Established 1914

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Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union
* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and party leave for Cambodia to attend 20th ASEAN Summit

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

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

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

MNA

Pyinnya Alin Library put into service

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

Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Nyunt Swe donated over 400 books and publications, Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) 90 books and literary houses 557 books to the library. Danubyu Township Administrator U Tin Hlaing also donated K 50,000 to the fund of the library and Assistant Director of Ayeyawady Region Information and Public Relations Department U Ngwe Tun over 150 books to the library.—MNA

Significant night temperatures

(31-3-2012)

Chauk (42º C)
Myingyan (41º C)

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

(31-3-2012)

Myitkyina 0.08 inch

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

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Bracing for the changing season

Pages 7

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

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PERSPECTIVES
Sunday, 1 April, 2012

Be of service to the people

“Leave your pride and luxury at your home.” The placard is very common at most of buses in Myanmar. It is second only to the phrase, “Please don’t task time,” as Myanmar drivers have long believed telling time to a passenger may lengthen the trip. But I do not understand why they do not prefer to let passengers’ feelings and indulgence enter the doors of their buses. For years, Myanmar people were quite similar to service industry. And they are naturally unproblematic. They will never express rage if the train is half a day late or if electricity cut lasts a week. They are too contented. Less than a decade, some entrepreneurs have chosen to add the word “service” at signboards of their businesses. But, do the people really access the comprehensive services yet?

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

Now, the government is committed to provide adequate public services. It is made clear in each speech of the President. A series of reforms in the service sector is tangible. The service industry is seemed to become more lively in the country. Unfortunately, it still shows some disregard of consumers’ feelings. However good we could produce a good, if with poor services, it would be undervalued. Have a heart, the service industry!

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

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

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin met diplomats and international observers at the ministry in Yangon on 29 March and made a clarification on their study visits to respective constituencies for their convenience and other necessary points. Besides, arrangements have been made to send liaison officers to respective constituencies.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs made plans for 156 diplomats and international observers to be able to visit the places they wished to go. Similarly, the Ministry of Information is issuing correspondents’ identity cards to correspondents from foreign news agencies after systematic scrutiny and registration at the reception counter of Yangon International Airport. Up to 31 March, a total of 137 correspondents from external news agencies had arrived in Myanmar to cover the election news.

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

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

Union Health Minister meets guests from foreign educational institutions

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

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

At the call paid by Asia Royal Australasian College team, they cordially discussed treatment at injuries, emergency health care task, training and academic matters for effective prevention and treatment tasks.—MNA

Microfinance loans disbursed to four villages in NyaungU District

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

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

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

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

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

YANGON, 30 March— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung and Vice-President U Thaung Tin left here yesterday morning for Phnom Penh of Cambodia to attend 2nd ASEAN-EU Summit 2012 on 1st April. Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win, Dr Maung Maung Lay and CEC member U Aung Soe Tha also left here.

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

Donate blood
France detains 19 suspected extremists

Paris, 31 March — Police led pre-dawn raids across France on Friday in a crackdown against suspected extremists, arresting 19 people and carrying off automatic rifles and other guns in authorities’ latest response to a wave of terrorism that has shaken the country. President Nicolas Sarkozy, intent on showing an all-out fight against terrorism as his conservative contest nears, promised more an all-out fight against terrorism that has shaken the country.

Premier calls Arab summit ‘turning point’ for Iraq

Baghdad, 31 March— Iraq’s prime minister Friday praised this week’s Arab League summit in Baghdad as a turning point in the emerging relationship between Iraq and the Arab world. In a televised speech, Nouri al-Maliki said that his government lived up to the technical, political and organizational challenges to hold the Arab summit, despite doubts that the war-battered country would be able to provide security and logistics for the 21 visiting delegations.

New York police accused of “uncivilized” arrest of diplomat

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

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

Member of African Union peacekeeping mission holds up bulleters at frontline of Deynile district in Mogadishu. Internet

Somali, African forces seize rebel bastion

MOGADISHU, 31 March— African forces backing Somali government troops said they took control of one of the Islamist rebellion’s last strongholds on Friday, sparking intense clashes on the outskirts of Mogadishu. “Troops from the Somali army backed by US drones attack militants in Pakistan, Yemen

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

Reports from Aden said that at least five suspected al-Qaeda militants traveling in a car in southern Yemen’s Shabwa Province were killed when a drone strike set their vehicle on fire. Witnesses said a second drone hit an empty building. In Miranshah, the main town in Pakistan’s North Waziristan region, a drone strike killed four suspected militants and wounded three others, local intelligence officials and residents said. There was no connection between the two sets of militants who were killed, officials said. There was no connection between the two sets of militants who were killed, officials said. There was no connection between the two sets of militants who were killed, officials said.

One report, which US officials denied, said that earlier a drone strike killed five suspected militants in Pakistan’s Shabwa Province.

Venezuela poll says Hugo Chavez ahead of rival

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

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

Chavez, who has been in office since 1999, is seeking another six-year term in the 7 Oct election. The survey questioned about 1,300 Venezuelans between 29 Feb and 7 March, and had a margin of error of nearly 3 percent points, Leon said. He said the percentage of people expressing no choice for a candidate had increased since the firm’s previous poll in early March, when almost 50 percent said they would vote for Chavez and 35 percent backed Capriles.

An unnamed US “Shadow” drone is pictured in flight in this undated photograph, released on 5 Jan, 2011.
Scientists warn of ‘emergency on global scale’

PARIS, 31 March — Leading scientists on Thursday called for a global emergency on a scientific conference, the scientists said Earth was facing unprecedented challenges, from water stress, pollution and species loss to spiralling demands for food. They called on the June 20-22 followup to the Earth Summit to overhaul governance of the environment and sweep away a fixation with GDP as the sole barometer of wellbeing. “The continuing function of the Earth system as it has supported the wellbeing of human civilisation in recent centuries is at risk,” said the statement issued at the “Planet Under Pressure” conference. “These threats risk intensifying economic, ecological and social crises, creating the potential for a humanitarian emergency on a global scale.” The conference gathered nearly 3,000 environment scientists, economists, business executives and policymakers in the runup to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio. In a recorded message, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said he welcomed the declaration, saying “its timing, could not be better.” “Climate change, the financial crisis and food, water and energy security threaten human wellbeing and civilisation as we know it,” he said. Ban added that he was considering appointing a scientific board or a chief scientific advisor to advise him and other UN organs. The conference declaration said humanity’s impact on Earth was now so great that new era — “the Anthropocene,” a term derived from the Greek word for human — had emerged. Globalisation has shown that economies and societies are now “highly interconnected and interdependent,” it said. Internet

