Delegation led by Amyotha Hluttaw Dy Speaker leaves for Uganda

YANGON, 29 March—A delegation led by Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein left here for Kampala of Uganda to attend the 126th Convention of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) this morning.

They were seen off by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung and Secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw Committees Dr Soe Yin and U Maung Toe at Yangon International Airport.

The delegation comprises Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and Chairman of ASEAN Politics and Security Society Committee U Nyunt Tin.

Briefing held for diplomats of embassies based in Myanmar and abroad and representatives invited to observe 1st April by-election

YANGON, 29 March—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin made clarification on trip of observers to constituencies in townships of regions and states where by-elections are to be held on 1 April 2012, at the hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here this morning.

It was attended by departmental heads, local and foreign-based diplomats, invited representatives of the UN headquarters, representatives of the ASEAN Chairman, ASEAN countries, partner countries and European Union and correspondents of foreign countries.

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin made clarification. He said:

The purpose of today’s briefing is to provide you with necessary information before you leave for various regions of Myanmar to observe the by-elections to be held on 1st April 2012.

We have already made arrangements for everyone who is eligible to contest in the by-election to take part in the forthcoming elections. We are ensuring that the elections are free, fair and transparent. Members of the diplomatic corps and specially invited guests will have the opportunity to witness in person that the coming by-elections in Myanmar is free, fair and transparent.

The forthcoming by-elections are to be held for 40 seats for Pyithu Hluttaw, 6 seats for Amyotha Hluttaw and 2 seats for Region Hluttaw, totaling 48 seats. (See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Friday, 30 March, 2012**

**The future of the rice bowl**

Ayeyawady Region the rice bowl and the most populous place in Myanmar is blessed with temperate climate and rich alluvial soil suitable to grow industrial as well as edible crops all year round. The region’s numerous natural watercourses also serves as the source of fish and a mode of transport for trade and the sea in the south supplies salt and sea food for export. It is also one of the main contributors to the nation’s GDP growth with major towns like Pathein, Hinthada, Myaungmya, Bogale, Pyapon playing as regional economic hubs.

Conversely, like some other regions and states of the Union, it also has setbacks as a large number of rivers and creeks crisscrossing the region are also hindrances to economic, trade and social sectors bringing total backwardness to some of the outlying areas. Besides, heavy rains during the monsoon form lakes in the lowland areas where boats are the only means of transport and villagers keep cattle at their stilt houses during the time. What’s more Cyclone Nargis in 2008, rubber salt into the wound causing wholesale destruction and human suffering as over 130,000 people perished in the disaster.

But thanks to the former government that built a network of transport links — motor roads, railroads and bridges — all across the Union including Ayeyawady Region and the present government that maintains and even adds extra momentum to the work, roads have become the principal means of transport even in places like Ayeyawady Region, Taninthayi Region and Rakhine State.

What’s more Paybin River Bridge built on Pathein-Ngapudaw Road, which is the No. 11 Road in Ayeyawady Region, Region Road Network Development Project, was commissioned into service recently. Thanks to all the transport facilities, other infrastructural projects like deep-sea ports and denizens that have overcome backwardness to some of the outlying areas. The worst nightmare of Nargis, the future of the rice bowl looks brighter than ever.

**New roads opened in Myitkyina**

**NAY PYI TAW, 29 March —** A ceremony to open No. (24) lane in Khemathi Ward, Myitkyina, built by Myitkyina Township Development Affairs Committee of Kachin State was held yesterday. Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngn Hsai formally unveiled the signboard of the archway.

The road with 2400 feet in length and 12 feed in width was built with K 23.7 million from the township development affairs committee’s budget in 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Next, the State chief minister and party looked round Dukum Road and Dukan Road opened in Sitapu Ward. The former was built with K 9.38 million by the DAC and K 3.5 million by public wellwishers while the latter was built with K 5.519 million by the DAC and K 9.021 million by wellwishers.

Later, the chief minister inspected China-made construction equipment donated by two wellwishers at Myitkyina Town Hall. — *MNA*

**Union Health Minister receives foreign guests**

**Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin receives Dr Andrea Gay of Malteser International on its participation in supply of clean water and control of HIV.**

**NAY PYI TAW, 29 March —** Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Vice-President Mr Robert L. Corcoran and party of US-based General Electric Company at his office at 12 noon yesterday. Dr Andrea Gay and party of WHO at 2 pm and Country Representative Mrs Birke Herzbruch of Malteser International at 3 pm.

In meeting with General Electric Co, they discussed assistance for raising quality of health care and pathological works, training programme, arrangement for reduction of mortality rate due to bad respiratory and hepatitis, control of food and drug and supply of safe water.

At the another call, the officials of WHO reported that they witnessed successful undertaking of age-wise measles vaccination and active participation of the people, promoting of vaccine availability of vaccines and eradication of measles in 2015.

In meeting with Malteser International Group, the guests reported on its participation in supply of clean water and control of HIV.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint, Director-General Dr Than Zaw Myint of Medical Science Department, Deputy Director-General (Public Health) of Health Department, Dr Thein Thein Htay and officials. — *MNA*

**Workshop on anti-human trafficking held**

**NAY PYI TAW, 29 March —** Loikaw Township Anti-Human Trafficking Squad and World Vision held the workshop on prevention against trafficking in person at the hall of Loikaw Township General Administration Department on 22 and 23 March.

It was attended by all the members of the squad, responsible persons of World Vision, ward/village administrators.

Chairman of the Township Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Person Township Administrator U Aung Swe made a speech at the workshop. — *MNA*

**Yangon Region Election Subcommission Chairman meets candidates**

**YANGON, 29 March—** Chairman of Yangon Region Election Subcommission U Ko Ko met candidates from political parties contesting in the forthcoming by-elections in Yangon Region at the region government office here this morning and gave instructions on electoral process.

Candidates from political parties held discussions, followed by concluding remark of the Yangon Region Election Subcommission Chairman. — *MNA*
BRICS nations gird to pressure West over imbalances

NEW DELHI, 29 March — The BRICS group of emerging market nations will look at ways of pressuring the West on economic imbalances amid growing frustration at the pace of change in institutions such as the IMF at a meeting in Delhi on Thursday.

Brazil’s Trade and Industry Minister Fernando Pimentel told Reuters on the eve of the meeting his country hopes for a summit communique denouncing what it sees as unfair monetary policies by Europe and the United States.

Other trade ministers from the BRICS group—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa—struck a defiant tone, saying they will not be bound by unilateral sanctions against Iran.

The five nations, who collectively account for nearly half the world’s population and a fifth of economic output, are expected to announce steps to bring their economies closer together, including linking their stock exchanges and plans for a joint development fund in the mold of the World Bank.

“We would look to see promises of reforms at multilateral institutions like the World Bank and IMF getting translated into action,” a senior Indian official with knowledge of the matter said, adding that India would consult with other BRICS countries during the summit.

The group is often criticized for being too diverse to be effective, but Jim O’Neill, the Goldman Sachs economist who coined the acronym in 2001, said the very fact they meet is a message to the world.

“It is a very powerful reminder to the G7 and the Western powers that they need to get their act together in giving up more space and room in the G20, IMF and World Bank. It serves a really good purpose in that sense,” said O’Neill.

This 28 Aug, 2011 file photo shows a bicyclist making his way past a stranded taxi on a flooded New York City street as Tropical Storm Irene passes through.

Global warming—fuelled sea level rise over the next century could lead to flood 3.7 million people in the US, according to a new method of looking at flood risk published in two scientific papers.—INTERNET

NATO supply convoy ambushed in west Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 March—Armed groups ambushed a NATO coalition supply convoy in a mountainous area of western Afghanistan, sparking a three-hour firefight in which an Afghan soldier, five Afghan security guards, and 14 attackers were killed, officials said on Thursday.

