President U Thein Sein visits thriving Palethwe special high-yield hybrid paddy plantations in modern farms in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAK PNY TAW, 18 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein visited thriving Palethwe special high-yield hybrid paddy plantations in modern farms of Ahlyinlo village in Pyinmana Township and Aungchantha village in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area this morning.

On arrival at modern farm in Ahlyinlo village, the President viewed samples of paddy strains, rice and paddy plants of Philippine Palethwe, Vietnam and Myanmar hybrid paddies. Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing reported the President on characteristics and conditions of each paddy.

The President inspected thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations in 369-acre advanced farm where Union Minister U Myint Hlaing explained transformation of 369-acre farmland of local farmers into an advanced farm, cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy and condition of paddy plants starting to set seeds in 84 days.

The President said in his address to Union ministers, visiting Region or State chief ministers, lawmakers and local farmers that the country needs to make five changes for agricultural development. They are changes in attitudes, quality strain, modern scientific cultivation method, modern land reclamation and mechanized farming, he named. Farmers need to change from the attitude of managing farm in conventional ways to that of taking examples of successful stories from countries with advanced techniques, he went into detail. Only when plantation zones of quality paddy well matched with the region’s weather should be established in regions and states and quality strains need to be distributed to farmers, according to him, will each region and state enjoy equitable development.

Major rice growers Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions should set sights to export their own rice later and all the regions have to strive for not being legged behind, the President said.

(See page 8)
CSOs

Nowadays, civil society organizations or CSOs have become more and more powerful in the development drive of the countries all around the world. These CSOs include NGOs, trade unions, religion-based organizations, native peoples movements, humanitarian bodies, foundations, community-based centres and many others providing humanitarian services on non-profit basis. They are providing basic services with a wide range of interests and connections taking key roles in many global countries.

In our country too, these civil society organizations are playing an important part in the flourishing and strengthening of Myanmar democracy system. So, we are paving the way for emergence of unions and organizations representing the masses and classes that will protect the rights of farmers and workers. We now have the National Human Rights Commission that is effectively protecting the fundamental rights of citizens in our society. Besides, we are in the process of setting up the National Press Council so that media sector, the fourth estate, can ensure freedom and accountability under the check and balance system in accord with the democratic practices.

A key influence on CSO involvement in service provision is the relationship with government, and this is a critically important concept of partnership. Accordingly, CSOs need to ensure that they are able to maintain their own distinctive contribution to development and not just the agents of the state.

According to Myanmar culture, our national races have the benevolence deeply-rooted in Myanmar society under the influence of religious teachings. We the Myanmar people are naturally generous and always ready to help one another. And we see the consolidation and emergence of more and more Civil Society Organizations as the most important matter in the process of democratic transition and nation building endeavors.

Belgian guests call on UMFCCI personnel

YANGON, 18 March—Vice-Presidents of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Lwin, U Aung Maung, General Secretary Dr Myo Thet and CEC members received a delegation led by Acting CEO Ms. Claire Tillekaerts of Flanders Investment & Trade from Belgium at the federation headquarters here on 10 March.

They discussed promotion of trade activities, Myanmar’s improving economic policies and prospects in investing special economic zones. MNA

 Talks on IT held

YANGON, 18 March—Under the sponsorship of Dell and Intel, Computer Technical Team Co. Ltd organized a seminar on my first virtualization at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here on 16 March.

CTT Managing Director U Khun Oo extended greetings, followed by talks on winning in virtual era by Mr Khun Nopparat Kunlasutti from Dell (Thailand) and Dell virtualization and enterprise update by Mr Khun Nopparat Sangseng.

CTT Co. Ltd holds educative talks from two to four times a year with a view to enabling Myanmar IT technicians keep in touch with latest IT and IT products. MNA

Local and foreign gems merchants examine the quality of jade lots—MNA

Friendship Car Rally 2012 flagged off

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers, the team leader of Myanmar-India Friendship Rally and members pose for documentary photo.—MNA

49th Myanmar Gems Emporium concludes

NAY PI TAW, 18 March—The final day of the 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium 2012 organized by Central Committee for Organizing Myanmar Gems Emporium took place at Mani Yadan Jade Hall here today.

Patron of the committee Union Mines Minister U Thein Htaik viewed gems merchants bidding for jade lots under the supervision of the personnel concerned in the afternoon and presented certificate of honour to Mr Lin Zefan who purchased jade lots at the highest prices. The Gems Emporium successfully concluded at 3 pm.—MNA

Union CPT Minister urges local people of Myaing Tsp to be united to realize rural development tasks

NAY PI TAW, 18 March—Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun urged local people and departmental officials in Nyaungdin (West) and Selbya villages in Myaing Township of Magway Region on 12 March to form a united force for implementing tasks for rural development and poverty alleviation laid down by the government at ceremonies to present certificates of upgrading basic education schools of the villages.

He credited efforts of village elders, members of School Boards of Trustees, local people and departmental officials who worked closely to make the villages, which had once to be contended with the primary education, accessible to middle school education.

The Union CPT Minister presented certificates of the Ministry of Education of upgrading schools to headmasters of the schools and donated uniforms to teachers. Well-wishers made donations to the education fund of the school.

A local expressed thanks.—MNA
Thai PM orders curb on high consumer product prices

BANGKOK, 18 March—Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra Saturday ordered authorities to speed up measures to contain high consumer product prices caused by the massive flood last year, Thai News Agency reported.

The premier, on her weekly programme “Yingluck Government Meets the People”, said last year’s flood crisis was the major factor that caused high prices of consumer products, reported Xinhua.

She said consumer goods prices were lower when compared with the same month last year but the flood had forced many factories to halt their operations, while many distribution centres could not deliver the products, eventually causing prices to increase as demand was much higher than the supply.

However, she expressed confidence that the high prices of food and consumer products would return to normal by June this year.

The ministry of commerce and relevant offices would implement measures to ensure that prices of consumer goods were reasonable, particularly those of eggs and palm cooking oil, said the premier.

The prime minister said the government believed the rise of world oil prices would be only short term and would be only short term and would not intervene in domestic oil prices, but measures would be taken to ease the impact on the public.—Internet

WikiLeaks founder considers run for office

CANBERRA, 18 March—WikiLeaks says its founder, Julian Assange, will run for the Australian Senate in spite of legal troubles that could keep him out of the country for a while. The announcement came Friday via Twitter, The Brisbane Times reported. Assange is currently battling extradition from Britain to Sweden and is under house arrest.

“We have discovered that it is possible for Julian Assange to run for the Australian Senate while detained. Julian has decided to run,” a tweet from WikiLeaks said.

Swedish has not formed formal charges against Assange, although there are allegations he sexually molested women there. Assange has said he fears the extradition could lead to his being sent to the United States to be tried for espionage, following WikiLeaks’ publication of leaked US State Department memos.

A general election is expected in Australia next year. WikiLeaks said it might run a candidate against Prime Minister Julia Gillard, the head of the Labour Party. WikiLeaks misspelled the name of Gillard’s constituency, Lalor, as Laylor, prompting a dig from a Labour official, Sam Dastyari: “Best they learn the seat’s name.”—Internet

Philippines tightens watch on African arrivals

MANILA, 18 March—Philippine airport immigration officials have tightened monitoring of arrivals from Africa after a spate of arrests of drug mules from the continent, according to a spokesman.

The increased vigilance at all airports was imposed after two Ghanaians were caught on 13 March, bringing to eight the number of Africans stopped at Philippine airports in three weeks while trying to smuggle in illegal drugs.

Bureau of Immigration spokesman Maria Antonette Mangrobang on Saturday told AFP: “This is not discrimination. They will not be treated poorly. We are just asking our immigration officers to be a bit more vigilant.”

If a new arrival cannot fully explain why he or she is coming to the Philippines, immigration personnel can bar them from entering, she said.

Mangrobang said she could not say why so many Africans, including nationals from Kenya, Uganda, Ghana and Guineu, had recently been caught trying to smuggle illegal drugs into the Philippines.

The drug enforcement agency said it has arrested 38 members of African drug syndicates since last year, and information obtained from them led to the capture of 14 accused abroad. Most of these have been caught trying to smuggle in illegal drug methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as “ice”, into the Philippines.—Internet

Militants kill American teacher in Yemen

SANAA, 18 March—Motorcycle-riding gunmen linked to al-Qaeda shot and killed an American teacher in Yemen on Tuesday, local media said.

They said government forces killed up to 14 militants in clashes and artillery attacks on their strongholds.

The attacks underscore the challenges facing President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who took office last month after a year of massive protests against his predecessor Ali Abdullah Saleh, were discovered in Tripoli. The New York Times said a gunman riding on the motorcycle driven by an accomplice shot a U.S. English language instructor, who was also deputy director of a language school, the Swedish Institute.

Officials from the institute identified the victim as Joel Shrun and said he was born in 1983.