Entangled gray whale off Calif after chase

LOS ANGELES, 31 March — A migrating gray whale with debris wrapped around its tail was finally freed after rescuers in a small boat chased it along the Southern California coast so they could cut away the fishing traps and lines. The whale was spotted near Redondo Beach on Thursday morn- ing. The disentanglement team would speed up, position its boat directly behind the whale, and then try to catch the tangle with a long rod with a blade on top. The first half dozen attempts failed, said Kelly Lewis, education director of the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, who watched the rescue from a trailing Los Angeles County Lifeguard boat. “As soon as he got the blade in and cut through it, the net and the drag from the buoy, everything popped off and the whale dove. Everybody cheered,” Lewis said.

The team was able to recover the tangled mass and identified it as gear used in lobster or crab traps, with a long line attached and a flotation device at the top. It was impossible to tell how long the whale had been tangled in the gear, Lewis said.

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

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

NEW YORK, 31 March — It was only a matter of time. Cult of Mac has pointed out this incredibly creepy app, Girls Around Me, an app that takes social network check-ins and a user’s personal GPS data to locate and broadcast all the surrounding women (and men — although that is not the app’s advertised purpose or generating as much hype) in a given area. From the minute someone coined the term “SoLoMo” (which is at once the quickest and most glib-inducing way to identify this market), our collective privacy fears were piqued. These apps, though opt-in, could be dangerous. But really, it’s been a bunch of “could-be’s” — someone could use this app to find you or someone could unwittingly be broadcasting an embarrassing location. For the most part, however, it’s been a lot of hypothetical situations. Apps like Highlight, Glancee, and Badoo have spent tons of time talking about privacy and safety in the wake of these concerns. They emphasize why you should only opt-in using them and features that allow you to pause location recording. But make no mistake, Girls Around Me has no concern for privacy.

The app takes public check-ins and Facebook profiles and displays a girl’s photo via Google Maps, so you know exactly where she is. You can then access her Facebook profile and peruse whatever is publicly visible. You might be quick to dismiss this as women who haven’t so much as glanced at privacy settings. You’re getting snookered, but the app takes into account when others check you in somewhere via Facebook. Foursquare, for the record, pulled API access from Girls Around Me back in February. Really, Girls Around Me is just proving what we all knew — and the other, Nokia offers a different card which it said is 23% smaller than the micro-Sim commonly found in today’s smartphones. The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (Etsi) is the body responsible for setting global standards for the format. By polling its membership — which consists of telecoms providers and manufacturers — it aims to reach a consensus over the ideal standards for future technologies. However, views over which nano-Sim should be adopted have divided the industry, resulting in the vote postponement, Les Echos reports. In one corner, Apple has proposed its own card which it says is not the app’s advertised purpose or generating as much hype) in a given area.

Nokia and Apple squabble delay Sim card ruling

NEW YORK, 31 March — A decision regarding the next format for mobile Sim cards has been delayed after negotiations over patents ground to a halt, French media has reported. Apple and Nokia, along with other manufacturers, are locked in dispute over proposals for a new “nano-Sim”. Nokia has threatened to withhold crucial patents if Apple’s proposal is accepted, arguing that it does not comply with required specifications. The ruling has been postponed until the end of June. All firms want to secure the new format to keep up with devices which are getting ever smaller and slimmer. The nano-Sim will be at least a third smaller than the micro-Sim. Nokia and Apple squabbles could be threatening the market for mobiles in the future. Internet

Three US credit firms warn of security breach

NEW YORK, 31 March — Visa, Mastercard and Discover have warned that cardholders’ personal information could be at risk after a security breach. The firms said there had been “no breach” of its own system, but increase the chance that a drug will behave differently in animals that are comfier in their lab homes, not just to boost the rodents’ well being but also to make them more humane and better models for drug studies. The problem, they say, is that mice kept in lab conditions are typically stressed, and the resulting stress can change the physiology of the animal. The result may be one reason why nine out of 10 drugs that seem to work in lab mice and other animal models ultimately fail to work in humans, the researchers add.

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

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

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

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

Warming, comfy mice make better lab specimens

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prizes awarded to winners in developing reading habit

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

The head of State IPRD, the township administrator and the staff officer of Mindat District IPRD donated books to village self-reliant libraries. The Township Administrator handed over Sky Net receiver donated by Chin State Minister for Transport U Ngun Hsan Aung for Ngalai Village self-reliant library to village in-charge U Dok Kon. Later, officials awarded the winners in the essay and poem recitation contests.—MN4

Falam Township gets new village library

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 March—A ceremony to open Lyanwun Library, built by Myanmar Libraries Foundation and local people, was held in front of the library in Talanzar Village of Falam Township on 29 March morning. Chin State Advocate-General U Kappati El, Deputy Commissioner U Soe Tint of Falam District General Administration Department and Staff Officer U Man Sein of Falam District Information and Public Relations Department formally opened the library.

The 24 feet long and 14 feet wide building was constructed at a cost of K 2.5 million.—MN4
Preservation, Participation and Promotion of Public Awareness on ICH in Myanmar

