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.

Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Festival Organizing Committee meets

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 April—Chairman of Leading Committee for Organizing 1373 ME Nay Pyi Taw Myanma Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt and Vice-Chairman Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan addressed the coordination meeting of the committee at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall here this morning.

It was attended by members of the committee deputy ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, the joint secretary and members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, departmental heads, managing directors of Nay Pyi Taw hotels and construction companies and officials. Union Minister U Thein Nyunt called for preserving Myanmar culture in entertainments and chorals dancing while Union Minister U Tint Hsan urged the members to ensure security till the festival is over.

Chairman of Leading Committee for Organizing 1373 ME Nay Pyi Taw Myanma Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Festival Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt delivers an address at coordination meeting of the committee.

Coordination meeting for Comprehensive Education Sector Review held

NayPyiTaw,3April—A Coordination Meeting for Comprehensive Education Sector Review was held at Function Hall of Thingaha Hotel here this morning, in the presence of Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Ministers U Aye Kyu and U Ba Shwe, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo, UNICEF resident representative Mr. Ramesh M. Shrestha and officials concerned, members of the steering committee, the implementation committee, Directors-General of the departments under the Ministry of Education, and distinguished persons.

On the occasion, Union Minister Dr Mya Aye called for cooperation between officials from the education field and donor organizations in fulfilling needs for doing comprehensive educational research tasks; the follow-up plan of the Conference on Development Policy Options (See page 8)

Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye addresses coordination meeting for Comprehensive Education Sector Review.

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Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye addresses coordination meeting for Comprehensive Education Sector Review.

Thingyan fever

Sluice gate and dam supplying irrigation water to farmlands for agriculture development in Bago Region

Photo shows storage of water in Khabaung diversion weir.
Union Energy Minister receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—Union Minister for Energy U Than Hlay received Chief Executive Officer Mr Ajay Khanna and party of Jubilant Energy Company of India at his office yesterday. They discussed plans for oil and natural gas exploration for the first time in inland block PSC 1 of Myanmar, and opportunity for extension for oil blocks in Myanmar due to encouragement of Indian government to the company to put more investment in Myanmar.

The Union minister also received Chairman Mr Li Li and party of NPCC Company of the People’s Republic of China and discussed exploration work being undertaken in inland block F (Ngahlangwin region), progress of works, tests and requirements.

Union Minister meets General Secretary of World View International Foundation

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tin received General Secretary of World View International Foundation based in Colombo, Sri Lanka Dr Arne Fjortoft and party, at his office yesterday morning.

The meeting focused on cooperation in disseminating knowledge on environmental conservation and prospect for cooperation in mangroves conservation in coastal regions.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Sann Lwin of Planning and Statistics Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and acting Director-General U Aye Myint of Forest Department. — MNA

Renovated school buildings put into service

NAY PYI TAW, 2 April—A ceremony to open buildings put into service at Basic Education Primary School No. 29 in Ward 7 of Pathein and BEPS No. 1 in Ward 5 renovated by Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung was held at the schools yesterday morning.

The Region Chief Minister delivered an address. Region Minister for Social Affairs U San Maung, Region Minister for Forestry and Mines U Soe Myint, Assistant Region Education Officer (Admin) U Ye Myint and Pathein Township Administrator U Chit Ko Ko formally opened the school buildings. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspects progress in construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun)

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspected progress in Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) construction project.

He gave instructions on priority to be given to worksite safety.

On the bank in Malun, the deputy minister inspected completion of earthen work at Malun approach road and construction of box culverts.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) is rail-cum-road bridge. Its iron frames are produced from Myawaddy Steel Mill of Myanmar Economic Corporation. One of nine bridge spans has been installed with iron frames. — MNA

Livestock breeding development tasks coordinated in Sagaing Region

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye visited Kawlin, Wantho, Pinlebu and Bamauk townships in Katha District, Sagaing Region from 27 to 31 March and left instructions on rural development tasks and prevention of animal diseases. On 28 March, he met with fish breeders and fulfilled the needs of supply of fingerlings and breeding of fish.

On 29 March, the deputy minister met the local people in Nanzar Village in Bamauk Township, gave instructions on preventive measures against recurrence of black leg disease that broke out the previous year and donated cash for regional development and publications for libraries. — MNA
Participation of many parties in Myanmar by-elections “significant step”

Ban Ki-moon

The Secretary-General congratulates the people, government and political parties of Myanmar on the peaceful and largely orderly manner in which Sunday’s by-elections for vacant parliamentary seats were held, said a statement released here by Ban’s spokesman.

“Candidates from various political parties, including the National League for Democracy (NLD), participated freely in the elections, a development that the Secretary-General believes is another significant step towards a better future for Myanmar.”

In the by-elections, 157 candidates from 17 political parties competed for 45 open parliamentary seats. The elections were the first to be held since the current civilian government took office in March 2011.

The by-elections was observed by foreign diplomats and United Nations officials based in Myanmar as well as more than 150 invited international observers and media representatives from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its dialogue partners, including the European Union and the United States.

The statement said that Ban wished to acknowledge “the courage and vision” of U Thein Sein, President of Myanmar, that has “made such progress possible.” The Secretary-General takes note of the constructive efforts and positive statements by the government and other key stakeholders, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the NLD, in the lead-up to and following the by-elections, the statement said. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi leads the NLD, the party that won a majority of the available seats.

According to the statement, a UN team was in Myanmar during the by-elections to monitor the voting.

“A UN team has been on the ground since last week, and was able to witness the voting in a number of constituencies,” said the statement. Key stakeholders in Myanmar, including political parties, have stressed to the UN team their strong belief that these by-elections are a boost for the ongoing reforms and a very important step towards a more peaceful and democratic future in Myanmar.”

The statement added that Ban has called on Myanmar to continue on the path towards peace, cooperation and reconciliation. “The Secretary-General urges the government and all political forces to cooperate and build on the important achievement of the by-election and to consolidate the country’s democratic gains,” he said. “He also calls on all of Myanmar’s stakeholders to redouble their efforts toward genuine national reconciliation and long-term and durable peace.”—MNA/Xinhua

Six Afghan policemen, two civilians killed in south

KABUL, Afghanistan, 3 April—Insurgents killed six policemen and two civilians in southern Afghanistan in a pair of attacks, including an ambush on a checkpoint where militants allegedly poisoned the officers manning the outpost, authorities said Tuesday.

The Helmand province governor’s office said in a statement that “insurgents poisoned” the food at a checkpoint in the Nahr-e Saraj district and then attacked the police there late Monday.

Four policemen were killed and two were wounded in the attack. The bodies of two civilians were also found at the checkpoint.

The governor’s office did not say whether the dead were killed by poisoning or in the fighting.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadzai rejected the government’s account of the clashes, saying Taliban fighters attacked the checkpoint and seized weapons and a vehicle but didn’t poison the police.

“The way they were fighting, it looked like they might have been on drugs," he said. "That’s why the police are claiming that we poisoned them," he said. "We didn’t.”

A government delegation has been sent to the area to investigate.

