Three powers have been equally shared

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

President U Thein Sein

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

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Bangladeshi President

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

As the government has conducted rural development and poverty alleviation scheme which is topping agenda far and wide, it has promoted the role of private sector in rice sector reforms

Guarantee purchase system has been introduced to make sure farmers earn deservedly after the harvest

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

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

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

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

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

First, Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung reported on locations of towns and towns in Ayeyawady Region, number of houses, households and population, cultivation of paddy and other nine major crops, (See page 4)
A firm stance against fire

No country is immune from fire and Myanmar is no exception. Fire cases often lead to loss of human lives and properties. The value of property loss depends on the fire intensity, the location and the duration of the blaze.

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

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

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

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

Pobbatthiri Township receiving free dental care

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 March — Pobbatthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is receiving free dental care treated by Aung Thiri Foundation starting from this morning. At No. 5 Basic Education Middle School in Seiknantone Village, a total of 20 dentists and 20 assistants took care of patients from Seiknantone, Nyaungbinkyesu, Ywathit, Koeywa Thabyaekone, Thabyaedan Village-tracts in Pobbatthiri Township. There were a total of 209 patients who received free dental treatment on today’s records from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

In his instructions, the President said that Myanmar and Laos are in good relationships in the history and it is a good neighbor. Likewise, he said that the people of both countries have similar religion, traditional culture and customs and the two countries have mutual respects. Thus, he said that it is necessary to further strengthen the friendly relationship between the two countries. The families of embassy and military attaché are to unitively discharge duties assigned by the State. He stressed the need for the staff to emphasize the smooth relations between the two countries and to learn Laotian language during the assignment period.

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

Home Affairs Minister meets Laotian public security minister

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

Also present at the call together with the Union Minister were Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Director-General of Political Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Hauk Do Swan, Myanmar Military Attaché to Lao Brig-Gen Win Maung and officials. — MNA

Men’s Hockey Tournament kicks off

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

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

The participant teams are Tatmadaw (Navy), Tatmadaw (Air), Nay Pyi Taw Command, Northern Command, Triangle Region Command, Yangon Command, South-West Command, North-West Command, No. (1) Light Infantry Division, Myanmar Police Force. Its awarding-ceremony will be held on 7 April, 2012. — NLM
Six children, two adults die in West Virginia house fire

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

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

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

The seventh child, a boy, was in a hospital intensive care unit and “not doing well,” Sharp said.

Sharp said the lone surviving adult, a woman who reported the fire, was “very traumatized” and taken to the hospital for treatment.

“This is the worst house fire in the history of Charleston and maybe in West Virginia,” Charleston Mayor Danny Jones told a news conference. “I don’t know of another house fire, anywhere, where eight people have died.”

Officials said the fire burned quickly and left many parts of the house intact, giving investigators confidence that they can determine what caused the fire. They believe they know where the fire started on the first floor of the rented house.

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

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

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

Japan push to anti-terror measures at nuke plants

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

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

Australia hit by biggest quake in 15 years

Sydney, 25 March—Australia has been hit by its biggest earthquake in 15 years, seismologists said, rattling a remote part of the desert with local Aboriginals reporting strong shaking but no major damage. The 6.3-magnitude earthquake had its epicentre near Ernabella, in the middle of Australia, at a shallow depth of three kilometres (1.8 miles).

Resident Ria Nicholls told ABC radio houses shook and windows rattled for about 30 seconds with elderly people on her street terrified by late Friday’s quake. “My husband and I just reassured them that it would be fine and it would pass, but they were frightened,” she said.—Internet
As the government has conducted rural development and poverty... 

