NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo this afternoon made an inspection tour of preparations for hosting the XXVII SEA Games 2013.

On arrival at the briefing hall of Athletes Village Construction Project in Nay Pyi Taw, the Vice-President was welcomed by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and departmental heads.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chan reported on construction of 100 buildings at Athletes Village for accommodation of about 7000 athletes and progress of works.

Chairman of Max Myanmar Co U Zaw Zaw and Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Nyan Tun submitted reports on progress in construction of Zabuthiri Modern Stadium and Zeyathiri Modern Stadium, construction of buildings for indoor venues and related buildings, and progress of swimming pool.

Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan gave supplementary reports on preparations for hosting the SEA Games.

They also presented reports on the plans to seek recognition for Zabuthiri and Zeyathiri modern stadiums from FIFA, World Track & Field Federation and Asian Football Confederation.

After hearing the reports, the Vice-President instructed them to complete construction of the buildings in early 2013 meeting set standards and quality, test the sports buildings by holding local sports competitions and repair them if necessary, systematically spend money on.

MLF donates cash, books to village libraries from Yangon South District

YANGON, 17 March—Myanmar Libraries Foundation donated cash and books to rural libraries in townships of Yangon South District, taking place at Shin Saw Pu Hall in Thanlyin yesterday morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Sai Thaw Win of Yangon South District made a speech.

Chairman of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Maung Maung explained the purpose of books donation and presented K 14 million for 30 village libraries from Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Thongwa, Kayan, Twantay, Kungyangon townships and Tadar Sub-Township administrators.

Vice-Chairman-2 of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Executive Committee member of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Chit Naing (Chit Naing-Psychology) handed over 7500 books and publications to the Deputy Commissioner and explained advantages of the literary.

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—The 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium, organized by Myanmar Gems Emporium Organizing Central Committee, continued for the ninth day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, today.

Local and foreign gem merchants checked jade lots displayed on the respective areas for sales through competitive bidding system.

Today, a total of 24 lots of jade were sold through competitive bidding system. Sales of jade lots will continue up to 18 March.

Patron of the Central Committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik in the afternoon viewed sales of jade lots through competitive bidding system at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.—MNA
Union Transport Minister pays respects to 1555 older persons in Natogyi

NAW PYI TAW, 17 March—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung met local people from 55 villages in Natogyi Township from 11 to 14 March and explained education, health, economic sectors and rural development and poverty alleviation. During his tour, the Union minister paid respects to 1555 older persons from villages and eight wards of Natogyi.

At Alekyaung Pariyatti Monastery in Natogyi, he met 29 students who will sit for matriculation examination and presented cash assistance and relief for them.—MNA

Union Health Minister receives guests from ICRC, 3 DF

NAW PYI TAW, 17 March—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Mr Georges Pacisianu of the ICRC and party and Final Evaluation Team Leader Dr Greet Peersman of 3DF and party at his office separately on 14 March. The Union Minister and the ICRC team held talks on programmes to train skilled workers and provide modern equipment and inputs for artificial limbs production in Myanmar, and proficiency training courses at home and abroad from docs and skilled workers.

ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACC) National Coordinators Meeting and related meetings held

NAW PYI TAW, 17 March—Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw attended ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee-National Coordinators Meeting and related meetings held at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia yesterday. The deputy minister also attended the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee and Japan meeting the same day.

The ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee-ASEAN National Coordinators Meeting deliberated on collaboration among the ASEAN National Coordinators, ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee and the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in implementing the master plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and its priority projects, which was adopted by the ASEAN leaders at the 17th ASEAN Summit held in Hanoi, Vietnam in October, 2010. The meeting also discussed among others, on coordination with dialogue partners, development partners, international and regional institutions and resource mobilization for the implementation of the master plan on ASEAN Connectivity. The deputy minister briefed the meeting on the national projects and activities as well as initiatives to enhance capacity building and collaboration among the relevant ministries pertaining to the implementation of the master plan on ASEAN Connectivity. The deputy minister was accompanied by officials from the permanent mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar-ASEAN. He arrived back here today.—MNA

Measurement standards in Myanmar workshop held

YANGON, 17 March—A seminar and workshop on “measurement standards in Myanmar” jointly organized by National Institute of Metrology (Thailand), Japan International Coordination Agency and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, with the assistance of Myanmar Science and Technology Research Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology took place for the second time from 14 to 16 March.

Vice-President of the UMCCU Taw Min Win, Deputy Director-General U Win Khaing Moe of Myanmar Science and Technology Research Department and JICA Resident Representative Mr Masahiko Tanaka spoke at the opening of the workshop which was attended by 130 trainees.

From electoral democracy to liberal democracy at Kyaw Win’s talks

YANGON, 17 March—Jointly organized by Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association and sponsored by Ayeawady Peanut Oil writer Kyaw Win will give talks under the topic of “from electoral democracy to liberal democracy” at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Bayintnaung Street, West Gyogon, Insein Township here at 2 pm on 24 March. Anyone interested may attend the talks.—MNA

Vice-Chairman-2 of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Executive Committee member of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Chit Naing (Chit Naing-Psychology) presents 7500 books and publications to Deputy Commissioner U Sai Thaw Win of Yangon South District.

(Yayons on page 1) MNA

2012 Myanmar CP Open Tennis Tournament kicks off

YANGON, 17 March—Under the arrangements of the Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Tennis Federation organized the 2012 Myanmar CP Open Tennis Tournament with the sponsorship of Myanmar CP Livestock Co Ltd at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, this morning.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Huik, President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Aung Maw Thein and Adviser to Myanmar CP Livestock Co Ltd U Soe Lwin cut the ribbon to open the tournament. In the debut, a total of 25 matches were held. The tournament continues at 8.30 am daily.—MNA

2 THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 18 March, 2012
Alleged Afghanistan ‘shooter’ arrives in US

CHICAGO, 17 March—A US soldier who allegedly shot and killed 16 civilians in Afghanistan arrived at a US military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, late Friday after a flight from Kuwait, US media reported. The soldier, identified Friday as US Army Staff Sergeant Robert Bales, had served three combat tours in Iraq, and was on his first deployment to Afghanistan.

Bales allegedly left his base in the southern province of Kandahar before sunrise Sunday, entered an Afghan village and opened fire, killing men, women and children. The incident has plunged US-Afghan relations into the deepest crisis since the 2001 US-led invasion.

The US military has not officially released the soldier’s name, nor charged him with a crime yet. Bales is expected to be held at Fort Leavenworth as army investigators seek to learn more about the tragic events.

No early US troop exit from Kabul

Aboard Air Force One, 17 March—US President Barack Obama and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai reaffirmed that US troops would leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014, despite calls for an earlier withdrawal.

The two leaders spoke by phone Friday and reaffirmed they were committed to the agreed timetable “in which Afghan forces would complete the process of transition and have full responsibility for security across the country by the end of 2014,” the White House said in a statement.

Karzai, in Thursday talks with US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta, had insisted international forces should leave Afghan villages and be “relocated in their bases” and that Afghanistan is ready to take responsibility for security.

Karzai gave no timeline other than saying NATO should hand over to Afghan forces in 2013. In Friday’s phone call, Obama agreed to resolve Karzai’s concerns over night raids as the two leaders said they would discuss complaints about NATO troops in villages.

Russia: Iraqi security forces improving

MOSCOW, 17 March—Conditions in Iraq haven’t worsened since US combat troops left the country in December, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said Friday.

Bogdanov said there are problems but security forces are doing a better job of dealing with them,”RIA Novosti reported.

“Iraqi law enforcement structures have improved and are fighting terrorism and criminals,” he said. “We consider that the government will be in control of the situation in the country, which will allow Iraqi residents to get back to normal life.”

Russia is available to help develop policy concerning regional issues and problems, he said. Iraq is preparing to host the Arab League Summit at the end of March.

Bogdanov called the summit “a symbolic event that will confirm the return of Iraq to the family of Arab nations and restore its active role in international relations.”

Bin Laden plotted to kill Obama before his death

WASHINGTON, 17 March—Terror mastermind Osama bin Laden ordered his al-Qaeda network to organize special cells in Afghanistan and Pakistan to attack the aircraft of US President Barack Obama and Gen David Petraeus, who commanded the US forces in Afghanistan at the time, US reports said Friday.