Najibullah Nazjbi, a spokesman for the Afghan National Army’s western region, said the battle raged on Wednesday along a highway regularly used by coalition supply trucks in Bala Buluk District of Farah Province.

“The fighting was intense and we sent in extra forces,” Najibi said. There were varying estimates of the number of militants killed. Raouf Ahmadzai, a spokesman for the Afghan National Police in the west, said more than 30 militants were killed and 10 others were wounded. Sayed Abdul Wahid, a official of the Aya security company, said his workers who were fighting with AK-47s were overpowered by militants using heavy weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns.

He said five of his employees were killed and five others were wounded by insurgents who burned three vehicles in the convoy.—INTERNET

200 French troops leave Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 March—Two hundred French troops said goodbye to the war in Afghanistan on Wednesday as part of France’s accelerated pullout from the country. In January, French President Nicolas Sarkozy announced a faster-track exit for France, breaking from previous plans to go along with to the US-led coalition’s plan to withdraw combat forces by the end of 2014.

Sarkozy said France would speed up its withdrawal timetable, pulling out 1,000—400 more than its previous target — of its current 3,600 soldiers by year-end and withdraw all combat forces by the end of 2013. His announcement came a week after four unarmed French troops were killed by an Afghan soldier in Kapisa Province in eastern Afghanistan. The French troops waiting to board their flight out of Afghanistan were not stationed in Kapisa, but in Surkh Rod District, about 45 kilometres (30 miles) east of Kabul. They said they were due to leave and thought the Afghan forces they left behind were ready to go solo.—INTERNET

Two UN workers, four Shiites killed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 29 March—Gunmen separately killed four Shiite Muslims and two local UN employees Thursday in Baluchistan, a Pakistani province plagued by Taleban violence and a separatist insurgency, police said.

There were angry demonstrations after the killings of the Shiites, in what police described as the latest sectarian attack in the volatile southwest province.

The gunmen, who were on a motorbike, fired at a van carrying members of the minority Muslim community in the Speni Road neighbourhood of Quetta city, the capital of Baluchistan, police official Jamil Kakar told AFP.

“Four people including a woman were killed and seven others were wounded,” Kakar said, adding that it appeared to be a sectarian attack.

Afterwards, a policeman was shot dead by Shiite protesters in the Hazara Town neighbourhood of Quetta city, where police tried to break up a road block erected by a mob, local police station chief Ameer Mohammad Dasti told AFP.—INTERNET


Some 200 French troops left Afghanistan on Wednesday, the group of soldiers are part of 1000 French troops set to leave the country this year.—INTERNET

Mumbai, Miami on list for big weather disasters

WASHINGTON, 29 March—Global warming is leading to such severe storms, droughts and heat waves that cities like Mumbai and Miami need special plans to go along with to the US-led coalition’s plan to withdraw combat forces by the end of 2014.

India’s military weakness revealed in leaked letter

NEW DELHI, 29 March—India’s tank fleet lacks ammunition, its air defences are “97 percent obsolete” and its elite forces lack essential arms, the country’s army chief wrote in an explosive letter leaked on Wednesday.

The letter to the prime minister dated 12 March — widely reported by the Indian media — lists shortcomings of the armed forces in embarrassing detail in a serious blow to the government and the Asian giant’s military prestige.

Its publication also ups the stakes in a public battle between army chief General VK Singh and the government which began with a dispute over Singh’s retirement earlier this year.

“The state of the major (fighting) arms forces is pathetic,” the army chief wrote in the letter leaked Wednesday.—INTERNET

A tank team part take in a military parade in New Delhi, in January 2012.

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The armym’s entire tank fleet is “devoid of critical ammunition to defeat enemy tanks”, while the air defence system is “97% obsolete and it doesn’t give the deemed confidence to protect... from the air,” he wrote.—INTERNET

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Foot find shows prehuman walked same time as Lucy

EUROPE’S ATV freighter docks at space station

LOUISIANA, 29 March — Lucy, it turns out, had company — another prehuman that also walked but spent more of its time in trees. Until now, there was no proof of another human relative living around the same time as the species made famous by the Lucy skeleton. The discovery reveals there was another creature around 3 million years ago and it gives new insight into the evolution of our species on two legs.

The creature came to light when an international team of researchers unearthed a partial foot in eastern Africa. Like Lucy, it walked upright, but had a grasping foot that it used to climb tree branches. Scientists said it’s now clear that various human relatives experimented with upright walking. “This is just another window into solving the problem of how we got from a primitive foot to the modern human foot,” said Bruce Latimer of Cleveland’s Case Western Reserve University, who helped discover the fossil remains of various hominin species, an existed throughout human evolutionary history, but this is the first sign of another during the Miocene era.

So what was this tree-climbing and ground-dwelling creature? Scientists don’t yet know. “There was no way called to recover to make a determination. But it’s clear the foot did not come from Lucy’s species, Australopithecus afarensis. It’s rather a close relative of our own, and has a high-precision Harps instrument. This is fitted to the 3.6m telescope at the Silla Observatory in Chile. Harps employs an indirect method of detection that infers the existence of orbiting planets from the way their gravity makes a parent star appear to twitch in its motion across the sky. “The new observations with Harps suggest that about 40% of all red dwarf stars have a super-Earth orbiting in the habitable zone where liquid water can exist outside the center of the planet,” said team leader Xavier Bonfils from the Observatoire des Sciences de l’Univers de Grenoble, France.

“Because red dwarfs are so many — there are about 160 billion of them in the Milky Way — this leads us to the astonishing result that there are tens of billions of these planets in our galaxy alone.”

The Harps team came up with its numbers after surveying 102 carefully chosen red dwarfs, which are dimmer and cooler than our Sun. The group found a total of nine super-Earths (which are defined as planets with one to 10 times the mass of the Earth), with two judged to be orbiting inside their stars’ habitable zones. Putting all its data together, including observations of systems that did not have planets, the team was able to produce an estimate for how common different sorts of planets are around red dwarfs.

Survey: Apple products now in half of all US homes

NEW YORK, 29 March — We all know that Apple has grown over the years to become a company of such enormity that it now has more cash than it knows what to do with. The results of a new survey this week have revealed the consequences of its success in the consumer market, with half of all households in the US now owning at least one Apple product made by the Cupertino company — that means over 55 million homes with at least one iPhone, iPad, Mac computer or Apple portable media player such as the iPod touch.

And get this — in the next year, 10 percent of those homes currently without an Apple product are expected to acquire one. The CNBC All-America Economic Survey polled 836 American households between 19 and 22 March, questioning them about spending habits and other financial-related areas. It won’t come as too much of a surprise to learn that ownership of Apple products appears to link income.

The results of the poll revealed that 29 percent of those earning under $30,000 own at least one Apple product. In comparison, 77 percent of those on over $75,000 have an iPhone or some such Apple device.

As for age and Apple product ownership, the breakdown goes like this: 63 percent of those between 18 and 34 have an Apple device, which is the same figure for the 35 to 49 age group. Moving up the age scale and the percentage falls — 50 percent for the 50-64 group. Meanwhile, only 26 percent of those over 65 years of age have succumbed to the lure of Apple’s products, with the rest possibly thinking of a piece of fruit rather than anything relating to the Cupertino-based company when questioned for the poll. On a regional basis, the survey found there to be more Apple product owners on the West Coast compared to anywhere else in the country.

Cybercrime: EU’s ‘best brains’ to be enlisted to fight

BRUSSELS, 29 March — The European Commission has announced plans to set up a dedicated centre to fight cybercrime. “[It] will bring together some of Europe’s best brains in the field of cybercrime,” said Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner for Home Affairs, at a Press conference in Brussels.