(From page 1)

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

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

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

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

As you all know, our Ayeyawady Region, being a delta, is teeming with rivers and creeks and we find it difficult to travel by road. Particularly, Ngapudaw relies mainly on water route due to its difficult road transport. Although we had to take about four hours to reach Pathein in the past, now we can go there within about one hour thanks to the newly-built Pathein-Ngapudaw Road, through which all parts of Myanmar can be accessible. But, here, I would like to express my deep condolences for the loss of lives of people before the inauguration of the bridge and road due to a vessel capsizing. The bridge construction started on 10-1-2011 and we took more than a year to complete it. Ayeyawady Region produces abundance of salt, timber, rice and marine products. With its development, our region inviting local and foreign investments. As efforts abroad for various reasons rendered their help as much as possible. Moreover, philanthropic societies, NGOs and other organizations made their contributions. As a result of this, such societies and organizations are emerging one after another across the country to help the needy people and fulfill requirements.

Now it is heartening to see that the storm-affected regions have been able to renew their strength. But our Ayeyawady dwellers still have to do more. We have to continue our concerted efforts so that the whole Ayeyawady Region can yield more fruitful results to surprise the whole world. We are now planning to build a deep-sea port in this region inviting local and foreign investments. As efforts in the emergency rescue periods. Then, we made national strategic decisions that every survivor must reach a situation that was far better than that of the past. And then we continued our endeavours with our conviction that the entire region must develop in all aspects without a single case of destructive problems. With less disaster, we built roads and bridges for regional development. We will continue to work to make sure that the region has economic networks through transport networks.
But, we are taking time to make sure its long-term stability, in near future. We can adjust the rate in short time on our own. and local scholars and institutions to adjust exchange rate. foodstuff manufacturers had faced the consequential effects, last year, as the exchange rate had decreased, growers and loans were disbursed. Specialized companies and government low in quality and inauthentic. The solution to this situation inputs of agriculture sector but insufficiently. Consequently, have been cases of decrease in yield and reduction in quality of various crops, affecting the price. inputs and capitals for cultivation. Likewise, we have introduced reforms. We are also taking measures to provide essential alleviation scheme which is topping our agenda far and wide, enable our youths keep abreast of international community is of future of the younger generation. We have to bolster up the youth. We have to enhance their quality and caliber. We have to create opportunities for them. We, the older generation, must selflessly help the younger generation, the future leaders for their improvement. In the coming years, we will increase education and health expenditure which is important for the future of the youth. We have also initiated capacity-enhancing programmes for them in cooperation with international organizations and governments. Whenever I pay visit to foreign countries, I always propose to allow our youths pursue education at well-known universities of those countries. To enable our youths keep abreast of international community is also one of our nation-building plans.

As we have conducted rural development and poverty alleviation scheme which is topping our agenda far and wide, we have promoted the role of private sector in rice sector reforms. We are also taking measures to provide essential reforms. We have also initiated capacity-enhancing programmes for them in cooperation with international organizations and governments. Whenever I pay visit to foreign countries, I always propose to allow our youths pursue education at well-known universities of those countries. To enable our youths keep abreast of international community is also one of our nation-building plans.

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President U Thein Sein receives Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman

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

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

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

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

Laotian President hosts dinner to Myanmar President

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

Present at the dinner together with President U Thein Sein were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Lt-Gen Soe Win, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Winna Maung Lwin, Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister U Myint Hlaing, Union Commerce Minister U Win Tun, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Myat, Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Kyaw Soe Win and departmental heads. The Laotian President was accompanied by Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong, ministers and high-ranking officials.

The Laotian President extended greetings and proposed a toast. The Myanmar President said he visited Laos for the first time in November, 2007 in his capacity as prime minister, during which he enjoyed the picturesque view of Laos and experienced the hospitality of Lao people. He added that he visited Laos for second time in March, 2008 and he was pleased in visiting Laos again now. Although the visit was short, he could further cement the friendly ties and learn the dramatic developments of Laos in recent years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—MNA