In neighbouring Kandahar province, two Afghan policemen were killed Tuesday morning when their vehicle ran over a roadside bomb in Shahr-Wali Kot district, provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Razaq said.

Obama, Mexico’s Calderon vow more drug crime cooperation

WASHINGTON, 3 April—Mexican President Felipe Calderon told President Barack Obama on Monday that drug violence would continue unabated in his country unless the flow of American guns is curbed, while Obama promised closer cooperation with Mexico in fighting the narcotics trade.

Obama acknowledged a responsibility to quell the US demand for illegal drugs that helps drive narcotics trafficking, and said coordination with Mexico in the fight is becoming better than ever.

“We have a responsibility to make sure not only guns but also cash isn’t flowing into Mexico, and obviously President Calderon takes very seriously his responsibilities to apply effective law enforcement within Mexico,” Obama added.

For his part, Calderon acknowledged the political reality that it is unlikely that American gun laws will be tightened amid the run-up to the November US election in which Obama is seeking a second term in office.

“I understand the internal problems from the political point of view,” Calderon told a White House news conference with Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, also referring to the right to bear arms enshrined in the US Constitution. “But I know that if we don’t stop the traffic of weapons into Mexico... then we are never going to be able to stop the violence in Mexico,” he said, noting there were around 8,000 gun stores along the US-Mexican border.

Mexico wants the United States to do more to reduce the use of illegal drugs by Americans and curb illegal arms shipments as well as combat the drug cartels.

Turf wars between Mexican drug gangs have spread beyond smuggling hot spots along the US border and increasingly brutal violence has sapped confidence in the country’s security forces, harming its international standing.—Reuters

ASEAN sees Myanmar by-elections as road to regional, global integration

PHNOM PENH, 3 April—ASEAN on Monday described Myanmar’s largely successful by-election as an avenue to integration with the regional and international community.

ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan told media on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting ahead of the 20th ASEAN Summit Tuesday and Wednesday that the elections showed “strong enthusiasm and support” for democracy in Myanmar.

ASEAN foreign ministers were also invited to the country to see the reforms and political development that are taking place in the country.

“A UN team has been on the ground since last week, and was able to witness the voting in a number of constituencies,” said the statement. Key stakeholders in Myanmar, including political parties, have stressed to the UN team their strong belief that these by-elections are a boost for the ongoing reforms and a very important step towards a more peaceful and democratic future in Myanmar.”

The statement added that Ban has called on Myanmar to continue on the path towards peace, cooperation and reconciliation. “The Secretary-General urges the government and all political forces to cooperate and build on the important achievement of the by-election and to consolidate the country’s democratic gains,” he said. “He also calls on all of Myanmar’s stakeholders to redouble their efforts toward genuine national reconciliation and long-term and durable peace.”—MNA/Xinhua
Our ancestors used fire a million years ago

New York, 3 April—When did our ancestors first use fire? That’s been a long-running debate, and now a study concludes the earliest firm evidence comes from about 1 million years ago in a South African cave. The ash and burnt bone samples found there suggest fires frequently burned in that spot, researchers said on Monday. Over the years, some experts have cited evidence of fire as long as 1.5 million years ago, and some have argued it was used even earlier, a key moment in the evolution of our species.

The benefits of pre-chewing have only recently been investigated, but they appear to parallel those of breast-feeding. Babies start requiring non-milk food in their diet at six months old, but they don’t develop the molars they need to chew most foods until age 18 to 24 months. According to research led by Greitel Peltz, an anthropologist at Cornell University, pre-mastication was the solution to feeding infants during this interim period for most of human history, and it’s one of the methods used in many cultures today. Rather than being unhealthy, Peltz and many other scientists think the feeding method carries on the same immune system-building process that begins with breastfeeding.

London, 3 April—Surgeons at Manchester Royal Infirmary claim to be the first in the UK to use a full 3D projection during an operation. They used the equipment during an operation on John Green, 62, from Opondon, to remove his prostate. The team wore special glasses in order to see the 3D model of the body. “Doctors said the combination of robotic and 3D technologies allows for greater surgical freedom, but for our many colleagues in the trust performing keyhole surgery, ‘ultimately we are aiming for a better patient outcome at a cost that will benefit the NHS’.”

A planetarium in England is about to reveal what it sounds like on other worlds.—Internet

London, 3 April—Ever dream of visiting Mars or Venus? The actual trip may be outside the reach of your body (and outside the

Smart fabric for new soldier uniform

London, 3 April—British soldiers’ uniforms could soon use electrically conductive fabric that is woven directly into the clothing, replacing cumbersome batteries and cabling. The “e-textiles” could provide uniforms with a single, central power source. This would allow soldiers to recharge their battery instead of many and cut the number of cables required in their kit. Surrey-based Intelligent Textiles showcased the lightweight uniform at an event organised by the Centre for Defence Enterprise (CDE). The company has patented a number of techniques for weaving complex conductive fabrics. “We have built-in conductive yarns that then take power and data to where it needs to be,” Asha Thompson, director of Intelligent Textiles, told BBC News. “One of the problems with conventional cables is that breakages can be catastrophic. We do this here in build in redundancy, so that if the fabric gets cut, it’s damaged or cut, there’s a way of re-routing the data.”

The company has received £234,000 from the CDE, which wants to find solutions for reducing the physical and the “cognitive burden placed on soldiers.” Currently, separate batteries may be required for each piece of a soldier’s equipment, which adds to their loading cost as well as being costly. This is one reason why a centralised battery pack is so desirable. In addition, it removes the hindrance of the many wires and cables required in military equipment. These can add weight and can tangle and snag. Soldiers would also be able to recharge or replace one battery instead of many.

Scientists recreate the sounds of Mars and Venus

A planetarium in England is about to reveal what it sounds like on other worlds.—Internet

London, 3 April—Ever dream of visiting Mars or Venus? The actual trip may be outside the reach of your body (and outside the...
Pregnancy section of the uterus - which was shorter than 25mm. These pregnant women are thought to be at a higher risk of premature birth. This cervix was measured between 18 and 22 weeks into the pregnancy by an ultrasound scan. Of the 11,875 women who took part in the trial, 726 had a cervix length less than 25mm. Half of these women had a pessary, a small ring of silicone, inserted into their cervix. In the group of women without the pessary, 27% of babies were born prematurely. The rate was six per cent among those fitted with a pessary. Maria Goya, one of the researchers at the Vall d’Hebron Hospital, said: “Placement of a pessary is an affordable procedure, non-invasive, and easy to insert and remove as needed.” The study concluded the pessary was a “reliable alternative for prevention of premature birth in a group of at-risk women.” Prof Steve Thornton of the University of Exeter, and Hyagriv Simhan, of the Magee Women’s Hospital in Pittsburgh, said the findings had “renewed enthusiasm for the cervix as a therapeutic target” in preventing premature births. - Internet

Cheap device ‘reduces premature births’
Sluice gate and dam supplying irrigation water to farmlands for agriculture development in Bago Region

Facts about Paingkyon sluice gate
* Valves of sluice gate (6x12=37)
* Feeder channel and inlet channel measuring 17000 feet
* Overflow of drain is 850 feet long.
* It can benefit over 30,000 acres of farmlands.
* It is built at the mouth of Paingkyon Creek and Bago River confluence.