Nanda Hmunn, Ministry of Culture

The local ministry to be assigned is Ministry of Culture and mobilization of implementation of safeguarding measures ultimately lies with the people of Myanmar. With the assigned mandates, Ministry of Culture nominated the Focal Points for Cultural Heritage and Natural heritage as contacts for UNESCO and also formed the Committee to carry out ICH Preservation and Compilation. It is also meant to showcase the diversity of intangible cultural heritage manifesta-
tions at national level and then to inscribe on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It is now prepar-
ing those elements which are in need of urgent safeguard-
ting too. As this ministry which focuses on safeguard-
ing Myanmar cultural heritage and has a Aims and Objetives of: To explore, preserve, sustain and disseminate all forms of Myanmar cultural heritage; and to nurture younger generation to be well-behaved and safeguard cultural heritage. Most cultural elements under TCH and ICH are under national mechanism functions but still awareness raising of the threats to TCH and ICH, heritage impact assessment, climate change factors and preparation of disaster risk management, providing overviews, training opportunities and ensuring of the adequate allocation of budget are still under constraint. Within its capacity, all staff at different levels are enduring contributions to its Vision: To fulfill the social objectives of the state by implementing cultural activities such as preserving, exposing and propagating Myanmar cultural heritage towards the democratic state. Since cultural processes are dynamic and ever changing, there is a big challenge to overcome all types of cultural preservation and safeguarding with our own strength. Implementing the policy on Myanmar cultural heritage preservation laid down by the governing body, Ministry of Culture is undertaking the safeguarding and awareness raising of TCH and ICH by establishing cultural museums in capitals of respective states and divisions, schools and universites of arts to sustain Myanmar cultural heritage; preserving the customs and traditions of Myanmar national races by recording the information and data from field works and documentation of the customs and traditions of Myanmar national races. Implementing the national policies on culture, we are also committed to explore more pragmatic ways to expand global footprint of Myanmar culture and its delicacies accompanied with remarkable blend of not only performing and visual arts but also our traditional ways and manners including those ICH heritage. With those impact of globalization, preservation and promotion of cultural identity is necessary for the country like Myanmar. The multicultural society is reaching us in many perspectives and along with this shifting social context, our living traditions and assets are to be undertaken with high attention. Towards those emergences of safeguarding ICH, it calls for creating more opportunities to participate and promote public awareness. The prudence between visions and realities will be covered with effective efforts which will be challenges for new and old generations. Traditional Assets: ICH of Myanmar In the memories of every Myanmar, understanding and patience, engaging and creating, modern and traditional ways and means will enable all of us to share the legacy of Myanmar culture. The account of many Myanmar traditional seasonal festivals and those in-house practice handed down by our ancestors are still harmony with our daily life. We all fondly recall our memories which we took part in our childhood, teens, with full spirit like those traditional games we played, and those bedtime stories retold by our grandparents, elderly people and parents, have been still remain in our hearts. Those nursery rhymes and verses which we used to recite aloud are still in our memory banks. Storytelling is the effective teaching method not only to be applied for the subjects like History, English and Myanmar language but also conducting moral ethics which can easily adapted by most school going ages. We have to reintroduce the Storytelling to be put into the Curriculum for Primary and Middle Schools. So also the Traditional Games of Myanmar to encourage our children to make the Myanmar to continue practicing traditional activities as they can help them to develop their creativity, physical skills and more important, their moral and mentalabilities. The Traditional Game “Chinlon” ( cane-ball) is one of the unique games among all and that is highly attractive game for many foreigner which can be played by single and in a group. This kind of traditional game has a long history in Myanmar and it is noted that it has been played since in the reigns of Myanmar kings. By those records of Reverend Sangermano from Italy who came to Inle Lake of Shan state. It is noted that to have a robe or... (See page 7)
Preservation, Participation and Promotion of Public Awareness on ICH in Myanmar

Nanda Hmun, Ministry of Culture

(from page 6)

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

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

Myanmar playthings like pyi-thaung (tumbling Kelly), those toys made of paper-mache in different sizes for various kinds of animals like elephant, tiger, horse, zebra, cow, etc. traditional Myanmar kites, paper helmet (helmet which were worn by warriors) widely known as Bandoola helmet, painted wooden long swords, earthyware miniature cooking utensils and other kitchen ware (favourite for girls), playing with puppets (or tamarind seeds) as indoor games, the masks of tigers, monkeys, ogres, kings, miniature wooden furniture, wooden top, etc. are being listed under playthings. However, the recognition and its popularity is fading and instead children from urban areas know only Power Rangers, Baby dolls, those swords used by some Chinese actors in their martial arts pictures.

Another breathtaking process is the production of Gold Leaf (foli, shine-ain), one of the remarkable arts and crafts of Mandalay. This kind of beating the gold into foil and marketing it, has taken place in one particular place in Mandalay and make known to the dwellers “myet pac” yat”. The tradition of offering to the sacred Buddha images, religious buildings and shrines with gold leaf which is so thin and light has been handed down from the days of monarchy. It is one of the well-known arts and crafts of Mandalay, where the heart of Myanmar cultural heritage lies.

In the field of Fine Arts, one of the unique and most melodious musical instruments “Myanmar Harp” which is one of the oldest known musical instruments. It is a boat-shaped wooden instrument, highly decorated and sometimes gilded. It can have 7, 9, 13 or 16 strings. The melody which is produced by Myanmar Harp is so outstanding and there has been a story on the playing of Harp which made the fighting of two great creatures to end up in our chronicles. Another music assembly, which is the most unique is “Saing-awang” (Myanmar music orchestra). The grandeur of its resemblance and the melodious traditional music caters out by striking those series of (pat-long) drums of different sizes, is the music which all Myanmar enjoy and proud of. There is a sound of music assembly this in world and those traditional ways to follow while it is to be performed. The another significance is the “pat-sar” or tuning dough, paste of rice kneaded with wood ash used for tuning those drums” magically.

“Vote-thay” or Myanmar marionettes and the art of manipulating the strings of puppets is also glorious. Those richly and ornamented different puppets with their distinct characteristics, have to follow traditionally accepted practice not only on stage but also when they are kept in their proper chests. Since its long tradition of “A-myint-shabin” or performance to be staged, it proceeded the drama and performing arts of Myanmar, since Myanmar are fond of appreciation of “min-ga-lar” or “auspiciousness” in every performance, have are “12 kinds of min-ga-lar” or “12 occasions ”that every Myanmar parents have to do for their offsprings since they are born till to coming of age. All those “12 festivals of each month Myanmar monthly” or Seasonal Festivals of Myanmar are encouraged to be displayed more at national level. Myanmar “pan-se-myo” or arts and crafts are also highly recommended to be promoted of its legacy and also their traditional ways to be recorded and printed. Nowadays, traditional craftsmanship of goldsmith is being substituted with modernized way of making more attractive and expensive accessories made of gold. So also the weighing and measurement system of olden days are not known very well and instead of the traditional way, digitized system has substituted in many ways.