The Washington Post quoted administration officials as saying the plot was discovered in documents taken from bin Laden’s compound by US forces on 2 May, the night he was killed. They also said the plot was never a serious threat.

The man bin Laden picked to carry out the attacks was Pakistani terrorist Iyaz Kashmiri. A month after bin Laden’s death, Kashmiri was killed in a US drone attack.

However, the Post said the plot “was probably bluster,” since al-Qaeda apparently lacked the weapons to shoot down US aircraft, and US analysts don’t see evidence that these plots have materialized.

Rockets fly after Jihad-Israel cease-fire

JERUSALEM, 17 March—Israeli forces and those of Islamic Jihad fired rockets at each other after a cease-fire was declared between the two sides, officials said.

The cease-fire between Israel and the Islamic Jihad, negotiated by Egypt, went into effect 1 April following four days of rocket attacks on southern Israel, the Palestinian Mu`in News Agency reported.

Israel broke the truce Wednesday when it flew warplanes that shelled northern and southern Gaza Strip. Palestinians responded by firing four rockets at southern Israel. No group has claimed responsibility for any of the attacks.

The leader of the Islamic Jihad, Ahmad-Mu`alla, said his group is committed to a cease-fire with Israel, but they would retaliate for attacks on Gaza, The Jerusalem Post reported.

“We don’t trust the occupation but we trust our steadfastness and resistance,” he said.

We cannot be quiet during any aggression on the Palestinian people,” Mu`alla said, adding, “The resistance is ready to respond to any Israeli attack.”

Ten killed, five injured in northern Nigeria overnight attacks

KADUNA, 17 March—Ten people were killed and five others severely injured in three overnight attacks by gunmen in north west Nigeria’s Kaduna State.

A witness, Sunday Amos, who claimed to have escaped death by the whickers told Xinhua late on Friday that the suspected gunmen numbering 20 raided three villages in Chikun local government area.

He said a Christian cleric identified as Innocent Chukwuemeka Mari, in charge of the Assemblies of God Church, was among those killed in the attacks that lasted till the early hours of Friday. The gunmen also razed the church building before moving on to another village.

According to the witness, the attackers shot indiscriminately at the villagers and at the same time set many houses in the villages on fire as residents fled.

“The five injured persons during the raid had since been admitted at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria, for treatment,” he added.

State police spokesperson Aminu Lawan confirmed the incident to Xinhua, saying he was still awaiting details of the incident. “We have deployed our officers in the troubled area,” he said. —Xinhua

Wreckage of a motorcycle is seen on the ground at the scene of a bomb explosion in Kandahar south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 14 March, 2012. A delegation investigating Sunday’s shooting killing civilians in Panjwai, Kandahar by a US soldier was meeting in the southern city of Kandahar on Wednesday when a bomb hidden in a motorcycle exploded 600 yards away.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 18 March, 2012

Picture taken on 15 March, 2012 shows Blue Ridge warship on the waters in Hong Kong, south China. The USS Blue Ridge, flagship for the Commander of the US Navy’s 7th Fleet, started Thursday its six-day port visit to Hong Kong.—Xinhua

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iPhone hit Instagram heads to Android smartphones

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 March—The makers of an Instagram photo-sharing application wildly popular on Apple gadgets are tailoring a version for smartphones powered by Android software.

Instagram co-founder Kevin Systrom provided a glimpse of the Android “app” to technology trend-setters at a South By Southwest Interactive conference that wraps up on Tuesday in the Texas capital of Austin.

The application tuned to Apple’s iPhones, iPads, and iPod touch devices has been downloaded more than 27 million times since the first version of Instagram was released in late 2010 by the San Francisco startup, according to Systrom.

The free mini-programme lets people give classic looks to square photos using “filters” and then share them to Twitter, Facebook or other social networks. Apple looks to square photos using “filters” and then share them to Systrom.

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Nasa's space shuttle “Atlantis” is towed into Orbiter Processing Facility 2 following completion of the space shuttle’s final mission at the Kennedy Space Center on 21 July, 2011. Atlantis was powered down and “safed” prior to being put on display at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Atlantis completed her 33rd and the shuttle programme’s 135th and final mission with a good landing. Atlantis will be the last orbiter to leave the Kennedy Space Centre, making a short journey down the road to the Visitor Complex in November. Endeavour, currently in residence at Orbiter Processing Facility 2, is expected to be ferried to Los Angeles in September for display at the city’s California Science Centre.

Robots play musical chairs in Florida

CAPE CANAVERAL, 17 March—NASA says two of its retired space shuttles are swapping places at Florida’s Kennedy Space Centre as part of ongoing preparations to display them in museums.

Shuttles Discover and Atlantis will swap places, with Atlantis moving from the Vehicle Assembly Building to Orbiter Processing Facility 1, passing Discovery along the way, Florida Today reported Friday.

Discovery’s exit from a shuttle processing hangar will be its last before a ferry flight to Washington’s Dulles International Airport, planned for 17 April, for display at the National Air and Space Museum’s Udvar-Hazy Centre next to the airport.

The proximity of the two shuttles, with 488 million years between them, “is a significant finding,” the researchers said.—INTERNET

Robotics in record-distance ocean swim

HELSINKI, 17 March—Four wave-powered robots have set a record by swimming more than 3,200 nautical miles across the Pacific Ocean, their US-based developers said.

Built by Liquid Robotics, the PacX Wave Gliders are taking part in a project to gather data about the composition and quality of seawater.

The first leg of their transoceanic swim from San Francisco to Hawaii took four months and they are expected to cover 9,000 nautical miles by their journey’s end.

They were launched in San Francisco harbour on 17 Nov, 2011. The robots consist of a floating upper part, shaped like a surfboard, connected by a cable to a lower assembly that has fins and a keel. They have no fuel or engine, instead converting energy from the movement of ocean waves into forward motion.

Solar panels installed on the upper surface of the power sensors that take readings every 10 minutes of the surrounding seawater.

“I have no doubt new ocean discoveries, insights, and applications will emerge from the PacX data set,” Edward Lu, chief of innovative applications at Liquid Robotics, told the BBC.

After a short stopover in Hawaii, the robots will split up, with two going on to Japan and two to Australia, crossing the equator.—INTERNET

Dropbox adds new file and image features

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 March—Dropbox, the US online data storage service, says it has launched a major redesign, simplifying file management tasks and adding a new video and photo viewer.

A new user interface includes an “action bar” that lets users sort files by name, date, size and type, Mashable reported Friday.

Click on a file brings new additional options, allowing users to download, delete, rename, move or copy a file from the action bar.

A new viewer lets users view video and photo content in full-screen mode, but photos and videos now also have thumbnails, which makes them easier to preview, Dropbox said.

This redesign is a first step in a complete overhaul of the service, Dropbox said, with more changes and new features coming in the “next few months.”—INTERNET

Egypt finds suggest ancient royal funeral

TORONTO, 17 March—A find in Egypt of a wooden statue of a king, a chapel and animal mummies suggests ritual activity associated with the great Egyptian gods, researchers say.

Archaeologists from the University of Toronto said the items and evidence of a monumental building were found in Abydos, Egypt in June and July 2011.

The wooden statue may represent the female king Hatshepsut, often portrayed as male in stone because the Egyptian pharaoh was understood to be son of the god Amon-Re, and Hatshepsut was known to dress as a man for the role, a university release said Monday.

But this statue has a smaller waist and delicate jawline, acknowledging these aspects of her feminine physique, the researchers said. It is thought to be from a ceremonial procession in which wooden statues of the royal ancestors and of gods were carried by priests from the temple of Osiris to a royal tomb.

Egyptians from all levels of society built chapels and monuments along the processional route to ensure their eternal participation in the festival and their identification with Osiris, the researchers said, but building too close to the route was prohibited by the state and infringement carried the threat of the death penalty.

The proximity of the uncovered offering chapel to the procession route suggests it was that of an elite person and has been dated 1990 to 1650 BC, they said.

“The offering chapel proves that people—probably elites—were able to build monuments right next to the procession route in the Middle Kingdom, and that at least one such chapel was allowed to stand in this increasingly densely built-up area and continued to receive offerings even 800 years after its initial construction,” Mary-Ann Poulis Wegner of Toronto’s Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations said.—INTERNET

Oldest animal with a skeleton found

RIVERSIDE, 17 March—Paleontologists say they’ve discovered fossils of the oldest animal with a skeleton, between 560 million and 550 years old, in South Australia.

