True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

By-election 2012 held in Nay Pyi Taw, regions, states

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—By-election 2012 for 37 vacant Pyithu Hluttaw seats, six vacant Amyotha Hluttaw seats and 2 Region/State Hluttaw seats, totalling 45 parliamentary seats was held in regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw beginning 6 am today.

By-election 2012 was held in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area from 6 am to 4 pm today, in which eligible voters cast votes freely at respective polling stations.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win cast votes at polling station No. 1 at Nay Pyi Taw No. 5 Basic Education High School in Zabuthiri Township this morning.

Likewise, Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin cast votes at polling station No. 1 at Basic Education Post Primary School in Nyaungbingyisu Village of Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

(See page 8)

Prizes awarded in raising reading habit

YANGON, 1 April—The prize presentation for the raising of reading habit and book donation was held at Basic Education Primary School in Myothit (C) Ward in Insein Township of Yangon North District on 30 March.

Chairman of Yangon Region Reading Habit and Book Donation Committee Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe made an opening address.

Head of Region Information and Public Relations Department Assistant Director U Myint Swe explained the purpose of holding the ceremony.

The region minister awarded the winners in the essay, extempore talk and poem recitation contests.

Later, officials donated K 200,000 for raising of reading habit and books worth K 160,000 to 10 libraries.

Extreme weather threatens rich ecosystems

SCIENCE DAILY, 1 April—Extreme weather such as hurricanes, torrential downpours and droughts will become more frequent in pace with global warming.

Consequently, this increases the risk for species extinction, especially in bio diverse ecosystems such as coral reefs and tropical rainforests.

Human impact means that flora and fauna become extinct at a rate 100–1000 times higher than normal. Climate change has been deemed as one of the main causes of species depletion.

A research team in theoretical biology at Linköping University has, through the use of mathematical modelling and simulation, studied how the dynamics of different types of ecosystems may be affected by significant environment fluctuations.

Linda Kaneryd, doctoral student and lead author of a study recently published in the journal, Ecology and Evolution, says the results were surprising.

“Several previous studies of food web structures have suggested that species-rich ecosystems are often more robust than species-poor ecosystems. However at the onset of increased environmental fluctuations, such as extreme weather, we see that extreme species-rich ecosystems are the most vulnerable and this entails a greater risk for a so-called cascading extinction.”

Established 1914

PAGE 14

PAGE 15
Be proud to be a taxpayer

Taxation is the major source of government earning in most countries. It also represents the relation between the government and the people. In democratic system, the people assign the government to do what they want. No one other than the people will have to pay for these services. To remedy tax dodge, the successive governments had to exploit god-given natural resources of the country to fund services to the people. Despite abundance, we should limitedly and cautiously exploit our natural resources. We should not impair our environment any more. It should no longer be a main source of the government income. It is crystal clear that we need to fund the government with our taxes.

Each and every citizen is both entitled to fundamental rights of citizen and obliged to pay taxes. We can ask the cabinet what to do, but we need to understand that a government with insufficient funds will fail to satisfy our demands and we must contribute our share of tax. The President himself committed to pay taxes in his very recent address to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, encouraging the entire people to follow his way.

Public awareness initiative must be pursued. The people—quite a stranger to taxation—must be informed why and how they should pay taxes and duties. Effective law enforcement machinery must come into operation.

The government is committed to levy more tax in this tax year while lawmakers are trying to pass a new tax law. We, the people, should proudly turn ourselves into taxpayers.

Men’s hockey tourney continues

YANGON, 1 April—Jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Hockey Federation, 2012 Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman’s Cup Men’s Hockey League continued today at Thimbhu turf hockey pitch.

No. 11 LID team whitewashed Triangle Region Command team 8 –0 while Nay Pyi Taw Command team defeated South-West Command team 4-1 and Yangon Command team 8-0 while Nay Pyi Taw Command team beat North-West Command team 5–0. The prize presentation ceremony takes place on 7 April.

By-elections take place in Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady, Mon, Shan

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—2012 by-elections took place in constituencies vacant for Hluttaw representatives across the nation beginning 6 am today.

By-elections were held in Sagaing, Pale and Minkin townships of Sagaing Region, in Laukong and Kyunyu townships of Taninthayi Region, in Tungoo, Htainbin, Thanatpin and Letpadan townships of Bago Region, in Magway, Yesagyo, Myaing, Pakokku and Pyinput townships of Magway Region, in Mawlamyine township of Mon State, in Kawal township of Shan State and in Pathein, Mauhin, Myaungmyra, Wakhena and Myaung township of towns in Ayeyawady Region and the public voters cast their ballots freely.

Diplomats, international observers and local and foreign reporters studied the voting and raised the voters some questions. — MNA

Special Refresher Course No. 20 for lecturers concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Special Refresher Course No. 20 for lecturers was concluded at Central Institute of Civil Service ((Phanunggyi)) this morning, with an address by Chairman of Union Civil Service Board U Kyaw Thu.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe, member of the UCSB U Khin Maung Aye and 264 trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, UCSB Chairman U Kyaw Thu said education lies at the heart of human resources development. As the government is building sound economic, political and social foundations in line with national objectives, lecturers from all the universities and colleges are to work hard with devotion. Although universities and colleges now are under the supervision of ministries concerned, but measures will be taken to transform them into autonomous institutions. It is required to set up internationally-linked online libraries in universities and colleges in addition to conventional libraries.

The UCSB Chairman then stressed the need for research and development, calling them to join hands in the government’s efforts for building good governance and clean government. He then awarded the outstanding trainees, presented certificates to trainees and cordially greeted to them.— MNA

Summer sports courses of Kachin State wraps up

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—The summer sports courses of Kachin State, concluded at the State Sports Ground in Myitkyina yesterday morning.

Patron of Kachin State Sports and Physical Education Committee State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai and Speaker of the State Hluttaw U Rawam Jon presented completion certificates to the trainees.

The trainees demonstrated their skills in sports events. Altogether 500 trainees attended the truck & field, Karatedo, football, aerobic, Myanmar martial arts, Sepak Takraw, tennis, table tennis, body building and physical culture. — MNA

Townships in Mandalay Region hold by-elections

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—The Union Election Commission held 2012 by-elections in constituencies vacant for Hluttaw representatives across the nation at 6 am today. Maha Aungmye Township in Mandalay District, Mandalay Region, also held the by-election at respective polling stations.

The township opened 79 polling stations in 18 wards and the public voters cast their ballots for Hluttaw candidates they liked.

Election sub-committees at various levels also made necessary arrangements in line with the prescribed rules and regulations.

Likewise, Pyin-OoLwin, TadaU, Kyaukpadaung, Natogyi and Meiktila townships at Mandalay Region held the 2012 by-elections. Diplomats, international observers and reporters studied the casting of ballots and raised voters some questions. — MNA
Japan to support US nominee to head World Bank

TOKYO, 1 April — Japan will support Jim Yong Kim, the US nominee for the next World Bank head, Japanese Finance Minister Jun Azumi said on Sunday after meeting the candidate who is in Tokyo on his world tour to seek support for the candidacy.

Kim, a Korean-American, will be contesting against two nominees from emerging market countries—Nigerian Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and former Colombian Finance Minister Jose Antonio Ocampo—for the Washington-based institution’s top job. “We decided he is an extremely suitable candidate for the World Bank presidency and we will support him,” Azumi said, stressing his track record working on HIV/AIDS issues with the World Health Organization.

Azumi said that the right candidate for the job would understand Japan’s stance as a major contributor country and would be able reflect that in the World Bank’s policies. Kim, a physician and anthropologist, was named by the Obama administration in March as the US pick to succeed Robert Zoellick when he steps down in June. By tradition, an American has headed the World Bank since its founding after World War Two, but the emerging economies are increasingly open about challenging that convention. — Reuters

Italy police find Al Pacino Scarface bust in mafia raid

NAPLES, 1 April — Italian police discovered a bust of actor Al Pacino as the drugs boss “Scarface” when they raided the home of a suspected mafia drugs boss. Al Pacino played the role of Cuban drug kingpin Tony Montana in the 1983 film. Police said the model was found in the home of 34-year-old Carlo Padovani during a raid in Boscoreale, near Naples. Mr Padovani is believed to be linked to three clans from the Camorra mafia which operates in the area.

Police said he was in charge of managing the drugs trade which took place on a square in Boscoreale. Although Mr Padovani was initially arrested in July last year, police said he was able to carry on organising the trade from his home where he was under house arrest. He obtained a false medical certificate from an official who has also now been arrested.

Mr Padovani was among 33 people detained in what police said was a drugs trade on an almost industrial scale, generating 17-18,000 euros (£14,181-£15,040) per day, and as much as 25,000 euros (£20,800) at weekends, according to Italy’s TGI.com. Police said children as young as six years of age were used as lookouts for drug pushers operating in the square. — Internet

Five killed, hundreds injured in Thai hotel fire

BANGKOK, 1 April — Five people were killed and hundreds injured in a hotel fire on Saturday in Thailand’s southern province Songkhla, the Bangkok Post online reported.

