Our Three Main National Causes

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

Water filtering tank, constructed by Tatmadaw and Yangon Region government, opened

Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hlutaw and party arrive back from Uganda

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe this morning attended the opening ceremony of 40000-gallon-capacity water filtering tank in Cocogyun constructed by the Tatmadaw and Yangon Region government.

The region chief minister, the region development affairs minister, the commander of local naval base formally opened the tank.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services unveiled the stone inscription of the tank and inspected the tank.

The tank is intended to reduce NTU from 43 to 10 percent and TCU from 60 to 20 percent, and to purify water contaminated with algae and bacteria, and to reduce the volume of iron. The tank with length 25 feet, 30 feet in width and 22 feet can store 40000 gallons of water. It can filter 1500 gallons of water per hour.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party also attended the opening ceremony of six 7500 ft long downtown tarred roads in Cocogyun.

Patheingyi (2.78) inches
Mandalay (1.96) inches
Sagaing (1.89) inches
Tada-U (1.61) inches
Kyaukse (1.53) inches
Myeik (1.22) inches

Hollywood looks to China for box office growth

A Maiden’s Treasure – Tha-na-kha

ThanUChauk Dam built to help boost agricultural production in Magway Region

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 9 April, 2012

PERSPECTIVES
Monday, 9 April, 2012

Ignorance is worse

Today, language, computer and other classes are mushrooming in Yangon and Mandalay, but poor number in other towns. This means if one wants to learn or master a foreign language and computer science, Yangon and Mandalay are Hobson’s choice. It is again great pity that youths going to language and computer classes is most of the time just a fashion and not out of interest.

The result is an increase in jack of all trades not knowing what to choose as his career. We often do things with wax-and-wane efforts, often withdrawing from the half. We have learnt English from kindergarten to college, but none of us speak fluent English nor write flowery patterns. This is because we learnt it just to pass the exam. Especially, those born around 1980s are used to parrot learning.

If we need to learn some questions. Of course, we ask a lot of questions when we were young. Here, parents and teachers are of great importance. Out-of-the-circle questions of an inquisitive child are often refused to answer and such kids are often forced to learn what is taught. This is the killing of their intelligence. Parents and teachers must teach children to be able to think critically, but not to nod whatever.

Every school now has a computer room, but we need to make sure they are in practical use and not for show. There have still been a lot of misspellings in the collegiate academic text books of distance education, raising question over its quality. Who is to be blamed for this? In fact, ignorance is worse than poverty.

The government departments and other institutions have been increasingly conducting capacity-building courses. But, what is neglected is the comprehensive assessment of the results. There have been cases in which good intentions have turned to waste of time and money.

Words are cheap but deeds are dear. Dogged determination plus right plan is what we need to be able to pluck the fruits.

Yangon Mayor views development undertakings

YANGON, 8 April—Yangon Mayor Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister U Hla Myint attended the opening of 6163 feet long and 18 feet wide concrete facility in No. 2 Bogyoke Street which has just been upgraded to a new state. Yangon Mayor views development undertakings in Taungnyunt townships. (South) and Mingala (North), Dagon Myothit (East), Dagon Myothit (West), Insein, Shawnawaddy, Sayeegon, North Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (South) and Mingala Taungnyunt townships.

Take Fire Preventive Measures

230 KV Shwesaryan-Myaукpyin power grid, 230 KV 200 MVA Myaукpyin main power station commissioned into service

Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe meets Vice-President of Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) Mr Lee Sun Min.

Specialists honoured for bring eye sights to patients

People’s Hospital in Bago yesterday, the Region Chief Minister delivered an address, presented certificates of honour to eye specialists and those who volunteered for the free medical services and donated glasses and medicines to eye patients.

Head of Bago Region Health Department Dr Nay Myo Ohn and Executive of IBTC Company U Tin Oo reported on the free medical services for the local people.

In the afternoon, the Chief Minister attended a ceremony to donate provisions to the members of the Sangha to mark the anniversary Buddha Pujanija at Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago.

Lake area, lake disciplines explained

Fisheries Department made a speech. Head of Township Fisheries Department U Maung Maung explained lake disciplines for entrepreneurs.

Shan State (East) GADs meet

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Nuclear-armed foes Pakistan, India to talk peace over lunch

NEW DELHI, 8 April — Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari will sit down to lunch with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on Sunday in the highest-level meeting on each other’s soil in seven years as the nuclear-armed foes seek to normalize relations.

