been a Shebab safe haven for years.

Internet

Venezuela poll says Hugo Chavez ahead of rival

CARACAS, 31 March—President Hugo Chavez has a double-digit lead over the opposition's presidential candidate, but a quarter of Venezuelan voters haven't committed to either candidate, a poll said on Thursday.

The survey released by the Caracas polling firm Datanalysis said nearly 45 percent of those polled said they would vote for Chavez, while 31 percent supported Miranda state Gov Henrique Capriles. About 25 percent were undecided. "Those undecided ones are going to indicate the trend in the future," said Luis Vicente Leon, the polling firm's president.

Chavez, who has been in office since 1999, is seeking another six-year term in the 7 Oct election. The survey questioned about 1,300 people in Venezuela between 29 Feb and 7 March, and had a margin of error of nearly 3



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez holds up a bouquet of flowers during an event at Teresa Carreno theater in Caracas, Venezuela, on 29 March, 2012.—INTERNET

percentage points, Leon said. He said the percentage of people expressing no choice for a candidate had increased since the firm's previous poll a month earlier, when almost 50 percent said they would vote for Chavez and 35 percent backed Capriles.—Internet

US drones attack militants in Pakistan, Yemen

WASHINGTON, 31 March—US-operated drones carried out deadly missile strikes against suspected al-Qaeda targets in Pakistan and Yemen on Friday, US government sources said. There was no connection between the targets in the two locations, other than the fact that both sets of militants who were attacked were believed to have had some connection with al-Qaeda affiliates, according to the sources.

Reports from Aden said that at least five suspected al-Qaeda militants traveling in a car in southern Yemen's Shabwa Province were killed when a drone strike set their



An unarmed US "Shadow" drone is pictured in flight in this undated photograph, released on 5 Jan, 2011.

INTERNET

vehicle on fire. Witnesses said a second drone hit an empty building. In Miranshah, the main town in Pakistan's North Waziristan region, a drone strike killed four suspected militants and wounded three others, local intelligence officials and militants said. An intelligence official claimed the dead men were local Taleban militants.

Both drone strikes are understood to have been conducted as part of a long-running campaign intended to kill and disrupt al-Qaeda using missile-firing drones operated by the Central Intelligence Agency, which declines comment on such operations. US officials cited the latest drone attacks as a refutation of recent news reports suggesting the United States was curtailing drone operations.

One report, which US officials denied, said that earlier this year, the United States had offered a suspension of drone attacks in Pakistan in connection with efforts to improve strained bilateral relations. A US official said: "The United States is conducting, and will continue to conduct, the counter terrorism operations it needs to protect the US and its interests."

Reuters

Member of African Union peacekeeping mission holds up bullets at frontline of Deynile district in Mogadishu.
INTERNET



Scientists warn of 'emergency on global scale'

PARIS, 31 March — Leading scientists on Thursday called on the upcoming Rio Summit to grapple with environmental ills that they said pointed to "a humanitarian emergency on a global scale." In a "State of the Planet" declaration issued after a four-day conference, the scientists said Earth was now facing unprecedented challenges, from water stress, pollution and species loss to spiralling demands for food. They called on the June 20-22 followup to the 1992 Earth Summit to overhaul governance of the environment and sweep away a fixation with GDP as the sole barometer of wellbeing.

"The continuing function of the Earth system as it has supported the wellbeing of human civilisation in recent centuries is at risk," said the statement issued at the "Planet Under Pressure" conference. "These threats risk intensifying economic, ecological and social crises, creating the potential for a humanitarian emergency on a global scale." The conference gathered nearly 3,000 environment scientists, economists, business executives and policymakers in the runup to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio.

In a recorded message, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said he welcomed the declaration, saying "its timing...



A farmer plows up a field where crops failed because of a severe drought in the region, in Texas in 2011.— INTERNET

could not be better." "Climate change, the financial crisis and food, water and energy security threaten human wellbeing and civilisation as we know it," he said. Ban added that he was considering appointing a scientific board or a chief scientific advisor to advise him and other UN organs. The conference declaration said humanity's impact on Earth was now so great that a new era—"the Anthropocene," a term derived from the Greek word for human — had emerged. Globalisation has shown that economies and societies are now "highly interconnected and interdependent," it said.— *Internet*

Entangled gray whale off Calif freed after chase

LOS ANGELES, 31 March —A migrating gray whale with debris wrapped around its tail was finally freed after rescuers in a small boat chased it along the Southern California coast so they could cut away the fishing traps and lines. The whale was spotted near Redondo Beach on Thursday morning.

The disentanglement team would speed up, position its boat directly behind the whale, and then try to catch the tangle with a long rod with a blade on top.

The first half dozen attempts failed, said Kelli Lewis, education director of the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, who watched the rescue from a trailing Los

Angeles County Lifeguard boat. "As soon as he got the blade in and cut through it, the net and the drag from the buoy, everything popped off and the whale dove. Everybody cheered," Lewis said.

The team was able to recover the tangled mass and identified it as gear used in lobster or crab traps, with a

long line attached and a flotation device at the top. It was impossible to tell how long the whale had been tangled in the gear, Lewis said.

The whale was a sub-adult, she said, somewhere between a first-year calf and a full-grown adult. Grays are migrating north after wintering in Baja California lagoons.

Internet

Warm, comfy mice make better lab specimens

LONDON, 31 March — Scientists hope to make mice comfier in their lab homes, not just to boost the rodents' wellbeing but also to make them more humanlike and better models for drug studies. The problem, they say, is that mice kept in labs for medical studies are typically cold, and the resulting stress can change the physiology of the animal. The result may be one reason why nine out of 10 drugs that seem to work in lab mice and other animal models ultimately fail to work in humans, the researchers add.

"If you want to design a drug that will help a patient in the hospital, you cannot reasonably do that in animals that are cold-stressed and are compensating with an elevated metabolic rate," Joseph Garner, associate professor of comparative medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine, said in a statement. "This will change all aspects of their physiology, such as how fast the liver breaks down a drug, which can't help but increase the chance that a drug will behave differently in mice and in humans." The solution may be easy: just provide the mice with nesting materials.

Hundreds of millions of mice populate the world's laboratories, according to Garner who calls the rodents "one of the most fantastic animals on Earth." Mice prefer somewhat toasty temperatures, between 86 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit (30 and 32 degrees Celsius), though US research laboratories are often kept at chillier temperatures to abide by federal regulations — around 68-75 F (20-24 C). The cold temperatures can suppress unmanageably aggressive behaviors in mice; also female mice are better at lactating in cooler temperatures.

On the down side, when housed in temperatures of 64-68 F (18-20 C), mice may show changes in their immune systems as well as a slowing of growth. Many labs' current chill factor, as such, is "right at that threshold," Garner pointed out. "That means the mice may be compromised physiologically, potentially affecting research results." — *Internet*



The Girls Around Me app: Creepy, dangerous, and a good reminder to update your privacy settings

NEW YORK, 31 March — It was only a matter of time. Cult of Mac has pointed out this incredibly creepy app, Girls Around Me, which as you might imagine, takes social network check-ins and a user's personal GPS data to locate and broadcast all the surrounding women (and men — although that is not the app's advertised purpose or generating as much hype) in a given area.

From the minute someone coined the term "SoLoMo" (which is at once the quickest and most gag-inducing way to identify this market), our collective privacy fears were piqued. These apps, though opt-in, could be dangerous. But really, it's been a bunch of "could-be's" — someone could use this app to find you or someone could unwittingly be broadcasting an embarrassing location. For the most part, however, it's been a lot of hypothetical situations. Apps like Highlight, Glancee, and Banjo have spent tons of time talking about privacy and safety in the wake of these concerns. They emphasize how you willingly opt-in to using them and features that allow you to pause location recording. But make no mistake, Girls Around Me has no concern for privacy.

The app takes public check-ins and Facebook profiles and displays a girl's photo via Google Maps, so you know exactly where she is. You can then access her Facebook profile and peruse whatever is publicly visible. You might be quick to dismiss this as women who haven't so much as glanced at privacy settings that are getting suckered, but the app also takes into account when others check you in somewhere via Facebook. Foursquare, for the record, pulled API access from Girls Around Me in response to Cult of Mac's story.

Really, Girls Around Me is just proving what we all knew could happen when the power of social and location app APIs combine: people get weird and make a lot of us really uncomfortable.— *Internet*

Nokia and Apple squabbles delay Sim card ruling

PARIS, 31 March — A decision regarding the next format for mobile Sim cards has been delayed after negotiations over patents ground to a halt, French media has reported. Apple and Nokia, along with other manufacturers, are locked in dispute over proposals for a new "nano-Sim". Nokia has threatened to withhold crucial patents if Apple's proposal is adopted, arguing that it does not comply with required specifications. The ruling has been postponed until the end of June. All firms want to secure the new format to keep up with devices which are getting ever smaller and slimmer.

The nano-Sim will be at least a third smaller than the micro-Sim commonly found in today's smartphones. The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (Etsi) is the body responsible for setting the global standard for the format. By polling its membership — which consists of telecom providers and manufacturers — it aims to reach a consensus over the ideal standards for future technologies. However, views over which nano-Sim should be adopted have divided the industry,

The card companies said customers would not be responsible for fraudulent purchases. INTERNET



NEW YORK, 31 March — Visa, Mastercard and Discover have warned that credit card holders' personal information could be at risk after a security breach. The firms said there had been "no breach" of its own system,

Three US credit firms warn of security breach

instead blaming a third party. Security blog KrebsOnSecurity, which first reported the story, said industry sources believed more than 10 million cards may have been compromised.

Reports suggested the stolen details had been obtained in New York. *The Wall Street Journal* quoted its own industry sources as saying card-processing firm Global Payments was the company that suffered the breach. Shares in the company fell by more than 9% on Friday. Global Payments has not responded to requests for comment.



The new smaller Sim is essential for the next generation of smartphones, manufacturers say.— INTERNET

resulting in the vote postponement, *Les Echos* reports.

In one corner, Apple has proposed its own card which it said it will offer on a royalty-free basis to other manufacturers. In the other, Nokia offers a different card which it said is 23% smaller and is they say more in line with Etsi's specific requirements.

Internet

None of the three companies, which are the three of the largest credit card processors would confirm how many customers were affected. Visa and Mastercard, also used for debit cards of major US banks, said they had notified banks of the breach. Discover Financial Services said it was monitoring accounts and would reissue cards if necessary. In a statement, Mastercard said: "[We are] concerned whenever there is any possibility that cardholders could be inconvenienced and we continue to both monitor this event and take steps to safeguard account

information.

"If cardholders have any concerns about their individual accounts, they should contact their issuing financial institution." Visa echoed Mastercard's statement, emphasising that its customers are not responsible for fraudulent purchases. Gartner analyst Avivah Litan said she believed the breach was related to a taxi garage in New York City. "So if you've paid a NYC cab in the last few months with your credit or debit card — be sure to check your card statements for possible fraud," she said.