The gunmen, who escaped after the attack, were believed to be linked to al-Qaeda, the police source said.

A group affiliated with the militant network claimed responsibility. Islamic militants often accuse Western aid groups of proselytising.—MNA/Reuters

Smog and fog ground hundreds of Beijing flight

BEIJING, 18 March—More than 400 flights to and from Beijing airport, including around 35 international services, were cancelled or delayed on Saturday due to thick fog and strong air pollution covering the city.

Almost 250 flights were cancelled, including some 15 international services, according to the website of the international airport in the Chinese capital. More than 180 flights were delayed, including about 20 international services, the site said. Visibility at the airport early Saturday was at less than 200meters (650feet), official state news agency Xinhua said, blaming “widespread fog” for the disruption. But the US embassy, which has its own measuring system, said pollution in Beijing had reached the “hazardous” level early Saturday, before dropping one notch to “very unhealthy” later. China said this month that two-thirds of its cities currently fail to meet new air-quality standards introduced this week that are based on the pollutants most harmful to health.

The new targets were introduced to placate growing anger among the Chinese public, which is increasingly concerned about health issues.—Internet

Italian tourists taken hostage in India

NEW DELHI, 18 March—Two Italian tourists have been taken hostage by Maoist rebels in the eastern Indian state of Orissa, the NDTV news channel said on Sunday quoting unnamed sources. The channel reported that the incident occurred in the Kandhamal district of Orissa, one of several states where armed Maoist rebel have waged a decades-long battle to overthrow state and national authorities.

Local police in Kandhamal were not immediately able to confirm the report when contacted by AFP.

NDTV said on its website that the two Italians were kidnapped when they were taking photographs of local women bathing in a river.

“The Maoists have said that the release of the tourists depends on the government’s response to their demands,” NDTV said without giving further details.

The government describes the Maoist movement, which often targets police and soldiers with deadly roadside mine ambushes, as India’s biggest internal security threat.

The insurgency, which began in 1967, feeds off land disputes, police brutality and corruption, and is strongest in the poorest and most deprived areas of India, many of which are rich in natural resources. The rebels claim they are fighting for the rights of neglected tribal people and landless farmers and say their ultimate goal is to capture India’s cities and overthrow parliament.—Internet

Dozens of bullet-ridden bodies found in Pakistan’s Khyber region

BARA, 18 March—Villagers found 14 bullet-ridden bodies scattered around the Bara area of the northern Khyber tribal region near the Afghan border on Sunday, as Pakistan security forces step up military offensives against militants.

Sunday’s discovery was made two days after 12 more bodies, also bearing signs of torture and numerous bullet wounds, were discovered in the same area, 15 km (nine miles) south of Peshawar. “They were taken into custody by the paramilitary Frontier Corps a few days back from Sepah area after unidentified people attacked the FC post and killed four soldiers,” a tribeman told Reuters, requesting anonymity because he feared for his safety. Another witness, Tombal Ali, said the bodies had had acid thrown on their faces, making identification difficult.—MNA/Reuters
**Latin American Web access could double in a decade**

**Los Angeles**, 18 March—Latin America is the world’s fastest-growing market for Internet access, and could double within the decade, a group that oversees Internet-related tasks said Friday.

“This is the decade of our region in many ways,” said Rodrigo de la Parra, regional vice president for the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

“It is a region that without any doubt has more grown than a worldwide level,” the Mexican native told AFP.

Internet market penetration is found in about 30 percent of Latin American households, compared with nearly 100 percent in developed countries.

De la Parra spoke during a five-day ICANN conference in Costa Rica that ended Friday. About 1,700 participants from 150 countries attended the conference. The participants came from government and private organizations to discuss Internet use, access, new codes and security.

ICANN is a nongovernmental organization that polices Internet registrations and coordinates the Web’s international resources, such as usernames and Internet addresses.

International awareness is helping to fuel the trend toward greater Internet access, said De la Parra, predicting economic growth would accompany rising Internet use in Latin America.

**New chip design to extend Internet’s reach**

**London**, 18 March—A British computer chip maker says its latest microprocessor architecture will help connect a wider range of household appliances to the Internet.

Arm Holdings said new chip designs based on its “Flycatcher” architecture will yield the “world’s most energy-efficient microprocessors” and will pave the way for an “Internet of things” linking a wider range of devices.

Refrigerators and other home appliances, medical equipment, energy meters, and home and office lighting will all benefit from the innovation, the company said.

Two computer chip companies, NXP Semiconductors and Freescale, have already licensed the technology.

“IT opens up all devices to the potential of being connected all the time,” Freescale’s Geoff Lees told the BBC.

“It’s allowing us to provide connectivity everywhere from consumer appliances, MP3 music audio docks, kitchen equipment displays right through to remote sensors in rain monitoring equipment or personal medical devices, an area where ultra-long battery life allied to high performance and safety is becoming more and more important.”

Arm said its new architecture is designed to provide chipmakers with the means to build microcontrollers that require “ultra low power” but are capable of 32-bit processing.

**World floral trade threatens**

**Bangor**, Wales, 18 March—The global floral trade threatens a rare palm because its leaves’ ability to stay green long after being cut is attractive to florists, British botanists say.

Leaves of the state palm (previously known as mostly harvested from wild trees found in Central and South America, and increased use is threatening the species’ long-term survival, a study warns.

Training locals to cultivate the trees, to lessen the pressure on the wild population, has met with limited success, the study said.

The qualities of the tree’s leaves mean they are in great demand, particularly on Mother’s Day and Palm Sunday, experts said.

“One of the reasons why florists like this leaf much is because once you have cut it, it stays green for 30-40 days,” researcher Sophie Williams from Bangor University in Wales told the IBC.

“There can be about two weeks from the forest to the florist, yet they can still store it for another two or three weeks,” Williams said.

The plant, which generally has five leaves, can be damaged if more than two leaves are removed at any one time, studies have shown.

**Plants ‘remember’ droughts to prepare**

**Lincoln**, 18 March—Plants can “remember” drought and change responses to the stress to survive, finding that could lead to more drought-resistant crops, US researchers say.

The study confirms the scientific basis for what gardeners and nursery professionals have long known, that transplants do better when water is withheld for a few years to “drought harden” them before the move, they said.

“This phenomenon of drought hardening is in the common literature but not really in the academic literature,” Michael Fromm, a University of Nebraska- Lincoln plant scientist, said.

“The mechanisms involved in this process seem to be what we found.”

The researchers compared the reaction of plants that had been previously stressed by withholding water to those that were not stressed and found the pre-stressed plants bounced back more quickly the next time they were dehydrated, a university release reported.

The pre-stressed plants responded to dehydration by increasing transcription of a certain subset of genes, the scientists said, and in subsequent drought periods the plants remember their transcriptional response to stress and induce these genes to higher levels.

“The plants ‘remember’ dehydration stress. It will condition them to survive future drought stress and transplanting,” Fromm said.

**Asteroid to make close Earth visit**

In this plot, the asteroid is the yellow dot, and Earth is green; the two orbits intersect twice per year.

The asteroid has a very Earth-like orbit with a period of 366.24 days, just one more day than our terrestrial year, and it “jumps” inside and outside of the path of Earth two times per year.

**Paris**, 18 March—An asteroid approaching Earth in 2013 will get closer than the orbits of many satellites, highlighting a need to monitor such hazards, European scientists say.

An amateur team discovered the unusual asteroid, dubbed 2012 DA14, 22 Feb as it flew by Earth at about seven times the distance of the moon, the European Space Agency reported Thursday.

Here, on its next flyby, 15 Feb, 2013, it is predicted to pass Earth at less than 15,000 miles, closer than many commercial satellites, the ESA said.

“This is a safe distance, but it is still close enough to make the asteroid visible in normal binoculars,” Defle Koschny of the ESA’s Space Situational Awareness office said.

While an impact with Earth has been ruled out as a possibility on the asteroid’s next fly-by, astronomers will use its near approach for additional study and to calculate the gravitational effect of Earth and the moon. “We will also be keen to see the asteroid’s resulting orbit after the next close approach in order to compute any future risk of impact,” Koschny said.

**Satellite maps shows less snow coverage**

**Pasadena**, 18 March—NASA has released maps compiled from satellite data that may answer the question prompted by a mild 2012 winter—“Where’s the snow?”

The maps, compiled from data collected by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer instrument aboard NASA’s Terra satellite, show a very spotty snow cover compared with 2011. In 2012, areas that are usually snow covered are bare, including parts of Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota, the agency said, and the Great Lakes area, southern Ontario and the east coast of the United States have much less snow cover than they did at this time last year.

The relatively light snowfall in 2012 is the result of two atmospheric processes, climatologist Bill Patzert of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif, said. One is the La Nina conditions in the Pacific, which result in less moist air crossing the continental United States, he said, while the other is a strong Arctic oscillation that keeps cold arctic air around the North Pole and away from more southern latitudes.