Camargocorallina aculata places it in a time known as the Ediacaran Period, named after the Ediacara Hills of South Australia, ranging from 503-542 million years ago, before the explosion of life and diversification of organisms that took place on Earth in the following Cambrian period from 542 million to 485 million years ago, they said.

This rare example of a royal statue made of wood may represent the female pharaoh Hatshepsut.—INTERNET

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Scientists say a rare example of a royal statue made of wood is the oldest animal with a skeleton known to date. It was discovered in South Australia and dates back to 560 million years ago, making it one of the oldest known examples of life with a skeleton. This discovery is significant because it provides evidence of the complex structures that early animals had to survive in their environment, researchers said.—INTERNET

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New study links antibiotics use to asthma in children

Shelley MacKay looks over her infant's sleeping arrangement on 13 March, 2006 in Toronto, ON.—Internet

A Pakistani health worker gives anti-polio vaccine to a child on the last day of a three-day anti-polio campaign in Lahore, eastern Pakistan on 14 March, 2012. A total of 198 polio cases have been reported in 2011 throughout the country, Pakistan Pediatric Association said.

A young boy from the Sahel region of Africa was the only one of the five to experience severe and acute malnutrition to enter feeding centers over the next six months at best, while more extreme conditions could see the number rise to around 1.5 million.

So far the agency has received 24 million US dollars against an emergency appeal of 199 million US dollars for 2012. The fund can only support an aid until the end of June. While the “lean” season will last at least until August, according to UNICEF.

The crisis has been caused by poor rainfall and failed harvests affecting an estimated 10 million people in areas of Chad, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, northern Nigeria, northern Cameroon and parts of the north in Senegal.

Meanwhile, the conflict in Mali has also increased demand for emergency assistance both inside the country and in neighboring countries that have received refugees.—Xinhua

Singapore shares close lower despite positive US data

© AFP

Vancouver, 17 March—A new study by researchers at the University of BC says the use of antibiotics may increase the incidence of asthma in young children.

The study found that two widely used antibiotics alter the bacterial ecosystem in the intestines of mice, and that in turn can result not only in more cases of asthma, but more severe cases as well. The researchers say the same antibiotics—streptomycin and vancomycin—didn’t lead to asthma in adult mice, indicating that early life is a critical period for establishing a healthy immune system.

The report’s author, microbiologist Berthail Fouty, says the use of antibiotics and modern sanitation methods are hindering the development of intestinal bacteria that may be critical to an effective immune system. He says asthma cases have not increased significantly in developing countries where antibiotics aren’t used as much, thus allowing the normal development of intestinal bacteria. Asthma cases around the world are increasing by about 50 per cent every decade, mostly among children in industrialized countries, and the Asthma Society of Canada says about 12 per cent of children in Canada suffer from the condition.—Internet

Malaysia calls for urgent aid to children in Sahel region

Geneva, 17 March—The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) warned Friday that there were just five days left to stave off a disaster facing more than one million children aged five below five in the Sahel region of Africa as the dry, “lean” season begins.

The agency expects more than one million children suffering from severe and acute health conditions to benefit from higher oil prices, the market is scattered with oil and gas, energy and commodity representatives which tend to benefit from higher oil prices,” DBS Group Research said.

The benchmark Brent Crudes Index dropped 15.16 points to close at 3,010.68. Trading volume was 1.36 billion shares worth 1.48 billion Singapore dollars (1.17 billion US dollars). Advancers outnumbered decliners 256 to 159, while 398 stocks finished unchanged.

Among the top actives, shipbuilder Yangzijiang gained 1.8 percent to close at 1.39 Singapore dollars. Bank of America Merrill Lynch raised the target price of Singapore-listed shipbuilder to 2.12 Singapore dollars from 2.08 Singapore dollars, and maintained “Buy” rating, citing a potential rise in orders for large containership orders from mid-2012. It said the company could see its first rig building contract wins in the second half of the year, helped by support from the Chinese government.

Boustead Singapore rose 1.1 percent to close at 88 Singapore cents. It has recently secured about $55 million worth of contract wins in Singapore dollars in contracts from the oil and gas industries globally. This brings order book backlog to $345 million Singapore dollars.

JES International jumped 16.7 percent to close at 21 Singapore cents after reporting that its full-year net profit surged 208.4 percent on-year to 202.9 million Chinese Yuan (32.1 million US dollars).—Xinhua

Indonesian eight-year-old to kick smoking habit

Jakarta, 17 March—An eight-year-old Indonesian boy who smokes more than a pack of cigarettes a day will undergo a month of therapy to kick his four-year-old habit, a child welfare official said Friday.

Indonesia’s Child Protection Commission chairman Arit Merdeka Sirait said the boy, ilham, who smokes around 25 cigarettes a day, needed “emergency help” as his addiction had reached “alert level”, affecting his behaviour.

“You can see a dramatic change of behaviour when he doesn’t have a cigarette for 24 hours. He becomes emotionally aggressive and uncontrollable. He acts like he’s possessed by evil spirits,” Sirait told AFP.

The boy’s father Agam Umarr said his son would become enraged and “smash glass windows or whatever’s around” if he is not constantly given cigarettes.

“I hope the therapy works so my son can go back to school and live a normal life like the other kids,” Umarr said.

The boy will leave his village in Sukabumi in western Java on Monday to start receiving intensive specialist care in the capital Jakarta, Sirait said.

“We’ll give him a medical check-up to examine the impact his smoking has had on his health, and he’ll be given psycho-social therapy to divert his attention from smoking to playing,” he said. Indonesia has the world’s highest percentage of young smokers, according to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report from 2006, which found more than 37 percent of high school students smoked.

The report found 25 percent of children under the age of three and 15 had tried smoking. A two-year-old boy on Sumatra island kicked the habit with a similar treatment after a video emerged in 2010 of the overweight toddler drawing heavily on a cigarette. His parents admitted he smoked 40 cigarettes a day. Smoking rates have risen steeply in Indonesia over the last 40 years, with 89 million Indonesians in a population of 240 million smoking today, WHO data shows.—Internet

Business

Judge tentatively approves Honda settlement

San Diego, 17 March—A San Diego judge has finalized his approval of a settlement agreement that would give owners of Honda Civic hybrids up to $200 cash over claims that fuel economy was inflated.

Superior Court Judge Timothy Taylor listened to nearly two hours of arguments Friday before issuing the final ruling.

The ruling provides between $100 and $200—plus rebates—to owners of about 200,000 vehicles from model years 2003 to 2009. It also would award plaintiff attorneys more than $8 million.—Internet

Greg Packer shows his new iPad bought at the Apple store on the Fifth Avenue of Manhattan, New York City, the United States on 16 March, 2012. Apple’s new iPad, featuring a faster processor, a sharper high-resolution display, as well as a model capable of next-generation 4G Long Term Evolution high-speed service with Wi-Fi, started the new light of myanmar Sunday, 18 March, 2012 5

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 18 March, 2012 5

While infants should never sleep on their stomach, tummy time while an infant is awake and being watched is a safe way to practice “tummy time” fun for baby: these suggestions to make

The academy mentions these suggestions to make "tummy time" fun for baby:

* With baby on his tummy, place a favorite toy just a little bit out of reach to encourage him to stretch for it.
* Surround baby with a circle of toys to encourage strengthening muscles by reaching in different directions.
* Once baby is old enough, place baby belly-down on your chest so he will pick up his head to look at you face.
* Encourage other young children to play with baby during tummy time, as long as you carefully supervise them together.—Internet

Health Tip: Make ‘tummy time’ fun

The report’s author, microbiologist Berthail Fouty, says the use of antibiotics and modern sanitation methods are hindering the development of intestinal bacteria that may be critical to an effective immune system. He says asthma cases have not increased significantly in developing countries where antibiotics aren’t used as much, thus allowing the normal development of intestinal bacteria. Asthma cases around the world are increasing by about 50 per cent every decade, mostly among children in industrialized countries, and the Asthma Society of Canada says about 12 per cent of children in Canada suffer from the condition.—Internet

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Chinese national killed, two others injured by home-invasion burglars in South Africa

Johannesburg, 17 March—One Chinese youth was killed and two others were injured in Johannesburg as burglars broke into their house two days ago, South Africa Chinese Community and Police Co-op Centre (SACCPC) confirmed with Xinhua on Saturday evening. Wu Yijian, a staff member of the center told Xinhua that the incident happened on Thursday evening when several armed robbers broke into the empty residence of seven Chinese nationals in Bedfordview area. The Chinese, who went back after dinner and bumped into the robbers, were tied up and forced to hand over their cash. Some of them were savagely beaten by the robbers with the iron rods. Three of them were injured, according to Wu, and one died in a nearby hospital the next morning due to a fatal brain injury. The robbers escaped after they obtained money (about 20,000 US dollars), a TV set and computers.