Internet



Washaung Dam in Waingmaw Township of Kachin State is one of dams and reservoirs implemented by the State to irrigate farmlands.

Dams and reservoirs distributing potable and irrigation water in Kachin and Shan States

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

Translation: HKA



Phayagon Reservoir in Taunggyi of Shan State (South) distributes irrigation water for summer paddy.



Karboe Dam supplies potable and irrigation water to local national people in Kachin State.



Moby Dam near Moby village in Pekhoh Township of Shan State (South) generates electricity and supplies irrigation water.

Prizes awarded to winners in developing reading habit

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—The prize presentation for developing reading habit, organized by Matupi Township Information and Public Relations Department, was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Matupi this morning. Head of Chin State Information and Public Relations Department U Kyaw Hsint and Township Administrator U Min Maung Maung delivered speeches.

The head of State IPRD, the township administrator and the staff officer of Mindat District IPRD donated books to village self-reliant libraries.

The Township Administrator handed over Sky Net receiver donated by Chin State Minister for Transport U Ngun Hsan Aung for Ngalai Village self-reliant library to village in-charge U Dok Kon.

Later, officials awarded the winners in the essay and poem recitation contests.—MNA

Falam Township gets new village library

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—A ceremony to open Lyanwun Library, built by Myanmar Libraries Foundation and local people, was held in front of the library in Talanzar Village of Falam Township on 29 March morning.

Chin State Advocate-General U Kappati El, Deputy

Commissioner U Soe Tint of Falam District General Administration Department and Staff Officer U Man Sein of Falam District Information and Public Relations Department formally opened the library.

The 24 feet long and 14 feet wide building was constructed at a cost of K 2.5 million.—MNA

Preservation, Participation and Promotion of Public Awareness on ICH in Myanmar

Nanda Hmun, Ministry of Culture



(Continued from yesterday)

Efforts made by Ministry of Culture

The focal ministry to be assigned is Ministry of Culture and mobilization of implementation of safeguarding measures ultimately lies with the people of Myanmar. With the assigned mandates, Ministry of Culture nominated the Focal Points for Cultural Heritage and Natural heritage as contacts for UNESCO and also formed the Committee to carry out ICH Preservation and Compilation. It is also meant to showcase the diversity of intangible cultural heritage manifestations at national level and then to inscribe on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It is now preparing those elements which are in need of urgent safeguarding too. As this ministry which focuses on safeguarding Myanmar cultural heritage and has a Aims and Objectives of: "To explore, preserve, sustain and disseminate all forms of Myanmar cultural heritage, and to nurture younger generation to be well-behaved and safeguard cultural heritages." Most cultural elements under TCH and ICH are under its national mechanism functions but still awareness raising of the threats to TCH and ICH, heritage impacts assessment, climate change factors and preparation of disaster risk management, providing overseas training opportunities and ensuring of the adequate allocation of

budget are still under constraint. Within its capacity, all staff at different levels are enduring contribution to its Vision: **To fulfill the social objectives of the state by implementing cultural activities such as preserving, exposing and propagating Myanmar cultural heritage towards the democratic state**

Since cultural processes are dynamic and ever changing, there is a big challenge to overcome all types of cultural preservation and safeguarding with our own strength. Implementing the policy on Myanmar cultural heritage preservation laid down by the governing body. Ministry of Culture is undertaking the safeguarding and awareness raising of ICH by establishing cultural museums in capitals of respective states and divisions, schools and universities of arts to sustain Myanmar cultural heritage; preserving the customs and traditions of Myanmar national races by recording the information and data from field works and documentation; Holding Performing Arts Competitions at State level for bringing about new generations capable for preserving and promoting cultural heritage and national character.

For TCH which is clearly stated in its Aims and Objectives, Ministry of Culture carries out implementing the policy on Myanmar cultural heritage preservation laid down by the governing body; establishing of the Central

Committee for Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation, Restoration and Conservation; preserving the sites and monuments in archeological zones undertaken by the Annual government budget; recording the information and data from field works and documentation of the customs and traditions of Myanmar national races.

Implementing the national policies on culture, we are also committed to explore more pragmatic ways to expand global footprint of Myanmar culture and its delicacies accompanied with remarkable blend of not only performing and visual arts but also our traditional ways and manners including those ICH heritages. With those impact

of globalization, preservation and promotion of cultural identity is necessary for the country like Myanmar. The multicultural society is reaching us in many perspectives and along with this shifting social context, our living traditions and assets are to be undertaken with high attention. Towards those emergence of safeguarding ICH, it calls for creating more opportunities to participate and promote public awareness. The prudence between visions and realities will be covered with effective efforts which will be challenges for new and old generations.

Traditional Assets: ICH of Myanmar

In the memories of every Myanmar, understanding and patience, engaging and creating, modern and traditional ways and means will enable all of us to share the legacy of Myanmar culture. The account of many Myanmar traditional seasonal festivals and those in-house practice handed down by our ancestors are still harmony with our daily life. We all fondly recall our memories which we took part in our childhood, teens, with full spirit like those traditional games we played, and those bedtime stories retold by our grandparents, elderly people and parents,

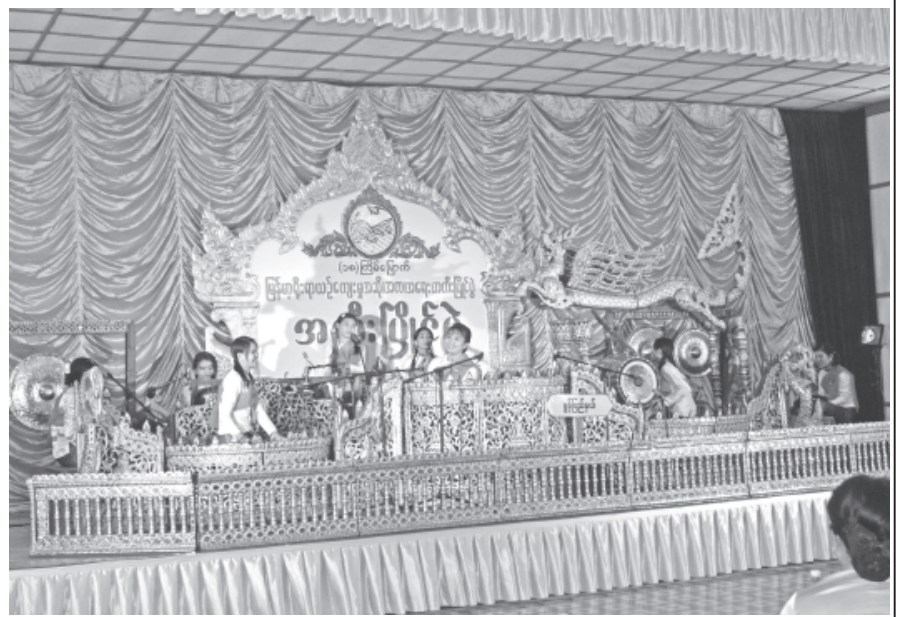
have been still remain in our hearts. Those nursery rhymes and verses which we used to recite aloud are still in our memory banks. Storytelling is the effective teaching method not only to be applied for the subjects like History, English and Myanmar language but also conducting moral ethics which can easily adapted by most school going ages. We have to reintroduce the **Storytelling** to be put into the Curriculum for Primary and Middle Schools. So also the Traditional Games of Myanmar to encourage our children in Myanmar to continue practicing traditional activities as they can help them to develop their creativity, physical skills and more important, their moral and mentalibilities.

The Traditional Game "**Chinlon**" (cane-ball) is one of the unique games among all and that is highly attractive game for many foreigners which can be played by single and in a group. This kind of traditional game has a long history in Myanmar and it is noted that it has been played since in the reigns of Myanmar kings. By those records of Reverend Sangermano from Italy who came to Inwa Nay Pyi Taw in

Myanmar for missionary in the year 1782, wrote about his account on the game played by cane-ball. With those beautiful techniques and lively movements and those terminologies related to "Chinlon" are very interesting and like a living tradition which is still being played in all parts of Myanmar among all walks of life.

Another memorable ICH is unique way of **rowing the traditional boats with legs** in Inle Lake. Those people inhabiting in Inle Lakes and its surroundings, used to travel from one place to another by means of boats paddled in this way is one of the ICH regional values. There is one famous festival too: "Festival of Phaung-daw-Oo Images" in which all racing boats which can be rowed by hundred rowers with that unique way of rowing serve as tug boats towing the ceremonial Karaweik Barge on which the images are put temporarily placed for obeisance. In Inlay, another significance of this region is the famous weaving of **Lotus Robe**, woven from the stems of padonmar lotus. The legacy of this working process can be seen only in Inle lake of Shan state. It is noted that to have a robe or

(See page 7)



Preservation, Participation and Promotion of Public Awareness on ICH in Myanmar

Nanda Hmun, Ministry of Culture

(from page 6)

thin-gan (worn by Buddhist monks), 220,000 stems of lotus are required. Then the fibres are extracted from the stems to be joined for making a thread for weaving purposes. It takes about a month to be finished and its is highly appreciated for its rareness and delicate hand-made.

Putting the traditional "Thanakha" or refreshing paste obtained from grinding a piece of Thanakha (Limonia acidissima) on the grinding stone (kyaukpyin) is a daily foundation used by every Myanmar woman. With its sweet scent, making cool and soothing, the "thanakha" is a symbol of Myanmar. There are many Myanmar songs composed on "Thanakha" and the beauty of woman who puts on. The traditional way of putting "Thanakha" is a kind of legacy that every Myanmar has to sustain.

Myanmar playthings like "pyit-taing-htaung" (tumbling Kelly), those toys made of papier-mache in different sizes for various kinds of animals like elephant, tiger, horse, zebra, cow, etc. traditional Myanmar kites, paper helmet (helmet which were worn by warriors) widely known as Bandoola helmet, painted wooden long swords, earthenware miniature cooking utensils and other kitchen ware (favourite for girls), playing with pebbles (or tamarind

seeds) as indoor games, the masks of tigers, monkeys, ogres, kings, miniature wooden furniture, wooden top, etc. are being listed under playthings. However, the recognition and its popularity is fading and instead children from urban areas know only Power Rangers, Baby dolls, those swords used by some Chinese actors in their martial arts pictures.

Another breathtaking process is the production of **Gold Leaf** foils (shwe-zain), one of the remarkable arts and crafts of Mandalay. This kind of beating the gold into foil and marketing it, has taken place in one particular place in Mandalay and make known to its dwellers as "myet pa: yat". The tradition of offering to the scared Buddha images, religious buildings and shrines with gold leaf which is so thin and light has been handed down from the days of monarchy. It is one of the well-known arts and crafts of Mandalay, where the heart of Myanmar cultural heritage lies.