President U Thein Sein arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

The Myanmar President and the Laotian President enjoy cultural dances at the dinner.—MNA
Myanmar is well on the way to democracy after neighbouring countries helping each other. A lot of visits to Laos. Myanmar and Laos are delegation members. The President has paid a departmental heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Laotian ambassador to Myanmar and Phongsavath Boupha, representatives of the assembly, the executive and judicial estates. Both sides frankly discussed and democratic check and balance system among legislation, and development. Both sides agreed that the plan to launch direct flight between Vientiane and Yangon for tourism development can be implemented. He urges both countries to coordinate training exchange programmes in the education sector. Bilateral expertise will benefit both countries. He also expressed thanks to Myanmar for its assistance to Laos throughout history. Laos will also support the Myanmar government and its people for successful democratization. Laos will continue its support for Myanmar in the regional and international issues. He is glad that Myanmar will develop more upon completion of Mekong River Friendship Bridge. It is also necessary to cooperate in other sectors such as agriculture and minerals. He believes that the plan to launch direct flight between Vientiane and Yangon for tourism development can be implemented. He agrees that the plan to launch direct flight between Vientiane and Yangon for tourism development can be implemented. He expresses his thanks for that support. He is also grateful to Laos for its support for Myanmar to take chair in ASEAN in 2014. Myanmar also owes gratitude to Laos for its support in demanding the relaxation of Western countries’ economic sanctions against Myanmar at ASEAN Foreign Affairs Ministers’ Meeting held in Cambodia earlier this year. He is glad to see that Laos is progressing day by day under the good leadership of the government headed by the Laotian President. Every country needs to prioritize food security when the population grows larger. Agriculture plays a key role in food security. Myanmar, China and Vietnam are working in cooperation to develop special high-yield paddy strains. We need to cooperate with Laos. In producing rice, new techniques are being sought not only for local food sufficiency but also for foreign export. He would provide Laos and help if it tends to observe these efforts. Construction of Mekong Bridge will soon be implemented. Upon completion of the bridge, Myanmar is accessible from Da Nang of Vietnam through Laos. Turning to the north, Yunnan Province of China is accessible. Vietnam will offer help in implementing railroad. Tourism industry will be developed if there are flights between the two countries. The Laotian President said: He agreed everything the Myanmar President had said. He will also extend help. Pragmatic cooperation is needed for border affairs. Furthermore, demarcation between the two countries should be taken with seriousness. Laos is interested to cooperate with Myanmar in agriculture. Especially, Myanmar’s agricultural sector has superior technology. He will happily cooperate with Myanmar. He was heartened by existing mutual ties, collaboration among the peoples and cooperation in various fields. He invited the Myanmar President to attend 9th ASEAN-EU Summit to be held in 2012. The Myanmar President expressed his wish for prosperity of the Vietnamese President and Laotian people. After the meeting, bilateral agreement signing ceremony was held. In the presence of the two Presidents, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint and Laotian Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr Somvath Pholsena signed an agreement on Myanmar-Laos Mekong River Friendship Bridge construction and exchanged the notes. Later, the two Presidents posed for documentary photos together with their entourages.

President U Thein Sein meets Laotian National Assembly President

President of National Assembly of Laos handed the Myanmar President to attend 9th ASEAN- EU Summit this year and will try its best to ensure success. Agreements between the two countries on bilateral cooperation in various sectors must be reached practically. Laos is working on border region security and development by calling territorial and cross-border meetings. It is necessary to seek ways in coordinating economic, trade and investment matters of the two countries. Joint cooperation meetings between the two countries are important and it is required to quickly implement the results of those meetings. The bilateral border affairs require more cooperation that guarantees peace and amity. Bilateral trade will be taken with seriousness. Laos is interested to cooperate with Myanmar in agriculture. Especially, Myanmar’s agricultural sector has superior technology. He will happily cooperate with Myanmar. He was heartened by existing mutual ties, collaboration among the peoples and cooperation in various fields. He invited the Myanmar President to attend 9th ASEAN-EU Summit to be held in 2012. The Myanmar President expressed his wish for prosperity of the Vietnamese President and Laotian people. After the meeting, bilateral agreement signing ceremony was held. In the presence of the two Presidents, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint and Laotian Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr Somvath Pholsena signed an agreement on Myanmar-Laos Mekong River Friendship Bridge construction and exchanged the notes. Later, the two Presidents posed for documentary photos together with their entourages.
Dear Aung Thura,

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

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

You have been a brilliant soldier. It can be said like father, like son to you because your grandpa Col Tun Myat scarified his life for the nation in Mongyan battle, fired by the enemy in the battle bravely fighting the BCP forces. Your uncle lost his left leg in Mongyan battle, fire by the enemy in the battle fighting with the BCP forces. Your uncle scarificed his life for the nation in Mekong battle, fire by the enemy in the battle fighting with the BCP forces. Your uncle scarificed lots of lives, blood and sweat to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes for perpetual existence of the Union. It has ever been the prominent part of national history.