Way forward

Though our land and our people possess many heritages left and handed down by our ancestors, it is important to use of the heritage still need to be put more attention and promotion of awareness has to be widely made. The possession of those richness calls for systematic way that should be employed in all aspects related to raising awareness about oral and intangible heritage. Here, we would like to draw attention on UNESCO’s “Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” starting in 2001 to raise awareness on intangible cultural heritage which encourages local communities to protect them and the local people who sustain this forms of cultural expressions. Those proclaimed Masterpieces receive commitment from UNESCO in financing plans for their conservation. The cultural expressions and spaces proposed for proclamation have to meet the criteria like; demonstrate their outstanding value as masterpiece of the human creative genius; give wide evidence of their roots in the cultural tradition or cultural history of the community concerned; be a means of affirming the cultural identity of the cultural communities concerned; provide proof of excellence in the application of the skill and technical qualities displayed; affirm their value as unique testimony of living cultural traditions; and be at risk of degradation or of disappearing. If so, Myanmar’s manifestations will be endless list not only for intangible but also for tangible heritage.

Regarding to the recent progress made, we have to welcome those interests and initiatives being done by UNESCO and the collaborations underway to be more positive and effective.

Bracing for the changing season

Summer is coming in with full swing. The cold season has just wrapped up and waiting goodbye for now. There remains only mild chilliness during the nights and early mornings, in some parts of the country. The environment are drying up. That is why we must prepare for the hot season, which we are to endure for about three months. We must eat and wear appropriately to the season.

Vegetables are a must anywhere for everyone. Hot and oily foods are advised to be avoided during the long hot summer days. To prevent dehydration, a lot of water must be drunk to replenish the liquid in your body. An blazing sun will definitely torch you if you are not covered with shades of any kind; sunglass, hats, umbrellas, when you go out. We have to accept and adapt to the changing environment, and shed off the thick and dark-coloured clothes to thin and light-coloured clothes. Quilts and heavy blankets are now put back into the closet and jackets and sweaters are washed for the next winter.

Exercise must be done in three mornings or evenings. Binge drinking of alcohol should be abstained during the hot extreme weather, which is for your own good. We should also avoid taking baths outdoors under the baking sun and by the banks of rivers and lakes, during the afternoons.

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

During the summer in all seasons, people are advised to drink clean or boiled water, avoid unclean food that are touched by flies, and to clean hands before having any meal, and sleep inside mosquito nets.

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

There are a lot of bright sides to look forward to. One of them is the blooming of the beautiful fragrant pagoda flowers after the April showers. The flower, which is a renowned Myanmar identity, is depicted in a many Myanmar songs and literature, over the centuries. Moreover, the youths will be able to enhance extracurricular studies during their summer holidays. Family vacations can also be taken.

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

Here is wishing, the upcoming Myanmar Era 1374 to be prosperous and may all wishes come true for all of us Myanmar people!
Nay Pyi Taw staff quarters farm awards presented

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

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

His ministry is filling the city with vegetable patches, forest reserve areas, perennial crops plantations around the ministries and cascades. The service personnel are also asked to run farms in the environs of staff quarters for greening the surroundings and generating more income.

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

Under the guidance of the President, eight inspection groups scrutinized performance of 1024 staff quarters and 18080 apartments and 16 best staff quarters and 20 best rooms were awarded for excellent agricultural performance, he said.

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

Union Minister Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Shin, Deputy Minister for Labour U Myint Thein, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chan, Director-General of Forest Department U Aye Myint Maung, Managing Director of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Kyaw Win, and the joint secretary and members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee presented awards to winners.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Faculty members from 163 universities and colleges are those who are turning out human resources necessary for the nation. Now is the time when efforts are being made to produce human resources for emergence of a democratic society and for development of the country’s economy. Besides, changes and reforms are taking place not only in academic curriculums but also in management. Although educational institutions are under control of ministries concerned, measures will be taken to ensure that they operate under their self-control some time, noted the Union Minister.

He also called for reducing digital divide, more Internet networks and telecommunication networks being built. Like in other global countries placing emphasis on research and business development, teachers in Myanmar need to conduct research extensively in respective sectors.

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

Union EC&F Minister receives foreign guests

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

They discussed conservation of wild elephants, health care for elephants of timber extraction and cooperation in research works.

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

They discussed use of remote sensing system and equipment for forest fire and prevention of pollution at water sources.

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

Third regular session of first Kayin State Hluttaw continues

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

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

Pale-Gangaw gravel road upgraded with tarmacking

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

He inspected inflow of water at Kandanta Dam.

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

World Health Day 2012

7 April

Ageing and Health

“Good health adds life to years”

Ministry of Health

Contracts signed to purchase bridge frames, related equipment

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

It was attended by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Managing Director of China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd Mr Song Zhu of China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd signed the agreements and exchanged notes.

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

Union Minister delivers address.

He called for running bridge frames, leading to better transport, realizing Our Three Main National Causes. It is important to develop human resources necessary for the nation. Now is the time when efforts are being made to produce human resources for emergence of a democratic society and for development of the country’s economy. Besides, changes and reforms are taking place not only in academic curriculums but also in management.

Although educational institutions are under control of ministries concerned, measures will be taken to ensure that they operate under their self-control some time, noted the Union Minister.

He also called for reducing digital divide, more Internet networks and telecommunication networks being built. Like in other global countries placing emphasis on research and business development, teachers in Myanmar need to conduct research extensively in respective sectors.

The Union Minister delivered an address.

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

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The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
Bahan Township WAO holds Annual General Meeting

YANGON, 31 March—Bahan Township War Veterans Organization of Yangon Region held the 13th Annual General Meeting at Kyaukse Dhammayon on Oak Street in West Shwegondine Ward of Bahan Township on 25 March morning. First, Chairman of the township, WVO Maj-Gen Aung Khin (Rtd) and the chairman of the Township War Veterans Organizing Committee delivered addresses. Next, the chairman of the Township WVOC presented cash assistance to the war veterans of above 75 years old and Secretary Lt Col Win Naing (Rtd) cash assistance to the disabled war veterans. Business in-charge, Major Pe Than (Rtd) gave medals and cash assistance to the children of the war veterans members who passed the matriculation examination in 2011.