In the field of Fine Arts, one of the unique and most melodious musical instruments is **Myanmar Harp** which is one of the oldest known musical instruments. It is a boat-shaped wooden instrument, highly decorated, and sometimes gilded. It can have 7, 9, 13 or 16 strings. The melody which is produced by Myanmar Harp is so outstanding and there has been story on the playing of Harp which made the fighting of two great creatures to end up

in our chronicles. Another music assemble, which is the most unique is "**Saing-waing**" (Myanmar music orchestra). The grandeur of its resemblance and the melodious traditional music that comes out by striking those series of (pat-lone) drums of different sizes, is the music which all Myanmar enjoy and proud of. There is no such kind of music assembly in this world and those traditional ways to follow while it is to be performed. The another significance is the "pat-sar" or tuning dough, paste of rice kneaded with wood ash used for tuning those drums" magically.

"**Yote-thay**" or Myanmar marionettes and the art of manipulating the strings of puppets is also gorgeous. Those richly and ornamented different puppets with their distinct characteristics, have to follow traditionally accepted practice not only on stage but also when they are kept in their proper chests. Since its long tradition of "A-myint-thabin" or performance to be staged, it proceeded the drama and performing arts of Myanmar. Since Myanmar are fond of appreciation of "min-ga-lar" or "auspiciousness" in every performance they do, there are "12 kinds of min-ga-lar" or "12 occasions" that every Myanmar parents have to do for their off-springs since they are born till to coming of age. All those "12 festivals of each month Myanmar month" or Seasonal Festivals of



Myanmar are encouraged to be showcase more at national level. Myanmar "pan-semyo" or arts and crafts are also highly recommended to be promoted of its legacy and also their traditional ways to be recorded and printed. Nowadays, traditional craftsmanship of goldsmith is being substituted with modernized way of making more attractive and expensive accessories made of gold. So also the weighing and measurement system of olden days are not known very well and instead of the traditional way, digitized system has substituted in many ways.

Way forward

Though our land and our people possess many heritages left and handed down by our ancestors, the richness and abundance of heritage still need to be put more attention and promotion of awareness has to be widely made. The

possession of those richness calls for systematic way that should be enlarged to encompass all aspects related to raising awareness about oral and intangible heritage. Here, we would like to draw attention on UNESCO's "**Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity**" starting in 2001 to raise awareness on **intangible cultural heritage** which encourages local communities to protect them and the local people who sustain these forms of cultural expressions.

Those proclaimed Masterpieces receive commitment from UNESCO in financing plans for their conservation. The cultural expressions and spaces proposed for proclamation have to meet the criteria like; demonstrate their outstanding value as

masterpiece of the human creative genius; give wide evidence of their roots in the cultural tradition or cultural history of the community concerned; be a means of affirming the cultural identity of the cultural communities concerned; provide proof of excellence in the application of the skill and technical qualities displayed; affirm their value as unique testimony of living cultural traditions; and be at risk of degradation or of disappearing. If so, Myanmar's manifestations will be endless list not only for intangible but also for tangible heritage. Regarding to the recent progress made, we have to welcome those interests and initiatives being done by UNESCO and the collaborations underway to be more positive and effective.

Bracing for the changing season

MTH (NPE)



Summer is coming in with full swing. The cold season has just wrapped up and waving goodbye for now. There remains only mild chilliness during the nights and early mornings, in some

parts of the country. The environs are drying up. That is why we must prepare for the hot season, which we are to endure for about three months. We must eat and wear appropriately to the season.

Vegetables are a must and juicy fruits are essentials. Hot and oily foods are advised to be avoided during the long hot summer days. To prevent dehydration, a lot of water must be drunk to replenish the liquid in your body. The blazing sun will definitely torch you if you are not

covered with shades of any kind; sunglasses, hats, umbrellas, when you go out.

We have to accept and adapt to the changing environment, and shed off the thick and dark-coloured clothes to thin and light-coloured clothes. Quilts and heavy blankets are now put back into the closet and jackets and sweaters are washed for the next winter.

Exercise must be done in three mornings or evenings. Binge drinking of alcohol should be abstained during

the hot extreme weather, which is for your own good. We should also avoid taking baths outdoors under the baking sun and by the banks of rivers and lakes, during the afternoons.

The winds are also roaming in and we must take caution and be alert of fire outbreaks. The risks are higher in the summer, which can cause a lot of loss and miseries.

During the summer as in all seasons, people are advised to drink clean or

boiled water, avoid unclean food that are touched by flies, and to clean hands before having any meal, and sleep inside mosquito nets.

Evolving to a new season is but nature, but we shall have to grapple with a clear mindset to be able to accept the changes. We cannot cling on to the cold season which has just left us. No lingering to the past. We have to embrace to the times ahead.

There are a lot of bright sides to look forward to. One of them is the blooming of the beautiful fragrant padauk flowers after the April showers. The flower, which is a renowned Myanmar identity, is depicted in a many

Myanmar songs and literature, over the centuries.

Moreover, the youths will be able to enhance extracurricular studies during their summer holidays. Family vacations can also be taken.

What's more is that the merry and joyful New Year Water Festival is at our doorstep and we should welcome the New Year with a healthy lifestyle and a happy heart.

Here is wishing, the upcoming Myanmar Era Year 1374 to be prosperous and may all wishes come true for all of us Myanmar people!

Nay Pyi Taw staff quarters farm awards presented

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt addressed Nay Pyi Taw staff quarters Best Housing Farm Award and Best Individual Farm Award presentation ceremony for 2011-2012 winter and summer at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall on 28 March morning.

Chairman of staff quarters farm inspection committee Union Minister U Thein Nyunt said that Nay Pyi Taw is being shaped into an international-standard green city.

His ministry is filling the city with vegetable patches, forest reserve areas, perennial crops plantations around the ministries and cascades.

The service personnel are also asked to run farms in the environs of staff quarters for greening the surroundings and generating more income.

Farming contributes to beautifying, accessibility of fresh and organic foods and fitness of the staff.

Under the guidance of the President, eight inspection groups scrutinized performance of 1024 staff quarters and 18080

apartments and 16 best staff quarters and 20 best rooms were awarded for excellent agricultural performance, he said.

He called for running farm on manageable scale by staff families in coming monsoon.

Union Minister Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Thant

Shin, Deputy Minister for Labour U Myint Thein, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun, Director-General of Forest Department U Aye Myint Maung, Managing Director of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Kyaw Win, and the joint secretary and members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee presented awards to winners.—MNA



Union Minister at President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt presents prize for outstanding staff quarters.

MNA

Union EC&F Minister receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received Professor Dr Virpi Lummaa and party of the University of Sheffield of the UK at his office, here, yesterday morning.

They discussed conservation of wild elephants, health care for elephants of timber

extraction and cooperation in research works.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister received Vice General Manager Professor Mr Lan Binnan and party of China Aerospace Science and Industry Shenzhen (Group) Co Ltd at the same venue.

They discussed use of remote sensing system and equipment for forest fire and

prevention of pollution at water sources.

At 2 pm, Mr Joern Kristenser and party of Australia-based Institute for International Development (IID) called on the Union Minister at his office. They focused on cooperation in realizing the appropriate programme of environmental conservation.

MNA

Third regular session of first Kayin State Hluttaw continues

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—The third regular session of first Kayin State Hluttaw continued for the sixth day on 28 March, attended by the Region Chief Minister, Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Saw Aung Kyaw Min, the region ministers and 22 Hluttaw representatives.

At the session, the budget bill for 2012-2013 fiscal year and the regional plan bill for 2012 were discussed and it was approved by Hluttaw. The session concluded at 10.20 a.m.—MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.



Pale-Gangaw gravel road upgraded with tarmacking



NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye on 26 March inspected tarmacking on Pale-Gangaw gravel road, expanding of pavements and construction of new school building at Basic Education Primary School in Wambechaing Village in Pale Township.

He inspected inflow of water at Kantdaunt Dam.

On 27 March, the Region Chief Minister attended the road opening ceremonies in Monywa in commemoration of the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.—MNA

World Health Day 2012
7 April
Ageing and Health
“Good health adds life to years”
Ministry of Health

Contracts signed to purchase bridge frames, related equipment

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—A signing ceremony to purchase frames and related equipment for Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanatheinga) between Public Works and China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd was held at the hall of the Ministry of Construction yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, departmental

heads and guests.

The Union Minister delivered an address.

Managing Director U Kyaw Lin of Public Works and General Manager Mr Song Zhu of China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd signed the agreements and exchanged notes.

Later, the general manager of China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Special refresher course No.17 for faculty members concludes at CICS (Upper Myanmar)

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—Special refresher course No.17 for faculty members was concluded at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) this morning with an address by Chairman of National Education Committee Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye.

Present on the occasion were Union Civil Service Board member Dr Myint Aung, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing and officials.

Speaking at the course conclusion, the Union Minister highlighted the importance of building three strong political, economic and national defence powers for realizing Our Three Main National Causes. It is important to develop human resources for the three powers, he said.

Education plays a main

role in human resource development. In order to build a new modern, developed nation, the new government has clearly announced and adopted State policies, work programmes of utmost importance and political, economic and social objectives. In doing so, faculty members from universities and colleges are to play their part in the drive.

Faculty members from 163 universities and colleges are those who are turning out human resources necessary for the nation. Now is the time when efforts are being made to produce human resources for emergence of a democratic society and for development of Myanmar's economy. Besides, changes and reforms are taking place not only in academic curriculums but also in management. Although educational institutions are under control of ministries concerned, measures will be

taken to ensure that they operate under their self-control some time, noted the Union Minister.

He also called for opening online libraries linked with international advanced universities as well as conventional libraries at universities and colleges. To reduce digital divide, more Internet networks and telecommunication networks are being built. Like in other global countries placing emphasis on research and business development, teachers in Myanmar need to conduct research extensively in respective sectors.

Later, the Union Minister called on the trainees to study and follow policies and work plans in the education sector. Union Minister Dr Mya Aye then awarded outstanding trainees and presented completion certificates to the trainees.

MNA

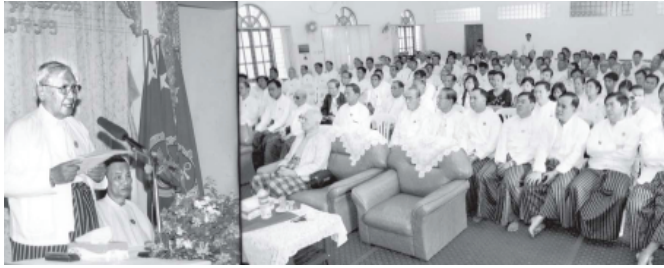
Bahan Township WAO holds Annual General Meeting

YANGON, 31 March—Bahan Township War Veterans Organization of Yangon Region held the 13th Annual General Meeting at Kyaukse Dhammayon on Oak Street in West Shwegondine Ward of Bahan Township on 25 March morning.