The fire, which broke out at five start hotel in Hat Yai, was caused by an explosion in the gas pipeline system, not by a bomb as some earlier media reports described, said Songkhla Governor Grisada. He told reporters that the victims included four men and one woman and more than 360 guests were trapped by fire and smoke in the upper floor rooms and were injured. Twenty-eight of them were hospitalized.

Police said foreign tourists were among the injured but no further information was available by now. Hat Yai is a major tourist and commercial city in southern Thailand near the Malaysian border. — MNA/Xinhua

Nicaraguan businessman accused of drug trafficking

MANAGUA, 1 April — Nicaragua’s Supreme Court on Saturday that the apparent target of an attack that claimed the life of Argentine folk singer Facundo Cabral last year is being charged with drug trafficking.

Businessman Henry Farinaz and six others are accused of trafficking, money laundering and ties to organized crime, said police spokesman Fernando Borges. Farinaz was believed to be the intended target of last year’s ambush in Guatemala that killed Cabral. The businessman was driving the folk singer to the airport when his car was ambushed by gunmen.

Farinaz survived. Borges said the accusations against Farinaz were presented to a judge by a special prosecutor from the anti-corruption unit. Among the six others accused is Facinaz’s brother, Joaquin Farinaz Fonseca, and a man identified as American Gerald James Shackelford. Three of the suspects — the Farinaz brothers and a nightclub manager — are in detention while the others are still being sought, Borges said. Henry Farinaz was detained on Thursday. There was no immediate comment from the accused. — Internet

Venezuelan leader returns to Cuba for treatment

CARACAS, 1 April — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Saturday he was travelling to Cuba for a second round of radiation therapy as part of his back-and-forth cancer treatment in Havana.

Chavez had another tumour removed from the same place in June. The 57-year-old leftist said in an address to the nation that the cancer was originally diagnosed and where his surgeries have been carried out. Chavez said that after his second round of five daily sessions of radiation, he expects to return to Caracas on Wednesday or Thursday. He has said he is choosing to undergo treatment in Cuba because he believes the US decided he was the intended target of last year’s ambush in Guatemala.

Chavez had another round of cancer treatment, saying he will be in Havana for several days and then return home. Chavez boarded the presidential jet on Saturday night accompanied by one of his daughters. His aides and military chiefs saw him off at the airport.

Chavez said during an earlier speech to supporters that he was travelling to Havana for a second round of radiation after recent surgery to extract a second cancerous tumour in his pelvic area.

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Dead stars ‘to guide spacecraft’

LONDON, 1 April — Spacecraft could one day navigate through the cosmos using a particular type of dead star as a kind of GPS. German scientists are developing a technique that allows for very precise positioning anywhere in space by picking up X-rays from pulsars. These dense, burnt-out stars rotate rapidly, sweeping their emission across the cosmos at rates that are so stable they rival atomic clock performance.

This timing property is perfect for interstellar navigation, says the team. If a spacecraft carried the means to detect the pulses, it could compare their arrival times with those predicted at a reference location. This would enable the craft to determine its position to an accuracy of just five kilometres anywhere in the galaxy.

“The principle is so simple that it will definitely have applications,” said Prof Werner Becker from the Max-Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Garching. “These pulsars are everywhere in the Universe and their flashing is so predictable that it makes such an approach really straightforward,” he told BBC News. Prof Becker has been describing his team’s research here at the UK National Astronomy Meeting in Manchester.

The proposed technique is very similar to that employed in the popular Global Positioning System, which broadcasts timing signals to the user from a constellation of satellites in orbit. But GPS only works on, or just above, the Earth so it’s not use beyond our planet.

Stellar beacons for navigation

- Pulsars are a type of neutron star
- Produced in huge stellar explosions
- Remain core is highly magnetised
- Radiation focused into intense beams
- Beams sweep around as dead star spins
- Pulsars appear like ticks to observer
- Stability of ticks rivals atomic clocks

Mobile broadband demand set to soar

NEW YORK, 1 April — Ofcom is looking into ways to free more radio spectrum to pick because many other nations and free up the 700MHz band, the 3400MHz(400 metres) across, in coastal valleys in Peru. Archaeological evidence at the sites pegs some at not more than 4,000 years old.

“It’s going to shake everybody’s views,” Benfer former of the Scine. “The previous oldest animal figurines were Nasca and they’re 2,000 years old.” The Nazca Lines are simple stone outlines of animals decorating the Nasca Desert in Peru. Like the newly discovered mounds, they may have had ritual significance. In addition, the shapes likely coincided with the constellations these ancient people saw in the Milky Way.

Japan experts warn of future risk of giant tsunami

TOKYO, 1 April — Revised estimates of the potential impact an offshore earthquake could have on Japan show that much of the country’s Pacific coast could be inundated by a tsunami more than 20 metres (65 feet) high.

According to Japanese media reports on Sunday, a government-commissioned panel of experts says a tsunami unleashed by a magnitude-9.0 earthquake in the Nankai trough, which runs to Japan’s main island of Honshu to the southern island of Kyushu, could top 34 meters (112 feet) at its Internet highest. An earlier forecast in 2003 put the potential maximum height of such a tsunami at less than 20 metres (66 feet). The revisions are based on new research following last March’s magnitude-9.0 earthquake and tsunami which devastated a long stretch of Japan’s northeastern coast. — Internet

IPO market heats up, more startups going public

NEW YORK, 1 April — The IPO market is heating up. A growing economy and rising stock market are prompting more startups to go public, and investors appear hungry to invest.

This week, organic mac’ cheese maker Annie’s and smartphone pioneer Millennium Media posted the biggest first-day gains since networking site LinkedIn debuted last May. And Facebook’s highly anticipated initial public stock offering is just weeks away.

After lying largely dormant for three years, the IPO market is churning again. And it’s poised to get further lift. Congress is loosening restrictions in an attempt to make it easier for young companies to raise money. Still, high gas prices and stubborn unemployment rates continue to put a damper on growth, making it too early to tell whether an IPO recovery is here to stay. The willingness of more startups to open their books and court wider investment suggests that they are optimistic about their business and the broader economy. And a strong IPO market could itself drive growth, as companies loaded with fresh cash injections hire workers to expand their operations.

Berkeley, Calif-based Annie’s Inc. saw shares soar 80 percent on Wednesday to close at $35.92. They had climbed 5.6 percent on Thursday to finish at $37.92. The shares, originally expected to sell for $14 to $16, ended up pricing at $19 each. Baltimore-based Millennium Media Inc, which makes software that helps games makers and media companies decide what ads to push to smart phones and tablet computers, saw shares jump 92 percent from their $13 IPO price to close at $25. In total, 10 companies are expected to go public this week, the most since December 2010. It marks an enthusiastic start for young IPOs.

There have been more IPOs in the first three months of 2012 than there have been since the 2011 second quarter, said Richard Peterson, credit analyst at S&P Capital IQ. And on average, stocks hitting the market this year have gained an average of 13 percent on their first trading day, according to the IPO advisory firm Renaissance Capital. That’s the best performance since 2008.

Mysterious animal-shaped structures are oldest known

NEW YORK, 1 April — Manmade mounds shaped like whales, condors and even a duck may be the oldest evidence of animal mounds outside of North America, according to former University of Missouri anthropologist. Writing in the magazine Antiquity, Robert Benfer, a professor emeritus, describes a series of mounds, some up to 34 meters (112 feet) at its...
US recalls organ storage fluid over contamination fears

New York, 1 April — BMS has notified health authorities in many countries that it was issuing a recall of organ storage fluid. The company said the fluid was being recalled as a precautionary measure and therefore that there was no evidence of actual contamination. The statement said, “BMS is working with the local health authorities to find alternative solutions for patients, and sending a Letter to physicians which includes a review of the benefit/risk for patients,” a statement said.

A ground crew member cleans the windshield of a Qantas passenger plane at Adelaide airport in this 13 Feb, 2012 file photo. —AFP

Qantas raising fares to tackle high fuel cost

Sydney, 1 April — Australia’s Qantas Airways Ltd said on Friday it was raising domestic and international fares for the second time in as many months to partially offset higher jet fuel prices. Domestic fares and international fuel surcharge will increase by between AS$7 and AS$30 ($7.2 to $30.1) a ticket depending on the sector, Qantas said in a statement. Domestic fares will go up on 5 April and international fuel surcharges on 12 April, the airline said. Jet fuel is the largest operational cost for an airline and fuel prices at the highest level in nearly 3 years has forced airlines to raise fares to protect profits. Raising fuel costs are another thorn for global airlines, which are already seeing slowing air travel due to a soft global economy. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) in December cut its forecast for airline industry profits by a quarter to $3.5 billion for 2012 and warned the industry could plunge to an $8.3 billion loss if Europe’s debt problems trigger another banking crisis. —Reuters

People stir up millions of bacteria when entering a room: Study

New York, 1 April — Simply by entering a room, you can add up to 37 million bacteria to the air every hour, according to a new study. Most of this airborne bacteria is left behind by previous occupants and stirred up from the floor when you enter, Yale University researchers said. “We live in this microbial soup, and a big ingredient in our own microbiomes,” principal investigator Jordan Peccia, an associate professor of environmental engineering, said in a Yale news release. “Mostly people are re-suspending what’s been deposited before. The floor dust turns out to be the major source of the bacteria that we breathe,” he explained. He and his colleagues measured and analyzed biological particles in a single, ground-floor university classroom over a period of eight days — four days when the room was periodically occupied, and four days when it was continuously vacant. The windows and doors were kept closed for all eight days.