Based in The Hague, it will be based alongside Europol, the pan-European police force. The plan is for the centre to be up and running by January 2013. It will be primarily focused on fighting credit card and bank fraud. “As the e-economy grows at a fast pace, cybercrime is following suit,” said Ms Malmström.

More than a third of the EU’s 500 million citizens bank online, and an estimated $8bn (£5bn) changes hands globally each year in e-commerce, according to the Commission. While acknowledging it is hard to put a figure on the total cost of cybercrime, Ms Malmström cited a study that estimated it to be $383bn a year worldwide. “Up to 600,000 Facebook accounts are blocked every day, after various types of hacking attempts,” she said.

“In 2009, over 6.7m distinct bot infected computers were detected.”

Microsoft Windows Messenger blocks The Pirate Bay links

NEW YORK, 29 March — Links to The Pirate Bay’s website are being blocked from appearing within Windows Live Messenger. Microsoft said it was enforcing the ban in its instant messaging programme after the move was reported by the Torrentfreak website. The software firm signalled that it had acted to combat malware. The Pirate Bay claims to be the world’s “largest bittorrent tracker”, offering users the ability to download illegal copies of films, music and software. However, it also hosts magnetic links to lawfully available material — such as music uploaded by unsigned bands — which is also subject to the block.

Users who attempt to add The Pirate Bay links to their messages prompt a warning saying that “the link you tried to send was blocked because it was reported as unsafe.” A statement from Microsoft sent to the BBC said: “We use SmartScreen technology to protect our customers from malicious and unwanted content including phishing, malware and spam. “We block instant messages if they contain malicious or spam URLs based on intelligence algorithms, third-party sources, and/or user complaints. Pirate Bay links were blocked by one or more of these and were consequently blocked.”

The firm would not comment on whether it planned to block links from other torrent sites. Mark Mulligan, editor of the Media Industry Blog, said the move might be intended to be symbolic. “What is underpinning Microsoft’s thinking is that it wants its instant messaging platform to appear safe,” he said. "— Internet

Microsoft would not discuss whether it plans to block other torrent sites’ links — Internet

The centre will provide logistical support for investigations and become a “focal point” for European-wide initiatives, Ms Malmström added. Apart from its remit to fight fraud, the centre will also pay attention to social networks, online child sexual exploitation and cyber-attacks affecting ‘critical infrastructures’. However, the Commission said its remit would not extend to pursuing individual file sharers.

Surveys of the total of non-stop flights from the US to Europe revealed that 90 percent of those with an Apple device were owners in the US. The average price of a non-stop flight from the US to Europe is $850, so an American would have the equivalent of $250 in his wallet — enough to buy an iPhone or an iPad. Based on the results, 63 percent of those between 18 and 34 have an Apple device, which is the same figure for the 35 to 49 age group. Moving up the age scale and the percentage falls — 50 percent for the 50-64 group. Meanwhile, only 26 percent of those over 65 years of age have succumbed to the lure of Apple’s products, with the rest possibly thinking of a piece of fruit rather than anything relating to the Cupertino-based company when questioned for the poll. On a regional basis, the survey found there to be more Apple product owners on the West Coast compared to anywhere else in the country.

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Liquid water is considered essential for a planet to be able to support life — Internet

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The Harps team came up with its numbers after surveying 102 carefully chosen red dwarfs, which are dimmer and cooler than our Sun. The group found a total of nine super-Earths (which are defined as planets with one to 10 times the mass of the Earth), with two judged to be orbiting inside their stars’ habitable zones. Putting all its data together, including observations of systems that did not have planets, the team was able to produce an estimate for how common different sorts of planets are around red dwarfs.

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Half of all cancers are preventable

New York, 29 March — Half of all cancers could be prevented if people just adopted healthier behaviors, US scientists argued on Wednesday.—INTERNET

Cancer: ‘Book of knowledge’ published

LONDON, 29 March — The first volume of a “book of cancer knowledge” has been published, which scientists say will speed up the search for new cancer drugs. The “encyclopedia” details how hundreds of different cancer cells respond to anti-cancer agents. UK, US and European researchers say the data, published in Nature, is a step towards tailoring cancer medicine to a patient’s genetic profile.

A cancer charity said the work would help in testing new cancer drugs. Cancer cells grown in the laboratory are an essential tool in cancer research. Hundreds of different cell lines exist, allowing scientists to study the effect of new cancer drugs on the human body. Now, at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute near Cambridge and various cancer institutes around the world have released two papers cataloguing data on hundreds of cancer cell lines.

Foxconn owner Hon Hai to buy stake in struggling Sharp

Sharp has seen price declines affect its LCD business. The market surrounding the electronics industry is becoming severe,” Sharp said in a statement on Tuesday when the deal was announced. “We believe that timely action is necessary to tackle these changes in the market.” Sharp said it plans to sell a 9.9% stake to Hon Hai Group for 66.9bn yen. Hon Hai and its founder Terry Gou also plan to buy a 46.5% stake in Sharp Display Products, a joint venture between Sharp and Sony located at Sakai, for 66bn yen.

Lloyd’s of London sees loss after natural catastrophes

LONDON, 29 March — Lloyd’s of London has announced a loss for 2011, saying it was its worst year for catastrophe claims. It lost £516mn in 2011, compared with a pre-tax profit of £2.2bn in 2010. It incurred net claims of £12.9bn in the year, including £4.8bn of catastrophe claims. Lloyd’s of London is a market, in which syndicates meet brokers and agree to take on particular risks.—INTERNET

Self-checking won’t spot testicle cancer

There were big claims from the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in March.—INTERNET

Exclusive: Hawker Beechcraft readies bankruptcy filing

New York/Washington, 29 March — Hawker Beechcraft Inc, the aircraft manufacturer owned by Goldman Sachs Group Inc’s private equity arm and Onex Corp, is preparing to file for bankruptcy protection in the next several weeks, according to several people familiar with the matter. Hawker, which was bought by the private equity firms in 2007 for $3.3 billion, is negotiating a prearranged bankruptcy with its largest lenders, which include Centerbridge Partners, Angelo Gordon and Credit Suisse Research & Management, these sources said on Wednesday.

Hawker and Onex declined to comment. Goldman Sachs and the lenders were not immediately available for comment. The sources declined to be named because they were not authorized to speak to the media. Centerbridge, a New York-based investment firm focused on leveraged buyouts and distressed investments, is the biggest lender, these sources said. These lenders would also likely provide debtor-in-possession (DIP) financing to allow Hawker to continue to operate in bankruptcy, one of the sources said. One of the sources also said the DIP financing is currently expected to be less than $500 million, but cautioned the number has not been finalized and could change. Goldman Sachs Capital Partners, the bank’s private equity fund, and Canada’s largest buyout firm, Onex, bought Raytheon Aircraft Co from Raytheon Co in early 2007, at the height of the buyout boom, and renamed it Hawker Beechcraft. —Reuters
**TV hacking claims pile pressure on James Murdoch**

**News International Chairman James Murdoch (front L), and his father Rupert Murdoch, are seen appearing before parliamentarian in London in this 19 July, 2011 file photograph.**—Reuters

President Hugo Chavez is to demand that the UK television watchdog probe new hacking claims against News Corp, piling more pressure on BSkyB Chairman James Murdoch, whose fitness to own a broadcast license is already under scrutiny. 

A BBC Panorama documentary broadcast on Monday alleged NDS, a pay-TV smartcard maker recently sold by News Corp for $5 billion, hired a consultant to post the encryption codes of TV Digital, a key rival of the then Sky TV, on his website.

**Wife of US soldier says he would not have harmed children**

WASHINGTON, 29 March—The wife of a US Army sergeant accused of killing 17 Afghan civilians this month said she does not think her husband could have carried out the massacre as he was like a child himself and would not have harmed children.