First, Chairman of the township WVO Maj-Gen Aung Khin (Rtd) and the chairman of the Township War Veterans Organizing Committee delivered

addresses. Next, the chairman of the Township WVOC presented cash assistance to the war veterans of above 75 years old and Secretary Lt-Col Win Naing (Rtd) cash assistance to the disabled war veterans. Business in-charge Major Pe Than (Rtd) gave medals and cash assistance to the children of the war veterans members who passed the matriculation examination in 2011.

Myanma Alin



Golf tournament to hail Maha Thingyan festival

YANGON, 31 March—The Bayintnaung Brokerage Group-BGG will organize the third golf tournament hailing the Maha Thingyan festival.

It will be organized at Royal Mingaladon Golf Club on 8 April morning.

All contestants are invited to take part in the tournament without fail. They have to contact Chairman U Khin Han, Tel: 095114700, Secretary U Khin Maung Win, Tel: 01705623, Joint Secretary U Nay Lin, Tel: 0973017466.—*Kyemon*



Books donated to village library in Kengtung

KENGTUNG, 31 March—A ceremony to raise reading habit and donate books,

organized by Shan State (East) Information and Public Relations Department, was held at Thuta Pankhin Library in Yangkha Village of Kengtung Township, Shan State (East), on 17 March morning.

Assistant Director of Shan State (East) IPRDU Sai Hsam Tit explained the purpose of the ceremony.

Staff Officer U Kham Kyan Hsom of District IPRD

gave talks on advantages of literature.

The essay contest, extempore talk contest and reading skill contest followed. The assistant director, the staff officer and officials awarded the winners in the contests. Later, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Aye Maung donated books to Yankhan Village-tract Administrator U S Than Aung.—*Myanma Alin*

CITIZENSHIP CARDS ISSUED: Ponnagyun Township Immigration and National Registration Department prepared issuance for citizenship scrutiny cards to the local people in Yoetayok Village of Ponnagyun Township. Head of District U Aye Than hands over CSCs and household registration made on 14 March by Head of Township INRD U Chit Tun and staff to Village Administrator U Maung Thein Hlaing.
TOWNSHIP IMMIGRATION

Myanmar Hoteliers Association holds AGM

YANGON, 31 March—The Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Hoteliers Association was held at Myanmar Tourism Board at the corner of Waizayanta and Thanthuma Roads in Thingangyun Township of Yangon on 24 March morning.

Chairman of the association Dr Khin Shwe extended greetings.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung spoke on the occasion.

Joint Secretary of the association U Tin Win read the annual report and financial statement.

After that, the executives were elected. The meeting elected 82 executives with U Yan Win as Chairman, UKyi Thein as General Secretary.

Deputy Minister U Htay Aung and Chairman U Yan Win presented Green Hotel Standards Award to responsible persons from 10 hotels.

Myanma Alin



Loans disbursed to local people in Insein Township

YANGON, 31 March—Yangon Region Government disbursed loans for ensuring rural development and poverty alleviation at the office of Insein Township General Administration Department of Yangon Region on 23 March.

At first, Township Administrator Chairman of

Township Microfinance Institutions Supervisory Committee U Tin Nanig Soe explained the purpose of disbursement.

The Administrator then presented K 15 million to leaders of the microfinance supervisory committees of 15 wards of the township.

Myanma Alin

World TB Day 2012 observed in Yangon North District

YANGON, 31 March—The World TB Day 2012 of Yangon North District was observed at the hall of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Insein Township at 9 am on 28 March.

At the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner U Nay Lin of District General Administration Department made a speech. Deputy Head of Yangon Region Health Department

Dr Win Kyaw read the address to be delivered at the World TB Day 2012 sent by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Leader of District TB Control Group Dr Kyaw Naing explained facts about tuberculosis disease and measures of controlling the disease in the future.

Myanma Alin

Loans disbursed to needy people in Shwepyitha

YANGON, 31 March—According to implementation of the rural development and poverty alleviation programme, a ceremony to hand over K 5 million loans disbursed by Yangon Region government by sharing K 50,000 each to 100 needy persons of Ward 21 in Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region was held at the hall of Township Administrator on 23 March afternoon.

At first, Township Administrator U Aung Moe Oo explained purpose of the disbursement. Staff Officer Daw San San Myint of Township Cooperative Department presented K 5 million to Ward Administrator U Ye Kyaw Zaw of Ward 21.

So far, total amount of K 99.2 million have been disbursed to 73 groups and 356 people from three wards.—*Myanma Alin*



DISTRICT NEWS

MLF invites 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.

Fire breaks out in Hsipaw



HSPAW, 31 March—A fire broke out at a house in Region-9 of Taungmyo Ward in Hsipaw at 4.30 pm on 26 March, starting from stove.

Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner U Khin Maung Lay of Kyaukme

District General Administration Department and Hsipaw Township Administrator U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials, local people, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Kyaw Nyunt Hlaing and police members, Head of Township Fire Services Department U Ko Ko Oo and members of auxiliary fire brigade put out the fire with the use of fire engines.

The fire did not blaze other houses and it died out at 5 pm.—*Myanma Alin*

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Best bus lines in work competitiveness contest honoured



YANGON, 31 March—Yangon North District All Private Bus-line Control Committee held the best performance contest 2012 at Basic Education High School No. 1 in Insein Township on 25 March, with an address by Yangon Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin.

The Region Minister for Transport presented K

18520000 to 229 staff for best performance, K 300,000 to best disciplined branch, K 300,000 to the most fund raising branch, K 400,000 to 10 best bus workers, K 130,000 to three outstanding trainees in the basic first-aid course and K 40.18 to respective bus lines for work competitiveness.

Myanma Alin

Coconut high demand in market in Yangon

YANGON, 31 March—A large number of coconut flows to coconut brokerage on Bagaya in Yangon through water and land routes. Demand of coconut in Yangon is higher, and it is expected to raise the demand till the Maha Thingyan festival.

“At present, coconuts are transported from the delta. Some of them are sent from the regions by car and some by boat. I think coconut will be more marketable till Maha Thingyan festival,” said Chairman of Bagaya Brokerage U Aung Tin.

The majority of coconut flows from Pyapon, Bogale,

Kyaiklat and Dedaye. At least five coconut boats on average arrive in Yangon daily. It is estimated that each boat carried about 5000 coconuts in best quality and about 10000 coconuts for consumption.

The brokerages in Bagaya daily distribute a large number of coconuts not only to 26 townships of Yangon Region but also to Mandalay, Myingyan, Kyaukse, Meiktila, Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Yenangyoung, Kyauk-padaung, Taunggyi, Aungpan, Yaksawk and Lonkhin of Kachin State.

Kyemon

Use of fire extinguishers demonstrated

YANGON, 31 March—A fire drill was exercised at Myoma Market in Mongyawng of Mongphyat District in Shan State (East) at 10 am on 26 March.

At first, Township Administrator U Aung Hsan Win, Commander of Township Police Force

Police Captain Soe Win, the executive officer of Township Development Affairs Committee and the in-charge of Township Fire Station inspected materials of fire extinguishers.

They demonstrated use of foam in fighting the fire.

Zaw Naing Oo



Boosting production of crops discussed in Hsipaw Township

HSPAW, 31 March—The seminar on share of agricultural technology, jointly organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and BMG Company was held at the building of natural agricultural farm beside Mandalay-Lashio Union Highway in Pansauk Village of Hsipaw Township, Shan State (North), at 9 am on 20 March.

Officials concerned spoke on the occasion.

It was attended by over 150 farmers of Hsaungkye, Nampyin, Panmyaing, Monglin, Nawngkaw, Namhmawlon, Manwit, Lwetawng, Hsinpaing, Manhsaungmein, Suklan, Pansawk, Kontha villages and Kyaukme Township.

Officials explained cultivation technology for boosting production of pineapple, dragon fruit, coffee, sweet chilli, strawberry, shift cultivation and cultivation methods of

strawberry.

FAO and other global agricultural groups will distribute 4000 saplings of pineapple and 400 saplings of dragon fruits to each family of farmers. They will distribute quality strains of crops and technology and seek better markets for the local farmers.

Kyemon

VACCINE GIVEN: Age-wise measles vaccination was provided at office in Ward 9 of Hline Township on 24 March. Chairperson of District Women's Affairs Organization Daw Myint Myint Kyi, Chairperson of Township WAO Daw Shwe Sin Win, Head of Township Health Department Daw Htay Htay Hlaing injecting children with measles vaccination.

MYANMA ALIN

Palethwe paddy model plot harvested in Kyaiklat

KYAIKLAT, 31 March—A ceremony to harvest Palethwe hybrid paddy field on the model plot of farmer U Khin Win was held in Teteku Village-tract in Kyaiklat Township of Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region on 20 March morning.

Head of Kyaiklat Township Agriculture Department U Tin Maung Oo explained thriving 95-day Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation and its quality.

Deputy Head of Ayeyawady Region Agriculture Department U Hla

Wai gave a supplementary discussion.

It was also attended by Head of Pyapon District Agriculture Department U Kyaw Win, members of the District Agriculture Promotion Committee, Township Administrator U Aung Than Zaw and members of Township Agriculture Department and those of Settlement and Land Records Department and local farmers.—Agriculture Department



VACCINE PROVIDED: The campaign of age-wise measles vaccination is being undertaken across the nation from 22 to 31 March. Health staff and members of social organization participate in injecting the children with measles vaccine at the administrative office of Ward 6 in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region, on 22 March.—MYANMA ALIN

DISTRICT NEWS

Certificates of religious examination presented

YANGON, 31 March—Kamayut Township held the Çula convocation ceremony for the monks who passed the religious examinations in the township of Yangon West District in Yangon Region on 27 March afternoon.

First, the Township

Administrator supplicated religious affairs.

Officials presented certificates to 40 monks who passed the examinations at respective levels. They offered provisions and alms to members of the Sangha.

Myanma Alin



ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED: The age-wise measles vaccination was undertaken in Ward 8 and urban ward of Patheingyi in Ayeyawady Region on 23 March. Patron of Ayeyawady Region Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Htay Myint, Chairperson Daw Thet Thet Swe and party present snacks to children after injecting measles vaccination to them.

MYANMA ALIN

Advance, basic survey courses conclude

YANGON, 31 March—The advanced survey course No 16 and the on-job survey and land record course No 33 concluded at the Central Land Record Training School of Settlement and Land Records Department in Taikkyi Township of Yangon North District in Yangon Region on 30 March.

Acting Director-General U Myint Swe of the Settlement and Land Records

Department delivered an address.

In providing training courses including modern land survey subjects and computerized accountancy courses and technology, the trainees participated in survey of 35 fields with the use of modern teaching aid for ensuring right data of survey in their practical works.