**Squids’ giant eyes seen as defence aid**

**Durham**, 18 March—Giant squid have giant eyes—among the biggest in nature—for defending themselves from sperm whales, their biggest enemy, a US researcher says.

“They’re most likely using their huge eyes to spot and escape their predators, sperm whales,” Duke University biologist Sonke Johnsen said.

Johnsen was part of a team that modeled, both physically and biologically, how and why a squid uses such a big eye, and found the design and size of the eye give squid the ability to see approaching sperm whales as they disturb bioluminescent organisms in deep ocean waters, a Duke release reported Thursday.

The team found the large eyes collect more light compared to animals of similar size but with smaller eyes. That’s critical for detecting low light differences such as the bioluminescence stimulated by large animals such as approaching sperm whales, Johnsen said. Bigger eyes mean seeing more of the faint light and predicting the predator’s approach, she said.
Exposure to antibiotics increases risk of allergic asthma among children

VANCOUVER, 18 March—Widely used antibiotics may increase incidence and severity of allergic asthma among children, according to a study conducted by researchers from University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada.

The study, published on Friday in the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Journal, shows that certain antibiotics that affect intestinal bacteria also had a profound impact on allergic asthma.

“It has long been suspected that kids exposed to more antibiotics — like those in developed countries — are more prone to allergic asthma,” says the study’s author, UBC microbiologist Brett Finlay. “Our study is the first experimental proof that shows how.

The human gut is colonized by approximately 100 trillion bacteria, and contains upwards of 1,000 bacterial species. While not fully understood, these micro-organisms, known as “gut flora,” perform a host of useful functions, said Finlay.

To assess the influence of antibiotics on gut microbiota, the researchers treated neonatal mice with two widely used antibiotics — streptomycin and vancomycin — and evaluated resulting shifts in resident flora and subsequent susceptibility to allergic asthma.

The study found that streptomycin treatment had little effect on both the microbiota and the disease, whereas vancomycin reduced microbial diversity, shifted the composition of the bacterial population and enhanced disease severity.

However, neither antibiotic had a significant effect when administered to adult mice, indicating that early life is a critical period of establishing a healthy immune system.

“Modern societal practices, such as improved sanitation methods and widespread antibiotic use, are causing the disappearance of ancestral species of bacteria in our gut that may be critical to a healthy immune system,” the author said.—Ksha

Koh-Kae recalls peanut snacks over undeclared milk

OTTAWA, 18 March—Koh-Kae is recalling its shrimp and chicken flavoured peanut snacks because they may contain milk that is not declared on the label.

The product could pose a serious health threat to people with milk allergies, however no illnesses have so far been linked to the snacks.

The products were sold in 230 and 240 gram packages and distributed in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and possibly other provinces.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says it is monitoring the effectiveness of the recall.—Internet

US adults exercising more

WASHINGTON, 18 March—US adults who said they exercise frequently rose last December January and February, compared to the same months a year ago, a survey indicated.

Gallup and Healthways asked at least 1,000 Americans daily — more than 350,000 surveys per year — about how much they exercise and for how long. Last December, 47.4 percent of US adults exercised for at least 30 minutes three or more days per week, more than in the same month in 2010, 2009 or 2008.

In addition, those who exercised zero days per week last year, dropped from 30.2 percent in 2010 to 29.7 percent a year later.

This continued into 2012, with 49.1 percent of US adults exercising frequently in January and 51 percent in February — more than in the same months in past years, the survey said.

Men were more likely than women to report a high level of physical activity.

In addition, young adults ages 18-29, those making $90,000 or more per year and those living in the West were the most likely to exercise frequently, while those making $36,000 or less annually, those age 65 and older and the obese were the least likely to exercise frequently. The margin of error was 0.2 percentage points.—Internet

Doctors’ life-support skills fade after training

NEW YORK, 18 March—Doctors and nurses are trained in how to save a cardiac arrest victim’s life, but those skills can fade quickly if they’re not used, a new study shows.

In a review of 11 international studies, researchers found that health providers’ skills in advanced life support typically deteriorated six months to a year after training, based on test performance. That’s concerning, since the standard guideline calls for re-training every two years, a recent study shows.

For those of us in the field, this isn’t a new finding,” said Dr. Lance Becker, director of the Centre for Resuscitation Science at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

“Those of us in the field, this isn’t a new finding,” said Dr. Lance Becker, director of the Centre for Resuscitation Science at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Becker said of the study, which appears in the journal Resuscitation. But he added that he was glad to see the research on the question pulled together in a systematic review.—Reuters

Kurds say Exxon still working in North Iraq

ANNIN, 18 March—Exxon Mobil has not suspended its work in Iraq’s autonomous Kurdish region, an aide to the region’s president said on Saturday, after Baghdad said Exxon had frozen its Kurdish deal.

Baghdad has offered new oil over the next few years, but the US firm’s decision to sign a deal with the Kurds has infuriated Baghdad.

Iraq’s oil minister said on Friday that Exxon had written to Baghdad informing it that it had suspended work in the Kurdish region, under a deal which Baghdad considers illegal.

“We’ve never heard anything like this from Exxon Mobil. We have continuous meetings with Exxon Mobil’s senior executives and I think the company is continuing its work,” said Fuad Hussein, senior aide to Kurdish President Masoud Barzani.

Exxon is one of the oil majors that is participating in massive projects intended to make Iraq the world’s biggest source of new oil over the next few years, but the US firm’s decision to sign a deal with the Kurds has infuriated Baghdad.

Baghdad has threatened to block Exxon from bidding in future oil projects and even to reconsider its role in a supertanker field, West Qurna-2, where Exxon was part of a consortium that won a contract in 2009.

Baghdad has offered international oil firms fee-for-service contracts, while the Kurdish region offers production-sharing deals which give the foreign firms a share of oil output considered far more lucrative.—Reuters

Eurocopter to expand production in Germany

FRANKFURT, 18 March—Eurocopter, the world’s largest maker of helicopters for civilian use, plans to expand its production in Germany, German weekly magazine Wirtschafts Woche reported, citing Chief Executive Lutz Bertling.

“We are doing research for the next generation of especially environmentally friendly helicopters in Germany. And we are also talking to the governments of Bavaria and Germany about support for a new civil program,” the magazine cited Bertling as saying in an interview, without providing further details.

Bertling, who is also on the management board of Eurocopter parent EADS, said the company was investing 100 million euros ($132 million) in a new development centre at its German base in Donaueschingen.

Eurocopter makes the Tiger attack helicopter, as well as the NH90 family of military helicopters. Its civilian-use range includes the Ecureuil, Dauphin and Super Puma families.—Internet

An Exxon gas station is pictured in Arlington, Virginia 31 Jan, 2012.—Internet

A doctor checks the blood pressure of a patient at the J.W.C.H. safety-net clinic in the center of slum row in downtown Los Angeles 30 July, 2007.—Internet
Georgia catches suspect of Robbery of Century

Tbilisi, 18 March—The Georgian interior ministry said Saturday the South Caucasus country had detained a key suspect of the Robbery of Century theft in Ordou of neighbouring Turkey.

"The officers of the constitutional security department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia have solved the case of robbery that took place in Ordou, Turkey, as a result of which gold and jewelry in large quantities were stolen," the ministry said in a statement.

"As a result of operative activities the head of organized criminal groups, Vakhtang Purseladze, was detained and part of stolen jewelry was seized by Georgian law enforcers in Tbilisi and Qutaisi. Currently operative measures are being taken in order to detain all others involved in the criminal case mentioned above and to find and seize the rest of stolen jewelry," the statement added.

Cigarette butts left in the 8-metre-long underground tunnel dug by the thieves led police in both Turkey and Georgia suspect about the nationality of the perpetrator of the theft which Turkish media had described as the "Robbery of Century," in which the thieves beat the alarming system of the jewelry shop to empty it of 6-kilogram boxes of gold jewelry and coins.

The thieves dug the tunnel from an adjacent building right into their target shop and when the alarming system finally worked they had already left with their trophies.

Building Macao into world’s leisure centre

BEIJING, 18 March—Following are some quotes on building Macao into a tourism and leisure centre in the world from Ho Teng Iat, a political advisor and president of the Women’s General Association of Macao, at the annual session of the People’s Political Consultative Conference National Committee on Sunday:—The central government should support the government of Macao Special Administrative Region in laying out industry and talents policies, and completing urban planning.

The central government should push forward all-around cooperation between Macao and the mainland areas, especially the advantages of developing Macao and the inland areas.

Iran plans to sell more arms to “friendly” states: military official

TEHERAN, 18 March—Iran’s Deputy Defence Minister Majid Bokaei said Saturday that Iran plans to sell more arms to “friendly” and neighbouring countries in the new Iranian calendar year starting on 20 March, the local Mehr news agency reported.