Facts about Khabaung diversion weir
* it is of RC type measuring 25 feet in height and 150 feet in width.
* Right canal is 14.40 miles long and left canal, 15.50 miles long totalling 29.9 miles.
* It can benefit 40,000 acres of farmlands in Toungoo Township and 60,000 acres of farmlands in Ottwin Township.

Pit bulls in Philippine dog fights to be put down
MANILA, 3 April—Dozens of pit bulls rescued from a dogfighting ring in the Philippines will be put down starting Tuesday by animal welfare activists who say there are no facilities to rehabilitate them and prevent them from again being used in underground arenas.

In three separate raids late Friday, police arrested eight South Koreans suspected of running illegal online gambling operations in which players outside the Philippines bet on dogs fighting at a clandestine compound south of Manila in Laguna Province.

Some of the roughly 300 dogs rescued on Friday had been rescued from a similar facility in nearby Cavite Province in December, said activist Anna Cabrera of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society. She said the dogs were “recycled” — adopted by people who sold them back to the suspects to continue fighting. “That is a fate worse than death,” she said.

Israel Keyes, 34, entered a not guilty plea to a charge of access device fraud. Federal prosecutors are seeking a judge’s order to allow them to depose him outside of the U.S. to figure out what he knows about the alleged murder of a Vermont woman in 2010.
We are travelling on the road passing through Meiktila plain, a vast stretch of mostly flatland with no mountain or mountain ranges in sight till reaching the horizons. Only few trees and some groves of bushes grow naturally on this dry area which now sees a gigantic greening plan covering a network of irrigation facilities supplying water for crops, tree plantations, regeneration projects, farms and the local people.

The plan in fact is for sustainable development of the multiple sectors and the environment of the plain home to a large number of people living in villages or towns big and small engaging in various kinds of businesses to earn their living or to stay wealthy. The plain is famous all over Myanmar for its business, trade and production activities, its important location in the central part of the country and the Meiktila Lake which is a significant topographical character in Myanmar literature and an important water storage and supply facility throughout history.

The plain saw real action during the World War II, maybe the first ever major tank battle between the two rival armies – one the British army and the other the Japanese Imperial Army – and supply facility throughout history.

Every activity whether implementing a project with the help of machinery light and heavy or mechanized troops need fuel as all machines run on it. They need a large amount of fuel as these machines are gas guzzlers. But my article is not about the heavy machines with high fuel consumption, but about my car that we are riding on our journey to Wundwin a town in the northern part of the plain. We start our trip from our home in the compound of the News and Periodicals Enterprise in Zeyathiri to the town where two NPE staffs make a solemn promise to each other for a new journey into life sharing joys and sorrows and overcoming difficulties together forever making a declaration “Till death do us part”.

The car we are riding is not a gas guzzler. It’s a Japanese-made Honda Accord. When it is at its fifth speed the car goes fastest and burns least fuel carrying us conveniently all along the trip till reaching the destination. So, we don’t need to fill gas during our up-trip to Wundwin famous for its weaving industry producing cotton sari sorts of beautiful designs and patterns for both man and woman of all ages.

On our return trip back home, we need to fill some gasoline. We see a lot of private filling stations all along the road, hoping to find the one selling gas at a price lower than any one of its rivals. Then we see one and stop there to fill gas. The good part is that young male and female staffs are so polite and hospitable, but the bad part is that they do not have gasoline which they call the white fuel. They only have another kind of fuel they call octane or the red one apart from diesel. And when we stop at three more private filling stations, they too have no gasoline left and only octane is available. One of the staffs tells us that gasoline supply will come only after Thingyan holidays. Station staffs suggest us to use octane as a substitution. We do not want to use octane as our car engine is designed to run with gasoline. Besides running on octane will cause damage to the engine and weaken its power in the long run. So we keep on finding a filling station that still has gasoline left to sell.

In the end, we find one where gas-o-line is available, but at a much higher price. But we decide to fill as we know that such things always happen whenever Thingyan is just around the corner. It is usual that prices of essential commodities like fuel, rice or cooking oil go up high or they are in short supply when the water festival is drawing nearer and in some years they never go down again even after the annual holidays. So, we Myanmar are accustomed to it. Every year when the water festival comes, Thingyan fever is always high among youths who want fun, older people who search Othama, government employees who love holidays, artists who entertain the public and the businessmen who take it as an opportunity for self interest. So, Thingyan is a win-win festival bringing happiness to youth, serenity to older people, relaxation to employees, satisfaction to artists and profits to businessmen. Every one enjoys the festival.

A pleasant Thingyan and a very happy New Year to all!

**DISTRICT NEWS**

**Health knowledge, anti-human trafficking disseminated**

Cho Cho Thein delivered an address. Afterwards, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw San Thi of District General Hospital gave talks about health knowledge and prevention against trafficking in person at the Wundwin San Thi of District General Hospital gave talks about health knowledge and prevention against trafficking in person at the Wundwin. The talks were held in the hall of the meeting.

**Cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy strain educated to farmers**

Pyaung, 3 April—Talks on cultivation of special yield Palethwe hybrid paddy strain on model plot and the agricultural technological course No. 4/2012 was held at the agricultural educative farm in Kyonta Village of Pyay, District, Ayeyawady Region on 21 March morning.

**Experiences in region Hluttaw recounted**

Thayawady, 3 April—The experiences in region Hluttaw was recounted at Yadana Win modern cinema in Thonze of Thayawady District in Bago Region (West) on 25 March. Dr Daw San Thi of District General Hospital gave talks about health knowledge and anti-trafficking in person.

**Microfinance works clarified in Magway**

Magway, 3 April—A ceremony to clarify facts about microfinance institution, organized by Microfinance Institution Supervisory Committee, was held at the hall of the Magway Region Internal Revenue Department in Magway on 16 March morning.

Secretary of the Microfinance Institution Supervisory Committee Managing Director U Htein Lin of Myanma Alin discussed matters related to the works and replied to queries raised by those present.
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. 20/2012
12th Waging of Tagu, 1373 ME
(3 April, 2012)

Names of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives announced

According to the announcements of the respective Region and State Subcommissions in line with Section 49 (b) of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law that the following persons were elected in the first Pyithu Hluttaw By-elections held on 1 April 2012, those persons are announced as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives of the constituency shown against each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Party/ independent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dr Myint Naing</td>
<td>5/KaBaLa(Naing)</td>
<td>No.3 National League for Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>U Tin Mya</td>
<td>5/WaThaNa(Naing)</td>
<td>No.7 Union Solidarity and Development Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>U Sai San Min</td>
<td>13/LaRaNa(Naing)</td>
<td>No.3 Shan Nationalities Democratic Party</td>
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</tbody>
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Sagaying Region Chief Minister inspects Thaphaniseik Dam, hydropower generation

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye on 30 March afternoon met locals of Thitaybin Village, presented assistance to fire victims in Wengin Village of Yinmabin Township and inspected Basic Education Ministry U Win Tin Aye unveiled the stone inscription to mark the launch of the generator.