The two injured are currently in stable conditions after receiving medical treatment in the hospital, said Wu. South African police are probing into the incident.—Xinhua

Pa-O National Organization presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Nov Pwint, 17 March—Pa-O National Organization CEC member U Khun Min Kyaw presented party’s policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV today. The translation of his presentation is as follows:-

Esteemed people,

I am U Khun Min Kyaw, CEC member of Pa-O National Organization (PNO). I will make my presentation about the PNO’s participation in the by-election to be held on 1 April. Pa-O is one of more than 100 national races residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. History says that Pa-O represents Kayin tribe of Tibet Myanmar descendants. At present, more than one million Pa-O nationals are living in Shan State, Kayah State, Mon State, Kayin State and Bago Region. Not only did Pa-O nationals take part in independence struggles but also Pa-O national leader U Phygo gave his signature in the world-famous Panglong Agreement.

In 1948 Myanmar regained her independence from the British colonialists. The independent Union of Myanmar prescribed in its constitution that it would practise parliamentary democracy. Democracy comes from an ancient Greek word. Demo means people and Kratos means power. Democracy is the most valuable political concept in the modern world. The right of a grown-up citizen to elect rulers by casting a vote is the basis of democracy. According to democratic practices, every citizen with right qualifications has the right to vote and run for election.

A free and fair election is the key to democracy. The more the taste of democracy a nation can enjoy, the more freedom the people living in that country will have. In the three parliamentary democracy elections—the first in 1952, the second in 1956 and the third in 1960—the then Union Pa-O National Organization won seven parliamentary seats.

Our Pa-O National Organization ran for the 2010 multi-party democracy general election with the objectives of ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and flourishing of democracy. Our party won 10 seats—one seat in Amyotha Hluttaw, three seats in Pyithu Hluttaw and six seats in the State Hluttaw. In the forthcoming by-election to be held on 1 April, our party will compete at the Pyithu Hluttaw level representing Kalaw Township of Shan State with a view to ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, democracy cause and eternal peace. From March 1989 to 6 April 1997 in the times of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and State Peace and Development Council (Tatmadaw) government, peace was achieved after reaching ceasefire agreement with 18 national ethnic armed groups with 67382 members and 53838 weapons. The root cause of civil wars is political instability. In order to achieve genuine internal peace, it is necessary to discuss and solve major political problems. Only when armed conflicts cease, will all the people enjoy peace.

Peace can create human resources, promote education, give the people arts of right. National development lies at the core of peace. Bamar, Shan, Danu, Pa-O, Intha, Taungyo and Palaung nationals in Kalaw Township have been living in amity and unity since ancient times with their cherished literatures, traditions and customs. With those national people working in concert for regional development, Kalaw Township is progressing. This is why I would like to urge the people to vote for Kalaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw candidate U Khun Than Maung from our party so that we can achieve democracy and genuine eternal peace.

May all the voters of Kalaw Township be healthy and happy and have their prayers answered.

Political advisor suggests deepened reforms to attract overseas Chinese

BEIJING, 17 March—Following are some quotes on deepened reforms to attract overseas Chinese from political advisor Ma Jianguo, also vice chairman of Jiangsu Provincial Committee of China Zhi Gong Party, at the ongoing annual session of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference National Committee on Sunday:

—A total of 50 million overseas Chinese serve as China’s unique advantage and important resources.

—We shall issue special identity documents for overseas Chinese to provide them the same convenience concerning children’s education, medical service, home purchases and entrance-exit procedures as domestic citizens to facilitate overseas Chinese returning to the motherland to live and start businesses.—Xinhua

At least 15 suspected militants killed in US drone attack in South Waziristan

ISLAMABAD, 17 March—At least 15 suspected militants were killed when two unmanned US drones hit them in the South Waziristan Agency, officials have said.

In the first strike, which took place in Uthgalai village of Barmal Tuleh, a drone fired four missiles at a vehicle.

“The target of the attack was fighters of Commander Maulvi Nazir. Eight suspected militants were killed in the attack,” The Express Tribune quoted an intelligence officer, as saying.

Sources added that two top militant commanders of the Mullah Nazir Group – identified as Ameer Hamza, the leader of the Mullah Nazir Group – andoooooo were among the dead. Both were believed to be key members of the group. The bodies were shifted to the Angoor Adda area.

Mullah Nazir, who is allied with Hafiz Gul Bahadur, a powerful militant commander in the neighbouring North Waziristan Agency, sends fighters into Afghanistan to attack US and NATO troops.

Internet

A Fiat 508 S MM car made in 1934 is shown on the exhibition “the Origins of Myth” during the preview for journalist held in the Enzo Ferrari Home Museum in Modena, Italy, on 9 March, 2012. After making its preview for journalist on Friday, the museum and the exhibition would be officially open to the public on 10 March. The museum complex is built on the basement of the old house where Enzo Ferrari was born in 1898.—Xinhua

A Shaolin Kongfu master (L) teaches participants to practise basic skills at Stanford University, the United States, on 9 March, 2012. About 130 participants have learned Shaolin Kongfu since the course was offered at Stanford University in January 2011.—Xinhua
Technological universities and colleges produce more engineers, computer technicians in Bago Region

**Chinese national killed, two others injured by home-invasion burglars in South Africa**

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Wu Youqian, a staff member with the center told Xinhua that the incident happened on Thursday evening when several armed robbers broke into the empty residence of seven Chinese nationals in Bedfordview area.

The Chinese, who went back after dinner and bumped into the robbers, were tied up and forced to hand over their cash. Some of them were savagely beaten by the robbers with the iron rods. Three of them were injured, according to Wu, and one died in a nearby hospital the next morning due to a fatal brain injury.

The robbers escaped after take away over 100,000 rands (about 20,000 U.S. dollars), a TV set and computers.

The two injured are currently in stable conditions after receiving medical treatment in the hospital, said Wu.

South African police are probing into the incident.

**Gunman robs doctors mid-surgery at Venezuelan hospital**

**Caracas, 17 March** — A man robbed a surgeon and his staff at gunpoint during a procedure being performed in the operating theater of a hospital in the central Venezuelan city of Maracay, making off with watches, cell phones and money, an official said.

The robber, pretending to be a patient, broke into the operating theater Thursday at Red Cross headquarters in Aragua, the head of the institution in that state, Juan Mario Gualano, said.

“His (the robber) suddenly took out a gun, burst into the operating room and demanded the submission of the medical staff doing surgery on a patient,” Gualano said, describing the incident as “a really crazy thing”.

The assailant grabbed cell phones, watches and cash from the operating theater staff, who never interrupted the surgery.

Gualano added that, according to patients’ accounts, the individual talked on the phone with another person just before pulling out his gun, with which he also threatened patients in the ward and their relatives in the waiting room.— Internet
Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects preparations for...

construction tasks, check the buildings whether they meet set standards or not, constitute one inspection team from construction groups, another team from Ministry of Science and Technology and the Office of Auditor-General of the Union and the next one from intellectuals to be able to inspect the standards and expenditure in construction works and submit the reports on inspection, and instructed construction groups to systematically follow the remarks from findings of the inspection teams.

Next, the Vice-President and party looked into progress of buildings for athletes at Sports Village. After the XXVII SEA Games, the Sports Village will be used as staff quarters. At the briefing hall of the Zabuthiri Modern Stadium, the Vice-President heard reports on progress of the stadium, preparations for holding the sports competitions and construction of 30,000-spectator-capacity stadium presented by Chairman of Max Myanmar Co Ltd U Zaw Zaw.

After giving necessary instructions, the Vice-President inspected construction tasks at the stadium. Next, the Vice-President and party viewed round progress of Zabuthiri Indoor Venue Project. Later, they viewed construction of international standard Zabuthiri Swimming Pool Project.