Relations have warmed since Pakistan promised a neighbour most favoured nation trade status in 2011, although a $10 million bounty offered by Washington for a Pakistani Islamist blamed for the 2008 attacks on Mumbai stirred old grievances. At the lunch meeting the two leaders are expected to focus on trade, where progress has been made, leaving more intractable problems, such as Kashmir, to lower officials.

“The Prime Minister will talk only about issues related to trade, education and culture this time,” a government source with knowledge of the itinerary told Reuters.

On Saturday, an avalanche buried 124 Pakistani soldiers and 11 civilians near the 6,000-metre Siachen glacier in Kashmir, known as the world’s highest battlefield. India and Pakistan fought two wars over Siachen and hundreds have died there, mostly from the inhospitable conditions. India has yet to comment on the disaster.

Reported that the shooting occurred at 08.21 am local time (2321 GMT) when the plane landed in the airport.

The AP news agency reported the helicopter landed in the Arizona desert, 15 miles northeast of Yuma. The MoD spokesman said all those aboard were uninjured.

US spokesman Michelle Dee told the AP news agency the Chinook had been operating from a naval base in Imperial Valley, California.

The RAF operates the largest fleet of Chinos outside of the US, with a total of 40 plus another eight not yet in operational service. They are based at RAF Odiham in Hampshire and have seen service in Afghanistan.

The RAf describes the Chinook as a “very capable and versatile support helicopter that can be deployed in many diverse environments ranging from cold weather ‘arctic’ conditions to desert warfare operations.”

One killed in airport shooting in Indonesia’s Papua

JAKARTA, 8 April—One person was killed in a shooting at an airport in Indonesia’s Papua Province on Sunday, a high ranking police officer told Xinhua.

“Yes, a person was shot to death in Papua this morning,” said Inspector General Saud Usman Nasution, head of public relations division at the National Police Headquarters, confirming media reports on the incident.

He added that local police have been searching for the perpetrator. “We still don’t know yet the motive but we are hunting for the perpetrator,” said Nasution.

The Muma Airport at Puncak Jaya regency in Papua is still closed following a shooting on a small plane that belongs to an air operator Trigana Air.

Afghanistan's deputy foreign minister Jawed Ludin said on an Afghan-US strategic pact, also said the two allies were near agreement on a deal to curb controversial night raids by NATO troops on Afghan homes.

Support for peace talks growing, Afghan diplomat says

KABUL, 8 April — Support is building among Afghanistan’s regional neighbours for a comprehensive peace process with the Taleban, but Pakistan’s backing and access to insurgent leaders are crucial to getting Taleban, but Pakistan’s backing and access for a comprehensive peace process with the Taleban, but Pakistan’s backing and access for a comprehensive peace process with the Taleban.

Jawed Ludin, the deputy foreign minister to insurgent leaders are crucial to getting Taleban, but Pakistan’s backing and access for a comprehensive peace process with the Taleban.

A spokesman claiming to speak on Afghanistan’s deputy foreign minister Jawed Ludin’s behalf confirmed the Chinook had made an emergency landing in the southern US.

The crew was practicing how to land northeast of Yuma when “something went wrong,” a US Naval spokesman said. A Ministry of Defence spokesman confirmed the Chinook had made an emergency landing at 19:30 BST on Saturday.

An investigation has been launched into the incident. The AP news agency reported the helicopter landed in the Arizona desert, 15 miles northeast of Yuma. The MoD spokesman said all those aboard were uninjured.

According to the press release, the commanders killed two Taliban fighters last week, putting half the country under their control following a coup by low-ranking military officials in March.

A spokesman claiming to speak on behalf of the group told AFP by telephone that MUAJO “will be making its demands known”.

The families of the diplomats were repatriated to Algeria on Friday. Algeria last week said an “unidentified group” had carried out the attack.

Witnesses told AFP the raiders had hoisted the black Salafist flag that has been the emblem of Islamic rebels who have seized the fabled desert city of Timbuktu and the other northern towns.

MUJAO in December also claimed the kidnapping in October in western Algeria of two Spaniards and one Italian aid workers.

Asked if the group still held them, the spokesman said “yes and we are carrying out negotiations with the Spanish and Italian governments.”

Islamists claim kidnap of Algerian diplomats in Mali

BAMAKO, 8 April—An al-Qaeda dissident group on Sunday claimed it was behind the kidnap of seven Algerian diplomats in a town in northern Mali last week.