Self-reliant generator launched in Falam

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—The supply of self-reliant small-scale hydropower plant was launched in Mankhen Village of Falam Township, Chin State, on 29 March afternoon.

Union Mines Minister receives North Petro-Chem Corporation of China

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—Union Minister for Mines U Thein Hsan received a delegation led by Chairman M. Shrestha of North Petro-Chem Corporation Ltd of the People’s Republic of China at the ministry, here, at 11 am yesterday. They discussed cooperation in exploration of Bill of Rakhine State Government for 2012-2013 fiscal year and sought the decision from the Hluttaw, held discussions on amendment proposal for the Rakhine State Budget Bill 2012 and sought the decisions of the Hluttaw, discussed the proposal for the documentary photo.

Special session of first Rakhine State Hluttaw continues for third day

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—The special session 1/2012 of the first Rakhine State Hluttaw continued for the third day at 10 am yesterday, attended by Speaker of the Rakhine State Hluttaw U Htein Lin and 39 representatives. The representatives discussed the amendment proposal for Regional Plan and implementation committee had already been formed to implement comprehensive educational research tasks, mentioning necessary to carry out the tasks by dividing them into 12 sub-sectors. After that, Mr. Ramesh M. Shrestha extended greetings. Those present posed for the documentary photo. Director-General U Bo Win of Educational Planning and Training Department tabled reports on a draft TOR for CESR, and those present participated in the discussion.

Bago Region Chief Minister views process of free medical treatment for eye patients

YANGON, 3 April—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win yesterday paid a close attention to the process of free medical treatment given by Bago Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and IBTC Company for eye patients, and provided the patients with cash assistance at Bago People’s Hospital. Under the supervision of the Health Department, the free medical treatment was provided by Bago Region government.

It was reported that a total of 448 eye patients from Bago and Thawaddy Districts will be provided the treatment from 2 to 5 April. MNA
First Under-23 Men’s Futsal Tournament to commence on 2 April in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 3 April—The First Under-23 Men’s Futsal Tournament, organized by Mandalay Region Football Federation, will be held at Shwemantaung Sports Ground in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay beginning 2 April.

Those wishing to take part in the tournament must be residents in Mandalay Region and must submit citizenship scrutiny cards. The players from football clubs and reserved clubs registered at Myanmar National League 2012 will not be allowed to take part in the tournament.

Each Futsal team must be formed with one manager, one coach and 12 players, totalling 14, and it must have endorsement of the respective wards and departments concerned.

Each Futsal team must pay K 20,000 as fee for the tournament.

The first prize winning team will be awarded K 500,000, the second prize winning team K 300,000 and the third prize winning team K 200,000. — Kyemon

Thongwa Township facilitated with YangonchiU library

THONGWA, 3 April—A ceremony to open YangonchiU Library was held in Nyanulaybin Village of Sabeichuang Village-tract in Thongwa Township of Yangon South District in Yangon Region on 23 March morning.

At the ceremony, Thongwa Township Administrator U Kyaw Thaung, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Tin Tin Hwe and Village-tract Administrator U Thein Tho cut the ribbon to open the library.

At first, the Township Administrator explained the durability of the library, and the Head of Township IPRD raising of reading skills and protection of the library.

Afterwards, officials accepted 100 books donated by Myanmar Libraries Foundation, 100 books by the Township Administrator, 100 books by Chairperson of Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Ma Nyi, K 100,000 and books and publications by Sabei-chuang Village-tract administrator and family and K 50,000 and books by U Maung Myint and family (Shwekyar Rice Mill).

The 24 feet long, 24 feet wide and seven feet high building of the library was constructed at a cost of K 1 million by the State and K 1 million by village people. — Kyemon

Free health care given to villages in Indaw Township

YANGON, 3 April—Head of Katha District Health Department Daw Thin Laing and specialists arrived at the station hospital in Mawlu Model Village in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region on 24 March morning.

They were welcomed by the Region Hluttaw representative, the village administrator, departmental officials, Indaw Township Medical Officer Dr Maung Maung Pyay, the doctor of Mawlu Station Hospital and nurses.

The specialists performed free medical treatment and health care services at the station hospital. Under the arrangements of the Township Administrator, the village administrator, social organizations, the township medical officers and the station doctor, the specialists provided health care services to over 450 patients. — Kyemon

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued to eligible people in Kyauktan Township

YANGON, 3 April—According to Moe Pwint-2 Plan of Yangon South District Immigration and National Registration Department, Head of Township INRD U Ko Ko Naing and staff went a field trip to Shwepyauk Village-tract of Kyauktan Township for making citizenship scrutiny cards and households registration on 22 March.

Regional Hluttaw representatives U Tun Hla Shwe and U Myo Myint of Kyauktan Township, Deputy Director of Yangon South District Immigration and National Registration Department U Kyi Win and Township Administrator U Kyaw Zeya gave encouragement to the works of staff.

They issued citizenship scrutiny cards to 75 eligible persons and made household registration in 79 persons. In implementing Moe Pwint-2 Plan, they issued citizenship scrutiny cards to 347 persons.

Township Immigration
S Korean held for girlfriend’s ‘live octopus’ death

Korean police officer has been arrested for allegedly killing his girlfriend who was initially believed to have accidentally suffocated while eating a live octopus, according to a prosecutor. A file illustration photo of an octopus. A South Korean has been arrested for allegedly killing his girlfriend who was initially believed to have accidentally suffocated while eating a live octopus, according to a prosecutor. Former student at the college, Howard Jordan said the gunman had opened fire in a classroom at Oikos University. The suspect, a former student at the college, surrendered at a supermarket in near by Alameda City.

Japan holds off on decision to restart reactors

Tokyo, 3 April — Japan needs more time to decide whether to reactivate the nation’s nuclear reactors, the trade minister said on Tuesday, as concerns about a summer power crunch vie with safety worries in the wake of last year’s Fukushima crisis. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda will meet all but one of Japan’s 54 reactors have been shut, mostly for maintenance checks, over the months since the disaster at Tokyo Electric Power Co’s Fukushima plant, triggered by a huge tsunami in March 2011. The remaining reactor is set to be closed for maintenance on 5 May. Kansai Electric Power Co’s No 3 and No 4 reactors at Ohi nuclear plant in Fukui prefecture, western Japan, are the first to have passed government-imposed, computer-simulated stress tests, a necessary step before any restart. Energy markets are keen to know when the Ohi reactors will go back on line.