Progress in construction of Zabuthiri Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Vice-President
Thiha Thura U
Tin Aung Myint
Oo inspects
construction of
Zabuthiri
Stadium.

MNA

Myanmar delegation attends first meeting of Conference of the Parties to ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergence Response in Indonesia

YANGON, 17 March—Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi attended the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 1) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergence Response-AADMER held in Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia, on 15 March.

The meeting was attended by ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and disaster management ministers and deputy ministers from 10 ASEAN countries and Coordinating Minister for People’s Welfare of Indonesia Mr Agung Laksono chaired the meeting. Participants discussed the setting of rules and regulations on the meeting, laying down of financial rules on ASEAN disaster management and emergency rescue funds and financial matters for ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management-AHA Center.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi also spoke on the occasion. Next, the Union Minister together with the delegates visited AHA center situated on the 17th floor of BNPP building.

The Union Minister met Indonesian Minister for Manpower and Transmigration Mr Muhaimin Iskandar. He briefed on promoting of democracy in the Republic of Myanmar and both sides exchanged views on matters related to labour organizations and migrant workers.

Director-General U Soe Aung of the Relief and Resettlement Department, who accompanied the Union Minister, attended the 19th ASEAN Disaster Management Committee’s meeting on 13 to 14 March. The Union Minister and delegation members arrived back in Myanmar yesterday evening.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Second meeting on JDS Project 2012-2013 held

YANGON, 17 March—Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe attended the second meeting on JDS Project 2012-2013 at the hall of Yangon University of Foreign Languages, here, yesterday afternoon.

Minister-Counsellor Mr Ichiro Maruyama of the Japanese Embassy explained matters related to JDS Project. Those present took part in the discussions. — MNA

 Lodgings for sport athletes under construction at Sports Village Project in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Progress in construction of Zabuthiri Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA
Pyithu Hlutaw representatives, farmers observe thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing met with Pyithu Hlutaw representatives from Sagaing, Kawlin, Indaw, Ayadaw, Myauk and Lahe Townships of Sagaing Region, those of Kyangyang Township of Ayawady Region, those of Waw Township of Bago Region, those of Kamna, Salin, Gangaw, Htilin, Pauk and Natmauk townships of Magway Region, those of Sintu and Singaung townships of Mandalay Region, those of Dimawho and Pruhso townships of Kayah State, those of Papan and Myawady townships of Kayin State and Pauktaw Township of Rakhine State led by Pyithu Hlutaw representative U Saw Hla Tun of ChaungU Township Constituency of Sagaing Region, and farmers led by U Thaung Htik of ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region, who made a trip to observe thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, at the briefing hall of 369-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation near Ayinlo Village of Pyinnuma Township this morning.

The Union Minister explained good agricultural patterns being applied by farmers, entrepreneurs and agriculturists from the paddy transplanting to harvest period, post-harvesting technology, operating of rice mills for doubling the incomes of farmers.

Deputy Minister U Khin Zaw discussed that development of agricultural tasks cannot be brought about through traditional farming system. It is necessary to apply good agricultural patterns for modernizing the agricultural system, he said.

The Union Minister and the deputy minister presented seven kilos of Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds per acre to farmers.

The excursion group members viewed thriving 95-day-old paddy plantations. Staff members and local farmers explained prospects for production of over 200 baskets of paddy per acre due to thriving equal and quality ears of paddy.

The excursion group members viewed thriving 45-day-old Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation on 288 acres of advanced farmlands in Aungchantha Village of Zabuthiri Township. They also looked into cultivation of vegetable plantation on vacant lands near the farmlands, construction of production roads, feeder canals and drains, broad-casting of fertilizer at four species of Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations in Teaygon Village of Zabuthiri Township.

They also viewed Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations of Vietnam and China species on 500 acres of farmer educative farmlands in Pobbatuhr Township, cultivation of vegetable plantations on vacant areas near the farmlands, sorting of paddy seeds and packaging works.

Kayin State Chief Minister looks into development tasks in Papun District

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min on 9 March viewed nurturing of various saplings at the temporary nursery in Ward 3 of Papun, rubber farm of U Sai Oo Naing in Model Village on west bank of Papun and seasonal crop plantations and rubber farm of U Sein Win Nyunt.

On 10 March, he sowed the seeds at the nursery of Papun Township Forest Department.

In the afternoon, he met local people, departmental personnel, social organizations and town elders at the hall of Papun District General Administration Department and presented aids to officials for education, health, transport, agriculture and regional development.

After inspecting Yunsalin Creek Bridge, he looked into basic education schools, rural health centre, wooden bridge and construction of Papun-Kamamoung road section on 11 March.

UMFCCI President and party leave for Japan

YANGON, 17 March—President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, Central Executive Committee members Dr Aung Thein and Dr Ta Tun, Uo, executives U Ye Myat Thu, U Moe Myint Kyaw and U Kyi Min led left here by air on 12 March evening to attend the meeting with officials of the Japanese Government, scholars and entrepreneurs to be held in Tokyo of Japan.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by General Secretary of UMFCCI Dr Myo Thet, Joint General Secretary U Moe Kyaw and officials.
Today, the entire global community sees the term ‘internationalism’ as an integral part of international relations. Actually, internationalism means the belief that countries should work together in a friendly way. With this end in view, regional, sub-regional and international organizations such as ASEAN, EU and African Union have emerged across the globe to work together for peace and development of global society. For expanding its international or external relations, ASEAN has been trying to develop friendly relations and mutually beneficial dialogue, cooperation and partnerships with all countries as well as sub-regional, regional and international organizations and institutions. In forging friendly relations with all countries, ASEAN has also been focusing on its relations with India, which is not only an emerging economy but also a country with advancing science and technology. Indeed, India is the immediate neighbourhood of ASEAN. Both share land and maritime borders with Myanmar, Indonesia and Thailand, all of which are ASEAN member countries. Therefore, we cannot deny the fact that ASEAN-India cooperation is vitally important. With two decades of ASEAN-India cooperation, it has covered economic security and development cooperation dimensions with a number of mechanisms established to promote dialogue and cooperation in these areas. In recent years, multilateral cooperation sectors such as science and technology, transport, media, infrastructure and small and medium enterprises have gained momentum. Recently, we, a media group of the Information Ministry of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, together with journalists from ASEAN countries, including a representative from ASEAN Secretariat, had the opportunity to pay a visit to India to take part in the ASEAN-India media familiarization program, which was held in conjunction with Delhi Dialogue IV in New Delhi last month at the invitation of Indian External Affairs Ministry. Recognizing the need for greater engagement, an annual international conference (Delhi Dialogue) has been held since 2009 with the active support of India’s Ministry of External Affairs. The theme for Delhi Dialogue IV which was held on 13-14 February 2012 is ‘India and ASEAN: Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability’, and the event was categorized into four thematic sessions which addressed economic cooperation, regional security, non-traditional security threats and networks of knowledge among the ASEAN nations and between India and ASEAN. The valedictory address. Kalam, Former President of India, who also delivered his keynote addresses by Foreign Affairs Ministers from India and ASEAN countries, including Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The first session highlighted the discussion of issues of economic integration including mechanisms for sectoral cooperation, interlinking of the two regions in a common production and services network, and dispute settlement mechanism. The second session highlighted issues of non-traditional security (NTS) threats and challenges which from climate change, water security, food security, terrorism, piracy, pandemics, cyber security and so on. At this session, Dew Yin Yin Myint, Director of Institute of Security and International Studies in Yangon, discussed outbreaks of natural disasters in Myanmar and efforts for rescue and rehabilitation work. The third sessions examined the evolving security architecture in Asia Pacific region, and the last session explored the level of exchanges of knowledge and cooperation in scientific endeavours between India and ASEAN countries. The valedictory session was graced by the attendance of Dr Ahmed Abul Kalam, Former President of India, who also delivered his valedictory address.

According to the ASEAN-India media familiarization program, we journalists, paid courtesy visits to Indian External Affairs Minister and Deputy Chairman of Indian Planning Commission and visits to Taj Mahal and Agra Fort in Agra, New Delhi, and Indian Institute of Science, Supercomputer Education and Research Center, Infosys, Biocon, India Space and Research Organization (ISRO) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bangalore, which is an industrial city of India.