Myanma Alin

Concluding ceremony of advanced survey course No 16 and the on-job survey and land record course No 33 in progress at Central Land Record Training School in Taikkyi Township.



Lawyer says US blocks investigation of Afghan massacre

SEATTLE, 31 March—The lawyer defending the US soldier accused of murdering 17 Afghan civilians claims US authorities are blocking his ability to investigate the incident.

John Henry Browne, the lawyer for Staff Sergeant Robert Bales, said US forces in Afghanistan have prevented his team from interviewing injured civilians at a hospital in Kandahar, and are allowing other potential witnesses to scatter, making it difficult to track them down.

“When prosecutors

don’t cooperate, it’s because they are concerned about the strength of their case,” said Browne at a press conference at his downtown Seattle office on Friday.

Bales was formally charged last week with the murders of eight adults and nine children in a pre-dawn shooting rampage in southern Afghanistan on 11 March, which further eroded US-Afghan relations already strained by a decade of war.

He could face the death penalty if convicted. No date has been set for a trial, but US military prosecutors are



Attorney John Henry Browne (R), civil legal counsel to Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) based soldier Staff Sgt Robert Bales, the then-deployed US Army soldier accused of murdering 17 Afghan civilians earlier this month, speaks in a press conference in his Seattle, Washington office on 30 March, 2012. — INTERNET

putting together their case while Browne is preparing his defence. Browne said he has a team of investigators in Afghanistan now, but they

are receiving little cooperation from military prosecutors who filed the charges.

Reuters

Workers restoring Russian mansion find treasure

ST PETERSBURG, 31 March—For years, kopek pinching Soviets sat down in a cheap restaurant in a former mansion of the nobility for plain meals, unaware of the treasure secreted nearby.

Workers restoring the building this week finally found it, unexpectedly, in a storage space hidden between two floors—more than 1,000 pieces of jewelry, silver service sets stamped with the name of one of Russia’s most prominent noble families, mirrors and brushes in

silver frames. Many of them were wrapped in newspapers dated from the early months of 1917, as Russia careened toward the Bolshevik Revolution that ended life as the nobles had known it.

Friday’s announcement of the find by the Intarsia company, which is performing the restoration work, excited the news media and sparked arguments over who can claim the valuables. The find is so new that experts haven’t had time to inspect the goods and estimate their value.

The treasure tale touches on two of Russia’s most renowned and romantic figures: Peter the Great and Alexander Pushkin.

The mansion was purchased in 1875 by Duke Vasily Naryshkin, whose family included Nataliya Naryshkina, the second wife of Czar Alexis and the mother of Peter the Great.

The mansion had been put together by connecting two 18-century houses, one of which belonged to Pushkin’s African grandfather Abram Gannibal.

Internet



In this 28 March, 2012 handout photo provided by Intarsia company on 30 March, 2012, pieces of treasure discovered in secret place in a 19th-century mansion under restoration are on display in St Petersburg, Russia. — INTERNET

One wounded in man’s shooting spree in Finland

HELSINKI, 31 March—A 23-year-old gunman wounded the father of his former girlfriend in an office building in Finland on Friday, then went to a nearby school and fired several shots through a classroom door, police said. No one was hurt at the junior high school, and the attacker quickly surrendered. Police did not identify the gunman but said he had no criminal record. The suspect could be charged with attempted murder and endangering the public.

Detective Chief Inspector Jari Kinnunen said the man had gone to the school in search of the former girlfriend after he had shot and slightly injured her 50-year-old father in an office in the town of Orivesi, 190 kilometers (120 miles) north of Helsinki. Kinnunen said the gunman had been dating the girl but that the relationship had ended. “They had started going out together ... but he was not satisfied with the situation,” Kinnunen said, without giving further details.

The gunman fired six shots with a hunting rifle

through the closed door of a classroom occupied by a teacher and several students, but no one was hit, Kinnunen

said. “All the staff and students are safe,” he told the AP. “He surrendered later without resisting arrest.” — Internet



Emergency vehicles stand outside a secondary school in Orivesi, Finland, on 30 March, 2012. — INTERNET

Site mapped by California killer yields two missing teens’ remains

SAN FRANCISCO, 31 March—The remains of two teenage girls missing since the 1980s have been identified among bones found in an abandoned well in California that a convicted serial killer said he and a partner-in-crime used as a burial site, authorities said on Friday. Forensic examinations and DNA testing determined that two of three possible skeletons found in the sealed well 100 miles east of San Francisco belong to Kimberly Billy and Joann Hobson, San Joaquin County Sheriff Steve Moore said.

Moore said efforts were still underway to identify additional skeletal remains that may belong to another victim of the “Speed Freak Killers,” named for the methamphetamine-fueled violence they were found to have committed.

Authorities have recovered nearly 1,000 human bone fragments, along with a woman’s ring, a purse, shoes and some coats from the 50-foot well, located near a former cattle ranch in the community of Linden that was known as weekend gathering spot for local teenagers. — Reuters

Japan to revise evacuation zones for some cities

TOKYO, 31 March—Japan’s government said it would revise evacuation zones for three cities located around the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant, Jiji press reported on Friday. Japan introduced a 20-kilometre (12-mile) no-go zone around the facility at the centre of the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl, after it was hit by the March 2011 tsunami and lost reactor cooling functions.

The evacuation zones currently in place for 11 municipalities will be revised

for the cities of Tamura, Minamisoma and Kawauchi in April, the government said, according to Jiji. The revised zones, based on radiation levels, will be introduced in Tamura and Kawauchi on Sunday and in Minamisoma on 16 April, Jiji said. In December, Japan announced it had achieved a state of cold shutdown at the Fukushima plant after months of clean-up operations.

Tens of thousands of people have moved to shelters from areas in and beyond the

no-go zone, including some areas in a wider 30-kilometre radius where people were first told to stay indoors and later urged to leave. The process of fully restoring the areas around the crippled Fukushima plant is expected to take decades. The task of restoring towns and villages even in lightly contaminated zones is complicated, with high costs and logistical issues of where to store soil contaminated with radioactive caesium after it is removed. — Internet



This picture released by Tokyo Electric Power Company shows black smoke rising from reactor number three of the number 1 Fukushima dai-ichi nuclear power plant at Okuma town in Fukushima prefecture in 2011. — INTERNET

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1214)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1214) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A. W. P. T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
ORA BHUM VOY NO (298)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (298) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Cruise ship drifting after fire
off Philippines**

MANILA, 31 March—A cruise ship with about 1,000 people on board was drifting in waters south of the Philippines after a fire disabled its engines, the Philippine coast guard said Saturday. Five crew members were injured. The fire on the Azamara Quest started late Friday, a day after the ship left Manila for Sandakan, Malaysia, and was immediately put out, said coast guard spokesman Lt Cmdr Algier Ricafrente. He said there were no other details about the incident.

The ship was carrying 590 passengers and 411 crew members, he said. The ship's operator, Azamara Club Cruises, said in a statement that no passengers were injured in the fire, which was in one of the ship's engine rooms and was immediately extinguished. But five crew members suffered smoke inhalation, including one who was seriously injured and needed hospital care. Azamara Club Cruises is part of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd, which has been hit by accidents this year that have undermined its operations, including a cruise ship that capsized off the coast of Italy, killing 32 people.

Two Philippine coast guard vessels and a patrol boat were expected to reach the Azamara Quest late Saturday to offer assistance, Ricafrente said. The vessel was about 75 nautical miles southwest of the Philippines' Tubatuba Reef when the coast guard received the report of the fire early Saturday from a local ferry and a towage company in Manila. There was no direct contact with the ship's crew, Ricafrente said, adding that the coast guard would investigate why Philippine authorities did not receive any distress call during the fire. The cruise company's statement said the ship was running on emergency power in "calm seas" near Indonesia's Borneo Island.—*Internet*



A Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) cheerleader, performing on the scene of Beijing Ducks' clinching the first-ever title of the CBA league, draws eyeballs of audience and netizens because she owns the similar face with Shu Fanny, a Taiwan actress and a Golden Horse Award winner.—XINHUA



Visitors tour a bamboo park in Anji County, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 27 March, 2012.—XINHUA

**Broadband network expansion
in the pipeline**

BEIJING, 31 March—China is expected to have 20 million new broadband Internet subscribers this year and a total of 250 million subscribers by the end of 2015, the country's top industry regulator said on Friday. "The nation needs to improve broadband speed. Our aim is to install fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) broadband connections for 35 million families this year," said Industry and Information Technology Minister Miao Wei.

The announcement came after an investigation of two domestic telecom giants over alleged monopolistic practices in November. The broadband development plan is a part of China's 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15), which is to increase the country's average broadband speed to 20 megabytes per second by the end of 2015. China had 156 million Internet broadband users in 2011, 83 percent of the users' Internet speed exceeding 2MB/s. About 45 million families were covered by the FTTH network, and

the Internet surfing fee decreased by 30 percent compared with 2005.

However, Wu Hequan, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, said in an earlier report that the average download speed of China's broadband is 1.15MB/s, half of the global speed. China's three telecom carriers will implement the plan and invest more in the industry. As the major provider of China's Internet broadband infrastructure, China Telecom will invest 40 billion yuan (\$6.3 billion) to build the FTTH network this year, and attract 25 million new FTTH users, bringing the total number to 55 million, said Wang Xiaochu, chairman of China Telecom.—*Xinhua*



Britain's Queen Elizabeth has become a great-grandmother for the second time.—INTERNET

**US study forges link between
depression, sleep apnea**

WASHINGTON, 31 March—Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) and other symptoms of OSA are associated with probable major depression, regardless of factors like weight, age, sex or race, according to a new study released Friday from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There was no link between depression and snoring, according to the study. "Snoring, gasping or stopping breathing while asleep was associated with nearly all depression symptoms, including feeling hopeless and feeling like a failure," said Anne Wheaton, lead author of the study.

The study, appearing in the April issue of the journal *SLEEP*, is the first nationally representative sampling to examine this relationship, surveying 9,714 American adults. Previous studies have focused on smaller samples of specific populations. Wheaton, an epidemiologist with CDC, said the likelihood of depression increased with the reported frequency of snoring and/or instances when breathing stopped in the study.

She suggested screening for these disorders in the presence of the other could help address the high prevalence and underdiagnosis of sleep apnea and depression, especially if sleepiness is a chief complaint.

Snoring, gasping and pauses in breathing during sleep are all signs of OSA, a common form of sleep-disordered breathing. Six percent of men and three percent of women in the study reported having physician-diagnosed sleep apnea. OSA occurs when the muscles relax during sleep, causing soft tissue in the back of the throat to collapse and block the upper airway.—*Xinhua*

**Venezuelan authorities shut
down four radio stations**

CARACAS, 31 March—Venezuelan regulators shut down four radio stations on Friday for allegedly operating without licenses, including one run by a brother of a state governor on the outs with President Hugo Chavez. The four stations all operated in the eastern state of Monagas, the National Telecommunications Commission said in a statement.