The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) said in a statement it was responsible for the kidnap of the Algerian consul and six of his team in Gao “as a reaction to the kidnapping of two Spaniards and one Italian aid workers.

The three northern towns of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu were overrun by Tuareg rebels declared independence in the north.

Malian nationals arrive from the northern city of Gao on April 6 at the Bamako bus station after two days of travel as Tuareg rebels declared independence in the north.

10 killed inclusively, two detained in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 8 April—Ten anti-government militants were killed and two others made captive in Helmand province, 555 km south of Afghan capital Kabul, on Friday, a press release of the provincial administration issued Saturday said.

“Ten insurgents including two commanders were killed and two others arrested in Sifoon area, Marjah district on Friday as the militants attacked poppy eradication campaign there,” the press release added.

According to the press release, the commanders killed in the firefight which lasted for a while include Shir Agha and Arjan, who were involved in anti-government activities and backing poppy cultivation in Helmand province.

Another Taleban commander named Mullah Salam sustained injuries in the conflict, it further said. The press release did not say if there were any casualties on the security forces side.

16 Taleban militants killed in operations in Afghanistan: gov’t statement

KABUL, 8 April—A total of 16 Taleban militants have been killed and 21 others detained during a series of cleanup operations within the past 24 hours, the Afghan Interior Ministry said on Sunday.

“AFghan National Police (ANP), army and coalition forces launched seven joint cleanup operations in Nangarhar, Farah, Badakhshan, Khulna, Ghalmi, Khosht and Pakita provinces, killing 16 Taleban insurgents and detaining 21 other arm members over the past 24 hours,” the ministry said in a statement.

They also found and seized weapons besides defusing 12 mines, the statement added without saying if there were casualties on security forces.

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari (L) and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh proceed to line up for a family photo at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Yekaterinburg, on 16 June, 2009.
**Gazprom flags Shtokman gas shift; Europe wary**

**U Renzi, 8 April—** Gazprom may ditch plans to pipe Arctic gas from its Shtokman field to Europe, according to Italy’s executive, who said the gas producer could instead focus on delivering Arctic gas to the United States. Gazprom has been drawing up plans to deliver more Arctic gas to Europe, but Italy’s Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said during a recent visit to Moscow that Gazprom could instead supply Arctic gas to the US. Renzi said Gazprom would be able to supply more gas to the US because it has not yet signed deals with European countries. Renzi also said Gazprom had been discussing the possibility of building a new pipeline to deliver Arctic gas to the US. However, Gazprom has not yet decided whether to go ahead with the plans.

**LONDON, 8 April—** Gazprom may shift its focus from Europe to the US, according to Italy’s Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, who said the company could focus on supplying Arctic gas to the US instead of Europe. Renzi said Gazprom could be planning to shift its focus from Europe to the US because of the upcoming US election, and that it may look to the US as a new market for Arctic gas. Renzi also said Gazprom could be planning to build a new pipeline to deliver Arctic gas to the US. However, Gazprom has not yet decided whether to go ahead with the plans.

**How butterflies adapt when climate changes**

**LONDON, 8 April—** As climate changes, some butterflies take to the forests to shade themselves from the heat, new research suggests. The researchers found that a lot of the butterflies they were looking at are threatened by climate change. With the warmer temperatures, it will be hot for a lot of them to survive in southern Europe, the researchers say. The researchers are looking to see if the butterflies would move to cooler areas of their habitats — like a wooded, shaded area of open, sunny field — to adapt to the changes in climate.

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**Turning dumbphones to smartphones**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 8 April—** A host of technologies promise to upgrade older, simpler handsets to give them the functionality of their more powerful, high-tech cousins. “I’m not a mobile phone guy,” says Khamanga with a chuckle. “It’s a strange thing to say, particularly when you consider he is the CEO of a company that makes software for mobile phones.” But unlike many high-end firms, the Cameroonian entrepreneur does not obsess over the latest iPhone or the next software update for Android. He is more interested in the kind of things that were out of vogue when smartphones arrived: an interest sparked by business trips throughout Africa.