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

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

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

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

Dear Aung Thura,

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

Dear Aung Thura,

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

(See page 9)
Printing one business weekly and one monthly magazine
for development of ICT said that his ministry is speeding
Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and departmental
Myint, Deputy Minister for National Planning and
U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Commerce U Win
Minister of National Planning and Economic Development
President Dr Sai Mauk Kham was welcomed by Union
and Economic Development this morning.
Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of National Planning
Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham
the Kokko tree at the entrance to the village gazing us.
We saw a crying old Kachin woman standing with the
ranges one day while patrolling for regional security.
In your letter, you wrote: We got to a Kachin village
proud of you and your subordinates for your act. In
in a Kachin village you arrived unexpectedly. I am very
Hluttaw, President U Thein Sein instructed on building
address to the first regular session of Pyidaungsu
of Tatmadaw to be strong, powerful,
forces to safeguard the nation. We must join hands in
building the present Tatmadaw to be strong, powerful,
modern, patriotic one. Every citizen is obliged to
against the risk of their lives and who sacrificed lives for the
safeguard the constitution of the State at
risk of life.
Likewise, Tatmadaw will always safeguard
Our Three Main National Causes which is like lifeblood of our motherland.
"I pay heartfelt salute to all the Tatmadawmen
who safeguarded Our Three Main National Causes at
the risk of their lives and who sacrificed lives for the
motherland in successive periods throughout the
history on the occasion of the 67th Anniversary
Armed Forces Day."
May you and all the Tatmadawmen free from
dangers.

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

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

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

Union Minister U Win Myint in his report on tasks
for development of ICT said that his ministry is speeding
up e-government tasks, launching three web sites,
printing one business weekly and one monthly magazine
and using 11 applications for ensuring smooth trade and
office works.

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

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

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said he was
there to inspect e-government systems of the ministries and
observed e-government tasks of the Ministry of
National Planning and Economic Development.

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

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

MNA
Health infrastructures in Ayeyawady Region turning out healthy and fit citizens

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

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

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Veterinary clinic put into service

DEBAYE, 25 March—The veterinary clinic of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department was opened on Bogyoke Road in Ward 2 of Dedaye Township of Pyapon District in Ayeyarwady Region on 19 March. Head of District LBVD Dr Kyi Kyi Thein and Township Administrator U Tin Shwe formally opened the clinic. The facility is 40 feet x30 feet reinforced concrete building.

Fire preventive measures taken in Labutta Township

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

Sanpya library opened in Aungmyethazan Township

MANDALAY, 25 March—A ceremony to open Sanpya Library was held in Northern Thayetatine of Upokdaw Ward in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, on 10 March. Deputy Director U Kyaw Than Tun of Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department, Administrator U Aung Naing of Aungmyethazan Township and Chairman of the library committee U Myint Than cut the ribbon to open the library. The book donation ceremony followed at Santhada Dhammayon. The Township Administrator and the Deputy Director of Region IPRD made speeches. Next, the deputy director handed over books and publications donated by Mandalay Region IPRD and wellwishers, books and cash. The chairman of Library Committee, Vice-Chairman U Mya Thein and librarian Daw Su Su Win accepted the donations. The 20x40 feet library is one-storey building. 

Age-wise measles vaccination clarified in Sittway

SITTWAY, 25 March—A ceremony to make a clarification on age-wise measles vaccination programme 2012 at Rakhine State level was held at the hall of Rakhine State Health Department in Sittway on 6 March morning. Rakhine State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Aung Kyaw Min made a speech. Head of State Health Department Dr Than Tun Aung explained age-wise measles vaccination tasks. After that, the attendees participated in the discussions and the officials replied to their queries.