Colombia guerrillas free captives held 12 years

Villavicencio, 3 April — Colombia’s main rebel group on Monday freed what it says were its last 10 military and police captives, returning the men to their families after at least 12 years spent in jungle prisons. The release of the six police and four soldiers highlighted efforts to seek peace talks by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, Latin America’s oldest and most potent guerrilla band, which has been weakened by Colombia’s US-backed military. Flown from a jungle rendezvous aboard a donated Brazilian air force helicopter emblazoned with the Red Cross logo, the freed captives waved jubilantly. They were escorted from the Super Cougar helicopter by nurses to awaiting relatives for reunions behind closed doors. Some jumped for joy on the tarmac. Pets accompanied some of the men: a peacock, a monkey, two small birds. A few wore the Colombian flag over their shoulders. All looked newly shaven. Their loved ones were overjoyed. “I shouted! I jumped up and down!” said Olivia Solarte when got first word her 41-year-old son, police officer Trujillo had been freed. He’d been held since July 1999. The group was flown to Bogota where other relatives were waiting along with obligatory hospital stays for medical checks. The rebel group, known as the FARC, had announced Monday’s liberation on 26 Feb in tandem with a halt in ransom kidnappings as a revenue source.

Oakland police name suspect in Oakland college shooting

Oakland, 3 April — A man believed to have shot dead seven people and injured three others at a California college has been named by police as 43-year-old One Goh. Oakland police chief, Howard Jordan said the gunman had opened fire in a classroom at Oikos University. The suspect, a former student at the college, surrendered at a supermarket in Alameda City. Oikos University is a private religious institution offering courses in theology, music and nursing. Armed officers swarmed the college after Monday’s mid-morning attack. Five people were pronounced dead at the scene and two others died in hospital. Bodies discovered with tarpsauls were laid outside, and TV footage showed wounded people emerging from buildings. Mr Goh is believed to be an Oakland resident, Mr Jordan said during Monday evening’s Press conference. He estimated it would take a few days “to put the pieces together”, adding: “We do not have a motive.” The gunman had opened fire throughout the building, leaving a “very bloody scene”, he told reporters. “Officers found several victims throughout the classroom, through the building.” he said.

If there were several people hiding in locked buildings, locked doors behind desks, as you can imagine, very frightened, very scared. — Internet

Julian Schnabel’s ‘Unlimited’ is displayed for sale at the Seoul Auction in Hong Kong on 3 April, 2012. Auctioneers in Hong Kong have sold 10 paintings seized from a South Korean bank that collapsed last year amid a corruption scandal to raise $2.4 million to help repay depositors. The paintings included works by American Schnabel and noted Chinese artists Zeng Fanzhi and Zhang Xiaogang. — Internet
A girl suffering from cancer rests inside the children’s ward at the Cancer Centre Welfare Home and Research Institute in Kolkata on 16 March, 2012.—Istvanzs

“World Cup” of cancer drug research for their work in discovering a stream of new medicines. But the win is bitter-sweet. One of the new drugs behind the coveted prize from the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) has been deemed too costly to use in state-run British hospitals like the one next door. It’s a stark example of the pricing crisis now facing cancer medicines across the globe. In developed and developing countries alike, patients and governments are struggling to pay for modern drugs that are revolutionizing cancer care but may cost tens of thousands of dollars a year for each patient. “It’s very frustrating,” says Workman, who heads up the drug discovery unit at the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), which is funded in large part by charities. What is needed, he believes, is a new model that takes advantage of the highly specific nature of modern targeted therapies to slash drug development timelines and costs. In the long term, Workman is convinced that will happen. But for the moment the world is caught in a pinch point as global drug companies put sky-high prices on cancer medicines in a bid to recoup development costs for drugs aimed at a relatively small number of cancer sufferers. The strains are growing — whether in Europe, where austerity has savaged healthcare budgets, or in the United States, where out-of-pocket costs can bankrupt patients, or in the developing world, where price tags of around $5,000 for a month’s drug supply are simply out of reach.

Police seek father who chained up son

PALM PUNI, 3 April — A teenager who skipped school to play online games was chained by the neck to a power pole by his irate father.

Police say the boy’s 40-year-old father fled the scene, in the north-western Battambang Province about 180 miles north-west of Phnom Penh. The motorbike taxi driver is now wanted on child abuse charges.

Long-awaited restoration of Leonardo masterpiece
delights critics in the Louvre

PARIS, 3 April — Amuch-disputed face-lift given to Leonardo da Vinci’s final masterpiece was unveiled to the public at the Louvre in Paris yesterday.

The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne. In the painting, infant Jesus on the lap of the Virgin Mary, under the loving gaze of his grandmother, Saint Anne. In the painting, unfinished at Leonardo’s death in 1519, Jesus is cuddling a lamb.

Long-awaited restoration of Leonardo masterpiece
delights critics in the Louvre.

LOS ANGELES, 3 April — The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court threw his weight behind Invisible Children, the group behind the viral hit “Kony 2012” video, in Los Angeles this weekend, promoting the group’s initiative to Hollywood insiders. An intimate group of film directors, producers and highly specific nature of modern targeted therapies to slash drug development timelines and costs.

Long-awaited restoration of Leonardo masterpiece
delights critics in the Louvre.

New York, 3 April — Tornadoes can be absolutely devastating here on Earth, costing billions of dollars yearly in property damage. But even the most severe of Earthly tornadoes has nothing on the most recent one discovered by scientists on Mars. Scientists have recently discovered a massive superstorm on the surface of the Sun five times bigger than our own planet.

The swirling gas was discovered by NASA’s Solar Dynamics Observatory in September. News of the storm’s existence was presented at the National Astronomy Meeting 2012 today in England. Clocking in at 186,000 miles per hour, the speed of this tornado absolutely dwarfs that of any storm on Earth. Terrestrial storms don’t exactly get as hot as this tornado either: The solar storm’s temperature ranges up to 3 million degrees Fahrenheit.

We’re not sure your standard tornado shelter will keep you safe from this one.

Cashing cheaper cancer drugs

DBS to pay $7.2 billion for Indonesia’s Bank Danamon

SINGAPORE/JAKARTA, 3 April — DBS Group Holdings, Southeast Asia’s biggest bank, has agreed to pay $7.24 billion for Indonesia’s Bank Danamon, offering a 25.3 percent premium for a middle-ranking lender with high funding costs, raising questions on the price. The takeover, Asia’s fourth-largest financial deal, would make Singapore-based DBS the fifth-biggest lender in Indonesia, one of the region’s hottest markets where bank penetration is low and annual loan growth runs at 20 percent or more. Danamon has lower returns on equity than some of its peers and a heavy exposure to auto financing, an area vulnerable to recently announced policymakers’ steps to curb excessive lending in Southeast Asia’s largest economy.

“We have the capacity to unshackle these businesses,” Chief Executive Piyush Gupta said on Tuesday. Briefing investors and media on his first major deal since taking over as boss of DBS in late 2009. He said the DBS would use its balance sheet to cut Danamon’s funding costs and unleash its potential — and also break DBS’ perception as a “ Moinesk” lender.

But the price — S$6.2 billion ($4.93 billion) in shares and the rest in cash — surprised some investors. DBS is also buying most of Danamon from Singapore state investor Temasek Holdings, also a major shareholder in DBS.