Taj Mahal, one of the world’s wonders, is the biggest tourist attraction in India and Agra Fort itself is historically impressive. While we were on visit to the facilities of HAL, Bangalore, most of which are restricted areas, we witnessed the rapidly advancing science and technology of India. On arrival at the Indian Institute of Science, which is more than 100 years old, we found it with IIID building and other scientific buildings. The institute is the first example of a public private partnership in this country. In the briefing room, we learnt from a liaison officer that the institute’s departments ranging from Biochemistry to Aerospace Engineering have served to nucleate research and development in both the public and private sectors. Many of India’s most distinguished scientists have been associated with the institute as students or faculty. Now, it offers a variety of Master’s degree programmes in Engineering, an integrated PhD (Post-BSc) programme in Sciences and PhD programmes in a wide spectrum of disciplines in science and engineering attracting local and foreign students. In addition, the library and computational facilities at the institute are amongst the best in India.

Then, we proceeded to the Supercomputer Education and Research Centre (SERC) under the institute. The centre which provides the state-of-the-art computing environment, can compare well with the top computing centres anywhere in the world. The Computer Centre, established in 1970, became SERC in 1990 engaging in research programmes (PhD and MSc) and course programme (MTEch in Computational Science). It conducts three major research streams: Computer Systems, Computational Science and Bioinformatics.

On 16-2-2012, we paid a study visit to Infosys, an IT company of India. Its offerings span business and technology consulting, application services, systems integration, product engineering, custom software development, maintenance, re-engineering, independent testing and validation services, IT infrastructure services and business process outsourcing. Infosys has 64 offices and 68 development centers in US, India, China, Australia, Japan, Middle East, UK, Germany, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Poland, Canada and many other countries with 145,088 employees in total.

In the afternoon, we visited Biocon, an integrated healthcare company that delivers innovative and cost-effective biopharmaceutical solutions. Biocon is renowned for producing affordable therapies for insulin dependent diabetes and cancer vaccines. It is also pursuing a path of breakthroughs through Phase III human clinical trials to develop the world’s first oral insulin. According to the chairman of the company at the question & answer session, we learnt that the market of Biocon products is developing not only in Africa but also in Asia and ASEAN regions.

In the evening, we visited Indian Space Research Organization to study Indian space activities which started during early 1960s. India has nine communication satellites operating for television broadcast, telecommunications and meteorological applications; remote sensing satellites for management of natural resources. Besides, India has its current and future programmes to build and launch more satellites.

On 17-2-2012, we visited Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Airbase Assembly, Helicopter Assembly and Aeronautical Museum under it. Today, HAL has 19 Production Units and 10 Research & Design Centres in 8 locations in India. It has manufactured over 3658 aircraft/ helicopters, 4178 engines, upgraded 272 aircraft and overhauled over 9643 aircraft and 2977 engines.

Our study tour of Indian facilities in Bangalore has made us witness its rapid advances in science and technology as well as developed our willingness to cooperate with India in the area.

During the tour, the Indian journalists raised interestingly also included Myanmar’s current political situations and activities, the stances of the Myanmar people and the new government’s achievements.

In my opinion, all the journalists on a study visit to India were found to have keen interest in India blessed with many interesting places and its advancing science and technology. They seem to have a desire to make a study visit not only to India but also other ASEAN’s partner countries. They want ASEAN to become a strong and reliable organization standing together with powerful nations among the global community.

All the journalists are optimistic about Myanmar and they seem to have recognized Myanmar’s changes and reforms. They are well-experienced in international issues and I have found that ASEAN nations are easy to deal with just looking at their benevolent attitude towards their association. India on its side also accepts and recognizes ASEAN for its important role in multilateral cooperation with big nations, especially with China and India.

Overall, this ASEAN-India media cooperation has allowed us to facilitate the possible establishment of an enduring and understandable communication network in the ASEAN media field. We, Myanmar representatives, have had our opportunities to learn India’s economic and technological development plus its traditional and regional knowledge. Moreover, through the ASEAN-India media familiarization programme, we have been able to strengthen the amity, understanding and knowledge among the ASEAN nations and between India and Myanmar.

May these 20 years of ASEAN-India cooperation continue to last forever!
Mawlamyinegyun, 17 March—Hiplinephone Village Basic Education High School was designated as new examination centre for 2012 matriculation examination in Mawlamyinegyun Township.

On 12 March morning, Mawlamyinegyun Township Administrator U Huy Maung and Township Matriculation Pass Rate Raising Committee members visited the school. They viewed the students sitting for the examination and attended the examination in Hiplinephone Examination Centre and fulfilled the requirements.

Tian Win, 17 March—The village-tract in Maubin Township of Ayeyawady Region on 2 March morning. The library will be built with contribution of the State Village Administrator U Kyaw Thein Win.

Yangon, 17 March—The Yangon City Development Committee will form the disciplinary enforcement teams to take action against the undisciplined vehicles in the municipal area of YCDC.

Deterrent action will be taken against the overage vehicles installed with temporary number plates, the staff officer Daw Yin Swin Win of Maubin District Information and Public Relations Department, Head of Township IPRD Daw Tin Tin Hlaing, Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Naing Lin Tun and Village Administrator U Khin Win drove stakes.

Later, they met members of the library committee and town elders and discussed programme for construction of the library.

Monywa, 17 March—The revenue management computerization course concludes in Monywa.

Township IRD Deputy Head of Department Daw Yi Yi Mar,Head of Township IRD Deputy Head of Department Daw Thein Lwin, Head of Township Administration Department U Naing Lin Tun and Village Administrator U Khin Win spoke on the occasion and presented the first prize to Deputy Head of Department Daw Mar Mar Thin, the second prize to Staff Officer Daw Thida Mo and the third prize to Deputy Head of Department Daw Yi Yi Mar.

Yangon, 17 March—A HiAce Super Custom driven by Kyaw Htay for production of over 200 baskets of paddy per acre in Hsagya Village of Htanbabin Township in Yangon Region on 11 March.

Yangon, 17 March—The paddy was cultivated on the farmland through good agriculture pattern.

Chairman of MRIA receives Japanese businessmen.

Yangon, 17 March—General Manager Mr Hiroshi Mochizuki and party of Agricultural Product Department of Marubeni Corporation of Japan met the chairman, the general secretary and CEC members of Myanmar Rice Industry Association at its office on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lamadow Township on 14 March morning.

They gave talks on their discussions focused on fertilizer inputs, agro-based industries, modern storage, processing milling and exporting of paddy, investment at ports and purchase of Myanmar rice.

Yangon, 17 March—A fire broke out at a house on Thana 1st Street in Ward 4 of South Okkalapa Township in Yangon Region.

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Parents redecorate hospital rooms in late son's memory

On the day he died, many of them added Elmo to their avatars, and have continued showing support to the Hamiltons throughout their grieving process.

“We didn’t realize how powerful that medium was,” said Peter, wearing an Elmo T-shirt under a black blazer on Friday. “The love… that was demonstrated over Twitter is phenomenal. To this day we still get messages from strangers saying, ‘We’re here for you. What can we do for you?’”

Shortly after Zack’s death, his parents began harnessing their existing network and newfound community to raise money for the hospital. Their goal was to turn the drab room where they spent so much time into a colourful haven fit for a young child.

Alert as Western Australia braces for cyclone

SYDNEY, 17 March—A tropical cyclone bearing down on Western Australia intensified on Saturday, placing the region on high alert as the storm threatened to bring destructive gale-force winds. Western Australian emergency officials said in a warning to residents in the sparsely populated Pilbara region.

The small communities of Pardoo and Wallal believe to be in the line of the cyclone and residents of those areas have been warned to seek shelter immediately.

“Destructive winds to 160 kilometres (100 miles) per hour are possible between Port Hedland and Bidsadanga extending to the inland eastern Pilbara later in the day,” the Bureau of Meteorology said in a warning.

Very destructive winds up to 230 kilometres per hour are forecast near the cyclone centre.

Commercial flights into the area have been cancelled and the main highway closed, while the Port Hedland port has been shut down.

Western Australia’s Pilbara region is an important resources hub, with major iron ore and gas facilities.

Two bus parks to be built to accommodate new buses

HANGZHOU, 17 March—Two additional bus parks - one in Hangzhou and the other in Woodlands - will be built to accommodate the incoming fleet of some 800 new buses to Singapore.

The government will bear the development and land costs for the depots, and lease them to transport operators at a nominal fee.

The tender for the Woodlands bus depot will close in April 2012. It is expected to be completed before the end of the year and can accommodate some 200 to 300 buses.