Free health care provided to rural people in Pyu

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

MLF invites wellwishers to donate cash, books

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to broaden the horizon of the people and developing self-reliant libraries across the nation. Those wishing to donate cash and books to the libraries may contact Myanmar Libraries Foundation at No. 228 on Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.

Talks on danger of fire given in Kaleywa

KALEWA, 25 March—The talks on danger of fire took place at the Myama Market of Kalewa Township Development Affairs Committee in Sagaing Region on 11 March. It was attended by Township Administrator U Myint Aung, Executive Officer U Khin Zaw of Township Development Affairs Committee and staff. Head of Township Fire Services Department U Aung Soe, members of Fire Brigade and families of the market.

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

Illegal two-digit lottery seller arrested

MUKTILA, 25 March—SIP-Zin Ko Ko of Mekitila District Crime Combating Squad, together with the authorities of North Pyithaya Ward, acting on tip-off, searched the house of Moe Win Tun between 4th and 5th streets in North Pyithaya Ward in Mekitila on 14 March. They seized documents related to sales of illegal two-digit lottery and wager K 4600 in the presence of the witnesses. Action was taken against the illegal lottery seller under the law. 

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

In the incident, some freight-handling workers were injured. Indagaw Police Station opened the file against the traffic accident. 

Shwepyitha Township turns 75

TE truck turns over near Indagaw

BAGO, 25 March—A TE truck driven by Tin Soe, 40 of the development affairs committee’s compound in Shwepyitha Township turned over between mile posts 36/5 and 36/6 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Indagaw Village of Bago Region at 6 pm on 20 March.

Bago, 25 March—Over two mile posts 36/5 and 36/6 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Indagaw Village of Bago Region at 6 pm on 20 March.

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

District: A 13-member delegation comprising entrepreneurs and scholars of associations under Myanmar Fisheries Federation led by General Secretary of MFF U Win Kyawng left here by air for Vietnam to attend the 4th International Exhibition on Livestock, Dairy and Meat Processing & Aquaculture Expo IDEX Vietnam 2012 to be held in New Saigon Exhibition & Convention Centre (SECC), 799 Nguyen Van Linh, District 7 of Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam from 22 to 24 March and observe the factories of Vietnam for breeding of fresh water and seawater fish and breeding and production of aquafeed to be exported. The Myanmar delegation seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure for Vietnam.—MFF
Thai Rail plans $70 b infrastructure investment

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

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

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

Separately, she said the country would invest $11.4 billion in water management measures to ensure there was no repeat of the devastating floods which left more than 800 dead and deluged hundreds of thousands of homes.

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

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

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

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

Turkish forces kill 15 women

Kurd rebels

Istanbul, 25 March—Turkish security forces killed 15 rebel Kurds, all of them women, in fighting with Turkish security forces in the southeast of the country, the interior ministry said.—Internet

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

South Africa launches plans to curb rampant TB

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

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

But indications of possible troubles abounded already in evidence, according to newspaper reports.

Auckland resident Kawhai Chambers told the Herald on Sunday newspaper he was caught in an angry exchange on Saturday as another driver applied the new rules a day early.—Internet

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

Russian banker shot in London ‘wanted in Moldova’

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

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

“Can we write an thousand requests? Britain will never extradite him to us,” it quoted anti-corruption prosecutor Vitaly Radetskiy as saying.

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

But the Kommersant business daily wrote that

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

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

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

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

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

Unique 35-year New Zealand road rule scrapped

Auckland, 25 March—New Zealand on Sunday scrapped a unique 35-year-old “give way” experiment on its roads which has for decades bamboozled overseas drivers visiting the nation.

The outgoing road rule, introduced in 1977 and unique to New Zealand, required motorists turning with the kerb at an intersection to give way to a vehicle turning across the intersection. The Australian state of Victoria flirted with a similar law but abandoned it as unworkable in 1993 while New Zealand pressed on for reasons which traffic authorities never explained.