Sarah Palin vs Katie Couric: ‘Today’ counters ‘GMA’ with guest co-host, surprise ‘legend’

WASHINGTON, 3 April — Katie Couric’s triumphant return to daytime television just got a little more interesting. Couric, who is filling in this week for Robin Roberts as a co-host on “Good Morning America,” will have an unlikely competitor in her old “Today” show chair. Sarah Palin.

NBC announced on Saturday that Palin, whose infamous 2008 interview with Couric on CBS was one of her vice-presidential campaign’s lowest moments — would be the co-host of the show on Tuesday, promising the former Alaskan governor would “reveal a different side of her.”

“Today” is also cranking up the Peacock promotional machine for the surprise appearance of a yet-to-be-revealed “legend” on Monday — both moves aimed at blunting ABC’s Couric coup. But Couric and Palin won’t be the only women vying for morning viewers this week. On Monday, Oprah Winfrey is scheduled to be a guest on “CBS This Morning” — the first time the former Queen of Daytime has appeared on the show since her best friend, Gayle King, signed-on as co-host.

ICC prosecutor courts Hollywood with Invisible Children

Invisible Children’s Director Jason Russell.

Supermassive swirling solar tornado five times the size of Earth

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Small plane crashes into Fla shopping centre.

DELAND, 3 April — A small experimental plane pattered and crashed into flames into a supermarket at a Florida shopping centre on Monday evening, injuring five people and sending frightened shoppers running from the store, authorities said. Several people in the Northgate Shopping Centre in DeLand dialed 911 around 7:20 pm to report the twin-engine aircraft had plunged into the complex, the Volusia County Sheriff’s Office said.

Callers said the plane showed signs of trouble moments before it plunged and hit the roof of a supermarket at the outlet reacted with shocked looks moments later. Arevalo, a manager at a nearby Taco Bell fast food restaurant, said she didn’t hear or see the plane. However, the Volusia County Sheriff’s Office said a pilot and a passenger from the plane were airlifted to Orlando Regional Medical Center. Spokesman Gerardo Morales later confirmed to Associated Press by telephones that two people had been airlifted there, but he didn’t elaborate on their injuries. Marlynn Arevalo, a manager at a nearby Taco Bell fast food restaurant, said she didn’t hear or see the crash but customers entering the outlet reacted with shocked looks moments afterward. "I didn’t even think about it."

Passenger lands plane with Wis pilot unconscious.

STURGEON BAY, 3 April — A 90-year-old woman was able to successfully land a twin-engine airplane in northeastern Wisconsin after her husband became unconscious at the controls and died. Door County Sheriff Terry Vogel says the dispatch centre was told just after 5 pm Monday that a Cessna about 6 miles south of Sturgeon Bay had declared an emergency. The pilot, an 81-year-old man from the Sturgeon Bay area, had suffered a medical emergency and was unconscious. His wife, who was the passenger, was flying the plane. A certified pilot was able to fly alongside the plane and coach the wife. Just after 6 pm, her right engine ran out of fuel and lost power. She was able to land at Door County Cherryland Airport. The wife suffered minor injuries. Her husband was pronounced dead.

London 2012: Olympic food to be checked by elite squad.

LONDON, 3 April — Ten top food safety inspectors based in Olympic venue cities are to ensure British food is safe for the Olympics. The elite food safety squad has been picked by the Food Standards Authority (FSA) to ensure all food sold, cooked and eaten during London 2012 is safe.

The team will carry out extra inspections on food businesses around Olympic venues and training camps in the run-up to and during the Games.

It will help raise awareness of food hygiene for businesses and consumers. As part of the FSA’s Play it Safe campaign, aiming to raise awareness of food safety, the team will carry out increased hygiene inspections of food outlets to ensure that all food sold, cooked and eaten during the Games is safe.

Food businesses that do not make the grade on inspections will be given one-to-one training to ensure they are aware of, and follow, food hygiene regulations.

Where public health is deemed to be at risk, the FSA said "tough enforcement action" would follow. "We have so much fantastic food to showcase to Games visitors, and we want food business owners to ensure that everything they sell is the best it can be,” said Sarah Appleby, head of enforcement and local authority delivery at the FSA.

The FSA hopes the Food Safety Squad will help raise awareness of good food hygiene.
A group of sixth-graders scooping trash out of a California lake discovered sunken treasure, including rings, coins and brooches. Richard Bailey, executive director of the Lake Merritt Institute, said the students from the St. Paul’s Episcopal School in Oakland were pulling trash out of Lake Merritt Thursday when a girl discovered two bags that were too heavy for her pull out with her net, the San Francisco Chronicle reported on Monday.

Bailey said he waded into the water and retrieved the 15-pound bags, which turned out to contain coins, rings, brooches, necklaces, bracelets, medallions, candlesticks and silverware. Bailey said he believes the valuables may have been stolen, as one of the bags was labeled “Wells Fargo,” and he has reported the find to police.

The sixth-graders, who have been working at the lake on a weekly basis, said the bags were the most exciting discovery they have made while cleaning.

“We find a lot of stuff, a lot of tennis balls and things, but no, never that,” said sixth-grader Mara, whose parents asked for her last name to be withheld. “It was basically the best thing we ever found in there.”

**U2’s Bono, The Edge invest in Dropbox**

New York, 3 April— Bono and The Edge, who make up a half of a band called U2, have invested in Dropbox, according to a tweet by the cloud storage start-up on Monday.

The company, which raised a $250 million investment around this past October, tweeted a photo of the two musicians with co-founders Arash Ferdowsi and Drew Houston.

“@Dropbox is excited to welcome Bono & The Edge as investors. Thanks for the support and look forward to great things!” Dropbox tweeted.

**Sixth-graders find sunken treasure**

An Alabama nightclub manager says he’s working on a name-change for a “Food Stamp Friday” event offering a food break for patrons on government assistance. The manager of the Rose Support Club in Montgomery said the event, promoted by a local rapper who will be performing at the club Friday, will still take place if the artist agrees to change the name, WSFA-TV, Montgomery, reported on Monday.

“A Food Stamp Friday” promotion raised criticism from some who said offering $5 admission to patrons who show their “food stamp card” glamorizes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programme. “I just don’t understand how they are promoting this without anyone saying anything about it,” local resident Stephanie Pope said.

**Bike Snob returns with ‘The Enlightened Cyclist’**

New York, 3 April— “The Enlightened Cyclist” (Chronicle Books), by Eben Weiss: “The Enlightened Cyclist” aspires to be a kind of bible for bicycle commuters, who will read it, laugh, weep and identify with almost every detail.

It’s also the kind of book that motorists and pedestrians should read but probably won’t, either because they just don’t care and/or because they just outright hate cyclists.

Author Eben Weiss understands this.

“It’s hard to be truly compassionate if you don’t know what it feels like to be disliked,” he writes. “Cyclists do not have this problem, because nobody likes us. Drivers think we’re smug dorks who slow them down, pedestrians think we’re deadly scowls, and neither of them has much trouble imagining a world without us.”