Staff Sergeant Robert Bales, a decorated 38-year-old veteran of four combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, was charged last week with 17 counts of murderer for killing eight adults and nine children and six counts each of assault and attempted murder for attacking two other adults and four children.

Karilyn Bales, speaking publicly for the first time since the 1 March shootings in Afghanistan’s Kandahar Province, told NBC’s “Today” show she had recently spoken to her husband twice, but did not directly ask him if or how he was involved. “I just don’t think he was involved,” she said in the interview. “This is not him. It’s not him.”

She seemed a bit confused as to where he was and why he was there,” she said. She said Bales, who is being held at a Leavenworth military prison in Kansas, was a great father who would not have harmed children.

“He loves children. He’s like a big kid himself... I have no idea what happened... but he loved children, and he would not do that—it’s heartbreaking.”

Carolyn Bales said her husband’s latest mission seemed more intense than his past tours, but there was no question that he was mentally and physically cleared to deploy. Reuters

**French shooting case shows counterterrorism limits**

**French shooting case shows counterterrorism limits**

Fighting back 15 wildfires in Spain

MADRID, 29 March—Over 500 firefighters backed by planes and helicopters battled 15 wildfires Wednesday in Spain’s northern Cantabria region amid hot dry conditions that fuelled them, the regional government said.

Eight water-dropping aircraft were deployed to fight the largest blaze near the town of Corrales de Buelna, a statement said. The region has suffered over 150 wildfires since Friday which have burned over 650 hectares (1,600 acres).

“Today was a day of high temperatures, of weak winds that changed direction frequently and low air humidity. No change in weather conditions is expected over the coming days,” the statement said.

Spain is struggling through its driest winter since the 1940s, according to the national weather office. Crops have dried up and the familiar summer fires have come months early.

**People visit the 5th Harbin Spring Auto Show in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 21 March, 2012. The week-long auto show kicked off on Tuesday, showcasing some 400 vehicles of brands worldwide.**—Xinhua

**Michael Bloomberg, mayor of New York City, attends the announcement ceremony of the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize in Singapore, on 21 March, 2012. The New York City won Singapore’s Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize 2012. Xinhua**

**LOMOND, 29 March—A British lawmaker is to demand that the UK television watchdog probe new hacking claims against News Corp, piling more pressure on BSkyB Chairman James Murdoch, whose fitness to own a broadcast license is already under scrutiny.**

A BBC Panorama documentary broadcast on Monday alleged NDS, a pay-TV smartcard maker recently sold by News Corp for $5 billion, hired a consultant to post the encryption codes of TV Digital, a key rival of the then Sky TV, on his website.

**Michael Bloomberg, mayor of New York City, attends the announcement ceremony of the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize in Singapore, on 21 March, 2012. The New York City won Singapore’s Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize 2012. Xinhua**

**TV hacking claims pile pressure on James Murdoch**

**News International Chairman James Murdoch (front L), and his father Rupert Murdoch, are seen appearing before parliamentarian in London in this 19 July, 2011 file photograph.**—Reuters

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**French shooting case shows counterterrorism limits**

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Fighting back 15 wildfires in Spain

MADRID, 29 March—Over 500 firefighters backed by planes and helicopters battled 15 wildfires Wednesday in Spain’s northern Cantabria region amid hot dry conditions that fuelled them, the regional government said.

Eight water-dropping aircraft were deployed to fight the largest blaze near the town of Corrales de Buelna, a statement said. The region has suffered over 150 wildfires since Friday which have burned over 650 hectares (1,600 acres).

“Today was a day of high temperatures, of weak winds that changed direction frequently and low air humidity. No change in weather conditions is expected over the coming days,” the statement said.

Spain is struggling through its driest winter since the 1940s, according to the national weather office. Crops have dried up and the familiar summer fires have come months early.
Yangon Region Chief Minister attends opening of asphalt concrete road

YANGON, 29 March—A ceremony to inaugurate Taynuyin avenue asphalt concrete road was held in Mayangon Township this morning, attended by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe.

Yangon Mayor Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint, Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin and Road Committee Chairman U Thant Zin formally opened the road.

The asphalt concrete road was 3600 feet long and 22 feet wide with 5200 feet long road pavement and 3000 feet long drains. The construction tasks cost about K 50 million contributed by Taynuyin Avenue families.

The Region Chief Minister received Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yaron Mayer and Mr Israel Teriblum and party of Mekorot Co of Israel at his office this morning and discussed economic cooperation.—MNA

Union H&T and Sports Minister receives Executive Director of Beijing-based Company Introduction HA HA Group

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan met a delegation led by the Executive Director Mr Li Jianhan of Beijing-based Company Introduction HA HA Group, at his office here this morning. At the call, they discussed business in hotel and tourism, road works, banking and gem showroom.—MNA

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan receives Executive Director Mr Li Jianhan of Beijing-based Company Introduction HA HA Group.—MNA

Dams and reservoirs providing national races people in Shan State with both irrigation water and drinking water

Monyin Dam in Namtu of Shan State (North), a source of potable and irrigation water for local people.

Lashio Township in Shan State (North) gets sufficient irrigation water from Humon Reservoir round the year.

Kalaw man-made cold spring in Kalaw Township of Shan State (South) satisfies thirst and hunger of the local people, supplying clean drinking water and sufficient irrigation water. The spring is well known for its clean and fresh water.

Translation: HKA
Briefing held for diplomats...

Unfortunately, by-elections for three Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies in Kachin State will not take place on 1st April due to security reasons. Therefore, we are now holding elections for 45 seats on coming Sunday.

Those seats are three Pyithu Hluttaw seats and two Amyotha Hluttaw seats in Pyin Oo Lwin Region; two Pyithu Hluttaw seats in Taninthayi Region; four Pyithu Hluttaw seats and one Amyotha Hluttaw seat and one Regional Hluttaw seat in Bago Region; five Pyithu Hluttaw seats and one Amyotha Hluttaw seat in Mon State; six Pyithu Hluttaw seats in Yangon Region; one Pyithu Hluttaw seat and one Amyotha Hluttaw seat in Magway Region, ten Pyithu Hluttaw seats in Mandalay Region; one Pyithu Hluttaw seat in Mon State; six Pyithu Hluttaw seats, one Amyotha Hluttaw seat and one Regional Hluttaw seat in Ayeyawady Region. In total, there are 37 Pyithu Hluttaw seats, six Amyotha Hluttaw seats and two Regional Hluttaw seats for which by-elections will be held.

The election for the remaining three Pyithu Hluttaw seats in Kachin State will be held when the security situation allows us to do so.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is now practicing the multi-party democracy practices in line with Article 7 of the State Constitution. The Union Election Commission is supervising and overseeing the holding of the elections to be free, fair and impartial.

Diplomats and the specially invited guests are free to travel to any constituency and witness the process of elections without consent, except for the prohibitions contained in the election law. You may also carry out your documentary filming and news reporting apart from being prohibited from doing so within the polling station.

You are requested to fill up the form which will be distributed at the end of this briefing and indicate the constituency you would like to observe so that we can coordinate and assist you in case of any difficulty that you might occur during your travel and also for your security. It is not compulsory to fill-up the form; it is up to your desire whether you wish to fill-up the form or not.

I would now like to highlight some provisions of the Election Law regarding the polling station. Section 59 (A) guarantees the free, easy and secret voting for all eligible voters. In accordance with Rule No. 48 the responsible officer of polling station must ensure the rule of law at the polling station, that the election is free and fair and the systematic entry into the polling station. From the beginning of voting until the end, only authorised persons such as members of the polling station, eligible voters, police or security personnel assigned by the local election commission, members of the commission and sub-commission, candidates of respective constituency, their representatives and their assigned assistants are permitted to enter the polling station. If the eligible voter is illiterate or blind, one of his or her parents, spouse, offspring or sibling are allowed to accompany the voter in order to assist him or her in accordance with ballot. Apart from those persons, nobody else is allowed to enter the polling station.