The government launched an advertising blitz in a bid to educate drivers about the change and avoid potential mayhem as New Zealand dropped the law. But motoring experts have cast doubt over whether that will be enough to stop chaos on the nation’s roads.

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

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

But indications of possible troubles abounded already in evidence, according to newspaper reports.

Auckland resident Kawhai Chambers told the Herald on Sunday newspaper he was caught in an angry exchange on Saturday as another driver applied the new rules a day early.—Internet

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

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Man fights to keep his 360 snakes

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wedding postponed to buy chemo for lizard

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

“It’s an incredible honour to be a part of such an amazing franchise as ‘Men in Black’ and I have so much respect for Will Smith, especially with our similar musical backgrounds,” Pitbull said in a statement.

“Wanting to keep the music fun yet modern, we used the slogan of the movie and flipped it back into the song that ‘in order to understand the future, you have to go back in time.’”

Barry Sonnenfeld, the director of the film, said: “My 18-year-old pop star responded: "love u (sic)" Contactmusic quoted her as tweeting. The 18-year-old popstar responded: “love u (sic)” Contactmusic quoted her as tweeting.

Underwood, Urban, to perform at ACM Awards

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

Previously announced performers include Jason Aldean, Reba McEntire, star of the sitcom “Reba Girls,” and “Entertainment Tonight” co-host Nancy O’Dell are scheduled to be presenters at the 1 April event at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Underwood and Urban are to perform at the ACM Awards.

News Album

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News Album

Jennifer Lawrence is scared of spiders

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

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

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

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

Man wards off muggers with tequila bottle

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

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

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

Justin Bieber writes mum song as b’day gift

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

After a day out with her famous son, Mallette took to Twitter to express her joy. “Had the BEST day out with my beautiful son today,” she tweeted.

Justin Bieber has another lady in his life, Selena Gomez, and has said that he refuses to hide his relationship with her. The 18-year-olds, who first started dating in 2010, are often photographed holding hands or enjoying quality time together, and the ‘Baby’ hitmaker believes it would be “un-anymore” to have it any other way.

Carrie Underwood.

Carrie Underwood.

Underwood, Urban, to perform at ACM Awards

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

Previously announced performers include Jason Aldean, Reba McEntire, star of the sitcom “Reba Girls,” and “Entertainment Tonight” co-host Nancy O’Dell are scheduled to be presenters at the 1 April event at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

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News Album

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**Djokovic, Federer advance, Clijsters crashes**

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

The Swiss superstar is biding to capture his third Indian Wells-Miami title double, having also won the back-to-back U.S. Open Masters events in 2005 and 2006. Federer now won 40 of his past 42 matches since the 2011 U.S. Open semi-finals. “I guess I’m more confident now. I have been playing really nicely of late,” Federer said. The 24-year-old American has 15 wins and just two losses on the year. This was his first match since losing in three sets to American John Isner in the semi of the Indian Wells Masters tournament. “I am really trying to have a positive attitude,” Djokovic said. “I have to fight for the title just as all the other players are and not to defend it.” Top seed Djokovic finished with two aces, one double fault and won 80 percent of his first serves in the 91 minute night match.

On the women’s side of the draw, Russian second seed Maria Sharapova eased her way into the fourth round but Clijsters bit the dust after losing to Lourdes Dominguez Lino of Spain in three sets, the second set dropped on a double fault. Former world no 1 Yanina Wickmayer in straight sets. Sharapova crashed into the next round by scoring in two sets. American qualifier Sloane Stephens 6-4, 6-2, Sharapova, who is three-time runner-up in Miami, advances to face unseeded Russian com-patriot Ekaterina Makarova who beat Mona Barthel of Germany 6-2, 6-4. Formworkar number one Clijsters saved three match points against Wickmayer, the 23rd seed, before losing 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) in the third round. Internet

**Dalglish blames Liverpool slump on fatigue**

LIVERPOOL, 25 March — Kenny Dalglish insists Liverpool’s dismal-2-1 defeat against struggling Wigan can be blamed on fatigue caused by their success in two cup competitions. Gary Caldwell’s second half winner sealed Wigan’s first ever victory at Anfield after Luis Suarez had cancelled out Shaun Maloney’s penalty opener for the Latics. Suarez had a second equaliser ruled out for handball, much to Dalglish’s anger, but the loss means Liverpool have won just five of their 15 home league games this season, a return which has left Champions League football a distant hope for his club.