One of them is owned by a brother of the Monagas governor, Jose Briceno, who charged that the government took the action in retribution for his recent criticism of some leaders of Chavez's party. But the Venezuelan Broadcast Industry Chamber, which in the past has criticized the closings of some other radio stations, said it supported the shutdown of these latest stations because they were operating illegally. Its statement said the broadcast regulatory agency's measures were "in defense of service providers that operate legally."

The chamber, which represents more than 400 broadcasters in Venezuela, has for years complained of unlicensed radio stations that interfere with the signals of properly registered stations. Enza Carbone, the chamber's president, told state television that the organization has supported regulators' shutdowns of more than 50 unlicensed stations over the past 10 months. The telecommunications commission said the four stations will be able to appeal the decision.

Internet

**Queen Elizabeth a
great-grandmother again**

LONDON, 31 March — Queen Elizabeth II has become a great-grandmother for the second time, Buckingham Palace announced on Friday. Isla Elizabeth Phillips was born Thursday at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital in Gloucester, southwest England, weighing seven pounds and four ounces (3.29 kilograms). She is the second child of Peter Phillips, 34, and his 33-year-old Canadian-born wife Autumn, following the birth of Savannah Phillips in December 2010. Phillips is Queen Elizabeth's oldest grandchild and the son of her only daughter, Princess Anne, the Princess Royal. Anne, 61, decided that her children would not bear royal titles and her son keeps a low profile, carrying out no royal duties. Queen Elizabeth's press secretary said the monarch, her husband Prince Philip, Anne, her first husband Mark Phillips and the mother's family had all been informed and are "delighted with the news".

The new baby is 13th in line to the throne. Queen Elizabeth, 85, is celebrating her diamond jubilee this year, marking her 60 years as a monarch. Buckingham Palace would not confirm if the middle name had specifically been chosen as a tribute.

Internet

**Diver killed
by shark
attack**

PERTH, 31 March—A scuba diver was killed in a shark attack Saturday morning off a beach in West Australia, police said. A police spokeswoman said the victim and his brother were diving off Stratham Beach, a 3 hours' drive south of Perth, *The Australian* reported. The brother was not hurt.

The victim's body was taken to the Port Geographe Marina near Busselton. The man was the first person to be killed by a shark in 2012 in Western Australia, *PerthNow* reported. There were fatal attacks in September and October last year, and a man who vanished during his daily swim in October is believed to have been killed by a great white shark.—*Internet*

Boy, 14, speaks seven languages



Bruce Baillie-Hamilton has been named the most multilingual child in the UK

A schoolboy who speaks seven languages has been named the most multilingual child in the UK. Bruce Baillie-Hamilton, 14, can speak Russian, Mandarin, Arabic, French, German, Spanish and English. He started learning French at the age of seven but fancied trying something

more difficult and chose a language with a different alphabet. He started Russian at the age of nine or 10 and then moved on to Mandarin and Arabic.

Bruce, from Callander near Stirling, has now been named the "Most Multilingual Child in Britain" after entering a competition run by publisher HarperCollins.

He conversed with six language experts via Skype to convince them of his ability. The teenager said: "I quite liked French and German at school so I wanted to try and expand my horizons so I started to learn Russian."

"After Russian I thought I may as well start something much harder so I decided to go for something without an

alphabet and picked Chinese because it doesn't really have one."

He has put his languages to use on his travels and found that local people appreciate it. He said: "I found that when you are in China and you can speak Chinese they are much more friendly and the change is dramatic."

Bruce began his studies at Beaconsfield School near Stirling, but last year moved to a school in Switzerland where he is further developing his flair for languages. He took a GCSE in Russian at the age of 12, and GCSEs in Arabic and Chinese when he was 13, as well as an AS level in Russian. Next on his list is the Lebanese dialect of Arabic which he may start studying in the future.



Beyonce, a miniature puppy, lies on a blanket in El Dorado Hills, California, on 29 March, 2012. Beyonce, who was born on 8 March after her mother, Casey, was taken off the streets of a California town, weighed less than 1 oz. (28.3 grams) at birth and could fit into a teaspoon. Her rescuers have submitted her to the Guinness World Records for a declaration as the world's tiniest rescue dog.

Man accused of stealing thousands of movie posters

Los Angeles County prosecutors have charged a San Fernando Valley man with stealing more than 3,000 movie posters worth more than \$450,000, including posters for "The Hunger Games." *The Los Angeles*

Times says Christian Eric Stevens snagged the posters from bus shelters to sell them online. He pleaded not guilty on Thursday to one count each of grand theft and receiving stolen property.

Los Angeles police say they purchased a poster online from the 36-year-old

Stevens before discovering a trove of posters stamped "not for resale" at his home. The thefts allegedly occurred in the San Fernando Valley from June 2011 until this week. Stevens is due to appear in court on 9 April. He faces a maximum of five years in prison if convicted.

For sale in Singapore: \$200,000 bottle of whisky

A whisky made to mark the 60th year on the throne of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is on sale in Singapore for a mere S\$250,000 (\$198,500) a bottle—and it may well find a buyer. No doubt it's a premium sip. Only 60 bottles of Diamond Jubilee were made by the Johnnie Walker unit of Diageo PLC from a blend of whiskies distilled in 1952. It's also a premium price for Asian aficionados at the month-long Master of Spirits II event featuring specialty wine and liquor put on by luxury travel retailer DFS Group, part of the LVMH empire of high-end goods and services. Singapore is the first stop this year for a series of DFS events highlighting a wide range of luxury offerings.

The city-state, home to the world's highest concentration of millionaires, has become a playground for the global jet-set with casinos, expensive shops, fine dining, top hotels and showrooms featuring Ferraris, Lamborghinis and other supercars. The same package - the vintage whisky in a crystal decanter with silver trimmings, two crystal glasses and a leather-bound booklet - is priced at 100,000 pounds (\$159,100) in Britain.

Singer Lewis weds for seventh time

Jerry Lee Lewis has wed for the seventh time in a ceremony this month in Mississippi, according to a newspaper report. The "Natchez Democrat" reports that the music legend married Judith Brown, his caregiver, on 9 March. Ms Brown

formerly was married to Mr Lewis's cousin, Rusty. Rusty's older sister, Myra Gale Brown, married Mr Lewis in 1957 when she was 13.

News Album

Yashji is a sharp person, says Katrina Kaif

MUMBAI, 31 March — Actress Katrina Kaif, who is shooting for Yash Chopra's untitled film in London, has said the veteran Bollywood filmmaker has a sharp mind. After a gap of eight years, Chopra has returned to direction with the Shah Rukh Khan-Katrina starrer romantic film, which is slated for Diwali release. "We had a shooting schedule in London...it was extremely nice. The weather was cold out there but we had a nice time," Katrina told reporters here last evening at the launch of a book based on one of her films, 'Rajneeti - The film and Beyond'.

"We think of Yashji as a senior and young at heart man. But you have to be on sets to understand how sharp he is. He picks up small things like something was disturbing me or something with my mood...he used to pick up all that... which no one else does. He is very special person." Shooting for the untitled film, which also stars Anushka Sharma, started in the third week of February in London.

Katrina also happened to injure herself on the sets of the film, which she thinks is a good luck sign. "I hurt myself on bike. While I was getting off the bike I hurt my leg as I had it on silencer. But in a way it is a good luck sign," Katrina said. "Every time I hurt myself during films...it turns out to be good thing."

Internet



Katrina Kaif is shooting for Yash Chopra's untitled film in London.
INTERNET



Meera Jasmine not in Sathyan Anthikad Movies

MUMBAI, 31 March — There were reports that Sathyan Anthikad's new Mohanlal starrer will be a comeback for Meera Jasmine. But the latest reports say that the director has cast a new face for the film. The last film by the team 'Innath Chinthavishayam' was not a good memory for Sathyan and Mohanlal.

Meera who was apparently arrogant at that time was regularly irregular in the sets. Even the senior actor like Mohanlal had to wait for a long time for the actress. This made the director furious and it was learned that Sathyan Anthikad had decided that he would not cast Meera in any of his future films.

If Meera who is toiling hard for a comeback to the industry could win the role in Sathyan-Mohanlal flick, it would be really a lottery for her.

Internet

Whitney Houston's mom says she's proud of her

NEWARK, 31 March — Cissy Houston says in her first interview since daughter Whitney's death that she's "very proud" of her and did the best she could raising her. Houston talked to My9 on Thursday night for an interview set to air Monday. The interview took place at New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, NJ, where Whitney first wowed a congregation as a girl and where her funeral was held 18 Feb.

Cissy Houston says her daughter "accomplished a whole lot in the short time that she had here" and "was a very wonderful person." She says she doesn't blame herself for what happened to her because she knows she did the best she could. Whitney Houston's death has been ruled an accidental drowning, with heart disease and cocaine use listed as contributing factors.

Internet



Singers Cissy Houston, left, and her daughter Whitney Houston.—INTERNET

Nayantara back to films!

MUMBAI, 31 March — After taking a break from work for nine long months, Nayantara formally started her second innings on Wednesday, by shooting for a Telugu film, which has Rana Daggubati in the lead role. The movie directed by Krish (of 'Vaanam' fame) was kick-

started in Hyderabad on Wednesday. After Nayantara completed her first shot, unit members greeted her, wishing all the best with the fresh innings.

Besides this project, Nayan has signed a Tamil flick to be directed by Boopathy Pandian. It will have

Tollywood's top hero Gopichand (the villain of 'Jayam') as the protagonist and the film will soon go on floors. Buzz is also that the 'Ayya' and 'Vallavan' actress will be sharing the screen space with Ajith in a flick to be helmed by Vishnuvardhan. Some sources also say she will feature in the Love Anthem being made by STR.—Internet



Rihanna has dismissed reports that she is dating "Two And A Half Men" star Ashton Kutcher.
REUTERS

I am single: Rihanna

LONDON, 31 March — Rihanna has dismissed reports that she is dating "Two And A Half Men" star Ashton Kutcher. The 24-year-old had sparked rumours of a romance with the star after she was outside of Kutcher's house at 4am on 22 March, the *Daily Mail* reported.

But she seemed upset when asked about her relationship status during the photocall for her movie Battleship here. "I'm happy and I'm single, if that's what you're really asking," Rihanna said. Kutcher is currently single following his split from Demi Moore amid claims that the actor cheated on his wife with another woman.

Reuters

Top-ranked Yani Tseng storms to Kraft Nabisco lead

RANCHO MIRAGE, 31 March—After taking one round off from her utter domination of the LPGA Tour to get rested and reinvigorated, Yani Tseng is right back in her usual spot atop the leaderboard. The world's top-ranked golfer shot her second straight 68 at the Kraft Nabisco Championship on Friday, moving into a one-stroke lead over Haegi Kang after the second round of the season's first major.