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

On 26 Feb, Iran’s Defence Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi and his Lebanese counterpart held talks on defence cooperation in Tehran.

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

Ghuzn’s visit to Iran provided a good opportunity for the expansion of cooperation between both countries in the area of defence, Vahidi said.

In October 2011, Iran’s ambassador to Lebanon Ghazanfar Roknabadi said Teheran is ready to equip the Lebanese army and expand bilateral defence cooperation without setting any preconditions.

Landslides threatens Japanese city

JETOOY, 18 March—A landslide threatening the Japanese City of Joetsu has already destroyed 11 houses and workshops, the government said.

So far no casualties have been reported but the landslide is continuing to move, The Yomiuri Shimbun reported on Wednesday.

Government workers used sandbags to construct a 9-foot-high, 787-foot-long wall to protect houses threatened by the growing landslide. They are also using pipes to drain water away from the area.

A total of 52 residents from 15 households have taken shelter at a local community centre.

Officials said the landslide was triggered by water from melted snow that collected above the bedrock.

Joetsu is located at the foot of Mount Hotaka and faces the Sea of Japan.

US concerned about attacks in southern Israel

WASHINGTON, 18 March—The United States on Saturday expressed its deep concern over the renewal of violence in southern Israel, as militant groups in the Gaza Strip kept launching rockets at Israeli and Jewish jets back struck.

“We are deeply concerned by the renewal of violence in southern Israel,” State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said in a statement.

“We condemn in the strongest terms the rocket fire from Gaza by terrorists into southern Israel in recent days, which has dramatically and dangerously escalated in the past day,” she said. The ongoing conflict has left 14 militants killed and more than 20 Palestinians injured. The majority of the dead are members of the military wing of the Islamic Jihad movement.

The violence is in its fourth since August 2011, when 28 Palestinians were killed in a wave of violence after Israeli killed Kamal al-Najjar, top commander of the pro-Hamas Popular Resistance Committees. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday that Israel would continue to strike any group trying to attack Israeli citizens and would acquire further Iron Dome systems to shoot down incoming rockets.

Over 100 rockets from Gaza have fallen in southern Israel since Friday. The Iron Dome missile defence system intercepted 27 of the 29 rockets it targeted.

“We call on those responsible to take immediate action to stop these cowardly acts,” Nuland said.

“We regret the loss of life and property, and we call on both sides to make every effort to restore calm,” she added.

She insisted on Friday that the United States is continuing its efforts to try to bring the Israelis and the Palestinians back for direct talks. She rejected the saying by Palestinian officials that the Obama administration has told them not to expect anything big this year, or to be patient if Bibi is so Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday that Israel would continue to strike any group trying to attack Israeli citizens and would acquire further Iron Dome systems to shoot down incoming rockets.

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She insisted on Friday that the United States is continuing its efforts to try to bring the Israelis and the Palestinians back for direct talks. She rejected the saying by Palestinian officials that the Obama administration has told them not to expect anything big this year, or to be patient if Bibi is so
Higher educational infrastructures in Yangon Region nurturing promising young workforce for the Union

* Plenty of educational opportunities for young learners are emerging in both plains or hills as the government is focusing on improvement of education standards.
* In basic education sector, all school-age children are accessible to free compulsory primary education and have equal chance to continue middle and high school education.
* For higher education, Yangon University, Yangon Institute of Economics, Yangon Institute of Education, Yangon University of Distance Education, Dagon University, Yangon University of Foreign Languages, University of East Yangon, University of West Yangon and National Management College have been opened in Yangon Region.

Translation: HKA

China starts building base for researching underwater relics

QINGDAO, 18 March,— Construction on a state-level underwater cultural heritage research base will soon begin in Qingdao, a large city on China’s east coast. The State Administration of Cultural Heritage on Saturday signed the agreement with the Qingdao municipal government.

The city government plans to invest 150 million yuan (24 million US dollars) on the infrastructure building of the research base slated for completion by 2014. With a total floor space of 16,810 square meters, the center will be used for underwater relic exploration and sea research off China’s coast. It will have large labs, relic and reference storage rooms as well as facilities such as pressure oxygen chambers to carry out underwater relic research and protection, according to the agreement.—Xinhua

EPA fines Eielson Air Force Base $45K

FAIRBANKS, 18 March—The Environmental Protection Agency fined a US Air Force base in Alaska $45,700 for failure to train personnel in handling hazardous waste.

Investigators found Eielson Air Force Base had a number of violations during its 2010 inspection relating to how personnel handled carcinogenic waste, toxic and flammable paint solvents and fluorescent light tubes containing mercury, the Fairbanks (Alaska) Newsminer reported Thursday. EPA spokesman Mark MacIntyre said there is no evidence any chemicals harmed employees or the community and that the fines were aimed more at a lack of training.

“What they’re trying to do is prevent people from getting hurt and prevent the community from getting exposed,” he said. —Internet
President U Thein Sein visits thriving Palethwe special high-yield hybrid…

(From page 1)

Farmers are to improve their own lives by applying modern techniques in their farms, he went on, calling them to try to up yield, increase incomes, feed prospective 100 million population and increase export, combining assistances of the State and their industry, diligence and hunger of success.

The President then headed for 288-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy farm in advanced farmland of Aungchantha village in Zabuthiri Township and instructed officials to disseminate knowledge and distribute agricultural equipment and fertilizers to farmers widely.

The President cordially greeted local farmers of Aungchantha village, MPs visiting modern farms in Nay Pyi Taw and farmers.—MNA

Thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations in modern farms in Akyinlo village in Pyinmana Township.—MNA

Kunchaung Hydropower Project nearing completion

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min visited Kunchaung Hydropower Project being implemented by the Hydropower Implementation Department at Kun Creek, about nine miles to the south-west of Pyu, Bago Region yesterday evening.

The Union Minister inspected the trial run of turbine Nos. 1, 2 and 3 and progress in construction of the power plant, stressing the worksite safety calling for completion on schedule.

Kunchaung Hydropower Project has been completed by 98.5 per cent and distributed electricity to the national grid since 28, February 2012. The plant has total installed capacity of 60 megawatts, equipped with three 20-megawatt turbines.—MNA

Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry meets

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—The plenary meeting of Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at the Sedona Hotel in Mandalay yesterday, with speeches by Deputy Commerce Minister Dr Pwint Hsan and Region Electric Power and Industry Minister Dr Myint Kyu.

Joint Secretary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Moe Kyaw and Chairman of the Mandalay Region CCI U Aung Win Khaing extended greetings and introduced the products of member businessmen.—MNA

Two special postal stamps on sales

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—In commemoration of the 11th ASEAN TELMIN and the 12th ASEAN TELSOM hosted by the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw, the special postal stamps worth K 100 and K 200 will be sold at region/state, district and township post offices beginning 9.30 am on 19 March.

As a special programme, the stamps bought at Nay Pyi Taw General Post Office, Yangon General Post Office and Mandalay General Post Office on 19 March will be put on seal of date.—MNA
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief attends...

(from page 16)

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and wife and parties viewed royal items used by ancient Myanmar kings, the Mon hero Thameinbaran statue and Kyansittha statue, ancient Myanmar military equipment, paintings portraying Wathikan and Panwah battles, equipment used by the Tatmadaw, the navy, army, air force and police, drinking blood, the items used by patriotic leaders in their independence struggles, golden jubilee Armed Forces Day commemorative glazed earthen pot, mementofo from foreign countries, the booth on Tatmadaw’s international relations with foreign countries and facts about the Tatmadaw from its birth to the present time displayed at the Defence Services Museum and Military Archive. They were conducted round by officials.

Next, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun conducted them round the Navy Hall where is the exhibition of documentary photos of Myanmar Navy in ancient times, under Japanese rule, and during the World War II, documentary photos on receiving warship “Mayyaz”, frigate “Aung Zeya”, flags of the Navy in successive periods, documentary photos on Watkaw battle, military operation conducted by the Navy, documentary photos on receiving warships from abroad, warships of the Navy, and other documents of the Navy in successive periods.

Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein conducted them round the Air Force Hall where is the exhibition of documentary photos on successive periods, documentary photos of the Commanders-in-Chiefs (Air), activities of the Air Force, its participation in campaigns against drugs, training process of pilots, documentary picture on Mane Palaw battle, Wansanan arm attack documentary picture, pilot accessories, documentary pilots on pilots of the first supersonic fighter, and Siswiaw-Tarpan battle and other documents of the Air Force in successive periods.

The General and party viewed round ancient cannons, artillery and armoured vehicles used during and after the World War II, traditional vessels of the Myanmar monarchial navy, samples of warships “Yanmyo Aung”, “Anaawratha”, and “Aung Zeya”, and samples of aircrafts used by Air Force in successive periods and aircrafts in use in the system.

The General and party left the Defence Services Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) in the noon.