Golf tournament to hail Maha Thingyan festival

YANGON, 31 March—The Bayintnaung Brokerage Group-BGG will organize the third golf tournament hailing the Maha Thingyan festival. It will be organized at Royal Mingaladon Golf Club on 8 April morning.

Books donated to village library in Kentung

KENTUNG, 31 March—A ceremony to raise reading habit and donate books, organized by Shan State (East) Information and Public Relations Department, was held at Thuta Pankhin Library in Yangkha Village of Kentung Township, Shan State (East), on 17 March morning. Assistant Director of Shan State (East) IPRD U Sai Hsam Tint explained the purpose of the ceremony. Staff Officer U Kham Kyaw Hson of District IPRD gave talks on advantages of literature. The essay contest, extempore talk contest and reading skill contest followed. The assistant director, the staff officer and officials awarded the winners in the contests. Later, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Aye Maung donated books to Yankhin Village tract Administrator U Than Aung.

Myanmar Hoteliers Association holds AGM

YANGON, 31 March—The Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Hoteliers Association was held at Myanmar Tourism Board at the corner of Waiyazantain and Thanbutha Roads in Thyangguny Township of Yangon on 24 March morning. Chairman of the association Dr Khin Shwe extended greetings. Deputy Minister for Tourism and Tourism U Htay Aung spoke on the occasion.

World TB Day 2012 observed in Yangon North District

YANGON, 31 March—The World TB Day 2012 of Yangon North District was observed at the hall of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Insein Township at 9 am on 28 March. At the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner U Nay Lin of District General Administration Department made a speech. Deputy Head of Yangon Region Health Department Dr Win Kyaw read the address to be delivered at the World TB Day 2012 sent by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Maung Kham. Leader of District TB Control Group Dr Kyaw Naing explained facts about tuberculosis disease and measures of controlling the disease in the future.

District General Administration Department and Hsipaw Township Administrator U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials, local people, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Kyaw Nyunt Hlaing and police members, Head of Township Fire Services Department U Ko Ko Oo and members of auxiliary fire brigade put out the fire with the use of fire engines. The fire did not blaze other houses and it died out at 5 pm.—Myanmar Alin
Best bus lines in work competitiveness contest honoured

Yangon, 31 March—A fire drill was exercised at Myoma Market in Mongyawng of Monghyat District in Shan State (East) at 10 am on 26 March. At first, Township Administrator U Aung Hsan Win, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Soe Win, the executive officer of Township Development Affairs Committee and the in-charge of Township Fire Station inspected materials of fire extinguishers. They demonstrated use of foam in fighting the fire.

Use of fire extinguishers demonstrated

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

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

The majority of coconut flows from Pyapon, Bogale, Kyawkka and Dedaye. At least five coconut boats on average arrive in Yangon daily. It is estimated that each boat carried about 5000 coconuts in best quality and about 10,000 coconuts for consumption.

The brokerages in Bagaya daily distribute a large number of coconuts not only to 26 townships of Yangon Region but also to Mandalay, Myingyan, Kyaukse, Meiktila, Chaung, Minbu, Magway, Mandalay-Lashio Union Highway in Pansauk Village of Hsipaw Township, Shan State (North), at 9 am on 20 March.

Officials concerned spoke on the occasion.

Coconut high demand in market in Yangon

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Boosting production of crops discussed in Hsipaw Township

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

Officials concerned spoke on the occasion.

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Officials concerned spoke on the occasion.
Lawyer says US blocks investigation of Afghan massacre

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

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

When prosecutors putting together their case while Browsne is preparing his defence. Browne said he has a team of investigators in Afghanistan now, but they are receiving little cooperation from military prosecutors who filed the charges. Reuters

Workers restoring Russian mansion find treasure

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

Workers restoring the building this week finally found it, unexpectedly, in a storage space hidden between two floors — more than 1,000 pieces of silver service set stamped with the name of one of Russia’s most prominent noble families, mirrors and brushes in silver frames. Many of them were wrapped in newspapers dated from the early months of 1917, as Russia careened toward the Bolshevik Revolution that ended life as the nobles had known it.

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

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

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

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

The mansion had been set for a trial, but US authorities are blocking his ability to investigate the incident. Browne at a press conference at his downtown Seattle office on Friday.

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

He could face the death penalty if convicted. No date has been set for a trial, but US military prosecutors are don’t cooperate, it’s because they are concerned about the strength of their case,” said Browne at a press conference at his downtown Seattle office on Friday.

One wounded in man’s shooting spree in Finland

HELSENNI, 31 March — A 23-year-old gunman wounded the father of his former girlfriend in an office building in Finland on Friday, then went to a nearby school and fired several shots through a classroom door, police said.

No one was hurt at the junior high school, and the attacker quickly surrendered. Police did not identify the gunman but said he had no criminal record. The suspect could be charged with attempted murder and endangering the public.

Detective Chief Inspector Jari Kinnunen said the man had gone to the school in search of the former girlfriend after he had shot and slightly injured her 50-year-old father in an office in the town of Orivesi, 190 kilometres (120 miles) north of Helsinki.

Kinnunen said the gunman had been dating the girl but that the relationship had ended. “They had started going out together ... but he was not satisfied with the situation,” Kinnunen said, without giving further details.

The gunman fired six shots with a hunting rifle through the closed door of a classroom occupied by a teacher and several students, but no one was hit, Kinnunen said. “All the staff and students are safe,” he told the AP. “He surrendered later without resisting arrest.” — Internet

Japanese presidential favourite vows to restore peace

GUADALAJARA, 31 March — Mexican presidential front-runner Enrique Pena Nieto vowed to overcome the drug-fueled violence engulfing his country as the campaign for the 1 July election kicked off with the ruling conservatives struggling to avoid defeat.

Pena Nieto, the opposition Institutional Revolutionary Party’s (PRI) candidate, is favored to succeed President Felipe Calderon, whose term in office has been dominated by the government’s battle to crack down on brutal drug gangs.

Addressing a crowd of about 30,000 supporters in the western city of Guadalajara, Pena Nieto promised to restore peace in Mexico and put an end to the bloodshed that has killed more than 50,000 people in the last five years.

“We’re starting a campaign to win the presidency of the republic, but more importantly, we’re starting a movement to wake up minds to change Mexico,” he said in a square in the old colonial part of Mexico’s second city. “Mexico has been wounded by the lawlessness and violence,” Pena Nieto added, dressed simply in a white shirt and dark trousers.