Depression often follows stroke, but treatment lacking

New York, 1 April — Depression is common among stroke survivors, who have been found to suffer bouts of depression. The study included 1,450 adults survivors of ischemic stroke (including blocked blood flow to the brain) and 397 with a transient ischemic attack (TIA or “mini-stroke”). The researchers found that 18 percent of the stroke patients and more than 14 percent of the TIA patients were depressed three months after their hospitalization. Twelve months after hospitalization, 16.4 percent of stroke patients and almost 13 percent of TIA patients had depression, according to the study published on 29 March in the journal Stroke. Dr. El Husseini believes “it is important for physicians to screen for depression on follow-up after both stroke and TIA.”

Two organ donor application leaflets are shown in London. Internet

US nears sancess phases in Airbus trade spat

London, 1 April — The United States is expected to ratchet up pressure on the European Union to end subsidies for Airbus by moving at the World Trade Organization toward retaliation on European goods, an industry official and other sources said. “I’m hearing that the USTR will take the next step soon,” an industry official said, referring to the WTO process for obtaining permission to retaliate, referring to the office of the US Trade Representative. An EU plan in December for ending subsidies declared illegal by the WTO had failed to satisfy either Boeing or the US government, the official and other sources said. The next step in the process is for the United States to ask the WTO for a “compliance panel” to assess whether European governments had ended their illegal subsidies. That could lead to US sanctions on exports from Britain, France, Germany, Spain and potentially other European nations if the WTO panel agrees the steps taken to end Airbus subsidies have been inadequate. Washington has already said it could seek as much as $35 billion to $10 billion in sanctions. The process of obtaining WTO permission could take 6 months to a year and the amount approved could be less than requested, any analysts expect the two sides to reach a negotiated settlement before any sanctions are imposed.

Mobile firms bleed millions to fraud and bill errors

London, 1 April — Mobile phone firms are losing $58bn (36bn) a year worldwide to billing errors and fraud, a report says. Juniper Research found operators were “leaking” revenue because the complexity of networks made fraud and errors harder to spot. The problem is worst in Africa and the Middle East, where 1% of revenue is lost annually, compared with 0.4% in Europe and about 2.8% in North America. Middle East, where 15% of revenue is lost annually, compared with 1% in Europe and about 2.8% in North America.

And a study by Juniper Research found that operators were “leaking” revenue because the complexity of mobile networks made fraud and errors harder to spot. The problem is worst in Africa and the Middle East, where 1% of revenue is lost annually, compared with 0.4% in Europe and about 2.8% in North America.

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...
Polar bear breaks into family home

OTTAWA, 1 April — A man has received the shock of his life when he leapt out of bed to his son’s cries of “Polar bear!” Louis Readon, a father of two, was just 20 minutes from the parking garage of his home in Manotick when he heard the noise of a bear breaking open the first floor window to his family home. Louis, who had just returned from a trip to the West Coast, was able to open the window and see the bear. He immediately called the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the police officers shot the bear, which witnessed estimate weighed at least 300 lb (135 kg). — Internet

Man tried to take bomb on US plane

A Pennsylvania man has been charged with attempting to take an explosive device on a flight from Philadelphia to San Francisco.

Yesterday, Joseph Picklo (29) tried to get on the aircraft with two homemade fireworks, a plastic bottle wrapped in electrical tape and partially filled with a powder mixture, and a test tube with a wick containing another substance.

Japan bee cooks enemy in ‘hot ball’

Don’t mess with Japanese honeybees. Not only do they co-operate to attack their enemies, researchers now say their brains may actually be processing and responding to the threat.

When confronted with their arch-enemy, the giant Asian hornet, the honeybees will attack it by swarming en masse around the hornet and forming what scientists call a “hot defensive bee ball” — a move unique to their species.

China shuts down fake cop website

China has shut down a fake police website that offered the public help battling online crime but required a service fee for the assistance.

The site claimed to be the China Internet Supervision and Investigation Authority and pledged to recover money lost through online fraud in return for a service fee.

Body part found in man’s bag at Bucharest airport

BUCHAREST, 1 April — Prosecutors said that baggage checking operations led to the discovery of a fragment of a human lower limb. The owner of the luggage was a Chinese man, a Moldovan news agency said. “All possible leads are being examined,” prosecutors added, stressing that prosecutors, police and criminologists had been sent to the scene.

“The fragment of a human body was discovered during the first security check on the airport and the owner of the bag was held on the spot,” intelligence service (SRI) spokesman Sorin Sava told the AFP news agency. Several gruesome murders involving Chinese nationals have been reported in Romania, especially in the 1990s.

In one case, two Chinese men killed a acquaintance and boiled his body as an attempt to make it difficult to identify. Another Chinese man was killed by several of his countrymen, his body mangled and the remains thrown into the sewage system. The bodies of four other Chinese were found inside suitcases, two of them in the back of a car, and two others floating in a lake in Bucharest. — Internet

Go to open online tablet store

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 April — Google Inc is planning to open an online store to sell tablet PCs directly to consumers, according to a report in The Wall Street Journal on Thursday. The online store would offer tablets made by Samsung Electronics Co and ASUS Technology Inc based on Google’s Android software, according to the report, which cited anonymous sources and which Reuters was not able to confirm. Google declined to comment.

Google briefly sold a specially-designed Android smartphone — the Nexus One — directly to consumers in 2010, but closed the store after four months saying it had not lived up to expectations. Google now relies on retail and carrier partners to sell Android smartphones made by a variety of handset makers and Android has become the world’s No. 1 smartphone operating system, ahead of Apple’s iPhone Inc.

But Apple still dominates the market for touch-screen tablet computers with its two-year old iPad. Amazon.com’s $199 Kindle Fire tablet is based on open-source Android computer code, but the device features a customized interface that does not use many Google services. Google may co-brand some of the tablets sold through the store and has considered subsidizing the cost of future tablets to make them more competitive with the Kindle Fire, according to the Journal report. It is unclear when Google plans to open the store. — Reuters

Chinese President, Cambodian King hold talks

PHNOM PENH, 1 April — Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao met Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni here Saturday to discuss the development of all-round cooperation between China and the South-East Asian Nation.

Before the meeting, Hu attended a welcome ceremony hosted by the Cambodian King. According to his schedule, Hu will meet Cambodian Senate President Chea Sim, National Assembly President Heng Samrin and Prime Minister Hun Sen later Saturday.

The two sides are expected to discuss ways to enhance the comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation, and exchange views on major world and regional issues of mutual concern. The two countries will sign a host of cooperation documents Saturday and issue a joint statement, a Chinese official said.

The Chinese President arrived in the Cambodian capital on Friday for a state visit aimed at enhancing the comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation.

The two countries have enjoyed a traditional friendship as good neighbours, good friends and good partners. They established diplomatic ties in 1958 and the comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation in 1999.

China has shut down a fake police website that offered the public help battling online crime but required a service fee for the assistance.

The site claimed to be the China Internet Supervision and Investigation Authority and pledged to recover money lost through online fraud in return for a service fee.

Venezuelan soldiers die in helicopter crash

CARACAS, 1 April — Seven Venezuelan soldiers have been killed in a helicopter crash near the Colombian border, military officials have announced. State news agency AVN reports that it is still unclear what caused the Superpuma helicopter to crash. The soldiers were deployed on anti-drug operations in the state of Apure.

In a statement, military officials said the bodies were recovered from the crash site early on Thursday morning and a full investigation was under way. Venezuela recently sent extra troops to beef up its patrols along the borders with Colombia, Brazil and Guyana in an attempt to tackle drug trafficking and armed groups. — Internet

The man was preparing to leave Bucharest for Italy.

Dine just like the passengers of the doomed Titanic for $12,000

NEW YORK, 1 April — Want to get a taste of what it felt like being on the Titanic, sans the part where it sunk into the ocean? A restaurant in Houston is offering what it calls the Titanic Experience: a 10-course meal comprised of similar dishes served to the ill-fated ship’s first-class passengers the night they met their demise. Or at least that’s what Cullen’s, the restaurant, claims. Aside from the food itself, going for the Titanic Experience means you also get to dine at Macy’s Table, the exclusive room suspended from the ceiling of the restaurant.