Moreover, observers should also keep in mind the provisions of Article 13 of the Election Law. Article 60 prohibits disturbance to voters who come to the polling station to cast his or her vote. Article 61 prohibits the day of election, canvassing for votes or discouraging people not to vote within the radius of 500 yards of the polling station. Article 63 prohibits the entry into the polling station without the permission of the polling station officer. Article 64 also prohibits making fraudulent accusations against the election process.

Apart from entering the polling station which is in accordance with the election law, you can watch the whole process of voting from outside of the voting station. You can witness the process of counting ballots after the voting from outside of the polling station. You can meet political parties, their representatives and public, but such act must not interfere with their voting. You can watch counting of the votes, but this must not interfere with the proper discharge of the duties of the various levels of the election commission and staff of the polling station. Security of voting must also not be disturbed.

Observers need to be impartial regarding ideology and political party. I request all of you to refrain from any behavior which could be interpreted as showing support or opposition to a political party or a candidate. You can watch the whole process of voting from the beginning of the voting time till the end and also the counting of votes.

We will distribute a booklet on the code of conduct for the observer. If you have any comments or suggestions after this mission, you can send it in writing to the Union Election Commission through diplomatic channels.

Expenses incurred during the by-election observation tour for travelling, accommodation and meals are to be borne by you. We will closely coordinate with the authorities concerned of the respective States and Regions to facilitate your visit. At the end of this briefing, you can also book for air tickets and hotel at the respective counters. There are two counters for air-ticket and one counter for hotel reservation opened for your convenience.

In conclusion, I would like to request you to respect the sovereignty of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and fully abide by the rules and regulations laid down by the Election Commission and authorities of the polling station. And I would also like to inform you that the Union Election Commission has the authority to withdraw the permission of the observer, to any person who does not abide by the existing laws and regulations promulgated by the Union Election Commission regarding the by-election.

In conclusion, I would also like to express my sincere thanks to all of you and the respective government which has sent you to personally observe the by-election to be held on the 1st of April in Myanmar, and I wish you a pleasant stay in Myanmar. Officials distributed the booklet on the code of conduct for the observer to the attendees.

Later, the Union Minister replied to queries raised by diplomats and observers. —MNA

Union Attorney-General receives UNDP officials

Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin receives Democratic Governance Practice Leader Ms Pauline Tamess of Asia-Pacific Regional Centre of UNDP from Bangkok.—MNA

Development tasks inspected in Sagaing Region

Nav Pyi Taw, 29 March—Chief Minister U The Aye of Sagaing Region on 24 March inspected replacement of wooden post with concrete post at 100-foot bailey bridge on Ta zale-Kalewa Road in Kalewa Township, construction of Nattaga Creek Bridge near PyindawU Village and extension of Hoegyi Bridge in Kalay Township and tarmacming of Bo Kwam Bi Road in Khammyo Ward of Kalay and construction of the city hall in Kalay.

On 25 March, the Region Chief Minister attended the inauguration of Anawrahta self-reliant asphalt road in Taungzalat Ward of Kalay. The Region Chief Minister met local people after donating cash to medical trust fund of Mingin People’s Hospital.—MNA

MNA GAZETTE

Nav Pyi Taw, 29 March—The President of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointments of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of one year probationary period.

Name
(a) U Tin Myo Kyi
(b) U Min Zaw

Appointment
Director-General Union Government Office
Director-General Regional Office of Ministry of Food and Agriculture

The President of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name
(a) U Sein Hlaing
(b) Dr Lin Aung

Appointment
Deputy Director-General Agricultural Mechanization Department Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Deputy Director-General Budget Department Ministry of Finance and Revenue

U Mynn Win of the Union Attorney-General Office, Director-Daw May Thi Lin, Daw Hoo Hoo Ngwe and officials. They had a cordial discussion on legal affairs.

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Chief Minister U The Aye of Sagaing Region on 24 March inspected replacement of wooden post with concrete post at 100-foot bailey bridge on Teza-Kalewa Road in Kalewa Township, construction of Nattaga Creek Bridge near PyindawU Village and extension of Hoegyi Bridge in Kalay Township and tarmacming of Bo Kwam Bi Road in Khammyo Ward of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U The Aye inspects construction of Nattaga Creek Bridge in PyindawU Village of Kalay Township. —MNA

MNA
In serving the interests of the nation and the people, the Union Minister continued to say that efforts for ancient cities to be included in the world ancient cultural heritages need to be made in accordance with the national policy of the State and the principle of UNESCO. In carrying out the tasks, it is necessary to enlist the strength of the staff so that a highly competitive spirit can be developed among the personnel. So, the ministry and its personnel are to try to have that spirit.

The Union Minister added that he recognizes the best efforts of all departments of the ministry in performing their duties. Such efforts also included the successful holding of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and the Myanmar traditional cultural performances at the conclusion of SEA Games in 2011.

Among the tasks to be carried out in 2012-2013 fiscal year are preparations to ensure that Myanmar is on a par with other ASEAN countries in holding the opening and concluding ceremonies of SEA Games in 2013, holding of respective national race traditional cultural contests in states, plans to start the salvage of Dhammazedi Bell, coordinated efforts to have that spirit.

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DISTRICT NEWS

Global Education Show 2012 launched

YANGON, 29 March—With the aim of enhancing learning opportunities, quality and health sector and penetrating education and health services into the people on a wider scale, the Global Education Show 2012 including Health & education and learning opportunities, quality and health sector was formally opened the show. Arrangements have been made to give talks of scholars from universities daily.

The show was held from 23 to 25 March from 9 am to 5 pm daily.—Myanna Alin

Mini-marathon and track & field contests organized

YANGON, 29 March—Organized by the Ministry of Sports, the Yangon Region men’s and women’s mini-marathon (20 km) race and track & field contest were held at the sports ground in Yangon Command Headquarters in Mingaladon Township of Yangon Region on 23 March morning.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik launched the mini-marathon race.

The athletes actively participated in the marathon race along the route from Khayaybin Junction, Yangon-Pyay Road, Haukkaynt Road and No. 3 Highway and finished at the sports ground of Yangon Command Headquarters.

After that, Yangon Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin presented K 700,000 for the first prize to Thin Thin Yu, General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik K 300,000 for the second prize to Nwya Nadi Soe, Deputy Commissioner U Nay Lin of Yangon North District General Administration Department K 200,000 for the third prize to Hnin Hnin Oo. Officials awarded the remaining winners.

Altogether 11 athletes—79 men and 22 women—participated in the mini-marathon race.

A total of 121 men and women athletes competed in the trials and final matches of men’s and women’s 100-m, 200-m and 400-m races, javelin, long jump, shot put and discuss events at the sports ground of Yangon Command Headquarters.

Later, officials of the Sports and Physical Education Department, the Mingaladon Township Administrator and officials of Myanmar Brewery Ltd awarded the respective winners.—Myanna Alin

Children provided measles vaccination in Taikkyi Township

After the launching ceremony, health staff injected measles vaccines to children from nine months to five years under the supervision of the Township Medical Officer. A total of 47 health staff and volunteer teams gave measles vaccination to 236 children in the age-wise group arranging from nine months to five years at 369 gathering points in Taikkyi Township from 22 to 31 March.