The Defence Services Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) is a showcase of the histories and operation records of the Army, Navy and Air Force with encouraging exhibition. It is opened with a view to enabling the youth and people learn independence struggles, historic battles and actions of the Armed Forces since its birth till now, and imbuing them with the spirit to safeguard the independence.

MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan,...

(from page 16)

Awards in honour of the Myanmar news media. In the country, two literary awards presented by the State namely National Literary Award and Sarpyeik Beikman Award are being presented annually. Moreover, private organizations are also presenting literary awards such as Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Tun Foundation Literary Award, Thata Sueswe Literary Award, Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award and Shwe Amuyat Literary Award. Now, the presenting of National Press Award is a great pleasure and auspiciousness for our country.

Looking back to the history of the fourth estate of our country or the history of our news world, Myanmar’s history has clearly shown that the literati have worked in the interests of their own nation, people, language and religion with the strength of pen. As the saying goes by ‘The pen is mightier than the sword’, national interests and national cultural heritages could have been handed down throughout 2500 years of history thanks to the efforts of the literati based on patriotic spirit.

In March 2011, the military rule was gently changed into a democratic system in which the representatives elected by the people rule the country on behalf of the people. Likewise, encouragement is being given to make sure that the nation’s fourth estate has freedom and accountability and freedom and rationality in line with the media ethics. In the speech delivered by President U Thein Sein on March 2011, he disclosed the government’s objectives and stances on the news media.

According to Section 354 Sub-section (a) of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, every citizen shall have the right to express and publish freely their convictions and opinions and it is not contrary to the laws, enacted for Union security, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquility or public order and morality. In other words, journalists will have the right to freedom of expression. In this regard, they also need to exactly follow journalistic code of ethics. Freedom must be promoted by following and maintaining the ethics.

Studying the journalistic code of ethics, you need to follow a point ‘Respect for the truth and for the right of public to the truth.’ A piece of wrong information can sometimes cause a big problem. Incorrect information can harm the emotional feelings and image of others. It can also affect the right of the people to the truth. So, it is important for every journalist to constantly try to produce correct information. It is especially important for the journalists not to spread their information if they are unsure about its authenticity. Correct information must be produced based on reliable sources and careful all-round consideration.

The second point about journalists’ ethics is an individual or an organization’s right to reply. If the facts in the media report of the press media is found to defame the reputation of an individual or an organization, the person or organization have every right to deny and call a press conference. Like the accused has to defend in legal proceedings, the defamed person has such rights to explain against the accusation and deny. So, journalists need to take this point into serious consideration.

The next point is journalists are obliged to make correction. They are obliged to correct wrong information, statistics, concepts or things they presented. According to the provision of the international media laws, the newspapers and journals have to write corrigration with the same font on the same page in the nearest issue for the mistakes and actions will be taken against for failure to do so. So, the correctness of information, respect to the people’s right of reply and presentation of corrigration for mistakes are ethics journalists must abide by without question.

I here would like to repeat the five points I have always urged to the press, the media. The first point is the press must be free from bias, the second, every media report must be presented from various angles instead of from single point of view; enabling the people judge objectively, the third, every media report must be balanced presentation of freedom and accountability and freedom and reasoning power, the fourth is there must be unity democracy despite individual democratic right to freedom of concept, the fifth is to bring about unity in democracy on the ground of national interests. The press takes an oath of allegiance by thirty comrades while taking an oath of allegiance by thirty comrades while taking an oath by thirty comrades while taking an oath of allegiance by thirty comrades.

In these days, the Ministry of Information is fulfilling the duty of informing the people about the situation. In a period before this new legislation comes into force, we have planned to shape a landscape which is in harmony with the constitution and in accord with the press law which will be introduced soon. We have designed schemes for institution of censorship policies in various installments.

In 2011, business and crime genre in December 2011 and education genre in March 2012 were allowed to publish before going to censor board. Only news and religion journals have yet to submit publications to the censor board before printing. Among 212 local journals, 136 are under publishes/submit system and 73 under submit/publish system. Among 189 magazines, 124 are under publish/submit system and 65 under submit/publish system.

Similarly, general manuals related to remaining eight genres are under publish/submit system. We are drawing up a legislation related to the press. We studied laws from various world countries and ASEAN members for drafting the press law. In these days, the Ministry of Information and UNESCO will organize media development workshops in Yangon. We will use appropriate suggestions and reviews from these seminars for the good of Myanmar’s media world. I would like to inform you that the press law lives up to standards of ASEAN members.

Civil societies are being established in new democratic political scenario. Incumbent Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association will be reorganized to be commensurate with the age. It is learnt that informal conference of MWJA will take place to do in last week of this month. All those who desire the good of the world of letters including writers and journalists here intellectual and intelligentsia are urged to cooperate in shaping respective organizations related to media in reality of situation.

I wish that news media and individuals who will hold National Press Awards can serve the country and the public more and more. Taking this opportunity, I would like to recognize those of media men who are doing their best for development of Myanmar’s democratic society. I would like to conclude my speech, urging all to create ethical, quality and real in the media in perpetuation of Myanmar democratic society.

Next, Chairman of the National Press Award Committee U Soe Thein (Maung Wuntha) gave a speech, followed by presentation of national press award.

Patron of the NPAC writer Poe Thaukkyar presented best new award to Nan Lwin, Aye Thiri Win, Hin Yadana Zaw and Win Yadi from the Kumadara Journal by “Initiating for the future of the nation”, Chairman U Soe Thein (Maung Wuntha) best article award to Nyeein Nyeein Naing from 7 Days News Journal by “Arewed conflicts”.

ARWED CONFLICTS

(See page 10)
Towards media freedom in company with accountability and reasoning power

Hline Bwa (Parami)

While waiting for the train at the station, I became so absorbed in the advertisements on the TV screen in the lounge that I forgot to feed my stomach before the train departed. Advertisements highly recommend the marketed products they represent and do have great influence over the audience in spite of some arguable points they carry. This thought sparked my curiosity about the new trend of the media. Globally, the media has become more and more influential and important. Further driven by the technological advancement, it has extended its coverage to all the corners of the world. It makes whatever event in whatever part of the world spread to the other parts within seconds and minutes, expanding its influence on the global phenomena. In the blink of an eye, a piece of news can spread like wildfire far and wide.

Nonetheless, not every piece of news spread out is good to one every person. Some have right effect on the people of respective place on the nation or some may not. And, the right or wrong depends on who those who created the news. Some of the news carry the truth whereas some are poisoned by creators or messengers. So, the effect of the media, its pros and cons is in the hands of those who employ the media.

The media, accepted as the Fourth Estate by the most people, is a stuff of pivotal importance with immense influence and thus must be whiter than white without bias. A piece of news, once manipulated and violates from the truth, is dominated by wishes and make-up stories of the biased person, producing negative effects on its target audience, the people.

Furthermore, a media report must be made from various angles rather than from a single point of view. For example, like two sides of the same coin. The presentation should not represent the one-sided picture of the issue but must be the big.

The media, according to the democratic practice, is supposed to be independent in nature. However, when the media exploits this freedom, freedom alone can’t make it genuine. Media persons have to maintain a balance between freedom and accountability and reasoning power. Some ask for freedom of the media but never mention its accountability. Likewise, some only care about demanding freedom but do not think seriously of reasoning power which is of ethical value. It is quite difficult to enact a comprehensive law against any matter, and therefore, matters difficult to be controlled by the law must be controlled by reasoning power.

Therefore, the media needs to find a balance between freedom and accountability and freedom and reasoning power in practice. Its real mission and role is to present the news fairly and objectively by wisdom but are easily swayed and tend to make judgment out of emotion. So, the Fourth Estate must monitor the people, administrative, legislative and judicial institutions, parties and politicians as much as it possibly can to ensure the real essence of democracy without bias. Thus, the fourth pillar needs to build itself to prove its genuineness and characteristic.

Thus, it is required to enhance the capacity of all the media persons engaged in the mass media. The assistance of the international institutions is surely needed in so doing. However, the media should not be dominated by different colours from various parts of the world but must have its own objective view.

Democracy has just celebrated its first anniversary in Myanmar and is still in its infancy. In the west world, it has turned over 100 people, and people, politicians from those countries are democratically well mature. In our country, not only the people but the politicians and the media persons are still on an odyssey for democracy. So, it is difficult to be on a par with those old democracies overnight. But, we, Myanmars are not so dumb to learn and cue from the old democracies. Thus, I believe, in no time, Myanmar will be on the express train to the final station of mature democracy under the care of the media train conductor, who attaches great importance to freedom and accountability and reasoning power.

Changes initiated only after the law has come out. In the previous eras, both communists and socialists failed to practice the essence of genuine democracy instead manipulated it with party attachment, dogmatism, sectarianism and personality cult. Thus, the press in those eras represented the essence of the fourth pillar of the nation in vein. The nation in those periods saw a total of over 20 media organizations, all of which acted in the personal interests, ideological interests and party interests rather than national interests. It is evident that the people as a result were misled by the media into the wrong track, barly enjoying the benefits of democracy.