“The wide world of mobile phones hadn’t been in the spotlight for a while,” Khamanga says. “But there were lines outside of cyber-cafes telling me that people wanted to get on the internet,” Khamanga says. “But they didn’t have computers at home, or at the office.” What they did have, he says, were cell phones. Not high-end computers, but handsets designed to do the basics, mostly voice and SMS. “The only way demand for internet access could be met was through these basic phones,” says Khamanga. “And I said to myself, ‘What if we could create something that would allow a low-end device to access digital content?’”

**Better sleep may help improve schizophrenia**

**LONDON, 8 April—** Sleep problems and schizophrenia may have common roots, raising hopes that the devastating mental disorder could be improved by helping patients overcome insomnia. In a new study monitoring the sleep and circadian rhythms of people with schizophrenia, researchers found many more sleep problems in the schizophrenia patients versus mentally healthy controls.

Combined with other research linking a schizophrenia-related gene with sleep-wake cycles in mice, the findings suggest that sleep and schizophrenia are more closely intertwined than ever realized, study researcher Russell Foster told LiveScience. “We’ve been thinking of sleep disruption as one of the genetic, developmental and environmental contributors to the development of these appaling conditions,” said Foster, who is a circadian and visual neuroscientist at the University of Oxford.

Clinicians have long recognized that schizophrenia and disturbed sleep go hand-in-hand, with about 80 percent of schizophrenia patients have sleep problems, Foster said. But these problems have usually been dismissed as a medication side effect or as the result of social isolation and unemployment in people with the disorder. (110 Stigmatized Health Disorders)“That didn’t make too much sense to me,” Foster said.

For example, you can use Facebook, check email, play Sudoku and even download music. But Mobile-XL is far from being your typical mobile web browser. It is built to work entirely via SMS. The app essentially offers the user a set of browers capable of handling all kinds of tasks. Let’s say you wanted to check the score in a football match.

You navigate to that category, and find your team. But when you click, instead of sending you to a web page, the request is transmitted back as an SMS. Just a few seconds later, you get a response with the score, again in the form of an SMS, that the app reads and presents to you on your handset. You get the information you’re looking for, but most importantly, you are not charged for downloading masses of data. The only cost is sending and receiving a text message, substantially cheaper than paying for data in most parts of the world.

From the end user’s perspective, it’s basically the same kind of experience you get with a browser,” says Kamanga. “But we’re trying to offer very local content. We aggregate job listings, local sports, classifieds, even stuff that’s not really on the internet yet. In Kenya, we realized that agricultural prices were important, so we created that category for that market.”

Mobile-XL has done pilot projects in Cameroon and Ghana as well, and is about to launch in India. The company is also looking to go into Brazil and Mexico in the near future. It makes it money, for now, through SMS revenue sharing deals with mobile operators. Kamanga says ads will come later, “when we have more eyeballs”.

**Home Office website disrupted; ‘Anonymous’ group blamed**

**London, 8 April—** The hacking group Anonymous is alleged to have disrupted access to the Home Office website, apparently in protest at government policies. The website became inaccessible around 21:00 BST on Saturday, and service was patchy from 05:00 on Sunday. An Anonymous Twitter message warned of the attack on 4 April.

One message on Twitter said it was a protest against “dracoonian surveillance proposals” but another claimed it was an overreaction from the UK to the US. There were also claims on Twitter that the 10 Downing Street website had been targeted as part of the same protest. This was dismissed by a Downing Street spokesman - but access to Number 10’s site was slow and intermittent for a time. It is not clear whether the protest was against email surveillance or extradition, but it could have been both.

One tweet claiming to be from Anonymous said: “You should not give UK citizens to foreign countries without evidence. If an offence happened in the UK, so should the trial.” Last month the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee said major changes were needed to the UK’s extradition laws to remove infrastructural constraints. Speaking on reporters at Saturday on the launch of a new gas well in Urenzi in the Arctic region, Medvedev admitted the company’s exports to Europe might be less than the 154 billion cubic meters it has projected. “We said that exports will total 154 bcm (this year) but even if it is 150 bcm, revenues won’t be lower,” he said. Earlier this week a Gazprom official said the company will increase its gas production next winter.

“We thought the butterflies might be able to use cooler habitat to escape warmer temperatures,” Suggitt said. “If they are doing that, they might be able to do that to escape climate warming.” They analyzed data on 36 species of butterfly collected between 1994 and 2009 from monitoring programmes in the United Kingdom and Spain.