“Many people’s lives are afflicted by worry, and what’s worse, they’re living in fear.”

The brutal clashes between drug cartels and security forces have sparked support for Calderon’s conservative National Action Party, or PAN, which has also failed to reduce the number of police and create enough jobs for a growing population. Roughly half of all Mexicans live in poverty, a situation that is blamed for fueling violence that has spooked tourists and investors alike on Calderon’s watch.

Site mapped by California killer yields two missing teens’ remains

SAN FRANCISCO, 31 March — The remains of two teenage girls missing since the 1980s have been identified among bones found in an abandoned well in California that a convicted serial killer said he and a partner in crime used as a burial site, authorities said on Friday.

Forensic examinations and DNA testing determined that two of three possible skeletons found in the sealed well 100 miles east of San Francisco belong to Kimberly Billy and Joann Hobson.

Forensic examinations and DNA testing determined that two of three possible skeletons found in an abandoned well in California that a convicted serial killer said he and a partner in crime used as a burial site, authorities said on Friday.

The remains of two teenage girls missing since the 1980s have been identified among bones found in an abandoned well in California that a convicted serial killer said he and a partner in crime used as a burial site, authorities said on Friday.

California killer said the women’s ring, a purse, shoes and some coats from the 50-foot well, located near a former cattle ranch in the community of Linden that was known as weekend gathering spot for local teenagers. — Reuters

One wounded in man’s shooting spree in Finland

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

One wounded in man’s shooting spree in Finland

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Cruise ship drifting after fire off Philippines

MANILA, 31 March—A cruise ship with about 1,000 passengers and crew was drifting off waters south of the Philippines Saturday after a fire disabled its engines, the Philippine coast guard said Saturday.

Five crew members were injured. The fire on the Azamara Quest started late Friday, a day after the ship left Manila for Sandakan, Malaysia, and was immediately put out, the Philippine coast guard said.

Azamara Club Cruises is part of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd, which has been hit by accidents this year that have undermined its operations, including a fire on one of its vessels that killed two people last month after a fire disabled its engines, the Philippine coast guard said Saturday.

The vessel was about 75 nautical miles southwest of the Philippines’ Tubbataha Reef. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

BROADBAND NETWORK EXPANSION IN THE PIPELINE

BEIJING, 31 March—China is expected to have 20 million new broadband Internet subscribers this year and a total of 250 million subscribers by the end of 2015, the country’s top industry regulator said on Friday.

The nation needs to improve broadband speed. “Our aim is to install fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) broadband connections for 35 million families this year,” said Industry and Information Technology Minister Miao Wei.

The announcement came after an investigation of two domestic telecom giants over alleged monopolistic practices in November. The broadband development plan is a part of China’s 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15), which is to increase the country’s average broadband speed to 20 megabits per second by the end of 2015.

China had 156 million Internet broadband users in 2011, 83 percent of the users’ Internet speed exceeding 2MB/s. About 45 million families were covered by the FTTH network, and the Internet surfing fee decreased by 30 percent compared with 2005.

However, Wu Hequan, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, said in an earlier report that the average down load speed of China’s broadband is 1.15MB/s, half of the global speed.

China’s three telecom carriers will implement the plan and invest more in the industry. As the major provider of China’s Internet broadband infrastructure, China Telecom will invest 40 billion yuan ($6.3 billion) to build the FTTH network this year, and attract 25 million new FTTH users, bringing the total number to 55 million, said Wang Xiaochu, chairman of China Telecom.

Queen Elizabeth a great-grandmother again

LONDON, 31 March—Queen Elizabeth II has become a great-grandmother for the second time, Buckingham Palace announced on Friday. Zara Phillips, 34, is the middle name of Peter Phillips, 34, and his 33-year-old Canadian-born wife Autumn, following the birth of Savannah Phillips in December 2010.

Phillips is Queen Elizabeth’s eldest grandchild and the son of her only daughter, Princess Anne, the Princess Royal. Anne, 61, decided that her children would not bear royal titles and her son keeps a low profile, carrying out no royal duties. Queen Elizabeth’s press secretary said the monarch, her husband Prince Philip, Anne’s first husband Mark Phillips and the mother’s family had all been informed and are “delighted with the news”.

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

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 1 April, 2012

Claims Day notice

Claims Day Notice

First page of the document containing the claims day notice for two different voyages.

Claims Day Notice Biendong Freighter Voy No (1214)

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

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Claims Day Notice Ora Bhum Voy No (298)

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

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Queen Elizabeth II announces a great-grandmother for the second time.

Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II has become a great-grandmother for the second time.

WASHINGTON, 31 March—Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) and other symptoms of OSA are associated with probable major depression, regardless of factors like weight, age, sex or race, according to a new study released Friday from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There was no link between depression and snoring, according to the study.

“Snoring, gasping or stopping breathing while asleep was associated with nearly all depression symptoms, including feeling hopeless and feeling like a failure,” said Anne Weaton, lead author of the study.

The study, appearing in the April issue of the journal SLEEP, is the first large-scale study to examine this relationship, surveying 9,714 American adults.

Previous studies have focused on smaller samples of specific populations. Weaton, an epidemiologist with CDC, said the likelihood of depression increased with the reported frequency of snoring and/ or instances when breathing stopped in the study.

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

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

Queen Elizabeth II has become a great-grandmother for the second time, Buckingham Palace announced on Friday. Zara Phillips, 34, and Autumn Phillips, 33, are the children of Peter Phillips, 34, and his 33-year-old Canadian-born wife Autumn, following the birth of Savannah Phillips in December 2010. Phillips is Queen Elizabeth’s eldest grandchild and the son of her only daughter, Princess Anne, the Princess Royal. Anne, 61, decided that her children would not bear royal titles and her son keeps a low profile, carrying out no royal duties. Queen Elizabeth’s press secretary said the monarch, her husband Prince Philip, Autumn’s first husband Mark Phillips and the mother’s family had all been informed and are “delighted with the news”.

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

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

Venezuelan authorities shut down four radio stations

CARACAS, 31 March—Venezuelan regulators shut down four radio stations on Friday for allegedly operating without licenses, including one run by a brother of a state governor on the outs with President Hugo Chavez.