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) will call for a tender for the other depot in the east within the next one to two months. The LTA said details for the second bus park are still being finalised.

300 people evacuated after oil warehouse fire

HANGZHOU, 17 March—Fire-fighters in an east China City evacuated more than 320 people from their homes in the wee hours Saturday, after a warehouse for cooking oil caught fire.

About 152 fire-fighters joined the fire extinguishing after the warehouse which belongs to China’s popular soybean oil producer Jinlongyu, in Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province, caught fire. They evacuated the people from a school, a hotel and a staff dormitory adjacent to the warehouse immediately after they arrived at the fire scene.

The huge blaze was brought under control at 2:40am. The fire department said the warehouse keeps stocks of cooking oil and rice. No casualties occurred in the fire. The cause of the fire and the economic losses it incurred were not immediately known.

High numbers of Saudi women smoking

NARRAN, 17 March—Saudi Arabia was found to have the second most female smokers in the Arab Gulf region, prompting an anti-smoking campaign at a university, officials said.

The campaign — called “lead it” — kicked off Thursday at Najran University with a speech from Abdul Rahman al-Shamrani, the chairman of the Waaia (“enlightened”) society, bikyamasr.com reported.

“If there are 8 million smokers in the Kingdom, each consuming one pack at about SR5 [SR1.33] a day, then the Kingdom annually spends over SR14 billion [$3.73 million] on cigarettes,” al-Shamrani said.

A number of government and private establishments are participating in the week-long campaign, including health affairs, the drug combat police, the university hospital, the faculty of dentistry and the boy scouts, bikyamasr.com said.

Saudi Arabia was found to have the second most female smokers in the Arab Gulf region, prompting an anti-smoking campaign at a university, officials said.
Boy, 8, takes sister for late night drive

Police in Utah said an 8-year-old boy who crashed his parents’ car into a tree told officers he was taking his 5-year-old sister to the store. Ogden police Lt Danielle Coyle said the boy and his sister climbed into the car and drove off around 2 a.m. Thursday and a police officer noticed the car crashed into a tree a short time later. The Salt Lake Tribune reported on Thursday.

The children, who were not injured, were still inside the vehicle. The boy told police he had taken his parents’ car because his sister needed to go to the store. Police said the children’s parents were asleep and did not know the kids had left. No criminal charges are expected, police said.

Calif snake found in NY toilet

A Californian kingsnake was in a New York state of mind when it came out of a man’s Staten Island apartment toilet, scaring him, he said, half to death.

“Turned the light on at 6:30 a.m. and went to open the vanity when I thought I saw something move in the toilet,” Allen Shepard said about his Tuesday encounter with the reptile.

“Now it was for real,” Genco said. “It was like a scene out of cartoon, it was hysterical.”

Genco then called plumber Kenneth Rosenthal, WPX-TV, New York, reported.

“All I saw was the tail of the snake, then I kept pulling out more and more and more and before I knew it, I had 4 feet of snake,” Rosenthal said.

“I think they are too young considering the part,” the actress told People. “Those nice, cozy, very short hours before bed, we just really spend together, sharing the day and reading books, and really, before you know it, it’s time for bed. Part of it is just not for that. We would prefer something different in that time,” she added.

Mirror Mirror is releasing 6 April. —Internet

Roberts' kids won't see 'Mirror Mirror'

LONDON, 17 March—Oscar winning actress Julia Roberts has revealed that her two children will not be seeing her new movie “Mirror Mirror”.

The actress plays the evil Queen in the film which is a retelling of the fairytale Snow White but Roberts feels that her kids are a little young to see the movie, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

“Part of it is just not for that. We would prefer something different in that time,” she added. Mirror Mirror is releasing 6 April.—Internet

‘Madagascar 3’ to premiere at Cannes

CANNES, 17 March—The animated adventure “Madagascar 3: Europe’s Most Wanted” will have its world premiere at France’s Cannes Film Festival in May, The Hollywood Reporter said.


Strathairn to star in ‘Heiress’ on B’way

NEW YORK, 17 March—Actor David Strathairn is to co-star with Jessica Chastain in the Broadway production of “The Heiress” this fall, producers said Thursday.

The play by Ruth Goetz and Augustus Goetz is being directed by Miosse Kaufman.

Strathairn is best known for his work in the film “Good Night, and Good Luck” and in HBO’s “Temple Grandin.”

This production of “The Heiress” comes 17 years after the celebrated play was last seen on Broadway. The play is based on the classic Henry James novel “Washington Square,” which was adapted for the screen in 1949 as “The Heiress”—winning four Academy Awards, including Best Actress for Oliudiva of Haviland.

‘Bodyguard’ returning to theaters

CENTENNIAL, 17 March—The 1992 romantic thriller “The Bodyguard,” starring Kevin Costner and the late Whitney Houston, is headed back to 400 US theaters, screening organizers said.

The one-night event is to take place at select theaters 28 March in honour of the film’s 20th anniversary.

Tickets are available at participating theater box offices and online at www.FathomEvents.com.

When originally released, the story and unforgettable songs of ‘The Bodyguard’ captured the hearts of audiences everywhere,” Shelly Maxwell, executive vice president of NFCM Fathom Events, said in a statement Wednesday. “Through this special anniversary presentation, fans will be able to come together for one night and see it once more on the big screen.”

Directed by Mick Jackson, the movie stars Costner as a former Secret Service Agent-turned-bodyguard hired to protect Houston’s pop singer character from a stalker.


Russell Brand arrested in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, 17 March—British comedian Russell Brand turned himself in to New Orleans police after a warrant was issued for his arrest, officials said Thursday.

TMZ said the “Arthur” star and ex-husband of singer Katy Perry is accused of grabbing a paparazzo’s cellphone and throwing it through the window of a law firm Monday.

New — Yet his phone back and Brand agreed to pay for the window, but the warrant was still issued for his arrest. The celebrity news Web site said Brand was released on $5,000 bond Thursday.

Thai taxi driver returns $410,000 in gold to owner

A Thai taxi driver Friday returned 8.2 kilograms (18 pounds) of gold ornaments worth around $410,000 to their owner who had left them in his car three days ago.—INTERNET

Thai taxis and buses are parked near the Royal Palace in Bangkok. Thai police said a taxi driver has returned 8.2 kilograms (18 pounds) of gold ornaments worth around $410,000 to their owner who had left them in his car three days ago, police said.

Bangkok cabbie Sakeri Ketsirekla, 56, said he spent two days driving around Bangkok searching for the owner because he had no contact number.

He said he contacted community radio after he learned gold shop owner Eakerat Kanokwattana, 60, had filed a complaint with police and the story of the missing gold hit local headlines. But police were not convinced he had a heart of gold. “His excuse doesn’t make sense if he intended to return the gold to the owner as he knew where they got off,” case officer Lieutenant Colonel Edson Sukpratot said AFP.

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**Roger Federer of Switzerland**

**Indian Wells, 17 March—** Three-times champion Roger Federer and twice winner Rafael Nadal won their quarter-final matches at the Indian Wells ATP tournament to set up an enticing last four showdown.

Federer booked his place in the semi-finals with a ruthless 6-3 6-2 victory over big-serving Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina before Nadal fought back to beat David Nalbandian, also of Argentina 4-6 7-5 6-4.

Saturday’s other semi-final will pit second seed Milos Raonic against 11th seed American Andy Roddick.

**Milan could reach Champions League final if they beat Barca, says coach**

**Rome, 17 March—** AC Milan head coach Massimiliano Allegri said this side’s route to the final could be easier if they beat Barcelona in the quarter-finals.

The Rossoneri were the most difficult of opponents on Monday morning’s draw for the quarter-finals. The winners will play Benfica or Chelsea in the semi-finals. “Let’s look at the positives, if we get past them then we’ll have a good chance of reaching the final,” Allegri was quoted as saying.

“Little changes really and we’ve already faced them. They are the strongest team in the world, but we have to believe, Milan will give their best.”

The two teams met in the group stage this term with the Nou Camp encounter ending 2-2, while Barcelona triumphed 3-2 at San Siro.

“We’ll have to attack them and be more focused. The two previous games against them have helped us to grow.