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Womb cancer deaths ‘are rising’

LONDON, 8 April — The number of women dying from cancer of the womb - known as uterine cancer - has increased by nearly 18% in the past decade, according to the charity Cancer Research UK. Data showed that most cases are now being diagnosed while women are living longer after a diagnosis, the total number of deaths has also increased. It has been argued that rising levels of obesity were behind the rise. Cancer Research UK said the finding was “hugely troubling”. Cancer of the womb is the fourth most common cancer in women and tends to occur after the menopause. From the 1970s to 1996 the incidence of womb cancer stayed roughly the same at around 13.7 cases for every 100,000 women in the UK. It now stands at 19.6 per 100,000, a 43% increase. Survival rates have improved with 77% of women now living at least five years after treatment. However, deaths have gone up. In the past decade the mortality rate has gone from 3.1 to 3.7 deaths from uterine cancer for every 100,000 women. In 2010, 1,957 women died from the cancer.

Prof. Jonathan Ledermann, a gynaecological cancer expert at the charity, said: “It’s hugely troubling that more women are dying from womb cancer, but we shouldn’t let this cloud the fact that the chances of surviving the disease are still better than ever.” This is due to better organisation of care for women’s cancers and more widespread use of one-stop clinics for post-menopausal bleeding, as well as advances in the use of surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy through clinical trials.”

Rachael Gormley, from the World Cancer Research Fund, said: “Womb cancer is one of several types of cancer where there is strong evidence that obesity increases risk. Others include breast, bowel, oesophageal, pancreatic and kidney.” As levels of obesity rise, we can expect the number of cancer cases to also increase. “Taking steps to avoid becoming obese, such as eating a healthy diet and being active each day, is one of the most important things we can do to reduce our risk of cancer.”

Survival rates for women with womb cancer have improved. — Internet

Heavily pregnant give kids back trouble

MADRID, 8 April — Many teens carry school backpacks that exceed 10 percent of their body weight, which puts them at risk for back pain and related problems, a new study says. The threat posed by the heavy weights is made greater by the fact that most teens don’t get enough exercise, according to the researchers. The study included more than 1,400 students, aged 12 to 17, in 11 schools in a province in northwestern Spain. The teens were first weighed with the backpack they normally carry to school and then weighed again without the backpack.

The researchers also collected information about the students’ height, exercise levels, underlying health problems, personal health, the average weight of the students’ backpacks was almost 7 kilograms (15.4 pounds). Nearly 62 percent of the students carried backpacks that exceeded 10 percent of their body weight, and 18 percent carried backpacks that exceeded 15 percent of their body weight.

One in four students said they had experienced back pain for more than 15 days during the previous year. The most common problem was scoliosis, or curvature of the spine, which was diagnosed in 70 percent of the students with back pain. Low back pain and continuous and involun-

Dentists play key role in detecting oral cancer

NEW YORK, 8 April — Not only do regular dental exams help keep your teeth and gums healthy, they can also help detect oral cancer, the Academy of General Dentistry says. As part of its Oral Cancer Awareness Month in April, the group recommends that people get dental exams from a general dentist every six months. “The next time you visit your dentist, ask about an oral cancer screening,” said academy spokesperson Dr Seung-Hee Rhee advised in an academic news release.

“My dentist will feel for lumps or irregular tissue changes in your neck, head and cheeks, and oral cavity and thoroughly examine the soft tissues in your mouth, looking for any sores or discoloured tissues. Although you may have already been receiving this screening from your dentist, it’s a good idea to confirm that this screening is a part of your routine dental visit and will remain a part of your regular exam,” said Rhee.

Each year in the United States, more than 30,000 new cases of oral cancer are diagnosed, and more than 8,000 people die of the disease, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. The five-year survival rate for oral cancer is about 55 percent to 68 percent.

“If it is not diagnosed and treated in its early stages, oral cancer can spread to other parts of the body, compromising quality of life and causing permanent facial disfigurement. Early detection also can have the unintended consequence of lowering the costs of treatment.”

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Apple’s ‘iPad’ is the only tablet people know

NEW YORK, 8 April — Apple is on the verge of doing what few others have: change the English language. When you have a boss-boo, your reach for a Band-Aid not a bandage. When you need to blow your nose, you asks for Kleenex not tissue. If you decide to look up something online, you Google instead of search for it. And if you want to buy a tablet computer, there’s a good chance there’s only one name you’ll remember.