The four stations all operated in the eastern state of Monagas, the National Telecommunications Commission said in a statement.

One of them is owned by a brother of the Monagas governor, Jose Briceno, who charged that the government regulator is “interfering” with his station in an attempt to halt its broadcasts, which he claims are “independent”.

Briceno was critical of some government policies, including the “unauthorized” birthday celebrations last month for Hugo Chavez’s 54th birthday.

The chamber, which represents more than 400 broadcasters in Venezuela, has for years complained of unfair treatment by state regulators who have accused them of operating illegally. Its statement said the broadcast regulatory agency’s measures were “in defense of service providers that operate legally”.

The chamber’s president, told state television that the organization has stopped its support of the regulators’ shutdown orders and has turned its attention to the communications minister about the stations over the past 10 months. The telecommunications commission said the four stations will be able to appeal the decision.

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Boy, 14, speaks seven languages

A schoolboy who speaks seven languages has been named the most multilingual child in the UK. Bruce Baillie-Hamilton, 14, can speak Russian, Mandarin, Arabic, French, German, Spanish and English. He started learning French at the age of seven but fancied trying something more difficult and chose a language with a different alphabet. He started Russian at the age of nine or ten and then moved on to Mandarin and Arabic.

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

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

“After Russian I thought I may as well start something much harder so I decided to go for something without an alphabet and picked Chinese because it doesn’t really have one.”

He has put his languages to use on his travels and found that local people appreciate it.

He said: “I found that when you are in China and you can speak Chinese they are much more friendly and the change is dramatic.”

Bruce began his studies at Beaconhurst School near Stirling, but last year moved to a school in Switzerland where he is further developing his flair for languages. He took a GCSE in Russian at the age of 12, and GCSEs in Arabic and Chinese when he was 13, as well as an AS Level in Russian.

Next on his list is the Lebanese dialect of Arabic which he may start studying in the future.

A whisky made to mark the 60th year on the throne of Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II is on sale in Singapore for a mere $52,560,000 ($198,500) a bottle and it may well find a buyer.

No doubt it’s a premium sip. Only 60 bottles of Diamond Jubilee were made by the Johnnie Walker unit of Diageo PLC from a blend of whiskies distilled in 1952. It’s also a premium price for Asian aficionados at the month-long Masters of Spirits II event featuring specialty wine and liqueur put on by luxury travel retailer DFS Group, part of the LVMH empire of high-end goods and services.

Singapore is the first stop this year for a series of DFS events highlighting a wide range of luxury offerings.

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

Beyonce, a miniature puppy, lies on a blanket in El Dorado Hills, California, on 29 March, 2012. Beyonce, who was born on 4 March after her mother, Casey, was taken off the streets of a California town, weighed less than 1 oz. (28.3 grams) at birth and could fit into a tablespoon. Her rescuers have submitted her to the Guinness World Records for a declaration as the world’s tiniest rescue dog.

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

Singer Lewis has won for the seventh time in a ceremony this month in Mississippi, according to a newspaper report. The ‘Natchez Democrat’ reports that the music legend married Judith Brown, his caregiver, on 9 March. Ms Brown was also named the “Most Multilingual Child in the UK.”

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Yami Tseng: "I think it’s great to have her there again, but it’s also great to be able to challenge her and try to give her a run for her money.” After finishing two strokes back on Thursday, Tseng produced yet another relentless round of long drives and steady putting. The 23-year-old Taiwanese, who has led the world the past two tournaments. "She’s a force to be reckoned with,” said Australia’s Wright, who shared the lead with Tseng for five holes. “I think it’s great to have her there again, but it’s also great to be able to challenge her and try to give her a run for her money.”

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger receives UEFA ban & fine

LONDON, Monday — Arsene Wenger has been banned for three matches and fined €40,000 (£33,000) for his conduct in Arsenal’s Champions League defeat by AC Milan. Wenger confirmed report that he was sent off in the 90th minute for arguing with Spanish referee Skomina after Milan were awarded a free-kick. The Gunners boss was then handed a three-match ban and a fine of €15,000 (£11,000) for failing to control his team. The punishment came after Wenger was sent off for arguing with the referee after the game. "I believe that when you have 25 years consecutively in Europe you can still ask for your team.”

Reigning champ Novak Djokovic beat a stubborn 21st-seeded Juan Monaco 6-7 (7/5) to book a re-match of the 2009 Miami Masters final with Scotland’s Andy Murray. Murray, who got the better of Djokovic in the 2009 title match, reached the final with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) victory over fifth-seed Russian Nikolay Davydenko.

Top-ranked Yani Tseng storms to Kraft Nabisco lead

Famer Se Ri Pak was three strokes back in fifth midway through the only major that has never won. Pak shot a 67 to move to 5 under, joined by Karin Sjodin and World No 2 Sanee Na for second. Yet everybody in the talent-packed field realizes they’re only chasing Tseng, who has won the tour’s two last tournaments. “She’s a force to be reckoned with,” said Australia’s Wright, who shared the lead with Tseng for five holes. “I think it’s great to have her there again, but it’s also great to be able to challenge her and try to give her a run for her money.”

Real Madrid continue title pursuit against Osasuna

MADRID, 31 March — Having steadied the ship following two consecutive draws with commanding wins in La Liga and in Europe, Real Madrid begin a crucial run of games with a tricky trip to Pamplona to face Osasuna. After Barcelona beat Sevilla fortnight ago, Barca coach Pep Guardiola declared that there was no way his side could beat Madrid to the league title. But then two late free-kicks from Santi Cazorla and Marcos Senna, for Malaga and Villarreal respectively, saw their sides draw against an increasingly nervy Real. A sense of trepidation at the Bernabeu was eased by a 5-1 thrashing of Real Sociedad and then, in mid-week, Karim Benzema hit his 30th of the season as Jose Mourinho’s side took a big step towards qualifying for the Champions League next season.

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

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

Bayern win in Nuremberg to boost title hopes

MUNICH, 31 March — Bayern Munich boosted their title hopes when Arjen Robben gave them a 1-0 win at Nuremberg in the Bundesliga on Saturday, closing the gap on leaders Borussia Dortmund to three points. The Dutchman struck in the second half as the Bavarians, chasing a Bundesliga, Cup and Champions League treble, took advantage of Basle’s slip-up on Friday when they were held 4-4 at home by VfB Stuttgart.