Therefore, ours is on the government, the parliament and MPs, political parties, politicians, NGOs to make sure democracy is practiced right embodying its very essence with the participation of the printed media. The press must monitor the legislation, execute and judicial institutions to ensure the essence of democracy in practice. The other three pillars must reciprocally check and balance on the ground of national interests practicing democracy correctly.

At this point, people cannot be left out from this process. People do play an important role as they have chosen the legislative bodies, administrative bodies and judicial bodies. So, it can be assumed that there are five pillars, and the fifth should be the people. Here, it needs to enable people to correctly practice the essence of democracy on their own. It can be seen that the global people including of Myanmar are weak in judging objectively by wisdom but are easily swayed and tend to make judgment out of emotion. So, the Fourth Estate must monitor the people, administrative, legislative and judicial institutions, parties and politicians and as much as it possibly can to ensure the real essence of democracy without bias.

Thus, the fourth pillar need to build itself to prove its genuineness and characteristic.

Translation: TKK

Unio Minister U Kyaw Hsan... (from page 9)

put on the table”. Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Association U Myint Thein Pe best news photo award to Aung Naing Soe from the Popular News Journal by “Like the story”, and MWJWA Chairman U Tin Haing (Ledwinta Saw Chiit) the most special national news photo award to senior reporter(photographer) Maung Naing Than (Kawhmu) of Myanmar News Agency Internal, News and Periodicals Enterprise, Information Ministry by “President U Tin Sein’s call on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi” and the award winners spoke words of thanks.

U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-SeinTha Tektahko) presented awards to winner of National Press Award logo contest Cho Zaw Aung and U Soe Thein (Maung Wuntha) awarded winner of National Press Award design contest U Sunny Nyein. Shwe than Lwin donated K 10 million; U Tin Tun (Tun Foundation Bank), K 5 million; Kanbawza Bank Ltd, Eden Co Ltd and Messenger Journals, K 2.5 million each; Asian Fane Media Group and Myanmar Album Media Services Co Ltd, K 2 million each; Hot News Journal and 7 Day News Journal, K 1.5 million each; Yangon Media Group and MWJWA, K 1 million each; The Voice Journal, K 0.3 million; and Artman Media Group, things worth of K 0.3 million through U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-SeinTha Tektahko) and treasurer National Press Award Committee Daw Nan Kyaw Win.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan cordially greeted those present at the ceremony. Journalists entertained those present with songs, opera and dances. — MNA

Translation: TKK
Ward administrator office opened in Taikkyi

Taikkyi, 18 March—A ceremony to open the administrative office was held in Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region on 11 March morning. On the occasion, Township Administrator U Tin Swe Myint, Ward Administrator U Khin Maung Oo and townsmen of U Hla Tin formally opened the new building.

Also present at the ceremony were Executive Officer U Soe Win of Township Development Affairs Committee, staff members of Township General Administration Department, administrators of eight urban wards in the urban area, members of Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade. (Township IRPD)

SANTATION CARRIED OUT: Under supervision of Township Administrator U Win Aung, ward administrators, members of Fire Brigade and Red Cross Society collectively participated in carrying out sanitation in the compound of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Yankin Township of Yangon Region on 10 March. (Myanma Alin)

Loans disbursed to vendors in Ottwin

Ottwin, 18 March—To be able to develop rural areas and alleviate poverty, Sibu Thar Yar Yaw Bank Ltd of Ottwin Township Development Affairs Committee of Bago Region disbursed K 1.5 million to vendors at the office of the Township DAC on 3 March. Executive Officer U Khaing Tun presented loans to the vendors. (Township IRPD)

CSC ISSUED: According to Moe Pwint-2 Plan, issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards was undertaken for eligible citizens in Kyakhatthaw Village of Kyain-SEIKKyi Township on 6 March. Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Win Hsiint presented a CSC to a student. (Township IRPD)

MWEA to hold 17th AGM

Yangon, 18 March—Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association will hold its 17th Annual General Meeting at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, at 9 am on 30 March.

Moreover, members of the MWEA will display a special sales of their products at the meeting. (MWEA)

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Seikkyi-khaanaungto

Yangon, 18 March—As part of efforts to implement Moe Pwint-2 Plan, Head of Yangon South District Immigration and National Registration Department U Kyi Win and Head of Township INRD U Ngwe Thaung supervised issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards in the administrative office in Seikkyi-khaanaungto East Ward in trip to the grassroots level in the township on 5 March. They inspected poultry and pig breeding farms and explained raising biosecurity to be able to prevent avian influenza and blue-ear pig disease to the breeders. They went to Wayaung I Village where they inspected the breeding farm of U Zaw Naing Oo. They discussed systematic implementation of integrated farm.

Together with Deputy Commissioner U Soe Lin of District General Administration Department, Township Administrator U Hein Tha Win and officials of LBVD and Cooperative Department, they held a discussion on distribution of pedigree animals to the breeders for development of livestock breeding sector. (District IRPD)

Development of livestock breeding, meat and fish sector provided

Mongphyat, 18 March—Shan State is striving for development of livestock breeding and meat and fish sector.

Head of Shan State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Kyaw Nyein and rural health branch construction committee U Lu Aye formally opened the building.

After that, the Head of Yangon Region Health Department Dr U Aye Ko Ko, Hmawby Township Administrator U Khin Maung Win and officials of LBVD Dr Ba Si made a field inspection of the breeding farm and Cooperative Department for health care services.

The ceremony was attended by wellwishers, departmental personnel, health staff, members of social organizations and village people. (Township IRPD)

Hmawby Township opens new rural health branch for health care services

The opening of Hninssmyangsaw Township new rural health branch was held in front of the branch in Hmawby Township of Yangon Region on 11 March morning.

Head of Hmawby Township IPRD Administrator U Hein Thu Lwin, Head of Township Health Department Dr Kyaw Nyein and rural health branch construction committee U Lu Aye formally opened the building.

After that, the Head of Yangon Region Health Department and the Hmawby Township Administrator made speeches at the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by wellwishers, departmental personnel, health staff, members of social organizations and village people. (Township IRPD)

Loans disbursed to cooperative societies

Patan, 18 March—For ensuring rural development and poverty alleviation, loans were disbursed to members of cooperative societies in Pathin Township.

On 9 March, Staff Officer of Township Cooperative Department Dr Daw Sanda Myint and party disbursed K 10 million to chairmen of cooperative societies for breeding pigs and coconut farming in Magyi Village and Thawbagan Village in Pathin Township and Shwethaungyan Sub-Township.

Up to now, the department has disbursed K 97.05 million to 1899 members of 21 cooperative societies. (Township CD)

Midnight fire breaks out in Meiktila

Meiktila, 18 March—The correspondent of Meiktila sent news that a fire broke out in Meiktila at 1:45 am on 17 March.

The fire started at the north part of Yadana Inn on Myathida Road in Region 3 of Yadana Maung Gyi Ward in Meiktila at 1:30 am on 17 March.

Five fire engines and local people arrived at the scene and put out the fire. At 1:55 am, they died out the fire. Seven houses were destroyed in the fire. (Myanma Alin)

MLF invites cash, books

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to broadening the horizons 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 Thenbawo Street in Botataung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.
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**Man jumped into drive-through window**

Police said they arrested a Florida man accused of jumping through a Burger King drive-through window and taking money from a register.

Fort Lauderdale police said Edwin Walker, 31, jumped through the window around 6:30 am, Monday morning and took money from a register before trying to jump back out, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reported Friday.

However, employee Tanya Calvin grabbed Walker by the shirt before he could make good his escape and he was held by store employees until police arrived.

“He wanted to take the money, and I wouldn’t let him,” Calvin said Tuesday. “I was either gonna kill him, or send him back to jail.”

Walker was arrested on a count of strong arm robbery. His bail was set at $10,000 and he was ordered to stay clear of the Burger King.

**Florida woman bit on buttocks by bear**

Wildlife officials in Florida said a woman walking her dog was bitten on the rear end by a black bear.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokeswoman Joy Hill said the woman was walking her dog at an apartment complex on Sable Drive in Longwood around 7 am Friday when the bear attacked, the Orlando Sentinel reported Friday.

The woman sustained four puncture wounds to her rear end and was taken to Florida Hospital Altamonte for treatment, Hill said.

Hill said wildlife officers are setting traps for the bear, which they plan to euthanize.

**Babysitter accused of lying to deputies**

Authorities in Florida said they arrested a babysitter accused of lying to deputies when he failed to pick up two boys from school.

A Marion County Sheriff’s Office said the aunt of the boys, ages 6 and 8, called authorities Tuesday and said the boys had not been brought home by their babysitter, Philip Kenneth Landino, 48, of Dunnellon, the Ocala Star Banner reported Friday.