“We were good defensively in Spain, while we did well in the return too even if we lost. I hope to have all of my injured players back before we face Barcelona,”

Allegri added. **Internet**

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**Sharapova faces Azarenka in Indian Wells Final**

**Indian Wells, 17 March—** It would be a replay of the 2012 Aussie Open final, as former World No 1 Maria Sharapova of Russia will take on current World No 1 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in the final of 2012 BNP Paribas Open.

Sharapova was leading with 3-0 when her opponent Azarenka retired due to a back injury in the second semi-final match on Friday evening.

What was expected as a gruelling tussle, turned out as a bitter memory for the former World No 1 Ana Ivanovic, who played so well throughout the week to reach the 2012 BNP Paribas Open, but failed to continue in that manner — as an ill-timed injury shattered her dreams.

The two previous semi-final matches on Friday, Maria Sharapova of Russia was leading with 6-1 when her opponent Azarenka retired due to a back injury. Ivanovic dived all the medical time-out just before the final games of the first set.

But that did not work out and finally the Serbian left the court with tears. Finally, the contest ended in 1 hour and 12 minutes, as the Russian mustered 66% points on her first serve and hammered 15 winners.

Ivanovic played some terrific tennis early on in the first set, but then her intensity dropped and it kept on plunging due to pain and then she decided to retire.

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**Azelrka scores in China league debut**

**Beijing, 17 March—**

French striker Nicolas Anelka scored in his highly-anticipated debut in the Chinese Super League Sunday but was powerless to prevent new club Shanghai Shenhua losing 3-2 to fierce rivals Beijing Guoan.

The former Arsenal and Chelsea striker equalized for Shenhua to make 2-2 with a simple tap midway through the second half after a defensive lapse from Beijing — raising hopes of a victory in a match dubbed the “China Derby”.

The capital side had gone two goals ahead thanks to efforts from Piao Cheng and Portuguese midfielder Manu.

Australian striker Joel Griffiths started the Shenhua comeback, showing nerves of steel to make it 2-1 from the penalty spot in his first game for the club since signing from Guoan in January.

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**Federer and Nadal to meet in last four**

John Isner, both players having advanced on Thursday. Second seed Nadal was delighted to scrape through, having saved two break points in a gripping 10th game of the third set before sealing victory with a forehand drop to end an absorbing baseline rally.

Nadal will face Federer for a 28th time in Saturday’s semi-final, but it will be their first ever meeting at Indian Wells. **Reuters**

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**Woods to play next week in 2 events**

**Jupiter, 17 March—**

Tiger Woods returned to practice Friday and declared himself ready to play next week.

Woods said in a story on his website that his left Achilles tendon felt good and that he would play in the two-day Tavistock Cup exhibition that starts Monday, and then the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill.

Woods withdrew from the Cadillac Championship Sunday after 11 holes with what he described as tightness in his Achilles tendon.

He said he didn’t want to risk further damage. One day later, he said doctors told him it was only a mild strain.

It was the left Achilles that caused him to miss two majors last year.

Woods had won Bay Hill six times. It will be his final tournament before the Masters begins on 5 April.

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**Bolt to make season debut at home on 5 May**

**Kingston, 17 March—**

Olympic champion Usain Bolt will officially make his season debut at the Jamaica International Invitational Meet on 5 May, announced tournament organizers.

The IAAF world challenge-level meeting will be held in the national stadium in Kingston. “It is always a great privilege to run in front of my home fans,” Bolt responded on his website.

“This will be my first official meet of 2012 as I prepare to defend my titles in the Olympic Games in London in August,” he added.

The double world records holder has already been confirmed for the Golden Spike in Ostrava, Golden Gala in Rome and Golden Spike in Ostrava.

According to organizer Donald Quarrie, Bolt is one of seven athletes signed on for the ninth edition of the event. **Xinhua**

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**Sharapova faces Azarenka in Indian Wells Final**

**Indian Wells, 17 March—**

World No 1 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus ended the dream-run of Angelique Kerber of Germany on Friday night at Indian Wells, as she beat the German in straight sets with a 6-4 6-3 scoreline and reached the final of the 2012 BNP Paribas Open.

Enjoying a dream run in 2012 season, World No 1 Sharapova will face Azarenka from Belarus who has ended the dream-run of Angelique Kerber of Germany at Indian Wells, as she beat the German in straight sets with a 6-4 6-3 scoreline and reached the final of the 2012 BNP Paribas Open.

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**Boris Becker to play in exhibition game with Novak Djokovic**

**Indian Wells, 17 March—**

Novak Djokovic has booked his place in the semi-finals with a 6-4 6-3 victory over former World No 1 Ana Ivanovic, who played so well throughout the week to reach the 2012 BNP Paribas Open, but failed to continue in that manner — as an ill-timed injury shattered her dreams.

Sharapova and Kerber have met before in the semi-finals of the 2012 BNP Paribas Open, with the Russian winning 6-2 6-1.

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**Woods withdraws from the Cadillac Championship**

**Jupiter, 17 March—**

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**Azelrka scores in China league debut**

**Beijing, 17 March—**

French international player Nicolas Anelka (2nd left) from the Shanghai Shenhua club is surrounded by his teammates after scoring his team’s second goal in a match dubbed the “China Derby”.

The capital side had gone two goals ahead thanks to efforts from Piao Cheng and Portuguese midfielder Manu. **Reuters**
Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR TV

(18-3-12 09:30 am ~ 19-3-12 09:30 am)

MST

News

2012 Myanmar Environmental Innovator Program Workshop

News

Myanmar Movies

Impact “My Khin Ka Nya”

News

Four Countries One Destination

News

Where the Rhododendron Blooms

News

MI People’s

Celebrities “Are they Future Brides?”

News

ICE Wonder Land

News

How to cast vote?

News

Eco-Friendly Rattan

News

Meet Peculiar

News

Myanmar Movie

“Love On The Internet”

Answers for Yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

S PL A T S

1. Party By Venerable Minjun Sayadaw

2. Nice & Sweet Song

3. Telesport (Health)

4. International News

5. Martial Song

6. TV Drama Series

7. Documentaty

8. Myanmar Movies

9. Songs Of National Races

10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

11. Beautiful “ASEAN”

12. 50 verses of the Holy Quran

13. Cartoon Series

14. TV Drama Series

15. How to Cast Vote (Myanmar Motion Picture Asayone)

Cash and kind provided to war veterans in NyaungU

NyaungU, 17 March — As a gesture of bailing the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to provide cash assistance and clothes to members of NyaungU Township War Veterans Organization was held at the hall of Township War Veterans Organizing Committee in NyaungU on 12 March morning. At first, Chairman of the Township WAO Captain Aung Myint (Rtd) spoke on the occasion.

Region organizers of the Township WAO presented K 20,000 each, one sarong and one traditional jacket each to 142 members of War Veterans Organization. The assistance in total amounted to K 3,189,000.

According to Moe Pwint-2 Plan of Immigration and Assistance Department, Head of Township IPRD Capt. Aung Myint (Rtd) spoke on the occasion.

CAR HOUSING ENDOWMENT

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EPL Results on Saturday, 17 March

Fulham 0 - 3 Swansea

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 18th March, 2012

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, The News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information
Donations made to hail 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade for 2012

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 March—A cash-donation ceremony to hail the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade for the year of 2012 took place at Hainbushin Hall of No. 7 Transit Centre here at 3 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of the Management Committee for organizing the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade for the year of 2012.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of the Management Committee for organizing the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade for the year of 2012.

The former Arsenal midfielder has been taken to hospital following his collapse.

The equalizer knocked us back, we lost a bit of confidence with it,” Sunderland manager Martin O’Neill said. “There was a big surge from the home crowd.—Internet

Fabrice Muamba collapses during Spurs-Bolton FA Cup tie

London, 17 March—Bolton Wanderers midfielder Fabrice Muamba collapsed and stopped breathing during the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Tottenham.

Medical staff gave Muamba mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and tried to revive him with a defibrillator. In total six medics were treating the player.

Both sets of supporters chanted Muamba’s name as he was taken off the pitch on a stretcher. ESPN, who were broadcasting the match, reported that he was not breathing as he was taken into the tunnel.

A Bolton spokesman said: “Fabrice Muamba has been taken to hospital following his collapse. There is no further information at this time.”

The former Arsenal midfielder was accompanied in the ambulance by Coyle and club captain Kevin Davies. —Internet

Egypt finds suggest ancient royal funeral

Anelka scores in China league debut

Bolt to make season debut at home on 5 May

Robots in record-distance ocean swim