Djokovic sets up Miami finals clash with Murray

Friday breezed through his first set in just 27 minutes and appeared to be cruising to victory when Monaco got hot in a marathon second set which lasted one hour, 36 minutes. It marked the second day in a row Djokovic struggled to finish off an opponent and needed a tie-breaker to clinch it. In the quarter-finals against fifth seed David Ferrer, Djokovic easily won the first set 6-2 but then stumbled down the stretch before losing 7-6 (7/1) in the second set.

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

Arsene Wenger has been banned for three matches and fined €40,000 (£33,000) for his conduct in Arsenal’s Champions League defeat by AC Milan. "The first time was not because they told me what to do and afterwards they told me ‘no, sorry, that was wrong’.

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

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

Bayern’s Daniel Sturridge scored the opening goal against Aston Villa on the 33rd minute, with his left foot, from the edge of the area, his shot deflected by Villa goalkeeper Shay Given. But then two late free-kicks from Santi Cazorla and Marcos Senna, for Malaga and Villarreal respectively, saw their sides draw against an increasingly nervy Real. A sense of trepidation at the Bernabeu was eased by a 5-1 thrashing of Real Sociedad and then, in mid-week, Karim Benzema hit his 30th of the season as Jose Mourinho’s side took a big step towards qualifying for the Champions League next season.

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Premier League result

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

Chelseas Daniel Sturridge scored the opening goal against Aston Villa at Villa Park — Internet

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Focus Myanmar

TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(1-4 12 09:30 am –
2-4 12 09:30 am) MST

News
The Treasures in a small village
( Part - II )
News
Youth & Addiction
News
Song
News
Those who never give up
(Uung Thamardi
Jewellery Shop)
News
Doctor’s Birthday
News
Youth & Career
Director……..Video
Editor (Part - 2)
News
How to cast vote?
News
Movie
“Invincible Bond”

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Dortmund held by Stuttgart
in eight-goal frenzy

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

In a dramatic 4-4 draw at German league leaders Borussia Dortmund on Friday, striker Christian Gentner hit a 92nd-minute equalizer in a breath-taking final 15 minutes, the lead changed hands three times.

“We should never have allowed the game to slip away after taking a 2-0 lead,” fumed Dortmund goal-scorer Mats Hummels.

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

That was a crazy match when the lead changes hands so many times, I have never seen anything like it,” said Dortmund coach Juergen Klopp.

“We let it slip out of our hands after we took a 2-0 lead. Stuttgart put us under pressure and deserved the draw, I am just happy we managed to get a point.”

Second-placed Bayern Munich can halve Dortmund’s six-point lead when they play Nuremberg on Saturday with the two teams in a collision course to meet at Dortmund’s Signal Iduna Park on April 11 in the match which could decide the league.

Internet

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Cash assistance provided to war veterans

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

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

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

Officials then presented 25,000 kyats each to 117 members of the Township War Veterans Organization.—Myanmar Alin

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Pressure increasing on faltering PSG

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

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

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

“We know that it will be very difficult. We are currently not playing at our best but everyone is aware of the situation,” said the former Valencia, Liverpool and Juventus player.

“We know what needs to be done. Our objective is to hold on to top spot. We need to prove that we have not turned things around quickly.”

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

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

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Big chess tournament

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

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

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CSC ISSUED: The presentation of citizenship scrutiny cards was held in North Montleksaungu Ward in Sangyoung Township of Yangon West District in Yangon Region on 23 March. Staff Officer U Kyaw Soe Khang of Township Immigration and National Registration Department presents the cards to the eligible citizens individually.—Myanma Alin

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Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

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R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
Describing the research. "So, and lead author of a paper Department of Entomology scholar in NC State’s postdoctoral research Simone-Finstrom, a worker bees to collect these the energy and effort of its ward off the pathogen. "The antifungal plant resins to increased amounts of a harmful fungus, bringing in their colony is infected with bees 'self-medicate' when infected with some pathogens."

**Domestic science course concludes**

**YANGON, 31 March**—The course No. 2/2012 of Domestic Science Training School in Bahan Township, Yangon Region was concluded yesterday, with an address by Deputy Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Aung Tun Khaing. The school is going to open summer special course (April) on 2 April covering tailoring men’s and women’s wear, knitting, making coat, trouser, fruit jams, snacks, Myanmar traditional snacks, Chinese foods, ikebana (basic, advanced) and mechanized knitting. —MNA

**Bees 'self-medicate' when infected with some pathogens**

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

**Summer swimming, Wushu courses conclude**

**YANGON, 31 March**—The summer swimming course 2012 of Kokkine Swimming Club was concluded at the training hall of the swimming pool in Bahan Township here this morning. General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik spoke on the occasion.

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

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

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

**Man City comeback falls short as title slips away**

LONDON, 31 March—Manchester City failed to move back to the top of the Premier League table and must now rely on results elsewhere if they are to win the title this season, after Sunderland ruined their impeccable home record with an incredible 3-3 draw at Eastlands. City could have applied pressure to rivals United ahead of Monday’s trip to Blackburn had they maintained their 100 per cent home record, but goals from Sebastian Larsson(2) and Nicklas Bendtner put Sunderland 3-1 up, before Mario Balotelli and Aleksandar Kolarov rescued a point for the hosts. Sunderland made much the better start at the Etihad Stadium and City were initially grateful for a crucial last ditch tackle from Micah Richards, denying Stephane Sessegnon a clear goalscoring opportunity, before moments later Craig Gardner fired wastefully wide. City then should have led when Balotelli missed a free header from four yards, but instead it was Sunderland who struck first through a classy strike from Larsson. Faced with a defender on the edge of the area, Larsson simply opened his body and curled a silky finish beyond the unsighted Joe Hart for 1-0. —Internet

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

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 March—Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received Director Mr Tamrat Samuel of Asia and the Pacific Division Department of Political Affairs and party of UN Mission by-election who currently arrived here to observe the 1st April by-election 2012 to be held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the hall of the Residence of the Union Election Commission Chairman, here, this afternoon. Present at the call together with the Chairman of the Union Election Commission were the secretary of the Union Election Commission and officials.

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

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

**Nay Pyi Taw staff quarters farm awards presented**

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