A neighbour of Landino told deputies he had gone to the man’s home earlier in the day and found him asleep on the couch. He said he woke Landino up and it was time to pick up the kids from Riverland Christian Academy.

Landino, who deputies said appeared intoxicated and confused, told deputies he had picked the boys up from school earlier in the day and he did not know what happened to them after he fell asleep.

However, deputies found a note on Landino’s door from Riverland Christian Academy Principal Denise Aiello saying she had stopped by the home and decided to take the boys to her home after being unable to reach Landino.

Landino, who later told deputies he committed the crime, was arrested and charged with providing false information to a law enforcement officer and resisting arrest without violence.

**Maher defends Palin insults**

New York, 18 March—US comedian Bill Maher says it’s OK for him to call Sarah Palin a “c—” because the former Alaska governor is a public figure, not a private citizen. The liberal TV personality made the comment in an interview with ABC News’ Jake Tapper Thursday on his ABC News’ Daily News reported.

The two were talking about the media firestorm that occurred when conservative talk-show host Rush Limbaugh called liberal TV personality made the comment in an interview with ABC News’ Jake Tapper Thursday on his ABC News’ Daily News reported.

**Burrell, Charles to star in ‘Peabody’ film**

Ty Burrell and Max Charles will star in the Peabody film.

GLENDALE, 18 March—Comedian and television host Bill Maher and girl friend Cara Santa Maria.

Maher also said Limbaugh “went after a civilian about very specific behavior, that was a lie, speaking for a party that has systematically gone after women’s rights all year, on the public airwaves,” the Daily News said.—Internet

**Rihanna explains Brown collaborations**

LOS ANGELES, 18 March—Pop star Rihanna said she initiated her recent collaborations with Chris Brown, the former beau who assaulted her in Los Angeles three years ago.

Brown was placed on probation and ordered to complete community service after he pleaded guilty to beating Rihanna during a heated argument in a car.

Despite their stormy past, rumors have been swirling in recent months that the recording stars have secretly rekindled their romance. Rihanna and Brown fueled the speculation last month when they released collaborative remixes of their respective songs “Birthday Cake” and “Turn Up the Music.” “I reached out to him about doing ‘Birthday Cake’ because that’s the only person it made sense to do it with,” E! News reported Rihanna told Ryan Seacrest Thursday on his KIIS-FM radio show.—Internet

**Neve Campbell pregnant with first baby**

Los Angeles, 18 March—Neve Campbell’s publicist says the US actress is pregnant with her first child.

Campbell, 38, is best known for her work in the “Scream” film franchise and TV’s “Party of Five.”

Her boyfriend is 33-year-old actor JJ Feild, who starred in the blockbuster “Captain America: The First Avenger.”

“They are thrilled,” Campbell’s representative told People.com Friday. The baby’s gender and due date were not revealed.—Internet

**Jury in ‘Housewives’ case remains deadlocked**

Desperate Housewives” to keep deliberating even though jurors say they are hopelessly deadlocked.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Allen White sent jurors home Friday after they reported the impasse. The group is considering whether Sheri dan was wrongfully termi- nated after complaining that she was struck on the set by series creator Marc Cherry. The group says it is split eight to four but didn’t indicate which side the majority favored. Nine jurors have to agree on a verdict.—Internet

**Couric’s new show to debut in September**

New York, 18 March—Broadcast journalist Katie Couric says her new weekday talk show “Katie” will start taping in New York this September.

“We now have our studio, a great-looking logo that exudes all of the qualities we want the show to convey, and a terrific team with a diverse background of experience,” the New York Daily News quoted show producer Jeff Zucker as saying Thursday in a telephone interview with Couric by his side. “We couldn’t be more excited about 10 Sept. It’s going to be a lot of fun.”

**Rare Marilyn Monroe photos hit auction block**

LOS ANGELES, 18 March—A collection of never-before-seen photos of Marilyn Monroe—and their accompanying copyrights—are going up for auction.

Celebrity auctioneer Darren Julien says 100 images of Monroe will be sold the highest bidder later this year.

The photos come from the estate of all “Whitney” Snyder, Monroe’s personal makeup artist for 15 years. One image shows Snyder applying makeup to a lingerie-wearing Monroe on the set of “Let’s Make Love” in 1960. Letters, telegram and a money clip from Monroe to Snyder are also among the lots set to be sold during Julien’s Auctions’ Hollywood Legends sale on 31 March and 1 April.

The auction also includes memorabilia from Frank Sinatra, James Dean, Charlie Chaplin and Sammy Davis, Jr.—Internet

**Maher defends Palin insults**

New York, 18 March—US comedian Bill Maher says it’s OK for him to call Sarah Palin a “c—” because the former Alaska governor is a public figure, not a private citizen. The liberal TV personality made the comment in an interview with ABC News’ Jake Tapper Thursday on his ABC News’ Daily News reported.

The two were talking about the media firestorm that occurred when conservative talk-show host Rush Limbaugh called liberal TV personality made the comment in an interview with ABC News’ Jake Tapper Thursday on his ABC News’ Daily News reported.

**Burrell, Charles to star in ‘Peabody’ film**

Ty Burrell and Max Charles have signed up for the lead roles in the movie “Mr Peabody & Sherman,” California’s DreamWorks Animation said Friday.

Based on Jay Ward’s classic cartoon, the film is about Mr Peabody, the world’s smartest person, who happens to be a dog.

“With the Peabody boy Sherman uses their time traveling WABAC machine without permission, events in history spiral out of control to disastrous, yet comical results, a synopsis said.

“THe brilliantly comic

**Rihanna explains Brown collaborations**

LOS ANGELES, 18 March—Pop star Rihanna says she initiated her recent collaborations with Chris Brown, the former beau who assaulted her in Los Angeles three years ago.

Brown was placed on probation and ordered to complete community service after he pleaded guilty to beating Rihanna during a heated argument in a car.

Despite their stormy past, rumors have been swirling in recent months that the recording stars have secretly rekindled their romance. Rihanna and Brown fueled the speculation last month when they released collaborative remixes of their respective songs “Birthday Cake” and “Turn Up the Music.” “I reached out to him about doing ‘Birthday Cake’ because that’s the only person it made sense to do it with,” E! News reported Rihanna told Ryan Seacrest Thursday on his KIIS-FM radio show.—Internet

**Neve Campbell pregnant with first baby**

Los Angeles, 18 March—Neve Campbell’s publicist says the US actress is pregnant with her first child.

Campbell, 38, is best known for her work in the “Scream” film franchise and TV’s “Party of Five.”

Her boyfriend is 33-year-old actor JJ Feild, who starred in the blockbuster “Captain America: The First Avenger.”

“They are thrilled,” Campbell’s representative told People.com Friday. The baby’s gender and due date were not revealed.—Internet

**Jury in ‘Housewives’ case remains deadlocked**

Desperate Housewives” to keep deliberating even though jurors say they are hopelessly deadlocked.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Allen White sent jurors home Friday after they reported the impasse. The group is considering whether Sheri dan was wrongfully termi- nated after complaining that she was struck on the set by series creator Marc Cherry. The group says it is split eight to four but didn’t indicate which side the majority favored. Nine jurors have to agree on a verdict.—Internet

**Couric’s new show to debut in September**

New York, 18 March—Broadcast journalist Katie Couric says her new weekday talk show “Katie” will start taping in New York this September.

“We now have our studio, a great-looking logo that exudes all of the qualities we want the show to convey, and a terrific team with a diverse background of experience,” the New York Daily News quoted show producer Jeff Zucker as saying Thursday in a telephone interview with Couric by his side. “We couldn’t be more excited about 10 Sept. It’s going to be a lot of fun.”

**Rare Marilyn Monroe photos hit auction block**

LOS ANGELES, 18 March—A collection of never-before-seen photos of Marilyn Monroe—and their accompanying copyrights—are going up for auction.

Celebrity auctioneer Darren Julien says 100 images of Monroe will be sold the highest bidder later this year.

The photos come from the estate of all “Whitney” Snyder, Monroe’s personal makeup artist for 15 years. One image shows Snyder applying makeup to a lingerie-wearing Monroe on the set of “Let’s Make Love” in 1960. Letters, telegram and a money clip from Monroe to Snyder are also among the lots set to be sold during Julien’s Auctions’ Hollywood Legends sale on 31 March and 1 April.

The auction also includes memorabilia from Frank Sinatra, James Dean, Charlie Chaplin and Sammy Davis, Jr.—Internet
**Isner stuns Djokovic, to meet Federer in final**

**Indian Wells, 18 March**—John Isner pulled off the biggest win of his career at the BNP Paribas Open on Saturday before Roger Federer outplayed long-time rival Rafa Nadal in the other semi-final.