The whole event lasts for four hours, from the wine and beef appetizer to the after dinner cheese. To make the experience even more authentic, guests are given the chance to sample a bottle of Armagnac brandy from the year 1900 by the end of the night. Of course, a fancy dinner served with fancy liquor in a fancy room can’t come cheap — the Titanic Experience comes with the sky-high price tag of $12,000. Thankfully, you can bring 11 friends with you, so you can at least split the bill. But when have you last plunked down $1,000 for one dinner? Cullen’s special Titanic package was created to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ship’s sinking on 15 April. Check out the restaurant’s official website for more info if you have $12,000 burning a hole in your pocket. — Internet

Models pose with the Galaxy Nexus, the first smartphone to feature Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich and a HD Super AMOLED display, during a news conference in Hong Kong on 19 Oct, 2011. — Internet
Dams and reservoirs for supplying potable and irrigation water to local national people in Kayin and Kayah States

Yebok Dam in Hlaingbwe Township for producing high yield of summer paddy in multiple cropping patterns.

Sein Pan Myaing Reservoir is one of the irrigation facilities in Myanmar which contributes to socio-economic development of farmers in Myainggyingu region of Kayin State.

Loinanpha Reservoir near Loinanpha village in Dimawho Township irrigating a huge number of farms in Kayah State successfully, backing the government’s bid to agricultural development.

Ngwetaung Dam supplying irrigation water to farmlands for agricultural development in Kayah State.

Prizes awarded to readers

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Organized by Shan State (East) Information and Public Relations Department, the raising of reading habit and book donation was held at the hall in Kengtung yesterday morning.

It was attended by Speaker of Shan State Hluttaw U Sai Lon Hsaing, Akha National Race Affairs Minister U Peter Thaung Sein, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Stephen, Shan State Hluttaw representative U Ah Pha, Deputy Commissioner U Khin Win of Kengtung District GAD, officials and local people.

Officials awarded outstanding persons in the raising of reading habit. Wellwishers donated TV, video player and radios worth K 3 million.

MNA

16 organizations permitted to run microcredit union

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Myanmar Microfinance Supervisory Committee under the Finance and Revenue Ministry is focusing its efforts on development of private microfinance works, which is one of the eight-point rural development and poverty alleviation scheme. The meeting 1/2012 of the Supporting Committee for Development of Microfinance Works on 26 March decided to issue work permits to 16 local and foreign microcredit unions.

Those who have received permits include one INGO, one NGO, three cooperative associations and 11 companies. There are still organizations which have applied for permits, which are under scrutiny of the committees concerned.

Organization wishing to run microfinance unions says contact respective region/state and Nay Pyi Taw Council Microfinance Works Supervisory Committee.—MNA
Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye visited the polling station No.1 in the morning and cordially greeted the voters. A total of 81 polling stations were opened in 28 village-tracts of Pobbathiri Township.

The by-election 2012 was held freely and fairly under election law, by-laws and rules and regulations. Voters were systematically supervised in voting process to ensure the tranquility of polling stations, transparency of elections and easy and secret voting process.

During the voting hours, except members of polling stations, voters, ward (or) village-tract election sub-commission members assigned for security of the polling stations, listed family members of the illiterate and blind who are permitted to help them in voting under By-law 42, members of the election commission and respective sub commissions, candidates of respective constituencies, polling station reps and supporting reps, no one was allowed to enter the polling stations.

After the voting hours were due, the returning officers and members of polling stations opened the ballot boxes, counted the ballots and recorded the results.

Free and fair multi-party democracy by-election 2012 was also held at Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area today.

Voters were queuing at respective polling stations before the dawn and cast ballots as soon as the polling stations opened. All the 49 polling stations in the township were packed with voters.

Among the voters at polling station No. 1/1 in Ottarathiri Ward of the township were Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, deputy ministers, and Nay Pyi Taw Council members. UEC Chairman U Tin Aye also viewed voters casting ballots there, with local and foreign journalists covering the news.
Shan State Chief Minister meets departmental officials, townsolders in Kunlong, Hopang

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 April—
Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat on 29 March met departmental officials and townsolders at Than Lwin Oo Hall in Kunlong of Kunlong District and “Wa” Self-Administered Division Office in Hopang.

In Kunlong, the State Chief Minister donated K 6.5 million to fire-stricken families and Relief and Resettlement Department, tribes to monasteries.

He attended donation ceremony of spectacles and medicines of Cherry Meta Foundation in Hopang where he inspected construction of two-storey school building of Hopang BEHS.

The State Chief Minister also visited Chinshwehaw Border Checkpoint in Chinshwehaw sub-township in Laukkai District.—MNA

Local people from 14 wards and four villages in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township freely cast votes at 67 polling stations.

Chairman U Win Zaw and members of Mingala Taungnyunt Township Sub-commission and officials viewed voters casting votes at No. 2 Basic Education High School on Gangaw Street in No. 94 ward in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.

Diplomats, international observers and reporters of news agencies observed casting and counting votes at polling stations in the township.

Over 165,000 eligible voters casted ballots at 16 polling stations in Zabuthiri Township, 49 polling stations in Ottarathiri Township, 17 polling stations in Dekkhinathiri Township and 81 polling stations in Pobbathiri Township.—MNA

General Banking Services Course No. 2 concludes

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 April—
General Banking Services Course No. 2 of Myanmar Bank Training School (Nay Pyi Taw) conducted by Banks Supervisory Committee was concluded yesterday morning, at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue with an address by Deputy Minister U Win Than.

Speaking on the occasion, the deputy minister said Myanmar Bank Training School was conducting courses continuously to disseminate banking services knowledge and monetary matters. The government was focusing its attention on development of domestic banking services, trying to link domestic banks with foreign banks. He then awarded the outstanding trainees.—MNA

By-election 2012 held in Nay Pyi Taw,...

At 4 pm, returning officers and members of polling stations counted ballots in front of personnel of Nay Pyi Taw Election Sub-commission, Ottarathiri Township Election Sub-commission, reps of candidates, voters, chairpersons and members of ward election Sub-commissions.

Over 165,000 eligible voters casted ballots at 16 polling stations in Zabuthiri Township, 17 polling stations in Ottarathiri Township, 17 polling stations in Dekkhinathiri Township and 81 polling stations in Pobbathiri Township.—MNA

Diplomats, international observers visit polling stations in Thongwa Township.—MNA

Diplomats, international observers,...

(from page 16)

the voters some questions. The township opened 120 polling stations.

Similarly, diplomats, observers and correspondents accompanied by Yangon Region Sub-commission member U Chit Naing studied the casting of the votes at Polling Station No.8 at Fire Services Department in Ward-5 in Mayangon Township of Yangon West District. The township had 117 polling stations.

Chairman U Win Aung and members of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Sub-commission and officials viewed voters casting votes systematically at polling stations in the township.

Diplomats, international observers, reporters of international news agencies and local journalists also observed casting and counting votes and interviewed voters at the polls in the township.

Officials from United Nations Headquarters visited the polling stations in Aung Mingala Street in No. 92 ward in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, interviewed members of ward Sub-commission, returning officers and members of the polling station and viewed voters casting votes.

The charge d’affaires ai of Serbian embassy and party, Brunei observers and European Union observers viewed voters casting votes at No. 2 Basic Education High School on Gangaw Street in No. 94 ward in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.

A voter casting vote at polling station in Zabuthiri Township. —MNA

Local people in Mingala Taungnyunt in Yangon East District cast votes freely and systematically at 68 polling stations in the township.

Diplomats, international observers, reporters of news agencies also observed counting votes by returning officers and members of polling stations in presence of the officials and the people when the polling stations were closed at 4 pm.—MNA
Improvement of Myanmar football standard discussed

TAUNGGYI, 1 April—With the aim of developing Myanmar football standard, Myanmar Football Federation and Shan State Football Association held a meeting at KBZ sports ground in Taunggyi on 30 March afternoon.

General Secretary U Tin Aung of Myanmar Football Federation and officials, Vice-Chairman of Shan State Football Federation U Maung Maung Lawk, General Secretary U Khin Maung Nyunt and members attended the meeting.

General Secretary U Tin Aung of MFF explained progress and reforms of the federation since its establishment and duty and functions for the state football association to hold the football tournaments and provide training courses to the youths. Those present participated in the discussions for development of Myanmar football standard. The general secretary of the federation replied to queries raised by those present.

Traffic rules for pedestrians, vehicles talked

AUNGBAN, 1 April—A talk on traffic rules was given at Dhammayon of Mogauk Monastery in Aungban on 8 March afternoon.

Head of Aungban Township Directorate of Road Administration Daw Kaw Kwin Myint explained traffic rules for pedestrians and vehicles and traffic accidents.

It was attended by chairmanperson of District and Township Women’s Affairs Organizations and members, local national races and local women of 12 wards in Aungban.

Officials concerned then distributed pamphlets on traffic rules to those present.

Raising reading habit organized in Hlegu Township

HLEGU, 1 April—The raising of reading habit was held in conjunction with the book donation ceremony at the Dhammayon of Minlwingon Model Village in Hlegu Township of Yangon North District of Yangon Region on 25 March.

Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San Nwe made a speech.

Assistant Director U Myint Swe of Yangon Region Information and Public Relations Department explained the purpose of raising the reading habit.