“I guess I’m more confident now. I have been playing really nicely of late,” Federer said. The 24-year-old American has 15 wins and just two losses on the year. This was his first match since losing in three sets to American John Isner in the semi of the Indian Wells Masters tournament. “I am really trying to have a positive attitude,” Djokovic said. “I have to fight for the title just as all the other players are and not to defend it.” Top seed Djokovic finished with two aces, one double fault and won 80 percent of his first serves in the 91 minute night match.

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**Arsenal’s revival ‘feels like a dream’ to Wenger**

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

The Gunners were languishing in 17th spot last September, but they have now moved three points above local rivals Tottenham and are just six points behind Chelsea with just eight games left. And the Arsenal manager admits he could never have predicted the dramatic turnaround in fortunes that even saw the Frenchman come under 207 after a 68.

Tseng leads Kia Classic golf by three shots

CARLSBAD, 25 March — World no 1 Yani Tseng, who is seeking her second consecutive LPGA Tour victory, fired a three-under 69 to seize a three-shot lead after three rounds of the Kia Classic. World no 1 Yani Tseng had a bogey-free round to reach 12-under 204 heading into the final round at the La Costa Resort and Spa course. The 23-year-old Tseng is also gunning for her third title in five tournaments this year. South Korea’s Jiyai Shin was second at nine-under 207 and unevenly 18th. Su Jeong Yi of South Korea, and Caroline Hedwall were seven under 200. Andrea Petkovic, of the USA, shot an eight-under 64.

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

Montpellier top

MONTPELLIER, 25 March — An 89th-minute volley by Louis Le Guénec was enough for Montpellier to defeat Saint-Etienne 1-0 on Saturday that saw them move a point above Paris Saint-Germain at the league summit. PSG will return to the top of the table if they beat Bordeaux on Sunday evening, but Giroud’s last-gasp goal enabled France’s third club to claim a first win in three games in all competitions and confirm their title aspirations.

Having been eliminated from the French Cup by third-tier Gazelle Ajaccio in midweek, Montpellier saw their best efforts at goal thwarted by a succession of smart saves from Saint-Etienne goalkeeper Stephane Ruffier. The visitors were reduced to 10 men when Jean-Pascal Mignot saw red for a last- man foul on Remy Cabella, however, and Giroud finally made the breakthrough at the death, lashing home a 20-yard volley for his 18th league goal this term. “I don’t know if it’s the best goal I’ve scored, but it was important,” said Giroud. “When I saw it go in, it felt like deliverance. I hope it’s the start of a great adventure in the final sprint.”

Roger Federer of Switzerland.

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

Orlando, 25 March — Tiger Woods, who is chasing his first win on the USPGA Tour in 30 months, fired a one-under par 71 for a one-shot lead heading into the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational. The 14-time major champion Woods has won a record six times on the Bay Hill course and is aiming for his first PGA Tour victory since the 2009 BMW Championship. “I enjoy it,” Woods said on Saturday. “It’s not like I’m mashing it all over the place and happened to be at 11-under par. If you’re in the lead, you’ve done some good things. That’s how I’ve always looked at it, and it’s a nice position to be in.” Woods finished three rounds at 11-under par 205. He could have had a nine-under 63 if he hadn’t double bogeyed a No. 15 after hooking a tee shot out of bounds. He led by as much as four shots on the back nine in the third round. Internet

Tiger Woods shows send during LPGA Tour event.