“The vast majority, the idea of a tablet is really captured by the idea of an iPad,” said Josh Davis, a manager at Abt Electronics in Chicago. “They gave birth to the whole digital category and brought it to life.” Companies trip over about ‘genericide’ and marketing departments concerned about ‘genericization’ can be both good and bad for companies like Apple, which must balance their desire for brand recognition with their disdain for brand deterioration.

It’s one of the biggest contradictions in business. Companies spend millions to create a brand. Then, they spend millions more on marketing that can have the unintended consequence of making those names less popular that they’re becoming shorthand for similar products. It’s like if people start calling station wagons Bentleys. It can diminish a brand’s trademark significance. It doesn’t happen often. In fact, it’s estimated that fewer than 5 percent of US brand names become generic. Those that do typically are inventions or products that improve on what’s already on the market.

“Marketing people want the brand name as widespread as possible, but when it’s diluted, it loses its meaning,” said executive producer Tracy Trench, whose projects have included “Just Married” and “Ever After.” “The United States is still the biggest market. Within the next 10 years, we’re not going to be the biggest market place, everything is going to change,” she told a forum at the Hong Kong International Film and Television Market (FILMART) in March.

Hollywood looks to China for box office growth

A pedestrian is seen walking past a poster for the movie “Wrath of the Titans,” starring Australian actor Sam Worthington, in Hong Kong. — Internet

WASHINGTON, 8 April — The US economy added 120,000 jobs during March, lower than estimates suggested, while the unemployment rate fell slightly to 8.2%. Analysts had predicted a fourth straight month with job growth of more than 200,000. President Barack Obama’s electoral prospects are widely seen as linked to the economy and the US job numbers have been rising for the past six months, but the jobless rate has been stuck above 8% since early 2009. The Department of Labour’s data shows the smallest growth in employment since October 2011. Manufacturing, the food and beverage industry and healthcare showed gains in March, but retail was down. Analysts say the slow-down in hiring comes as the US emerges from an unseasonably mild winter that spurred job numbers. Many experts had expected that the unemployment rate would hold at 8.3%. But joblessness has dropped by a tenth of a percentage point as the number of people actively looking for work went down. The participation rate, which measures the proportion of the working-age population making up the labour force, ticked down slightly to 63.8% in March from 63.9% the month before. In response to the figures, the White House said that there was “more work to be done”. But it said the report provided “further evidence that the economy is continuing to recover.” — Internet

Morality wanes as iPad and online use out-- 

US adds 120,000 jobs in March, lower than predicted
Japan to hold talks with China on IMF contributions

 TOKYO, 8 April — Japanese Finance Minister Jun Azumi said on Saturday Japan would hold high-level talks with China over contributions to the International Monetary Fund to help ease the euro zone debt crisis ahead of a G20 finance leaders’ meeting in Washington. The two nations have not yet decided whether to increase contributions to the IMF after the euro zone expanded its bailout capacity last month, Azumi told reporters after meeting his Chinese counterpart, Xie Xuren.

“Europe’s problem has eased from a critical situation last year but it is not a situation where we can be optimistic. We need to watch the situation cautiously,” Azumi told reporters. “As for contributions to the IMF, we will hold high level talks towards the G20 meeting in Washington.” The European Union expects G20 leaders to agree to contribute to the IMF after it expanded its own bailout capacity to $700 billion from $500 billion.

Azumi also said he wants Japan and China to lead the global economy this year and Japan’s economy will be able to achieve its goal of real growth rate of about 2 percent this fiscal year. It is Asia’s economy that has to lead the global economy. Especially, the economies in Japan and China need to achieve steady improvement,” Azumi said. — Internet

Two African nations move against ivory poaching

 JOHANNESBURG, 8 April — Wildlife conservationists say two African nations are taking strong steps against the illegal ivory trade. WWF said in a Friday statement the Central African nation of Gabon will burn its entire ivory stockpile in upcoming months. They also commended the West African nation of Cameroon for giving fines and prison terms to poachers. They say Gabon’s move will prevent the ivory from getting into the black market.

Wildlife officials say governments and international organizations met this week in Gabon to forge more cooperation


Japan gets back its cherry blossom fever

 TOKYO, 8 April — Millions across Japan this weekend are flocking to the best spots for viewing cherry blossoms, in a tradition that last year was overshadowed by the natural disasters that struck the nation. The national weather service announced Friday that blooming had officially started in Tokyo on 31 March, using the city’s central Yoyogi Shrine as a barometer — an explosion of colours that will last only about a week.