Big-serving American Isner overpowered world number-one Novak Djokovic 7-6 3-6 7-6 and will face Federer in Sunday’s final, the Swiss having eased past Spaniard Nadal 6-3 6-4.

The second semi-final was delayed by three-and-a-half hours because of steady rain before Federer and Nadal came out for their heavily anticipated showdown, the Swiss dominating before sealing victory in one hour, 31 minutes.

Serving for the match at 5-4 and 40-30, Federer was briefly held up by a light sprinkling of rain before he powered down a 128 mph ace, his sixth in all, to book his place in the final.

**Kuyt bullish about Liverpool’s future**

**London, 18 March**—Dirk Kuyt insists Liverpool still have plenty of unfulfilled potential as they prepare to step up their quest for a cup double with Saturday’s quarter-final against Stoke.

Kenny Dalglish’s side ended a six-year wait for a trophy when they beat Championship side Cardiff in the League Cup final on penalties last month.

Despite their cup success, the Reds are 10 points adrift of the Reds from the post but that’s behind us now — you have to fit them into the team.

**Goosen, Furyk tied for lead in Tampa**

**Palm Harbor, 18 March**—Retief Goosen was about ready to give up.

His lower back was in so much pain that he decided to withdraw next week from Bay Hill so he could get treatment.

A double bogey late in his round knocked him nine spots down the leaderboard, which he figured was the end of his hopes to get into the Masters.

One day later, everything changed.

Goosen ran off three straight birdies on the back nine and closed with a tough par from the fairway bunker on the 18th hole Saturday for a 6-under 65 that put him atop the leaderboard with Jim Furyk in the Transitions Championship.

Goosen is No 52 in the world ranking, and he has to be in the top 50 after next week to avoid missing Augusta National — along with St Andrews, his favorite course — for the first time since 1999. He can avoid the math and just win the tournament, which comes with an automatic invitation.

Those prospects looked dim when he decided Friday to pull out of Bay Hill, and arranged for a protein injection in Virginia on Wednesday. Suddenly, the final is packed with significance.

Furyk, determined to overcome an atrocious season in 2011, surged into the lead with a 6-iron that covered the flag on the par-3 15th hole and settled 3 feet away for a birdie. He fell back into a tie on the 18th hole with a three-putt bogey up a steep ridge. That gave him a 66. Furyk and Goosen, former US Open champions who have won before at Innisbrook, were at 11-under 202.

Furyk was tied for the lead with Sang-moon Bae, the South Korean who last month won the Match Play Championship.

**Bayern Munich’s Toni Kroos celebrates scoring a goal during their German first division Bundesliga against Hertha BSC Berlin, in Berlin, on 17 March.**

**Bayern Munich score 20 goals in last three games**

**Munich, 18 March**—Bayern Munich captain Philipp Lahm believes the Bavarian giants can’t keep apart almost anyone after their 6-0 hammering of Hertha Berlin and their subsequent 20 goals in their last three matches.

**Milan maintain four-point lead over Juve**

**Milan, 18 March**—AC Milan cruised to a comfortable 2-0 win at Parma on Saturday to maintain their four-point lead over Juventus, who coasted to a 5-0 win at Fiorentina. A penalty from Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Urby Emanuelsson’s stunning solo effort secured a win for the rossoneri that never looked in doubt and heaped the pressure on Juve in the late game. But helped by Alessio Cerci’s first in-elimination, they couldn’t be victors with goals from Mirko Vucinic, Antonio Vidal, Claudio Marchisio, Andrea Pirlo and Simone Padoin.

It was a crucial success for Juve and only their second win in eight games but with 10 games left, Milan appear to have hit their stride at just the right time. Their result was earned despite a host of important first team players, such as Kevin-Prince Boateng, Mark van Bommel, Robinho, Pato, Philippe Mexes and Alessandro Nesta being ruled out.
Manchester, 18 March—Manchester United extended their lead over Manchester City at the top of the Premier League to four points after demolition of a hapless Wolves.

Jonny Evans recorded his first United goal, from a corner, before Ronald Zubar saw red for two yellow cards. That handed the impetus to the visitors with Antonio Valencia scoring on the break and Danny Welbeck tucking in. Javier Hernandez then headed in and finished Valencia’s cross with Steven Fletcher going closest for Wolves.

The Scotland striker’s headers either side of half-time were all the hosts could muster in a game that might have proved a daunting enough challenge even before Zubar’s dismissal left them a man short with more than half the match remaining. Wolves have now won once in 14 league games and, having put Terry Connor in charge four games ago to try to lift them out of trouble, they now sit bottom of the table. This was Connor’s third defeat in four since taking charge and they have conceded 12 goals in their last three games without scoring. For Sir Alex Ferguson’s side, the emphatic scoreline had the additional benefit of reducing the goal difference between City and themselves to just three goals.—Internet

Fernando Torres scores twice as Chelsea beat Leicester 5-2 in their FA Cup quarter-final tie at Stamford Bridge

London, 18 March—Fernando Torres ended a 24-game drought with two strikes as Chelsea booked a place in the FA Cup semi-finals with victory over Leicester. Gary Cahill headed Chelsea in front and Salomon Kalou finished a breakaway for a second before Torres prodded in. After Jermaine Beckford tapped in a rebound, Torres, who had not scored in 152 days, headed a fourth. Leicester’s Ben Marshall drove in from 25 yards but Raul Meireles finished a counter-attack to score the fifth.—Internet

Jerry Lewis celebrates 86th birthday in NYC

New York, 18 March—Jerry Lewis did not turn 86 quietly. The comedian and filmmaker, whose New York celebration from Las Vegas for an hour-long concert Friday night. It started with an onstage interview at Manhattan’s 92nd Street Y, then continued in midtown at the Friars Club, where hundreds gathered to sing happy birthday to Lewis, who added his trademark goofy voice. Wearing a dark blazer and bright red shirt, Lewis sat at a corner table in the club’s Frank Sinatra room, with Richard Belzer and Robert Klein among those at his table. His meal included a slice of birthday cake, a three-tiered production decorated with movie stills, a microphone and miniatures of the performer. Lewis is known for such movies as “The Nutty Professor,” and for hosting the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s telethon.—Internet
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief attends opening of Defence Services Museum (Nay Pyi Taw)

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe attend national press award presentation

Liverpool earned a spot in the FA Cup semi-finals after a 2-1 win over Stoke City

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—To hail the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Defence Services Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) was opened at the square of the museum in Zeyahtiri Township here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Lt-Gen Hla Htway Htway Nyunt, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander and wife, the parade commander and column commanders of the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, officers and other ranks, central military band and guests.

Defence Services Museum formally unveiled the statue of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wife Daw Hway Hway Nyunt, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander and wife, the parade commander and column commanders of the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, officers and other ranks, central military band and guests.

Maj-Gen Nyan Tun of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief explained facts about the museum. Next, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and Lt-Gen Myat Hein formally opened the commemorative statue of the museum by cutting a ribbon.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing formally unveiled the statue, the central military band played military songs and the first session of the ceremony concluded.

At the second session, General Min Aung Hlaing pressed the button to unveil the stone inscription of the Defence Services Museum and sprinkled scented water on it.

Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Hla Htway Htway Nyunt, Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and Lt-Gen Myat Hein also sprinkled scented water on the stone inscription.

(See page 9)

YANGON, 18 March—The first national press award presentation, jointly organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and National Press Award Committee was held at National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township here this afternoon, attended by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, departmental heads of the Information Ministry and Culture Ministry, chairpersons and executives of the MWJA, Myanmar Motion Picture Association, Myanmar Music Association, and Myanmar Artists Association, the patron, chairperson and CEC members of the National Press Award Committee, members of the national press awards selection board, senior journalists, the literati, writers, award winners and their families, donors, personnel from private journals and guests.

Next, Violinist U Tin Yi and his band of musicians sang a song entitled “May every flower in bloom” to open the ceremony, followed by dance to the accompaniment of Alinka Wutyi band. In his opening speech, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan said: Today’s occasion is the first ever kind of ceremony to present National Press Award presentation.

(See page 9)

LONDON, 18 March—Liverpool so nearly took the lead after just two minutes when Steven Gerrard found Maxi Rodriguez, but his header just missed the right side of the goal.

Stoke’s first chance of the match fell to former Liverpool striker Peter Crouch after 12 minutes, but his effort was pushed away by Pepe Reina in the Liverpool goal.

Stoke continued to enjoy spells of possession in the opening period, and Ryan Shawcross came close with an effort after 21 minutes before Maxi again came close for the home side.

Liverpool took the lead after 23 minutes, however, courtesy of Liverpool’s Stewart Downing scores his side’s second goal against Stoke

Luis Suarez who found the top corner after 23 minutes when Downing found the back of the net after a smart header by Pepe Reina in the Liverpool goal.

The win gives Liverpool the chance to secure a second cup success this season, following their Carling Cup win against Cardiff City last month. –Internet