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

**Woods takes lead into final round at PGA Bay Hill**

**Tseng leads Kia Classic golf by three shots**

**Arsenal’s revival ‘feels like a dream’ to Wenger**
Mancini’s silent night as City dismiss mind games

LONDON, 25 March—David Platt insisted Roberto Mancini will not be affected by mind games as the chase for the Premier League title reaches its climax. Mancini was furious after Manchester City’s 1-1 draw at Stoke, despite Yaya Toure’s equaliser hoisting his team back to the Premier League summit on goal difference from Manchester United. The City boss refused to shake hands of Stoke manager Tony Pulis after the game and also declined to carry out any post-match interviews.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson had hinted at their bitter rivals by claiming bringing back Carlos Tevez snapped of desperation, but first-team coach Platt is convinced the Italian can handle the psychological warfare. “What are mind games? At the end of the day the team who wins the league will be said to have won the mind games. The he-all and end-all is about 11 players going out on the pitch and getting results.” Words don’t win leagues. The issue of why we’re not pulling clear in the title race is that both teams have done well. The fact we’re not pulling away is down to United having a good season.

“It’s not a case of Roberto being too angry as such. I think he’s just worried that he might say something that gets him in hot water. It was really about the way the game unfolded. It’s difficult when you come here and look for a result because Stoke played very well. We made ourselves a lot of problems, but it’s important now to not panic. It’s not a case of Roberto being too angry as such. I think he’s just worried that he might say something that gets him in hot water. It was really about the way the game unfolded. It’s difficult when you come here and look for a result because Stoke played very well. We made ourselves a lot of problems, but it’s important now to not panic. It’s not a case of Roberto being too angry as such. I think he’s just worried that he might say something that gets him in hot water. It was really about the way the game unfolded. It’s difficult when you come here and look for a result because Stoke played very well. We made ourselves a lot of problems, but it’s important now to not panic.

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

At least 19 killed, 32 hurt in Algeria road crash

ALGIERS, 25 March—At least 19 people were killed and 32 others injured when a bus fell into a ravine in western Algeria early on Sunday, the official APS news agency reported. The accident happened when the driver lost control of the bus at a bend near the town of Tiaret about 250 km (156 miles) west of the capital Algiers, APS said, citing local sources.

Authorities have adopted harsher fines and sanctions to curb road accidents which kill around 4,000 people every year in the North African country. —MNA/Reuters

Pakistan Taleban says will attack lawmakers if Afghan supply routes reopen

MIRANSHAH, (Pakistan), 25 March—The Pakistan Taleban will attack lawmakers if they decide to re-open NATO supply routes to Afghanistan, the militant group’s spokesman said on Sunday, a threat likely to complicate efforts to mend severely strained relations between the United States and Pakistan.

“If the parliament decides to restore NATO supplies, we will attack parliamentarians and their overlords,” Ehsanullah Ehsan, spokesman for the Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan (TTP) told Reuters.

The US needs Pakistani permission to allow supplies to Afghanistan, which prior to their closure, accounted for almost a third of all NATO cargo to Afghanistan.

“The parliament is reviewing recommendations for a new direction in ties with Washington, including a possible re-opening of the supply routes for NATO forces in Afghanistan, which were shut last November after a cross-border skirmish with NATO forces killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.”

The national security committee said that if supplies to Afghanistan are allowed to resume, NATO will be able to conduct operations at a faster pace. Claims that NATO supplies were diverted to Pakistan’s northwestern frontier were rejected by Washington.

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

Age-wise measles vaccination explained in Kyaukse

KYAUKSE, 25 March—The talks on age-wise measles vaccination was launched at Taungkyayuang (Basic Education Primary School) in Hmaingyi, Aungmingala Basic Education Primary School in Tawggyo Village and Hlaungda Village Rural Health Branch on 22 March. Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe Lwin, Township Medical Officer Dr Kyaw Nyein and Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Wai Wai Aung formally launch the campaign. —MYANNA ALIN

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

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

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

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

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

(See page 7)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brave and outstanding soldiers

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

See Myint Than Maung
(Serpay Rekman) (Ppy)

KO LUN KYAW

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

KYAW MIN KYAW

Hailing the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Poem

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

MNA