The Region Minister presented first prizes to the winners in the essay, extempore talks and poem recitation contests.

The Assistant Director of Yangon Region IPRD gave the second prizes to the winners in the contests.

SCHOOL HONOURED: A ceremony to honour basic education schools that manage canteens in conformity with hygienic rules was held at the City Hall in Yangon on 28 March morning. Chairman of YCDC Mayor U Hla Myint presents a certificate of honour to teacher Daw Win Ma, on behalf of the headmistress of Dogon BEHS No. 1, MYANMA ALIN

UMFFCCI, UNDP to cooperate in development of agriculture, trade

YANGON, 1 April—Member of the Agriculture and Development Central Executive Committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Sein Win Hlaing met Financial Consultant Mr Clay O’ Brien and party of United Nations Development Program at the hall of UMFFCCI in Lannawad Township of Yangon Region on 26 March.

At the meeting, they frankly discussed cooperation in market accessible opportunity of village households in some townships of Delta region, Rakhine State, Chin State and Shan State, availability of cash assistance, technological assistance, fulfillments of respective organizations, cultivations and production of paddy, disbursement of loans by private organizations to local people, assistance of inputs, production costs, plans of organizations abroad to provide assistance for rural development, and they coordinated preparations for drawing new plans.

Measles vaccine given to children in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 1 April—The age-wise measles vaccination 2012 was undertaken in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon North District.

On 29 March, the health staff injected children arranging from nine months to five years old with measles vaccination door to door on Kyansittha Road in Ward 26 of the township.

It was undertaken by Head of Township Health Assistant Daw Khin Yupa Soe and health staff, the ward administrator and members of social association.

Certificates given to monks who passed religious exams in Kangyidaunt

KANGYIDAUNT, 1 April—A ceremony to confer certificates on monks who passed the fifth Pali Pahtamabyan examination was held at Thiri Manglaya Monastery in Ward 1 of Kangyidaunt Township, Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region on 26 March.

Head of Kangyidaunt Township Administrator Head of Township Religious Affairs Department U Myint Sein supplicated on religious affairs. Officials presented certificates to 27 monks who passed the Pahtamagy examination, 15 monks in the Pahtamagne and seven in the Pathtangane.

Moe Pwint-2 Plan implemented in Dagon Myothit (North) Township

YANGON, 1 April—According to Moe Pwint-2 Plan, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Head of Yangon Region Immigration and National Registration Department U Ye Tun Oo, Head of Yangon West District INRD U Yin Hwe and party inspected tasks being undertaken by staff of the department.

The officials then issued 130 citizenship scrutiny cards and 48 household registrations to the local people.

MLF invites donations of cash, books

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to broadening the horizon of the people and developing self-reliant libraries across the nation.

Those wishing to donate cash and books to the libraries may contact Myanmar Libraries Foundation at No. 228 on Theinbyu Street in Botataung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.
People walk past a huge bike sculpture at the Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 15 March, 2012. As part of the World Bike Tour event, the sculpture appeals for an eco-friendly lifestyle.

Man charged with beating infant to death

ORLANDO, 1 April — A Florida man has been charged with aggravated manslaughter for allegedly fatally punching his 3-month-old daughter to stop her crying, authorities said. Winter Haven police say they arrested Christopher Scott Ryon, 27, of Polk County, after Riley Ryon’s mother, Kristine Bardell, 26, found the child lying face down and unresponsive in their apartment bedroom when she came home for lunch on Tuesday about 1:15 pm, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

It was unclear whether Ryon and Bardell are married. Bardell called emergency personnel when she was pronounced dead, WFTS-TV, Tampa, Fla, was pronounced dead, and unresponsive in their apartment bedroom when she came home for lunch on Tuesday about 1:15 pm, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

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Two kids, woman killed in Saint Death ritual

HERMOSILLO, 1 April — Eight people have been arrested for allegedly killing two 10-year-old boys and a 55-year-old woman in ritual sacrifices by the cult of La Santa Muerte, or Saint Death, prosecutors in northern Mexico said on Friday. Jose Larrinaga, spokesman for Sonora state prosecutors, said the victims’ blood was poured around an altar to the saint, which is depicted as a skeleton holding a scythe and cloaked in flowing robes. The grisly slayings recalled the notorious “narcosaints” killings of the 1980s, when 15 bodies, many of them with signs of ritual

Marl chemical park in Germany rocked by huge explosion

BERLIN, 1 April — A huge explosion rocked a chemical industrial park in Marl, western Germany, leaving one or two workers injured and three missing, police said Saturday.

Marl police confirmed a pressure vessel in the park blasted at 13:36 local time (1136 GMT). Three staff members were missing, police spokesman Michael Franz told Xinhua. He said one was injured, although another spokesman said earlier two had been confirmed injured.

The firefighters were “fully engaged” and the flame was “locally limited,” the police said. The accident in the park in the Ruhr industrial region sent up a gas cloud, which moved southward and was spreading over a major east-west highway, the police said.

Franz said emergency crew had tested the cloud at the site and found no harmful content. Police have warned local residents to close windows and doors and stay inside buildings. There is no death report yet and the cause of the explosion is under investigation. — MNA/Xinhua.

Faceless portrait wins Archibald Prize

CANBERRA, 1 April — Tim Storrier has won Australia’s most prestigious art award, the Archibald prize, with a faceless portrait called “The historic wayfarer (after Bosch)”. The artist thanked his dog, also present at the award ceremony.

Storrier also entered last year’s Archibald Prize with another faceless portrait — of himself — the work was called “Moon boy (self-portrait as a young man)”. The NSW Art Gallery website described it as a “suit of empty clothes hanging as if on a skeleton in a barren landscape”.

The winner was selected from a field of 41 finalists drawn from a total entry of more than 800 works and announced on Friday at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Storrier will receive a first prize of $75,000, an increase of $25,000 from last year. The finalists go on public display at the gallery from Saturday.— Internet

Richard Branson headed to ‘centre of Earth’

NEW YORK, 1 April — Tycoon Richard Branson may have lost his race to the bottom of the ocean, but not his sense of humor, declaring a faux plan to top his rivals by voyaging to the center of the Earth. The impossible adventure was announced on Friday, tongue jammed in cheek, with the seriousness of a real campaign.

“Sir Richard Branson to launch journeys to the center of the Earth through Viking Volcanic” the website virginvolcanic.com claims, in one of two teasingly timed announcements ahead of this weekend.

An early clue that this was a joke was that a press release from Branson’s PR people cannot be published until 1 April. The announcement came days after Hollywood director James Cameron grabbed headlines by making history’s first solo — and real — trip to submarine to the deepest point of the world’s oceans: the Mariana Trench in the Pacific.

It was an exploit that Branson, known for his pursuit of ballooning and sailing records, had had his eye on too.

Richard Branson will eat his heart out hearing that Branson says he’ll take trendy singer will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas in a special capsule down into a volcano and from there to the molten center of the planet.

“I have long held a fascination with volcanoes having read Julian Verne’s

Colorado wildfire 70 percent contained, no sign of missing woman

DENVER, 1 April — A wildfire burning in rugged terrain west of Denver that killed two people and left a woman missing, ignited by windblown embers from a prescribed burn, was 70 percent contained on Friday, fire officials said.

“That’s the good news,” incident commander Rich Harvey said of the containment figure. “The bad news is that over the weekend the weather looks the same weather conditions that started the fire in the first place.”

Harvey said weather forecasters were predicting increased winds, lower humidity levels and higher temperatures over the weekend, so firefighters were aggressively attacking the fire while conditions were favorable.

The LowerNorth Fork Fire, which is burning through parched pine trees and grasses 20 miles west of the state’s most populous city, spread rapidly on Monday after sparks from the controlled burn conducted by the Colorado State Forest Service jumped a containment line. Flames from the blaze have torched 4,140 acres, destroyed 27 homes and an unknown number of outbuildings.

An elderly couple perished in the fire, and the search continues for a woman who has not been heard from since the blaze ignited. “The search for Ann Appel continues, but there’s nothing to report,” Mark Techmeyer, spokesman for the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office, said. Some 500 firefighters have been battling the blaze, concentrating on building containment lines and putting out scores of spot fires that have popped up in the burn area, fire officials said.

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper this week ordered a suspension of controlled burns on state-owned lands until an investigative panel reviews the practice. — Reuters

Penguins ‘do a Daly’ in zoo’s pool

LONDON, 1 April — Penguins have put their diving skills to the test after a custom-made springboard was installed in ZSL London Zoo. Having been awarded the London 2012 Organising Committee’s Inspired By 2012 mark for its summer Animal Athletes programme, London Zoo has unveiled its

A Humboldt Penguin jumps from the new London 2012 Olympic-themed diving board at London Zoo. — Internet

Billionaire Richard Branson.