In this book cover image released by Chronicle Books, “The Enlightened Cyclist: Commuter Angst, Dangerous Drivers, and Other Obstacles on the Path to Two-Wheeled Transcendence,” by Eben Weiss, is shown.—INTERNET

**Sony group offers to sell catalogues to get EMI unit**

Brussels, 3 April— A Sony-led group has offered to sell several music catalogues which generated $15 million in royalties last year to win EU approval for its planned buy of record label EMI’s music publishing business, two people familiar with the matter said on Monday.

Sony, with Blackstone Group, Abu Dhabi’s Mubadala Development Co, Raine Group and music and film mogul David Geffen, trumped rival BMG in the bidding for EMI Publishing last year.

The consortium submitted its proposals to the European Commission last week and the EU watchdog has set an April 19 deadline for a decision.

The group has proposed selling the Virgin UK, US and European catalogues, which are part of EMI Music Publishing, Sony’s own famous music publishing catalogue, and some of Sony and EMI’s recent hits, the people said.

They said the investment offer was only for Europe and that both Sony and EMI would retain the catalogues for the rest of the world. The Commission has given third parties until Monday to respond to the group’s proposals, they said.

A spokesman for Sony in New York declined to comment.

Sony is now the fourth biggest player in music publishing, behind Vivendi’s Universal Music Group, EMI and Warner Music.

**Listen to Patti Smith’s 11th studio album online**

Patti Smith’s 11th studio album, “Banga,” which she recorded in New York, is set for release this June, Columbia Records announced.

Due out 5 June, the CD will be the punk rock icon’s first collection of original material since 2004, when she made her Columbia Records debut with “Tramp.”

“April Fool,” featuring Tom Verlaine, the first single from “Banga,” became available digitally on Sunday.

Other featured guests on the CD include Jack Petchyelle, Smith’s son Jackson and her daughter Jesse Paris. “Inspired by Smith’s unique dreams and observations, ‘Banga’s’ poetic lyrics are a refection of our complex world—a world that is rife with chaos and beauty,” the record label said in a news release. “Praised for her storytelling abilities, Smith has crafted an album that captures a wide range of human experience.”
In-form Barcelona alert to Milan danger

Barcelona, 3 April — Barcelona have kicked into form at just the right time, according to striker Pedro Rodriguez, but he feels they need to be wary of an AC Milan away goal in Tuesday’s Champions League clash.

The reigning champions did not have all its own way in the first leg of their quarter-final tie at the San Siro last week where a defensively strong performance from Milan kept Barca’s prolific forward line at bay and the match ended 0-0. It guarantees a highly-charged Nou Camp for the second leg where Barcelona are favourites having already finished above the current Serie A leaders in the group stage of the competition.

But a goal for Milan would make it difficult. “This is the most important game we will all be delighted. ’That is the key really, that is what we want—Champions League football next year’ is my understanding,” Redknapp said. “If we get five we will have Champions League football for the second year in a row against Europe’s best teams.”

Barcelona go to the Nou Camp knowing they need to keep things tight against AC Milan, who sit third in Serie A and have lost only five of their last 18 games. The Catalan club won the reverse fixture 2-1 in Italy and would have to win 3-0 at the Nou Camp to avoid a second leg.

Barcelona players train at the Camp Nou stadium ahead of their match against AC Milan. — Internet

Juventus pair sign contract extensions

Juventus, 3 April — Juventus pair Leonardo Bonucci and Alessandro Matri have signed contract extensions keeping them at the club until 2017, the club said Monday. — Internet

Late win helps Man Utd open gap at top

Antonio Valencia and Ashley Young earn dramatic win for United at Blackburn

London, 3 April — Blackburn Rovers 0-2 Manchester United. Two goals in the last 10 minutes saw Manchester United beat Blackburn to move five points clear at the top of the Barclays Premier League. Blackburn looked to have frustrated the visitors, who enjoyed plenty of possession but struggled to carve out too many clear cut chances until Antonio Valencia broke the deadlock with an angled drive in the 88th minute. United substitute Ashley Young then made sure of the victory that sees them extend their lead over rivals Manchester City when he turned smartly in the box and fired home. Javier Hernandez had twice gone close in the first half, while Blackburn pair Junior Hoilett and Marcus Olsson were both denied by smart saves from United keeper David de Gea.

Monte Carlo, 3 April — Fish wins again. The American, ranked 9 in the world and training in Monte Carlo, won his second round match against Poland’s Jerzy Janowicz. The 28-year-old beat the Poles 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 and returns to the quarter-finals of the Monte Carlo Masters next week. Fish, who won in the US Open quarter-finals last year, is looking to make it two wins in a row.

Highest-ranked American, Fish, out of Davis Cup

Monte Carlo, 3 April — Hours after losing his most recent match, Fish woke up in the middle of the night feeling ill and immediately went to be checked by a doctor. He saw another doctor the next day, too, and the diagnosis was fatigue. Told he needed to rest, and citing what the US Tennis Association called a “minor health scare,” the No. 9-ranked Fish pulled out of this week’s Davis Cup quarterfinal between the United States and France in Monte Carlo. “We don’t want to get exactly into what the symptoms were. He didn’t feel normal. He said, ‘Hey, something’s wrong here.' He was concerned about it,” Fish’s agent, John Tobias, said in a telephone interview on Monday. “This body got out of whack, caused by a number of different variables...”

Late on Monday, Fish wrote on his Twitter page: “Thanks all for the nice messages. Resting comfortably with family. Hope to be back out there soon.” Fish, the highest-ranked American, lost 6-1, 6-3 on Thursday to Juan Monaco in the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters. The 30-year-old Fish appeared to be fine physically and said afterward he would have preferred more taxing conditions for the afternoon match. — Internet

France’s Monfils to miss Davis Cup contest vs US

Paris, 3 April — Gael Monfils will miss France’s Davis Cup quarterfinal against the United States because of an ankle injury. The French tennis federation said on Monday that coach Guy Forget will soon name his replacement for the 14th-ranked Monfils. The match at Monte Carlo Country Club start Friday. Monfils started experiencing pain during practice on Sunday and an MRI test showed a lesion on his left-sole muscle. He will need to rest for 15 days. The French team includes Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Julien Benneteau and Michael Llodra. The US or France will face the winner of the quarterfinal between Spain and Austria. — Internet

France’s Monfils to miss Davis Cup contest vs US
Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL TV
(4-4-2012)(Wednesday)
7:00 am 1. Parrita By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
7:40 am 2. Nice and Sweet Song 7:50 am 3. Health Programme
8:20 am 4. Dance of Thingyan Festival 8:35 am 5. International News 8:45 am
6. Dance of Thingyan Festival 9:00 am 1. News 9:30 am 2. News
10:00 am 3. News 10:30 am 4. News
11:00 am 5. News 11:30 am 6. News
12:00 pm 7. News 12:30 pm 8. News
12:15 am 15. News

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Rules of microfinance clarified in Letpadan

LETpadan, 3 April—Bago Region Microfinance Institution Development Work Committee held a clarification on microfinance institutions at the hall of the General Administration Department in Letpadan Township on 27 March. Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Myint Lwin Oo stressed the need to operate microfinance institutions for the townships in line with the prescribed law and directives.