Crime reduction talks given in Nyaunglebin

At first, Township Administrator U Thihan Soe made a speech. Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Tin Aung gave talks on crime reduction, Police Captain Tin Aye of Bago Region Special Anti-Drug Squad on disadvantages of narcotic drugs, SIF Aung Naing of Bago Region Traffic Police Force on traffic rules, IP Maung Win of Bago Region Anti-Human Trafficking Special Squad and Nyaunglebin Township Police Station Commander IP Thet Nwe Oo on matters related to penalties. The attendees viewed documentary photos and wall-magazines.—Myanna Alin

KENBO Junior Golf Championship wraps up

YANGON, 29 March—Han Golf Masters Junior Golf Series, KENBO Junior Golf Championship, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation with the sponsorships of Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd and Aung Kanbo Trading Co Ltd, was held at Myanmar Golf Club (9th-Mile) on Pyay Road in Yangon on 22 and 23 March.

After the fourth round, the prize presentation ceremony followed. General Manager U Nyi Nyi Aung of Aung Kanbo Trading Co Ltd presented the fourth prize to Phu Nadi Khai with 197 strokes, the third to Mya Phu Thwin with 185, the second to Wint Phu Nadi Aung with 179 and the first prize to Phu Pwint Yati Khai with 176 in the women’s event.

He also presented the prizes to winners in the U-10 boys’ event.

Vice-President of Myanmar Golf Federation U Aung Kyi awarded the third prize to Min Sit Thway with 170 strokes, the second prize to Pyae Min Shin with 163 and the first prize to Phone Pyae Chan Han with 153.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik presented the first prize to Thida Htet Htay with 147, the second to Ye Htet Aung with 149 and the third to Aung Myint Htwe with 152 in the U-15-20 men’s event.—Myanna Alin

ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED: The age-wise measles vaccination was launched at Basic Education Primary School No. 1 in Latha Township of Yangon Region on 22 March. Chairperson of Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Thaung Mya presents gifts to a child after viewing vaccination works.—Myanna Alin

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YANGON, 29 March—As the crime free month has been designated from 1 to 21 March in Ward 1 of Nyaunglebin Township in Bago Region, talks on crime prevention was held at the hall of the Township Administration in the township on 15 March morning.

The age-wise measles vaccination campaign 2012 was launched at Myanmar Global Education Show 2012.
Farmers who fully repaid agricultural loans honoured

KYANGIN, 29 March—A ceremony to honour the farmers who fully repaid agricultural loans for 2011-12 monsoon paddy by Aye A Kyaw Kyangin Paddy Cultivation Co Ltd was held in conjunction with the loan disbursement for reclamation of farmlands in 2012-2013 at Aye A Hall in Kyangin on 17 March.

Acyayawdy Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Hla Khain and Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing delivered addresses.

At first, Township Administrator U Soe Than and General Manager U Kyaw Soe of the company explained the purpose of honouring the farmers and plans to disburse loans to them.

They presented the honest farmer award to the winners and gave loans for reclamation of farmlands in Betye Village-tract to the farmers.

On behalf of the farmers, the chairman of Shwe Phwint Phyo Farming Production Cooperative Syndicate and the village administrator who won the awards in donations for regional development spoke words of thanks.—Myanmar Alin

Cash donated to funds for meals of examinee monks

NAV PYI TAW, 29 March—The cash donation for holding the Pahtamabyan Examination was held in Basic Education High School No. 1 in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 9 am on 26 March.

The ceremony was attended by Township Owdaqatray Saydaw, the Chairman Saydaw of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and members, and supervisor Saydaws.

Norwegian Ambassador and party meet UMFCCI officials

YANGON, 29 March—Thailand-based Norwegian Ambassador Mrs Katja Chr Nordgaard and Minister-Counsellor Mr Arne Jan Fleo met Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Lwin and U Hla Maung Shwe of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and General Secretary Dr Myo Thu and Joint General Secretary U Myint Zaw at the office of the federation in Lanmadaw Township, here on 19 March morning.

They discussed progress of current economic sectors, jointly conducting of human resources development and external organizations, exchanging of technology for development of Myanmar’s future education sector.—Myanmar Alin

Vocational training courses conclude in Muse

MUSE, 29 March—The basic domestic science course No. 34 and the advanced tailoring course No. 31 concluded at Women’s Vocational Training School of Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs in Muse on 23 March morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Moe Hein of Muse District General Administration Department made a speech.

Principal of the training school Daw Nan Say Yu reported on the training courses.

Officials presented prizes to two outstanding trainees and certificates to the trainees.—Myanmar Alin

Myanmar CP Open Tennis Championships wraps up

YANGON, 29 March—Jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Tennis Federation, the final matches of the Myanmar CP Open Tennis Championships took place at Thimbhu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, on 23 March afternoon.

The championship was sponsored by Myanmar CP Livestock Co Ltd.

Officials presented first prize medals and cash awards to Shoon Kyaw Wai in the girls’ under-10 singles event, Ye Mann Zaw in the boys’ under-10 singles event, Ma Htet Hla in the women’s under-12 singles event, Hsan Zay Zin in the boys’ under-10 singles event, S Kyn Yin in the women’s under-14 singles event, Phyo Thu Lwin in the men’s under-14 singles event, Khin Sandra Zaw in the women’s under-16 singles event, Zaw Hsan Oo in the men’s under-16 singles event, and Khin Maung Win and Chit Su Yi duo in the mixed doubles open event.

Vice-President of Myanmar CP Livestock Co Ltd Mr Phong Tron gave the first prize to duo Phyo Min Than and Min Min in the men’s doubles open event, the second prize to Khin Maung Win and Du Tu Ja and joint third prizes to Win Myo Myint and Christopher duo and Myo Lwin Oo and Win Naing Oo duo, and the first prize to Phyo Min Thu, the second to Aung Kyaw Naing and joint third prizes to Min Min and Aung Ko Oo in the singles event.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Huik presented cash awards and joint cash award to Military Engineering team and Excellent Club, the cash awards and second prize to Ministry of Defence and the cash award and first prize to Petronus Club in the inter-club event, and championship trophy to the first prize winning team.—Myanmar Alin

Dangers of electricity, fire talked in Mingaladon Township

YANGON, 29 March—Yangon City Electricity Supply Board makes field trips to schools and markets for safety of electricity danger.

On 21 March morning, the township electrical engineer of Mingaladon Township and in-charge of Yangon North Zone Fire Brigade U Aye Kyaw gave talks on safety from dangers of electricity and fire to the administrative office of the Mingaladon Development Market.

Together with officials of the market administrative office and market elders, they inspected use of electricity, fire tank and systematic keeping of hoses at the market.—Myanmar Alin

Women’s discussions organized by Bago Region WAO

PYAY, 29 March—Chairperson of Bago Region Women’s Affairs Organization Daw May Thu and members, Chairperson of Pyay District Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Myint Zaw and members, the chairperson of Padaung Township WAO and members met local Chin female nationals in Kywey Village of Talokpin Village-tract in Padaung Township on 16 March.

The chairperson of Bago Region Women’s Affairs Organization made a speech.

Chairperson of Bago Region Women’s Affairs Organization presented membership applications.

The chairperson of the region Women’s Affairs Organization presented brooches to the WAO members and uniforms to them.

Next, they held talks with Chin national women.

Later, the observed production of Chin traditional costumes and traditional wares.—Myanmar Alin
Japan hangs three in 1st executions since 2010

Tokyo, 29 March—Three death row inmates in Japan were executed by hanging on Thursday, the country’s first executions in more than a year and a half.

The men were reportedly hanged in three different prisons. One was convicted of ramming a car into a train station and then knifing people nearby, killing five, in 1999. The second killed two people in 2001 and the third killed three in 2002.

Justice Minister Toshio Ogawa confirmed the executions in a news conference, saying that the punishment is supported by the public. He did not provide details, and all major Japanese media quoted anonymous Justice Ministry officials for details on who was executed.

The executions were Japan’s first since July 2010. Capital punishment is usually ordered only for inmates convicted of multiple murders. Japan has 132 death row convicts, which is near its highest level since World War II.