Lindsey Wright (71) and Sun Young Yoo (69) were third at 6 under, while Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak was three

strokes back in fifth midway through the only major she has never won. Pak shot a 69 to move to 5 under, joined by Karin Sjodin and World No 2 Na Yeon Choi. Yet everybody in the talent-packed field realizes they're only chasing Tseng, who has won the tour's last two tournaments.

"She's a force to be reckoned with," said Australia's Wright, who shared the lead with Tseng for five holes. "I think it's great to have her up there again, but it's also great to be able to challenge her and try to give her a run for her money." After finishing two strokes back on Thursday, Tseng produced yet another relentless round of long drives and steady putting. The 23-year-old Taiwanese star has led nine of the LPGA Tour's last 10 rounds, and the five-time major winner has won three of five tournaments this year and six of 12 overall.

Internet



Yani Tseng

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger receives UEFA ban & fine

LONDON, 31 March—Arsene Wenger has been banned for three matches and fined 40,000 euros (£33,000) for his conduct in Arsenal's Champions League defeat by AC Milan. Wenger confronted referee Damir Skomina after his side's 3-0 second-leg win at Emirates Stadium, which could not prevent them losing 4-3 on aggregate. "It's not justified and I will straight away appeal," said Wenger, who has three days to lodge his complaint. The Frenchman has now received three UEFA bans in the space of a year. This latest punishment comes after he took issue with Skomina on the pitch after the final whistle.

He also criticised the Slovenian official in his post-match comments, claiming too many free-kicks were awarded to Milan. Speaking before hearing of his reprimand, Wenger commented: "I believe that they have transformed UEFA competition referees to be untouchable icons, where you cannot even have a word. "The only thing they understand after the game is the report. "I believe that when you have 25 years consecutively in Europe you can still ask the referee that you can have some discussion with him. It is very difficult to understand."



Arsene Wenger has been banned for three matches and fined 40,000 euros (£33,000) for his conduct in Arsenal's Champions League defeat by AC Milan. — INTERNET

UEFA gave Wenger a one-match ban for confronting referee Massimo Busacca following Arsenal's European exit to Barcelona last season. The Gunners boss was then handed a further two-match suspension in August for violating his Barcelona ban. That was the result of him communicating with the Arsenal bench from the stands during Arsenal's Champions League play-off tie against Udinese. "The first time was not justified," Wenger added. "The second time was a joke because they told me what to do and afterwards they told me 'no, sorry, that was wrong'."

Internet



Reigning champ Novak Djokovic beat a stubborn 21st-seeded Juan Monaco 6-0, 7-6 (7/5) to book a re-match of the 2009 Miami Masters final with Scotland's Andy Murray.

INTERNET

Djokovic sets up Miami finals clash with Murray

KEY BISCAYNE, 31 March — Reigning champ Novak Djokovic beat a stubborn 21st-seeded Juan Monaco 6-0, 7-6 (7/5) to book a re-match of the 2009 Miami Masters final with Scotland's Andy Murray. Murray, who got the better of Djokovic in the 2009 title match, reached the final on a walkover when world No 2 Rafael Nadal pulled out of their semi-final with a sore left knee.

World No 1 Djokovic on

Friday breezed through his first set in just 27 minutes and appeared to be cruising to a victory when Monaco got hot in a marathon second set which lasted one hour, 36 minutes. It marked the second day in a row Djokovic struggled to finish off an opponent and needed a tiebreaker to clinch it. In the quarter-finals against fifth seed David Ferrer, Djokovic easily won the first set 6-2 but then stumbled down the

stretch before before winning 7-6 (7/1) in the second set.

"As I did yesterday in the quarter-finals, I started very strong, just going for the shots, being very aggressive, then I just wasn't able to close it out," Djokovic said. "It was a very similar match to the one against Ferrer. "All the credit to him (Monaco) for staying in the match, fighting and coming back," Djokovic said.

Internet

Real Madrid continue title pursuit against Osasuna

MADRID, 31 March—Having steadied the ship following two consecutive draws with commanding wins in La Liga and in Europe, Real Madrid begin a crucial run of games with a tricky trip to Pamplona to face Osasuna. After Barcelona beat Sevilla a fortnight ago, Barca coach Pep Guardiola declared that there was no way his side could beat Madrid to the league title.

But then two late free-kicks from Santi Cazorla and

Marcos Senna, for Malaga and Villarreal respectively, saw their sides draw against an increasingly nervy Real.

A sense of trepidation at the Bernabeu was eased by a 5-1 thrashing of Real Sociedad and then, in mid-week, Karim Benzema hit his second brace in a matter of days as Jose Mourinho's side took a big step towards qualifying for the Champions League semi-finals with a 3-0 away victory over APOEL in Cyprus.

The gap at the top is six points but Real have some big games ahead of them, with the visit to sixth-placed Osasuna coming before a home clash with Valencia, the Madrid derby with Atletico and the Clasico away to Barcelona.

Pamplona is traditionally a tough place to visit, and Osasuna inflicted a damaging 1-0 defeat on Madrid there last season. Jose Luis Mendilbar's side have also been one of the surprise packages of this



Real Madrid's Kaka during a Champions League match on 27 March. — INTERNET

campaign and have lost just once in their last nine games, a run which included a 3-2 home win against Barcelona.

Internet

Stilian Petrov watches as Chelsea beat Aston Villa in six-goal thriller

LONDON, 31 March—On a chilly and sombre day in the Midlands, Chelsea crept closer to Champions League qualification next season – that is, if they do not win the competition this time around – with a nerve-jangling victory over a young and eager yet brittle Aston Villa side. They threw away a two-goal lead, allowing Villa to draw level, but two late goals crowned an entertaining encounter after the desperate news at Villa Park the previous day.

The match had been overshadowed by the news 24 hours earlier when it was revealed that Stilian Petrov, the Villa captain, had been diagnosed with acute leukaemia. Poignant reminders were everywhere, with the players of both sides – during their pre-match warm-ups – wearing T-shirts on which were printed "Our Thoughts Are With You".

A statement was also read out on Petrov's behalf over the PA system, in which he said: "I am sure I will beat this illness and I am determined to do this. For me, football will have to take a back seat for a while but I will continue to support my team-mates."

Both sets of fans applauded and Petrov, with his family in an executive box, responded in kind. However, Villa's response once the game had started was sluggish and Chelsea almost went in front early on. But Fernando Torres, starting for the fifth time in the eight matches under Roberto Di Matteo, the interim first-team coach, drove against goalkeeper Shay Given.

Bayern win in Nuremberg to boost title hopes

MUNICH, 31 March—Bayern Munich boosted their title hopes when Arjen Robben gave them a 1-0 win at Nuremberg in the Bundesliga on Saturday, closing the gap on leaders Borussia Dortmund to three points.

The Dutchman struck in the second half as the Bavarians, chasing a Bundesliga, Cup and Champions League treble, took advantage of Dortmund's slip-up on Friday when they were held 4-4 at home by VfB Stuttgart.

Cologne dropped into the relegation playoff place after losing 2-1 to fellow strugglers Augsburg while two other relegation candidates both won.

Hamburg SV ending a losing run with a 1-0 win at hapless bottom club Kaiserslautern and Freiburg continued their impressive climb out of danger by winning 2-0 at Bayer Leverkusen.

Werder Bremen slumped to a 3-0 home defeat by Mainz 05.—Reuters



Chelsea's Daniel Sturridge scores the opening goal against Aston Villa at Villa Park. —INTERNET

The Spaniard also played a role in the ninth minute, when Chelsea did go in front. Salomon Kalou dinked in a cross from the right, Torres touched it on to Juan Mata – who appeared offside – and collected the return pass. Given denied Torres again but the ball squirmed to Daniel Sturridge, who guided in his 12th goal of the season from close range.

More applause for Petrov broke out in the 19th minute – he wears the No 19 shirt – and Villa almost equalised. Barry Bannan swung in a corner and James Collins nodded narrowly over. Mata could have doubled Chelsea's lead but his clever chip struck a post. Back came Villa, with Gabriel Agbonlahor forcing a fine save from Petr Cech. Chelsea, though, have grown resilient since Di Matteo replaced André Villas-Boas – albeit on a temporary basis – and drove forward again in the 51st minute. Again there seemed to be a hint of wrongdoing, with Branislav Ivanovic perhaps using a hand to help control Mata's corner before he planted it into the net.

If Di Matteo thought Chelsea were coasting, he was wrong. Villa fought back with two goals in three minutes, with James Collins heading in powerfully from Eric Lichaj's long throw and then Marc Albrighton crossing for Lichaj to tuck in the leveller.—Internet

Premier League result

Everton	2 - 0	West Bromwich
Fulham	2 - 1	Norwich C.
Queens Park R.	2 - 1	Arsenal
Wigan Athletic	2 - 0	Stoke C.
Wolverhampton	2 - 3	Bolton W.

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-4-12 09:30 am ~ 2-4-12 09:30 am) MST

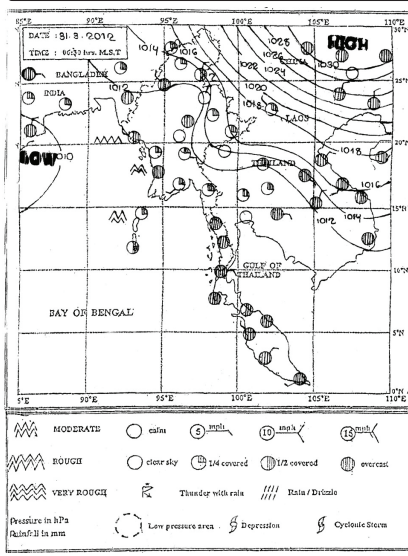
- News
- The Treasures in a small village (Part - II)
- News
- Youth & Addiction
- News
- Song
- News
- Those who never give up (Aung Thamardi Jewellery Shop)
- News
- Demo's Birthday
- News
- Youth & Career
- Director.....Video
- Editor (Part - 2)
- News
- How to cast vote?
- Myanmar Movie "Invisible Bond "

MYANMAR TV

(1-4-2012)(Sunday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Metta Bhavana by Mingun Sayadaw Phayagyi
- 7:55 am
- 2. Health Programme
- 8:05 am
- 3. (38) Phyar Mingalars
- 8:40 am
- 4. Dance of Thin Gyan Festival
- 12:30 pm
- 5. How it's Works
- 1:00 pm
- 6. Myanmar Movies
- 4:45 pm
- 7. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Fourth Year (Law)
- 5:30 pm
- 8. Sing & Enjoy
- 7:50 pm
- 9. A Ngar Gat Myanmar Pyi (Rain Moe, Ko Ye, Su Pan Htwa, Wine Su Kaing Thein, Su Mon)
- 8:00 pm
- 10. News
- 11. A Ngar Gat Myanmar Pyi (Rain Moe, Ko Ye, Su Pan Htwa, Wine Su Kaing Thein, Su Mon)
- 12. Weather Report
- 13. New Melody

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 1st April, 2012

Sl. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For 1 tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	35/95	23/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	32/90	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
3	Kayah	39/102	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
4	Chan	35/77	11/52	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	36/97	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	37/99	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
7	Tamathay	35/95	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	36/97	24/75	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	39/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	39/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	37/99	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
12	Yangon	35/95	23/73	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	30/86	24/75	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	29/84	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	33/91	13/55	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	32/90	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyarwady	35/95	23/73	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	39/102	22/72	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	23/73	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	39/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	

Summary of observations at 09:30 to MST on today

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (27°C) to (42°C) above March average temperatures in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kachin, Shan (Northern and Southern) States, (25°C) to (40°C) above March average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, Chan and Kayah States and about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chaik (42°C) and Myingyan (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was 40.0mm at Chaik.

Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURE: According to the observations at (12:30hrs M.S.T) today, the tropical storm 'PAXIAL' over South China Sea, it's centre at about (230) miles Southeast of Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam). It is move to West wards and forecast to cross Southern Vietnam coast commencing noon today.

Bay Inference

Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

State of the Sea

Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Dortmund held by Stuttgart in eight-goal frenzy



Stuttgart's Austrian striker Martin Harnik (L) clashes with Dortmund's goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller (R) during their German first division Bundesliga football in Dortmund. The match ended in a 4-4 draw.

take a second-half lead, Dortmund went back ahead in the 87th minute when Croatia midfielder Ivan Perisic scored, less than three minutes after coming off the bench. But Gentner broke Dortmund hearts with his team's fourth goal deep into added time.

"We should never have allowed the game to slip away after taking a 2-0 lead," fumed Dortmund goal-scorer Mats Hummels. "To concede the equaliser in the last few seconds was a bitter way to finish the game." Despite the frenzied finish, defending champions Dortmund still extended their unbeaten run to 22 games.

"That was a crazy match when the lead changes hands so many times, I have never seen anything like it," said Dortmund coach Jurgen Klopp. "We let it slip out of our hands after we took a 2-0 lead. Stuttgart put us under pressure and deserved the draw, I am just happy we managed to get a point." Second-placed Bayern Munich can halve Dortmund's six-point lead when they play Nuremberg on Saturday with the two teams on a collision course to meet at Dortmund's Signal Iduna Park on April 11 in the match which could well decide the league.

INTERNET

STUTTGART, 31 March— VfB Stuttgart earned a dramatic 4-4 draw at German league leaders Borussia Dortmund on Friday when striker Christian Gentner hit a 92nd-minute equalizer. In a breath-taking final 15 minutes, the lead changed hands three times. "It's worth being a coach for such an amazing game," beamed Stuttgart coach Bruno Labbadia as his team went fifth. "It is nice when your team doesn't give up when they are up against the German champions."

After Stuttgart scored three goals without reply to

Internet

Answers for Yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

1	G	R	A	P	H	6	A	R	A	B	10	S	A	R	13						
14	R	O	G	U	E	15	T	O	P	I	16	O	P	E	N						
17	A	G	A	M	A	21	M	A	N	G	19	A	N	I	T	E					
20	P	E	T	A	R	22	M	E	A	T	23	A	R	M							
24	P	R	E	S	T	25	S	I	M	O	26	P	R	I	O						
27	A	S	S	E	A	T	28	C	Y	P	29	R	I	A	N						
31	E	N	N	U	I	32					33	I	S	L	E						
34	A	R	T	S	A	N	D	36	C	R	38	A	F	T	S						
39	S	P	E	C				40	O	L	I	V	E								
41	W	E	T	H	E	R	S	43	A	N	I	46	P	S	48						
48	E	R	R					50	F	E	C	51	U	N	D	52	A	T	I	O	N
53	E	T	A					54	T	H	A	N	55	S	T	E	R	O	L		
56	P	U	I	S	S	A	N	C	E	58	I	R	A	T	E						
60	E	R	N	E				61	S	T	A	R	62	O	C	T	E	T			
63	R	E	S	T				64	H	Y	P	E	65	N	E	E	D	S			

Cash assistance provided to war veterans

MONGHSAT, 31 March—Monghsat Township War Veterans Organization presented cash assistance to its members at the hall of District General Administration Department on 23 March afternoon.

Col Aung Thu Oo of the local station delivered an opening speech.

Chairman of the Township War Veterans Organization U Khin Maung Kyaw explained the accomplishment of the organization and purpose of giving cash assistance.

Officials then presented K25,000 each to 117 members of the Township War Veterans Organization.—Myanma Alin

Pressure increasing on faltering PSG

PARIS, 31 March— After several poor performances in recent weeks, the pressure is on Ligue 1 title favourites Paris Saint-Germain to get back to winning ways again when they travel to Nancy.

PSG have gone three matches without a win between league and cup, and last weekend's draw with Bordeaux saw them surrender top spot in the table on goal difference to Montpellier, who refuse to give up the chase for a debut title despite having just a fraction of the capital side's financial power.

The move to bring in Carlo Ancelotti as coach during the winter break will only be justified if PSG end the season on top of the table, and midfielder Mohamed Sissoko knows that a significant improvement is required if they are not to slip up again this weekend on Nancy's artifi-



CSC ISSUED: The presentation of citizenship scrutiny cards was held in North Montlekhsaunggon Ward in Sangyoung Township of Yangon West District in Yangon Region on 22 March. Staff Officer U Kyaw Soe Khaing of Township Immigration and National Registration Department presents the cards to the eligible citizens individually.—MYANMA ALIN

NLM-ner Joke

Big chess tournament

The big chess tournament was taking place at the Plaza in New York. After the first day's competition, many of the winners were sitting around in the foyer of the hotel talking about their matches and bragging about their wonderful play. After a few drinks they started getting louder and louder until finally, the desk clerk couldn't take any more and kicked them out.

The next morning the Manager called the clerk into his office and told him there had been many complaints about his being so rude to the hotel guests....instead of kicking them out, he should have just asked them to be less noisy. The clerk responded, "I'm sorry, but if there's one thing I can't stand, it's chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

through a bad patch and we need to turn things around quickly."

"We know that it will be very difficult. We are currently going through a spell where we are not playing at our best but everyone is aware of the situation," said the former Valencia, Liverpool and Juventus player.

"We know what needs to be done. Our objective is to hold on to top spot. "We need to prove that we have not turned into a bad side overnight. We are going

Sissoko - who was born and brought up in France but is experiencing his first-ever season playing at the top level - also dismissed claims that the squad has struggled to get used to the demands made of them by the new coach.

"Ancelotti brought a lot of ideas with him when he arrived, but it is up to us to adapt," he said.

Internet

UEC Chairman receives Asia and the Pacific Division Department of Political Affairs Director and party of UN Mission

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received Director Mr Tamrat Samuel of Asia and the Pacific Division Department of Political Affairs and party of UN Mission on By-election who currently arrived here to observe the 1st April by-election 2012 to be held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the hall of the Residence of the Union Election Commission Chairman, here, this

afternoon.

Present at the call together with the Chairman of the Union Election Commission were the secretary of the Union Election Commission and officials.

At the call, they cordially exchanged views on preparations for holding the by-election, canvassing of political parties and participation of the political parties in the by-election in line with the law.

MNA

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye receives a delegation led by Director Mr Tamrat Samuel of Asia and the Pacific Division Department of Political Affairs, UN Mission on By-election.

MNA



Domestic science course concludes

YANGON, 31 March—The course No. 2/2012 of Domestic Science Training School in Bahan Township, Yangon Region was concluded yesterday, with an address by Deputy Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Aung Tun Khaing.

The school is going to open summer special course (April) on 2 April covering tailoring men's and women's wear, knitting, making coat, trouser, fruit jams, snacks, Myanmar traditional snacks, Chinese foods, ikebana (basic, advanced) and mechanized knitting.—MNA

Summer swimming, Wushu courses conclude

YANGON, 31 March—The summer swimming course 2012 of Kokkine Swimming Club was concluded at the training hall of the swimming pool in Bahan Township here this morning.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thuang Htaik spoke on the occasion.

He presented certificates to the trainees and prizes to outstanding trainees.

Likewise, the summer Wushu course was concluded at the training hall of the Myanmar Wushu Federation at Padomma Sports Ground in Sangyoung Township.

The trainees and new generation athletes demonstrated their brilliant skills.—MNA

Bees 'self-medicate' when infected with some pathogens

SCIENCE DAILY, 31 March—Research from North Carolina State University shows that honey bees "self-medicate" when their colony is infected with a harmful fungus, bringing in increased amounts of antifungal plant resins to ward off the pathogen. "The colony is willing to expend the energy and effort of its worker bees to collect these resins," says Dr. Michael Simone-Finstrom, a postdoctoral research scholar in NC State's Department of Entomology and lead author of a paper describing the research. "So,



When faced with pathogenic fungi, bees line their hives with more propolis - the waxy, yellow substance seen here.

clearly this behavior has evolved because the benefit to the colony exceeds the cost."

Wild honey bees normally line their hives with propolis, a mixture of plant resins and wax that has antifungal and antibacterial properties. Domesticated honey bees also use propolis, to fill in cracks in their hives. However, researchers found that, when faced with a fungal threat, bees bring in significantly more propolis — 45 percent more, on average. The bees also physically removed infected larvae that had been parasitized by the fungus and were being used to create fungal spores.

Internet

Man City comeback falls short as title slips away



Sebastian Larsson scored twice for Sunderland.

LONDON, 31 March—Manchester City failed to move back to the top of the Premier League table and must now rely on results elsewhere if they are to win the title this season, after Sunderland ruined their impeccable home record with an incredible 3-3

draw at Eastlands. City could have applied pressure to rivals United ahead of Monday's trip to Blackburn had they maintained their 100 per cent home record, but goals from Sebastian Larsson (2) and Nicklas Bendtner put Sunderland 3-1 up, before

Mario Balotelli and Aleksandar Kolarov rescued a point for the hosts.

Sunderland made much the better start at the Etihad Stadium and City were initially grateful for a crucial last-ditch tackle from Micah Richards, denying Stephane Sessegnon a clear goalscoring opportunity, before moments later Craig Gardner fired wastefully wide.

City then should have led when Balotelli missed a free header from four yards, but instead it was Sunderland who struck first through a classy strike from Larsson. Faced with a defender on the edge of the area, Larsson simply opened his body and curled a silky finish beyond the unsighted Joe Hart for 1-0.—Internet

Dams and reservoirs distributing potable and irrigation water in Kachin and Shan States



PAGE 5

Nay Pyi Taw staff quarters farm awards presented

PAGE 8

Diplomats, observers, reporters from news agencies to visit and study constituencies on by-election day

PAGE 2