The ceremony was attended by officials of region and township level officials, members of the board of directors of cooperative societies that are operating microfinance institutions, ward and village-tract administrators and officials of Myanmar Finance Co.Ltd.

OBITUARY
Dr. TUN THIN (Aged 90 Years)
Ph.D. (Harvard University)
Commissioner of the Census (Retd.)
Professor/Head of the Department (Retd.), Economics Department
Director (Retd.), the Central Statistics and Economics Department (Retd.). Asian Department, the International Monetary Fund.

Dr. TUN THIN, aged 90, son of U Myat and Daw Thine and brother of U Ba Zin-Daw Nyunt Yi, died on 29-3-2012 in Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A. and cremated in U.S.A on 31-3-2012.

He leaves his wife Mya Saw Shin (Molly), daughter Khin Win Thin - Htin Aung, sons Kyaw Win Thin - Yin Yin Myint Aung and Win Thin - Lisa Carrie Cohen, and seven grandchildren.

He will be deeply missed by all who loved him.

Bereaved Family

Sugar Ray Leonard wants Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao fight

LONDON, 3 April Boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard has implied Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao should fight to the sake of their own legacies. Mayweather and Pacquiao are widely considered to be the two best pound-for-pound boxers on the planet but have been unable to negotiate a deal. “More than damaging to boxing, it’s damaging to their legacy.”

“Five pesos between super-featherweight and light middleweight, and Filipino Pacquiao, the first eight-weight world champion, fell through in 2010 when Pacquiao rejected his opponent’s demand for random drug-testing in the build-up to the bout. There have been repeated attempts to renegotiate the fight in the intervening months, but to no avail.”

American great Leonard fought in the sport’s last golden era, alongside fellow hall of fame fighters Wilfred Benitez, Roberto Duran, Tommy Hearns and Marvin Hagler. The five men fought a virtual round-robin tournament through the course of the 1980s, making the failure of Mayweather-Pacquiao all the more frustrating for Leonard.

Irwin Hla Shwe, December 25, 1929 January 27, 2012
What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer (Joseph M. Scriven 1855)”

Weather forecast for 4th April, 2012

De Gea resolve impresses Ferguson

LONDON, 3 April — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has praised the mental resilience of goalkeeper David de Gea as the Spaniard prepares to face Blackburn Rovers again.

When Blackburn upset the odds to beat United at Old Trafford on New Year’s Eve, de Gea was blamed for Grant Hanley’s winner and was subsequently left out for four games. He might have remained on the sidelines at the Premier League leaders and reigning champions if Anders Lindegaard had not suffered an ankle injury in training but is now making a case to be named first-choice keeper.

The Spain Under-21 international, who made an excellent injury-time save to keep a free-kick from Chelsea’s Juan Mata out, comes back into a team

In his return, is set to be between the posts again when United play Rovers at Ewood Park on Monday. A win for United would send them five points clear at the top of the table. Ferguson compared de Gea’s fortitude to that of Rovers manager Steve Kean who, having suffered a torrent of abuse and calls for his resignation from his own supporters earlier in the season, has now led Blackburn to a position where they have a fighting chance of avoiding relegation.

“It’s similar to what we were saying about Steve Kean,” said Ferguson. “He got a grip of it and stood up as a man.”

The area where de Gea has been criticised was the aerial ability in the box. He should have dealt with the last corner against Blackburn better. — Internet
**MR to run Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon and Yangon-Mandalay special up/down trains in Thingyan**

**Yangon-Mandalay up-train leaves Yangon Station at 6 pm and arrives in Mandalay at 8.40 am the next morning and Mandalay-Yangon down-train, Mandalay at 4 pm and at Yangon at 8.15 am the next morning.**

For the convenience of passengers including staff and their family in Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon trains run on 10 April in addition to Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon No. 32 and No. 8 down-trains. No. 1 down-train leaves Nay Pyi Taw at 7.30 pm and arrives in Yangon at 5 am the next morning. No. 2 down-train leaves Nay Pyi Taw at 8.30 pm and arrives in Yangon at 6 am in the next morning.

For the post-Thingyan period, two special Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon trains run on 10 April in addition to Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon No. 32 and No. 8 down-trains. No. 1 down-train leaves Nay Pyi Taw at 7.30 pm and arrives in Yangon at 5 am the next morning. No. 2 down-train leaves Nay Pyi Taw at 8.30 pm and arrives in Yangon at 6 am in the next morning.

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US beats Brazil 3-0 in women’s Kirin Cup

Campos, Japan, 3 April—Carli Lloyd, Shannon Boxx and Amy Rodriguez scored to give the United States a 3-0 victory over Brazil in the three-team Kirin Cup on Tuesday.

Lloyd picked up a loose ball off a Christie Rampone free kick in the 18th minute and scored from close range. Boxx doubled the lead just five minutes later with a header off Lauren Cheney’s free kick.

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (3-4-2012)

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Why some animals live longer than others

Scientists at the University of Liverpool have developed a new method to detect proteins associated with longevity, which helps further our understanding into why some animals live longer than others.

The team looked at the genome of more than 30 mammalian species to identify proteins that evolve in connection with the longevity of a species. They found that a protein, important in responding to DNA damage, evolves and mutates in a non-random way in species that are longer-lived, suggesting that it is changing for a specific purpose. They found a similar pattern in proteins associated with metabolism, cholesterol and pathways involved in the recycling of proteins. Findings show that if certain proteins are being selected by evolution to change in long-lived mammals like humans and elephants, then it is possible that these species have optimized pathways that repair molecular damage, compared to shorter-lived animals, such as mice.

The study, led by Dr Joao Pedro Magalhaes and postgraduate student, Yang Li, is the first to show evolutionary patterns in biological repair systems in long-lived animals and could, in the future, be used to help develop anti-aging interventions by identifying proteins in long-lived species that better respond to, for example, DNA damage. Proteins associated with the degradation of damaged proteins, a process that has been connected to aging, were also linked with the evolution of longevity in mammals.

Myanmar Traditional Kite Beauty and Kite Contest kicks off

YANGON, 3 April—Under the supervision of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) in Tanway Township this morning, President of Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation U Khin Maung Tun made an opening speech.

The contest will last till 8 April.—MNA

Eto'o drops case against Barca for 3 million euro payout

BARCELONA, 3 April—Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o has dropped his legal case against Barcelona after having demanded three million euros he said was owed from his transfer to Inter Milan in July 2009, the Spanish club said on Tuesday.

“Barcelona would like to make public their thanks to Samuel Eto’o for his willingness to bring this contentious issue to an end,” the European champions said in a statement. “He was one of the greatest goal-scorers in the club’s history.”

Eto'o had based his claim 15 percent of any euro payout, saying the AFE ruling was only applicable to transfers between Spanish clubs.

Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'.

Corrigendum

Hlaing under the Staff of the Bangladesh Air Force Air Marshal Shah Ziaur Rahman, ndc, fawc, psc instead of ‘Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing’ appeared at Line 18, Column 2, on the back page of this daily issued on 3 April, 2012. Error is regretted.—Ed