A Japanese fishing vessel swept away by tsunami in 2011 has been spotted approaching the west coast of Canada. Following pictures are the top ten well-known “ghost ships” in the world.

Myanmar

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHUONG NAM-69 VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM-69 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (1) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GRANDEFORTUNA VOY NO (1)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GRANDE FORTUNA VOY NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (2) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HOANG ANH VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG ANH VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV OSG ACME VOY NO (1206)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV OSG ACME VOY NO (1206) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of the Port of Marka or the infliction of any other severe injury to the person of another.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GRANDE FORTUNA VOY NO (1205)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GRANDE FORTUNA VOY NO (1205) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of the Port of Marka or the infliction of any other severe injury to the person of another.

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

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Man saws off own foot to continue receiving unemployment benefits

It sounds like the plot of a boring "Saw" film, but it’s apparently all too real.

An unemployed Austrian man cut off his own foot with a meat saw so he could continue receiving unemployment benefits.

Hans Url, a 56-year-old from Mitterlaib, then took off the foot and cooked it in the oven so doctors could not reattach it.

"The planning was meticulous," Franz Fanching, a police spokesman, told the Daily Mail. "[Url] waited until his wife and his adult son had left the house and he was alone. He then switched it on and sliced off his left foot above the ankle—throwing it in the fire so it would not be possible to reattach it before he called emergency services."

He "then made his way to the garage where he called emergency services and waited for them to arrive."

Url was airlifted to a hospital in Graz, where he was put in an artificial coma so doctors could stabilize him.

A Minnesota man believed to be the tallest in the United States said donations to his Web site will allow him to buy a new pair of special shoes and then some.

Igor Vovkivinskiy of Rochester, a college student who stands 7 feet, 8 inches tall, said the 15 foot surgeries he has had will not be enough.

"You people for your kindness, generosity, outpouring of support," Vovkivinskiy wrote in an online post. "Thank you so much kind people of Minnesota! Thank you people for your kindnes, giving, outgoing of support,"

Vovkivinskiy went to his ex-husband, Blake Fielder-Civil, whom he married while he was still a child.

"He then made his way on a downtown street and he received more than $25,000 since WCCO-TV aired a story about his plight on Monday."

"Thank you so much kind people of Minnesota! Thank you people for your kindness, giving, outpouring of support," Vovkivinskiy wrote in an online post.

Tallest man in US gets $25,000 for shoes

Twelve-year-old Jose Gonzalez isn’t having much fun on his spring break. But his father hopes it will be a week the Denver-area youth will never forget.

The Denver Post reports that after Joseph Gonzalez found out that Jose had stolen $100 from a cousin’s wallet, he forced his son to stand on a downtown street corner holding a sign that read, "I am a thief. I took money from family member. Don’t give me money.

"He’s a good kid," Gonzalez told Post reporter Electra Draper. "This is the first time he’s done something like this. I hope it will be the last."

On first glance, the punishment sounds like an effective, old school punishment that will likely bring nods of approval from many readers, myself included. But it seems a bit extreme that Jose, who has never been in trouble with the law, is being required to hold the sign for up to 10 hours in a single day. It sounds a little like an exaggerated disciplinary lesson out of Amy Chua’s Battleship of the Tiger Mother.

"The taking-responsibility part is cool, but the rest of this is not cool," Florida psychologist James Huysman told the paper.

This is about shame. In the old days, we used to just shame people, hang signs around their necks in public," Huysman said. Jose is too young to gain any “insight” from the punishment.

"I think it’s, like, fair," Jose says in the video. "I was kind of mad but sad at the same time because I thought I would probably be embarrassed a lot."

But his dad wasn’t worried about the winner of the national scars or the public notoriety gained from Jose’s punishment. “Nah, he’s only 12 years old,” he said.

"Everybody makes mistakes at that time in their life. It’s about being corrected."

In addition to making his son hold the sign, Jose took Jose to his school, where he made him admit his theft to school officials and a police officer.

Banjo innovator, music pioneer Earl Scruggs dies at 88

A painting ‘Amy’ by British artist Johan Anderson is seen hanging at a pub in central London on 23 August, 2011.

London, 29 March—Records show Amy Winehouse left an estate worth 2.94 million pounds ($4.66 million) she left behind assets totaling 2.94 million pounds ($4.66 million) she left behind assets totaling almost all-too-real.

Records show Amy Winehouse to get her Hollywood Walk of Fame honourary mayor of Los Angeles, California on 13 Feb, 2003.

Banjo innovator, music pioneer Earl Scruggs dies at 88

The Regal Cinemas is seen during the opening night of "The Hunger Games" in Los Angeles, California on 22 March, 2012. "The Hunger Games" soundtrack topped Billboard chart.

Los Angeles, 29 March—The "Hunger Games" official soundtrack to the top of the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, following its release as the film’s record-setting opening weekend.

"The Hunger Games" soundtrack sold 175,000 copies last week, according to Nielsen SoundScan and is the first film soundtrack to debut at No 1 since Michael Jackson’s concert film “This Is It” topped the chart following his sudden death in 2009.

Produced by country musician T-Bone Burnett, "The Hunger Games: Songs from District 12 and Beyond" album features songs by Taylor Swift, Arcade Fire, Miranda Lambert, Maroon 5 and The Civil Wars.

"The soundtrack’s lead single “Safe and Sound,” by Swift and The Civil Wars, was released in December as the film started gaining buzz, and clocked in at No 30 on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart.—Reuters

Twelve-year-old Jose Gonzalez isn’t having much fun on his spring break. But his father hopes it will be a week the Denver-area youth will never forget.

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“Is he whoise, and’re not going to change that,” said his long-time manager Mike Burg, who plotted a series of TV appearances last year he hopes refers to Joe’s “mea culpa tour.”—Reuters

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Banjo innovator, music pioneer Earl Scruggs dies at 88

Nashville, 29 March—Banjo innovator and bluegrass legend Earl Scruggs, a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, died on Wednesday at a Nashville hospital at age 88.

He had been in failing health for some time, according to his son, Gary Scruggs, who played bass guitar with his father. Talking about his father’s death, he said with a cracking voice: “He’s 88 and it’s a slow process.”

A four-time Grammy winner, Scruggs was perhaps best known in popular culture for “The Ballad of Jed Clampett,” the theme song for the television series “The Beverly Hillbillies.”

He was dabbled in all forms of music, and was at home in the company of all creative musicians, he said in an interview with the Daily Mail. He was among the first to popularize what his former boss, Bill Monroe, referred to as bluegrass music.

After breaking with Monroe, Scruggs and his guitar-playing friend, Lester Flatt, formed Flatt & Scruggs with the Foggy Mountain Boys.
Dalglish retains hope over Adam injury
Liverpool manager says midfielder could still play again this season.

LIVERPOOL, 29 March — Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish says midfielder Adam Charlie may still be able to play again for the club this season. Adam, 26, limped out of the 2-1 with a knee ligament injury Park Rangers on 21st March of the 3-2 defeat at Queens season. Adam, 26, limped out Dalglish says midfielder Dalglish has rejected reports that Scottish international Adam will not play again this campaign. “We know Charlie has strained knee ligaments but we still don’t know how long he will be out,” Dalglish told the club’s official website. “He hasn’t had an operation and as it stands he’s not having one. It’s only been a week since he did it. He needs to rest it for another 10 days or so and then he will be reassessed. ‘We’ll see how he is then and we’ll be in a better position to know when he will be back playing. “We haven’t ruled him out for the rest of the season. We’re just waiting to see how he progresses.”

Man City forward Sergio Aguero determined to win Barclays Premier League this season

Manchester City forward Sergio Aguero has insisted the club will battle until the end to try to win this season’s Premier League title. City have been top of the table for most of the season but have faltered recently in winning only one of their last three League matches, which has allowed rivals Manchester United to take a three-point lead. There are still eight matches left this campaign, including the Manchester derby at the Etihad Stadium on Monday 30th April, and Aguero says his side will not give up in their pursuit of a first Barclays Premier League crown.