“Marking the coming of spring, the blooming of cherry trees is a beloved natural spectacle in Japan, where it sparks a nationwide string of parties and celebrations to take in the flowers’ short-lived beauty.” The hosts then upped the ante in qualifying for the women’s team pursuit to erase Britain’s world mark from the London World Cup track world record earlier this month. Antartica. The shelves, which are among the world’s thinnest and are threatened by climate change, reached 309 square miles in 1993, an area about the size of the Gulf state of Qatar, to only 1,670 sq km (634 miles) today.

Larsen B is one of three ice shelves that run from north to south along the eastern side of the peninsula, the tongue of land that projects towards South America. From 1995 to 1996, and again in 2002, Larsen B experienced several calving events in which parts of the shelf broke away. It had a major breakup in 2002 when half of the remainder disintegrated. Larsen A broke up in January 1995.

“Larsen C so far has been stable in area, but satellite observations have shown thinning and an increasing duration of land that projects towards South America. From 1995 to 1996, and again in 2002, Larsen B experienced several calving events in which parts of the shelf broke away. It had a major breakup in 2002 when half of the remainder disintegrated. Larsen A broke up in January 1995. Larseen A broke up in January 1995. Larsen A broke up in January 1995.

“We weren’t in the mood for partying under the flowers last year,” Tokyo city official Tatsuko Suzuki told AFP at a tourism office in the traditional Asakusa district, in Tokyo. “Police officers from this neighbourhood were also dispatched to the disaster-hit areas, and lanterns were unlit due to the pressure... and see whether we can cooperate,” Xie said. — Internet

People are seen gathering at a park as they view fully bloomed cherry trees in Tokyo, on 6 April. — Internet

World records burnt in heat of Australia-GB rivalry

MELBOURNE, 8 April — Britain and Australia’s fierce cycling rivalry reached fever pitch at the track world championships on Thursday as world records continued to tumble at the Melbourne velodrome.

Australia’s Anna Meares fired a warning shot in the direction of Olympic champion Victoria Pendleton by shredding the 200 metres time trial world record in the first qualifying session of the women’s sprint at Hisense Arena.

The hosts then upped the ante in qualifying for the women’s team pursuit to erase Britain’s world mark from the London World Cup track world record earlier this month. Antartica. The shelves, which are among the world’s thinnest and are threatened by climate change, reached 309 square miles in 1993, an area about the size of the Gulf state of Qatar, to only 1,670 sq km (634 miles) today.

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Ice shelf in Antarctica has shrunk by 85%

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ThanUChauk Dam

- It was built over ThanUChauk Creek near Natye Village in Kyaukhtu Township in Gangaw District, Magway Region.
- The dam is of earthen type.
- It has two square miles of watershed area and gets 50 inches of average rainfall.
- The embankment of the dam is 1000 ft long and 45 ft high.
- It has a storage capacity of 462.11 acre feet.
- It can benefit 256 acres of high land.
- ThanUChauk Dam helps boost crop production in the region and increase the per capita income.

Archives: Maung Nyein Aye

Translation: AMS

France fears a new serial killer is on the loose

PARIS, 8 April—A string of murders involving the same weapon have raised concerns a serial killer may be on the loose in a Paris suburb, and come as France is still reeling from a wave of terror-related shootings in its south. Four murders have taken place in the Essonne region of the capital since November, the latest that of a 47-year-old woman Thursday. The same semiautomatic gun was used in all four attacks, prosecutor Marie Suzanne Le Queau said during a news conference Friday.

Authorities stressed there’s no evidence yet of a link to terrorism in the Essonne killings, but Interior Minister Claude Guent told French radio Europe-1 that he fears a serial killer might be behind them, and that “maximum resources” would be used to find the perpetrator. French agencies already are on alert after a string of shootings last month in southern France that police say was the work of an Islamist militant who used a motorbike, videotaped the shootings and claimed links to al-Qaeda. The alleged gunman was shot dead in a standoff with security forces.

In the Essonne killings, Le Queau said all four murders appeared to have been committed at the same time of the day, between 4 pm and 6 pm. — Internet

Iraq: Video appears to show top Saddam deputy

BAGHDAD, 8 April—A video posted online Saturday purported to show Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, the highest ranking member of Saddam Hussein’s ousted regime still at large, lashing out against Iraq’s Shiite-led government. It was not possible to verify the authenticity of the video or determine when it was made. The man in the video, posted on a website linked to Saddam’s now-outlawed Baath party, was introduced as al-Douri and bore a striking physical resemblance to the former Saddam deputy. He noted that nine years had passed since the 2003 US-led invasion, suggesting the video was made recently.