‘Journey to the Centre of the Earth’ as a young boy,” Branson said on the website. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 2 April, 2012

11

The historic wayfarer (after Bosch) is the second faceless portrait Storrier has entered in the Archibald Prize. — Internet
Azamara cruise ship sails for Malaysia after fire repairs

The fire on the Azamara Quest started late on 30 March, 2012 after the ship left Manilla for Sandakan, Malaysia, and was immediately put out, said coast guard spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Aligier Ricafente. Five crew members were injured. — INTERNET

Malana, 1 April — A cruise ship disabled by a fire has been repaired and is sailing slowly from Philippines waters to Malaysia, the ship’s operator says. Fire broke out on the Azamara Quest on Friday, a day after it left Manila for Malaysia, with 1,001 people on board. Operator Azamara Club Cruises said five crew members were injured but that no passengers were injured. The ship was now traveling at a speed of three to six knots and should reach Sandakan, Malaysia, in two days. “The crew members are being treated in our medical facility. The condition of the one crew member that was more severely injured has improved, but it is still serious.” The ship is owned by the world’s second largest cruise firm, Royal Caribbean.

Azamara Club Cruises said the blaze — in one of the ship’s engine rooms — had been immediately extinguished. “The damage caused by the fire will require us to cancel the rest of Azamara Quest’s voyage once the ship arrives in Sandakan,” it said. A coastguard spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Aligier Ricafente, said a coastguard vessel was approaching the Azamara Quest. He said the ship’s captain had earlier emailed to say everything was “under control” and that it did not require assistance. But Lt. Ricafente said the coastguard would provide assistance while the ship was “inside our area of responsibility”. Another spokesman said a Philippine Navy ship would escort the ship until it crossed into Malaysian waters. Eda Sulti, a passenger, said five crew members were injured and that all of her family members were safe.

World’s biggest Titanic attraction opens in Belfast

BELFAST, 1 April — The largest Titanic visitor attraction in the world opened in the ship’s Belfast birthplace on Saturday, some 100 years after the doomed liner was built in the same yards. Almost 100,000 tickets for Titanic Belfast, a striking aluminium-clad building which tells the famous ship’s story through special effects, interactive screens and a ride, have been sold ahead of the opening.

Organizers expect £97 million (£155 million, 116 million euro) centre can boost tourism in the British province, which was torn apart by sectarian strife for three decades until the late 1990s. “We want to bring people to Northern Ireland not just to see what a generation 100 years ago were able to achieve, but what this generation can achieve in this new era of peace,” said First Minister Peter Robinson.

Cyril Quigley, a 105-year-old who watched the Titanic’s launch more than a century ago, joined the province’s leaders at the opening of the building, which takes the form of four of the ship’s huge prows. “All I saw was this big thing sliding out into the ocean,” Quigley said as he recalled watching with his parents. “I was only four and half.” Quigley said the new centre, which rose from the derelict Harland and Wolff shipyard, “was wonderful”. — INTERNET

Trudeau broadcasting says no DirecTV deal

Trudeau broadcasting said there’s been no settlement with DirecTV inc. in their contract negotiations, which means DirecTV subscribers in 19 US markets will lose access to certain programming.

In a statement late Saturday, Trudeau Broadcasting said that without a deal in place, by federal law DirecTV cannot carry the signal of Tribune’s local television stations after midnight, when the agreement expires. The affected markets include New York, Chicago, New Orleans and Philadelphia. Trudeau president Nils Larson called the situation “extremely unfortunate.” In its own statement, DirecTV said it had hoped Tribune would allow its programming to remain up while negotiations continue. But as it struck midnight in the US time zone, Tribune channels carried by DirecTV were set to go blank. Earlier DirecTV said that it had accepted the financial terms that Tribune’s management offered by telephone two days ago. But Tribune came out with its own statement shortly after, saying that it had not reached a deal or come to terms with DirecTV on any aspect of the contract.

Man charged with Brixton murder

London, 1 April — An 18-year-old man has been charged with the murder of a 17-year-old boy in south London. Kwame Ofosu-Asoe, of Catford, was found with fatal stab wounds in Adidas Close, Moorlands Estate, in Brixton, on the evening of 2 March. Metropolitan Police said they believed the seventh-form student and a friend were chased and attacked by two men. Nathaniel Okunaya, of Lewisham, is due to appear at Croydon Magistrates’ Court on Sunday charged with murder. — INTERNET

Bieber, Berry slimed at Kids Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES, 1 April — At the 25th annual Kids’ Choice Awards, the slimy ranneover. Host Will Smith opened the 25th annual Kids’ Choice Awards promising a record amount of the show’s trademark green gunk. Though some 20 awards are presented at the KCA’s, the real suspense isn’t who will take home a “Blimp” (the show’s Oscar), it’s when and on whom the slime will spill. It’s like a baptism into kid-dom that can come at any moment: from a hidden bucket, dumped from the rafters or exploded from little orange blimps.

“I’m not the only one to receive a slime,” screamed Smith. “You have to earn the slime! That’s an honour.” Halle Berry was the first to be covered, but she was far from alone. She was among four other stars who were joined by “Twilight” star Taylor Lautner (who won favorite “butterkicker”), “Glee” star Chris Colfer and male singer winner Justin Bieber, who was utterly drenched along with Smith at the end of the show. The KCA’s are Nickelodeon’s annual celebration for kids, and it’s often the most-watched children’s programme of the year. They draw a considerable roster of stars looking to thank their smallest fans and cater to their youngest demographics. “This is, like, the coolest award show ever,” said “Twilight” star Kristen Stewart, accepting the award for favorite movie actress.

Smith, himself a 10-time Blimp winner, started the show with an elaborate, digitally-animated skyscraper shot of Nickelodeon’s trademark blimp. — INTERNET

Charge over mother and son murder

London, 1 April — A 42-year-old man has been charged with the murders of a 34-year-old woman and a two-year-old child, North Wales Police have said. The bodies of Suzanne Jones and her son William were discovered at a house near Tremadog on Friday. North Wales Police added that no formal identification had yet been made, while family members were being supported by specially-trained officers. — INTERNET

Police were called to a house near Tremadog on Friday night. — INTERNET

Internet

Organizers hope the £97 million (£155 million, 116 million euro) centre can boost tourism in the British province, which was torn apart by sectarian strife for three decades until the late 1990s. “We want to bring people to Northern Ireland not just to see what a generation 100 years ago were able to achieve, but what this generation can achieve in this new era of peace,” said First Minister Peter Robinson.

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Justin Bieber gets slimed after accepting the award for favorite male singer onstage at Nickelodeon’s 25th Annual Kids’ Choice Awards on 31 March, 2012 in Los Angeles. — INTERNET
Blind man goes for Google car drive

Google this week posted a video of its self-driving Toyota Prius taking a blind man to a San Jose, Calif, dry cleaners and Taco Bell. “Look, Ma, no hands. No hands, no feet,” says Steve Mahan, who has lost 95 percent of his vision.

“There would be no way for her to give me the independence and the flexibility to go to the places I both want to go and need to go if I had to do those things,” he said.

Mahan is seen chowing down on his taco as the car zips along streets. There was no traffic in evidence.

Google said on its Google+ account the drive was pre-programmed, the Los Angeles Times reported. “There’s much left to design and test, but we’ve got safely completed more than 200,000 miles of computer-led driving, gathering great experiences and an overwhelming number of enthusiastic supporters,” Google said in the post.

“Having safely completed over 200,000 miles of computer-led driving, we wanted to share one of our favourite moments,” Google said in the blur accompanying the 3-minute clip uploaded to YouTube on Wednesday.

Meth lab found in trunk of stolen car

Authorities in Florida said a father and son faces charges after police discovered a mobile methamphetamine lab in the trunk of a stolen car.

Daytona Beach police said the 1995 Pontiac Firebird, which had been reported stolen in January, was stopped outside the Daytona Family Market around 7:20pm Tuesday. The driver, Robert Smith Jr, 37, told officers a friend from Bowling Green, Ky, where the car was reported stolen, had let him use the vehicle to visit his father, the Orlando Sentinel reported Thursday. Police said they recovered a mobile meth lab in the trunk of the car and arrested Smith and his father, Robert Smith Sr, 72, on charges of manufacturing and possession of methamphetamine. The younger man was also charged with grand theft auto.

Three monkeys on the loose in Fla

Sheriff’s deputies in Florida are searching for three monkeys who’ve been spotted roaming near Williamson, Fla.

The Levy County Sheriff’s Office said residents in the area of County Road 318/335 reported seeing three monkeys Thursday and deputies searched the area but were unable to locate the animals.

Deputies, however, did discover a fence post with scratches believed to have been left by the monkeys and some hair that seems to have been shed by the animals.

Residents said the monkeys had discovered pet food in their carports and left huge messes.

The sheriff’s office said Florida Fish & Wildlife officers have been informed of the situation and are expected to place traps for the monkeys.

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Blind man goes for Google car drive

Google this week posted a video of its self-driving Toyota Prius taking a blind man to a San Jose, Calif, dry cleaners and Taco Bell. “Look, Ma, no hands. No hands, no feet,” says Steve Mahan, who has lost 95 percent of his vision.

“There would be no way for her to give me the independence and the flexibility to go to the places I both want to go and need to go if I had to do those things,” he said.