“Why wait until next season if we can win it now?” Aguero told the club’s official website. “I can promise you that we will fight until the very end. We all want to make it work and it won’t be easy, but I think we can win the title. “Winning titles is about never giving up and we will never give up. I want to win it this season and then many more with City after that.” Aguero has a superb first season in England after completing a loan spell from Spanish side Atlético Madrid last summer. The 23-year-old Argen- tine played a key role in City’s push for the title, scoring 17 goals in 27 League appearances, and says he feels completely settled at the club. “I was able to adapt quickly to the team and to the Premier League,” he said. “That was all due to my team-mates, the club and especially the fans. “We have had a great season but there is so much more to come from this team.”

“I’ve been told we’ve broken historic records and that’s already an achievement. I’ve also learnt it’s important to respect our progress an-going process.”

Virtue-Moir take lead at figure skating worlds

NICE, 29 March — Ice dance Olympic champions Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada took the lead after the short dance programme at the figure skating world championships on Wednesday, relegating defending champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White into second place. Virtue and Moir, who clinched the world and Olympic double two years ago, posted a score of 72.31 points. Their American rivals scored 70.98. “We are happy about our performance,” Virtue said. “We feel very strong and much more confident now for the free dance.” At this year’s Grand Prix final, Davis and White won, but Virtue and Moir bounced back to win last month’s Four Continents — beating the US pair for the first time since the 2010 worlds. “We are big rivals with Meryl and Scott,” Moir said.

Canada’s Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir perform in the Pairs ice dance Short programme during the 2012 World Figure Skating Championships in Nice, southeastern France.—INTERNET

“We are happy with our score and now we are just excited about the free dance, this is our programme.” Virtue and Moir are poised to win their world title back heading into Thursday’s free, but the Americans are determined to stop them.

Bartoli ends Azarenka’s winning streak

KEY BISCAYNE, 29 March — France’s Marion Bartoli ended world number one Victoria Azarenka’s streak of 26 straight wins with an impressive 6-3, 6-3 victory at the Sony Ericsson Open on Wednesday. Seventh-seed Bartoli moves into the semi-finals where she will face Poland’s Agnieszka Radwanska, a 6-4, 6-1 victor over Venus Williams. “I was very played with aggression and confidence from the outset to take the game to Azarenka, who appeared short of inspiration and heavy on her feet. The Frenchwoman produced a superb cross court return to break and go 4-3 up in the second set — the decisive break which finished off the Belarusian’s resistance. “I just went out on the court full of belief in myself,” said de advised Bartoli, who

"..."
Summer cultural course 25 April-4 May

YANGON, 29 March—Under the arrangement of the Pagoda Board of Trustees of Maha Thakya Aputa Manaung Naunghteightyi Pagoda in Bahan Township of Yangon Region, the third summer cultural course will be held at ancient Dawi Pagoda on 25 April to 4 May. The course will be conducted between 8 am to 11 am daily. The children from nine to 15 years old may attend the course. Those wishing to attend the course may contact the Pagoda Board of Trustees, Tel 01-542177.—Myanmar Alin

Milan hold Barca to goalless stalemate

MILAN, 29 March—Pepe Guardiola said his Barcelona team would have to score at least two goals at the Camp Nou next week if they are to oust AC Milan and reach the Champions League semi-finals. The Italian and Spanish giants played out a 0-0 draw at the San Siro here on Wednesday, leaving next week’s quarter-final second leg finely poised.

And having failed to snatch an away goal to take back to Catalunya, the Spaniards’ boss is worried that one goal at home won’t be enough. “I think we have to score more than one to go through and we’ll try to do that,” he said. “Scoring away gives you a lot, but they were lucky because they didn’t even get one free-kick around the box or a corner. ‘They’re a very strong team and I imagine one goal won’t be enough. ‘The (Nou Camp) pitch will be better, it will be faster and I hope we’ll play well.’ Like Arsenal’s Arsene Wenger in the previous round, Guardiola was particularly critical of the San Siro pitch, which gets played on twice as much as most grounds as it’s shared by Milan and city rivals Inter.

“Like us UEFA want a spectacle but if you don’t have the conditions it’s difficult and you have to overcome the pitch’s condition,” said Guardiola. “It’s not Milan or Inter who are the problems because I’m sure they want to play on a good pitch, it’s the stadium’s problem.” Although they failed to score, Guardiola insisted that a draw away from home is a good result. “At the beginning of the season if you had offered me a Champions League quarter-final with a 0-0 draw away I would have signed for it, and even more so against Milan,” he said.—Internet

Gomez and Robben sink troubled Marseille

Marseille, 29 March—Bayern Munich took control of their Champions League quarter-final against Marseille with a 2-0 win at Stade Velodrome on Wednesday that condemned OM to an eighth defeat in nine matches.

With Steve Mandanda suspended, Marseille coach Didier Deschamps chose to field third-choice goal-keeper Elinton Andrade but the move backfired in the 44th minute when the Brazilian allowed Mario Gomez’s shot to slip beneath him.

The 32-year-old was making his first appearance since January 2011 and he was beaten again by Arjen Robben in the 69th minute as Bayern took a commanding grip on the tie ahead of next Tuesday’s return leg.

“We realised our objective by winning here without conceding any goals,” said Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes. “Marseille play emotional football, so it was very important for us to get this result tonight.”

It was a sixth consecutive success for Heynckes’ side, whose thoughts may already be turning to a likely semi-final showdown with Real Madrid for the right to reach the 19 May final at their own Allianz Arena stadium.

Deschamps was left to rue the timing of Bayern’s opener. “I think that until the (first) goal, we’d done things pretty well,” he said.—Internet

Rocket explodes as Baghdad Arab summit begins

BAGHDAD, 29 March—A rocket exploded on the edge of the fortified Green Zone in the Iraqi capital on Thursday, where an Arab League summit attended by nine heads of state was taking place, a senior security source said.

The rocket was fired despite a security clampdown in Baghdad, where 100,000 extra security forces have been deployed, streets closed and a curfew imposed on vehicles.

“The blast happened close to the Iranian embassy. The windows of the embassy have been shattered, but there are no casualties,” the source told Reuters.

Two more rockets hit the western districts of Wasitah and Rahmaniyah in central Baghdad, the source said.

Iraq is hosting the Arab League summit for the first time in 20 years and is keen to show its neighbours it can maintain security following the withdrawal of US troops in December, nine years after the invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

MNA/Reuters
Passed the 64th Tipitakadhara certificates to the monks who
impressions from 2.7 billion years ago to deduce using evidence from fossilized raindrop
combination of the two.
concentrations of greenhouse gases or a warm enough to maintain liquid water were the
between 2 billion and 4 billion years ago.
geologic evidence for rivers and ocean sediments have encased the planet in ice, but there is
history, the sun burned as much as 30 percent
8 am on 19 May.
The Religious Affairs Department invited the members of the Sangha who
department at Ottaraku Hall on Kaba Aye
Provisions will be offered to members of the State Sangha including 93 who
passing the exam to arrive at Ottaraku Hall on Kaba Aye Hill at 3 pm on 18 May.

A meerkat
perches atop rocks bearing the fossil
impressions of raindrops that fell in South
Africa 2.7 billion years ago.

Internet

The structure of a ribosome.

A hidden and never before recognized layer of information in the genetic code has been uncovered by a
team of scientists at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). A technique called ribosome profiling, which
enables the measurement of gene activity inside living cells — including the speed with which proteins are made.

By measuring the rate of protein production in bacteria, the team discovered that slight genetic alterations
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