Mahan is seen chowing down on his taco as the car zips along streets. There was no traffic in evidence.

Google said on its Google+ account the drive was pre-programmed, the Los Angeles Times reported. “There’s much left to design and test, but we’ve got safely completed more than 200,000 miles of computer-led driving, gathering great experiences and an overwhelming number of enthusiastic supporters,” Google said in the post.

“Having safely completed over 200,000 miles of computer-led driving, we wanted to share one of our favourite moments,” Google said in the blur accompanying the 3-minute clip uploaded to YouTube on Wednesday.

Meth lab found in trunk of stolen car

Authorities in Florida said a father and son faces charges after police discovered a mobile methamphetamine lab in the trunk of a stolen car.

Daytona Beach police said the 1995 Pontiac Firebird, which had been reported stolen in January, was stopped outside the Daytona Family Market around 7:20pm Tuesday. The driver, Robert Smith Jr, 37, told officers a friend from Bowling Green, Ky, where the car was reported stolen, had let him use the vehicle to visit his father, the Orlando Sentinel reported Thursday. Police said they recovered a mobile meth lab in the trunk of the car and arrested Smith and his father, Robert Smith Sr, 72, on charges of manufacturing and possession of methamphetamine. The younger man was also charged with grand theft auto.

Three monkeys on the loose in Fla

Sheriff’s deputies in Florida are searching for three monkeys who’ve been spotted roaming near Williamson, Fla.

The Levy County Sheriff’s Office said residents in the area of County Road 318/335 reported seeing three monkeys Thursday and deputies searched the area but were unable to locate the animals.

Deputies, however, did discover a fence post with scratches believed to have been left by the monkeys and some hair that seems to have been shed by the animals.

Residents said the monkeys had discovered pet food in their carports and left huge messes.

The sheriff’s office said Florida Fish & Wildlife officers have been informed of the situation and are expected to place traps for the monkeys.
Louis Oosuizen leads Houston Open

Real Madrid’s forward Gonzalo Higuain (L) is congratulated by teammate Cristian Ronaldo after scoring a goal during their Spanish La Liga match against Osasuna.

Cavani hoping to be first to shoot down Juve

Real Madrid’s forward Gonzalo Higuain (L) is congratulated by teammate Cristian Ronaldo after scoring a goal during their Spanish La Liga match against Osasuna.

MADRID, 1 April — Cristiano Ronaldo took his La Liga season tally to 37 on Saturday as Real Madrid smashed through the 100-goal barrier to move closer to the Spanish title.

Ronaldo, who scored twice in the 5-1 demolition of Osasuna, is now just three shy of his own record of 40 league goals set last season and there are still eight matches left.

More importantly, his team maintained their six-point lead over bitter rivals Barcelona who stayed in touch with a 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao, a match which saw fellow free-scoring Lionel Messi grab his 36th league goal. “I dream of winning La Liga and haven’t considered for one moment that we could lose it,” said Ronaldo. “But there are still eight games to play and we know that we have to keep winning because Barcelona are still on our heels.”

Saturday’s win in Pamplona took Real to 100 goals scored in 30 league games against just 27 conceded. Karim Benzema set Real on their way with a delightful volley in the seventh minute before Ronaldo, on 33 minutes, and Gonzalo Higuain, three minutes later, made it 3-0 at the interval. Higuain’s strike took the Argentina international to 100 goals in his Real career.

Honduras beats El Salvador to earn Olympic spot

KANSAS CITY, 1 April — Second-half substitute Gerson Rodas scored twice in a goal-filled overtime, giving Honduras a 2-1 victory over El Salvador on Saturday in the semifinals of the CONCACAF Olympic qualifying tournament.

Honduras earns its second straight Olympic berth and third since 2000. El Salvador, the surprise Group A winner, hasn’t qualified since 1968.

“Honduras are still on our heels but a win would secure a direct route to next season’s Champions League group stages,” said Cavani. “Juve haven’t lost but we hope to beat them.”

Napoli had their first week of Ina time long having qualified for the Italian Cup final — to play Juve — last week following their Champions League elimination to Chelsea. The week before that, they have gone off the boil a little given having thrown away a 2-0 lead at home to Catania last weekend to draw 2-2. And Cavani says they must improve on that. “We lacked the necessary experience against Catania to take the three points,” he said. Internet

Juventus players celebrate after winning their Italian Serie A match against Inter at Juventus Stadium in Turin, on 25 March, Napoli travel to Juventus on Sunday with the southerners’ Uruguay striker Edison Cavani vowing to help his side become the first to defeat the Old Lady of Turin this season. — Internet

Conte eyes direct route to Champions League

MILAN, 1 April — Juventus coach Antonio Conte believes a victory over Napoli on Sunday could all but secure a direct route into next season’s Champions League group stages.

Conte, who leads the third-placed team, said a win over the second-placed Rossoneri would mean his side qualify for the next round.

“We are real happy.”

Internet

Sjodin joins Tseng atop LPGA leaderboard

RANCHO MIRAGE, 1 April — Karin Sjodin of Sweden steadied a career scoreless in gusting winds, firing a four-under 68 to join world number one Yani Tseng at the Kraft Nabisco Championship leaderboard.

Sjodin, who is seeking a first victory in seven seasons on the LPGA tour, had just one bogey as she joined Tseng on nine-under 207 going into Sunday’s final round of the first women’s major of the year.

“The day was just kind of smooth,” said Sjodin, who briefly took the outright lead before Tseng rejoined her at the top. The Swede’s effort was even more impressive given she apparently dislocated one of her ribs on Friday. “I never felt like I was struggling...” she felt good to be there. “I don’t know if I’ve really had time to think about it much. It’s going to be fantastic, definitely.”

Internet

Karim Sjodin of Sweden hits her tee shot on the third hole during the third round of the Kraft Nabisco Championship at Mission Hills County Club on 31 March, in Rancho Mirage, California. — Internet

Tsong, a five-time major champion, is currently the standout force in the women’s game. But she showed some frustration on her way to a one-under 71 at Mission Hills, South Korea’s Haejin Kang, also seeking a first LPGA Tour title, was two strokes back after struggling to a 72. Worldnumbertwo Na Yeon Choi of South Korea led a group of five players on six-under. — Internet

Internet

CONCACAF Olympic qualifying tournament up. Augusta will take care of business. The 29-year-old South African shot a moment at Redstone on Saturday to take in the second hole during the third round of the Houston Open golf tournament on 31 March, 2012, in Humble, Texas.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson (70), Keegan Bradley (69) and Ryan Palmer (66) were 11 under.

“It’s a great leaderboard behind me,” Oosuizen said. “It’s going to be tough, but I feel like I’m ready for it.” Oosuizen shook off two early bogeys on a sunny, windy afternoon at Redstone. He reeled off four straight birdies on the back nine, and in the midst of his streak, Oosuizen enjoyed some of the natural scenery. “It was such a beautiful back nine, really, with the weather and the sun dropping,” Oosuizen said.

“A nice place out there, which was good, and I just felt when we turned on 15, I was playing down the sun and the course looked spectacular.”

Mahan had a 65, which included four birdie putts of at least 23 feet. He sank a 23-foot No 5, a 34-footer on No 6, and 28-footers on Nos 10 and 14. “That was a nice stretch there,” Mahan said.

“Easily could’ve gone through there even, instead of a couple under like I did.” Mahan doesn’t feel quite as locked in as he did when he won the Match Play Championship earlier this year, but he still feels confident heading to next week’s Masters.

But Mahan has three-top-10 finishes in Houston since 2007, and never considered bypassing this week’s event to get to Augusta early. “I thought about it for about a second,” Mahan said. “But this is a place I’ve played well at, so I want to play well here and try to win here. I really didn’t want to pass this tournament up. Augusta will take care of itself.”

Internet

Edinson Cavani vowing to help his side become the first to defeat Juve and therefore also for Neapolitans to play against Juve — last final — to play Juve — second spot. “Beating Napoli enough in hand to hold onto second place,” said Conte. “Going straight into the Champions League group stages without playing a preliminary game would be amazing.”

But Conte’s doesn’t want to be best looking behind, he also wants to focus on what’s ahead, notably league leaders AC Milan. Juve are four points behind the champions and although Milan have not looked like dropping points recently, Conte wants his side to be able to exploit it if they do. Internet

Real Madrid’s forward Gonzalo Higuain (L) is congratulated by teammate Cristian Ronaldo after scoring a goal during their Spanish La Liga match against Osasuna.

Internet

Cavani hoping to be first to shoot down Juve

Internet

Internet
UK Maritime and Coastguard at Falmouth and the US coast communications equipment. Race director Joff Bailey said: sweeping away its steering wheel and mount and some of its biennial Clipper Round The World Yacht Race in one of 10 UK suspected cracked or broken ribs. They were taking part in the Max Wilson, 62, from Queensland, Australia, who has two medical assistance. Ms Hitchens has four suspected broken British crew as Jane Hitchens, 50, from Kent, Mark Burkes, 37, 400 miles off the California coast. Race organisers named the Pacific Ocean during a round-the-world yacht race. They suffered a range of injuries, including suspected broken ribs, the Pacific in world yacht race The wave hit the boat in storm conditions on Saturday, 14. World's Stars 13. Weather Report 12. A Ngar Gat Myanmar 11. News 10. A Ngar Gat Myanmar 9. Myanmar Language 8:00 pm 7. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Botany) 6. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Morden Music Troupe) 5. Dance of Thin Gyan Festival 4. Cute Little Dancers 3. Dance Of National Races 2. To Be Healthy Exercise 1. Parrita By Venerable Min Aye Sayadaw 7:00 am 7:45 pm 4:30 pm 3:30 pm 2:45 pm 1:45 pm 11. News 10. A Ngaw Giat Myanmar Pyi (Rain Moe, Ko Ye, Su Pan Hwa, Waine Su Kaing, Thein, Su Mon) 9. Myanmar Language 8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit 7:50 pm 7:00 am 7:30 am 7:45 am 8:00 am 8:15 am 8:30 am 8:45 am 9:00 am 9:15 am 9:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 10:15 am 10:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am 11:15 am 11:30 am 3-4-12 09:30 am) MST

Tottenham 3-1 Swansea

LONDON, 1 April — Emmanuel Adebayor's double helped ignite Tottenham Hotspur's Champions League push with a dominant Premier League win over Swansea City. Rafael van der Vaart opened the scoring, side footing a loose ball in from 20 yards, as Spurs looked to capitalise on Arsenal's slip-up at QPR. Gyli Sigurdsson's 25-yard stunner drew Swansea level before Adebayor headed Spurs ahead from van der Vaart's ball. Adebayor sealed the win as he nodded in Aaron Lennon's deep cross late on. The Spurs striker's second-half headers ended a five-match winless league run as Harry Redknapp's side moved level on 58 points with north London rivals and third-placed Arsenal.— Internet

Three Britons injured in Pacific in world yacht race

SAX JOST, 1 April — Three Britons and one Australian were injured when a large wave crashed onto their vessel in the Pacific Ocean during a round-the-world yacht race. They suffered a range of injuries, including suspected broken ribs, 400 miles off the California coast. Race organisers named the British crew as Jane Hitchens, 50, from Kent, Mark Burkes, 37, from Worcestershire and Nik Brborac, 28, from London. Paramedics are preparing to parachute in to provide medical assistance. Ms Hitchens has four suspected broken ribs, Mr Burkes has suffered a back injury and Mr Brborac has possible pelvic sprain. The other crew member was named as Max Wilson, 62, from Queensland, Australia, who has two suspected cracked or broken ribs. They were taking part in the biennial Clipper Round The World Yacht Race in one of 10 UK registered 68-foot yachts, the Geraldton Western Australia. The wave hit the boat in storm conditions on Saturday, swelling away its steering wheel and mount and some of its communications equipment. Race director Joe Bailey said: "We are naturally concerned at the recent incident on Geraldton Western Australia and are in close contact with the skipper, UK Maritime and Coastguard at Falmouth and the US coastguard.— Internet

Mancini frustrated by Balotelli antics

MANCHESTER, 1 April — Roberto Mancini was again forced to answer questions about the erratic behaviour of his forward Mario Balotelli as Manchester City surrendered the initiative in the title race with a dramatic 3-3 draw with Sunderland. The result — the first time a team has taken a league point at Eastlands in 14 months — leaves Mancini’s team two points behind leaders Manchester United who played their game in hand at Blackburn on Monday. Balotelli scored twice, the first a disputed penalty and the second in the 85th minute, before Aleksandar Kolarov salvaged a point with the equaliser four minutes from time on Saturday. But Balotelli attracted far more than just his goals as he argued with officials, opponents and even had a furious confrontation with team-mate Kolarov as they disputed who should take a free-kick. With City — now with just one win from their last four league matches — already showing signs of cracking under the pressure of fighting United for the title, the last thing Mancini needs is more distractions from Balotelli. "I only had Carlos Tevez on the bench but I thought about subbing Mario after five minutes," Mancini said. "He didn't play well. In a game like this, your strikers need to do something different, not just play for the last two or three minutes - but in the end he scored two goals. "He and Edin Dzeko should be scoring two or three goals in a game like this. They know that at the free-kick it should be Aleksandar and Mario on the ball, after that they decide who shoots. This can happen at times like this but this is the last time. — Internet

Fire preventive measures taken in Insein

YANGON, 1 April — With the aim of ensuring safety of fire and electricity at markets in Insein Township of Yangon North District, a team comprising officials of the Yangon City Development Committee, the township administrator and Head of Township Fire Station (Commander) U Tun Lwin inspected systematic keeping of fire extinguishers such as foams, hoses and tanks, and use of electricity at Danyingon Market, Aung San Market and Phawgan Market. — FSD

REPAVED ROAD COMMISSIONED: The repaved section of Bagyoke Aung San Road (Kangyidauntgon Village section) was inaugurated in Einme Township on 18 March. Township Administrator U Yazar Win, Ayeyawady Region Hlautaw representative U Myint Thein and Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Kyaw Soe formally opened the repaved section. — TOWNSHIP IPRD

Internet

Outlook for sub-
Diplomats, international observers, correspondents study balloting and vote counting in Yangon Region

YANGON, 1 April—The 2012 by-election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar started 6 am today and voters in Kawhmu, Thongwa, Hlegu, Mayangon, Dagon (Seikkan) and Mingala Taungnyunt townships cast their votes systematically for Hluttaw representatives.

The by-election of Kawhmu Township in Yangon South District was held at respective polling stations where the local people cast their votes freely and systematically. Kawhmu Township had 129 polling stations – 7 in 7 wards in urban areas and 122 in 126 villages.

Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, together with Yangon Region Sub-commission Chairman U Ko Ko and members, visited Kawhmu Township Sub-commission.

Next, he met chairmen and members of district and township sub-commissions, two candidates and one election representative, gave necessary instructions and viewed the systematic and free casting of votes by the local people.

Diplomats from foreign embassies in Yangon, foreign observers, foreign reporters, members of Foreign Correspondents Club and reporters from journals studied the voting and covered election news.

Yangon South District Sub-commission Secretary Daw Nilar Nyant and members viewed the systematic balloting by voters at the polling stations in Thongwa Township and made necessary arrangements.

Diplomats, foreign observers and reporters visited the polling stations and interviewed the voters. The township opened 135 polling stations.

Yangon North District Sub-commission Chairman U Aung Khaing and members viewed the systematic casting of votes by the people.

Diplomats, foreign observers and reporters visited the polling stations and asked (See page 9)

YPA

Outstanding bus line staff awarded

YANGON, 1 April—Yangon Region Road Transport Minister U Aung Khin delivered a speech at outstanding staff award presentation ceremony of Yangon North District All Bus Lines Supervisory Committee on 25 March.

The region minister and officials presented awards to outstanding staff.—MNA

Lunge Arman Library opened in Kyauktan Tsp

YANGON, 1 April—The opening ceremony of Lunge Arman Library in Pantaw Model Village in Kyauktan Township in Yangon South District was held on 30 March.

District Information and Public Relations Department Staff Officer U Hla Myo Aung, Township Writers and Journalists Association Chairman U Soe Win, Village Administrator U Soe Paing and townelder U Hsaung Tin formally opened the library.—MNA

Newcastle 2-0 Liverpool: Clinical Cisse nets double & Reina is sent off on miserable day for Reds

LONDON, 1 April—A double from Papiss Cisse saw Newcastle inflict a third straight Premier League defeat on Liverpool.

The Senegalese striker scored a fine header and then rounded the keeper to add a second before Reina’s headbutt on Perch saw the visitors reduced to 10 men.

Captain Fabricio Coloccinì was missing for the home side but Cheikh Tiote returned after missing the victory against West Brom.

Jonjo Shelvey came into the Liverpool starting XI for the first time since January’s FA Cup victory over Oldham whilst Jose Enrique, Craig Bellamy and Andy Carroll all made returns to their former club.

The first chance of the game fell to Jonjo Shelvey whose dipping shot took a wicked deflection and flew just over the bar.

A Steven Gerrard free-kick then landed on the head of Martin Skrtel but he failed to find the target with a header from inside the six-yard box.

Then there was controversy as Andy Carroll broke through on goal and went down far too easily, though, and referee Martin Atkinson booked him for diving, much to the joy of the Toon faithful.

Liverpool continued to have the better of proceedings and, after a lovely ball out wide by Luis Suarez, Craig Bellamy’s cross was deflected onto the bar by Krul.

Atkinson booked him for diving, much to the joy of the Toon faithful.

Liverpool continued to have the better of proceedings and, after a lovely ball out wide by Luis Suarez, Craig Bellamy’s cross was deflected onto the bar by Krul.

Diplomats, observers of international community and correspondents observe polling stations in Kawhmu Township.—MNA

Townships in Mandalay Region hold by-elections

By-elections take place in Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady, Mon, Shan

PAGE 12