Wearing an olive military uniform and eyeglasses, he criticized Iraq’s Shiite-dominated government, led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and what he said was meddling by neighbouring Shiite powerhouse Iran. “Everyone can hear the sounds of danger echoing daily and threatening this country,” he said during the hour-long address, adding that al-Maliki’s Dawa Party “has announced Iraq as the Shiite capital, and called on all Arab leaders to surrender to this reality.” — Internet
Htawpai Creek Bridge commissioned...

(from page 16)

Ayeyawady Region had many rivers due to its geographical features and it causes a limitation to the development of the region, he said.

The government, he added, is taking the completion of the infrastructures constructed by the Tatmadaw Government and which were yet completed such as roads, bridges across rivers, railroads, airports and hydro power plants within two or three years, he said.

The new government would make efforts with added momentum to complete the infrastructures so that the people could enjoy the fruits of the development and it was one of the noble intentions of the government, he said.

The inauguration of Htawpai Bridge across the Htawpai Creek was the result of the achievements of the development and it was delivered an address, followed by explanation on directives and instructions on installation of quality machinery in the region.

The project engineer of quality machinery in the region, Mr. Kyaw Lin formally opened the bridge.

The Union minister unveiled the inscription of the bridge. The Union minister, the chief minister, region ministers and officials sprinkled scented water on it. They then took a stroll on the bridge.

The bridge, situated on Bogale-Thetkkyaw-Htawpai-Ahmar road in Kangyidaunt Township in Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region, is 13 ft and six inches. It can carry 13 tons of loads.

Basic English proficiency course concludes

UNION, 8 April — The officer level basic English proficiency course concludes of officer level basic English proficiency course No 4. — MNA

Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung addresses concluding of officer level basic English proficiency course No 4. — MNA

Coord meeting on Yangon Region Maha Thingyan Festival held

Sponsored by Japanese government and jointly organized by Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Dr Pwint Hsan.

Japanese ways to electricity explained

SANMARUK, 8 April — Sponsored by Japanese government and jointly organized by Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Dr Pwint Hsan, the exhibition that lasts until 10 April.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung addresses concluding of officer level basic English proficiency course No 4. — MNA

Sexual State Women’s Affairs Organization meet

Department for Industry U Myo Aung, Yangon Region Electricity and Industry Minister U Nyan Tun Oo, UMFCCI President U Win Aung, vice-presidents, CEC members, entrepreneurs, Japan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito, officials from JICA, JETRO and JCCY and guests attended the event.

Five scholars gave talks on development of electric power in Japan. — MNA
Tapioca placed on 300 acres of farmlands

BAGO, 8 April—Fortune International Ltd will supply tapioca as industrial raw materials to Duki Starch Factory of Bago Region as of 2012-2013 fiscal year, said in charge of the tapioca plantation U Aung Kyaw Myint.

Fortune International Ltd is engaged in cultivation of tapioca plants on 300 acres of farmlands beside Bago Yango six-lane Highway, at the exit of Bago.

As tapioca, the industrial raw material will be supplied to the factory beginning 2012-2013 fiscal year, land preparations are being made on 300 acres of farmlands and preparations are being made for collecting tapioca strain and other materials to be used in producing distill water and spirit, said.

Tapioca place on 300 acres of farmlands.

Vocational Training School concludes training course

YANGON, 8 April—The training course No 2/2012 of the Vocational Training School was held at the school in Bahan Township of Yangon Region on 30 March.

Deputy Director-General U Aung Tun Khang of Social Welfare Department made a speech and presented certificates to the trainees.

The summer special course will commence on 2 April at the school. The course will include tailoring subjects, food processing, flower arrangement, sewing and other subjects. Myers Ali

Japan, Myanmar sign agreement for language proficiency

YANGON, 8 April—A ceremony to sign the MoU on Japan-Myanmar education was held at Padarnya Hall of Parkroyal Hotel in Dagon Township of Yangon on 2 April for development of human resources and creation of job opportunities.

Principal U Ye Lwin (a) U Ye Mya Lwin of Napel Language School of Yangon and Principal Mansuri of Japan School (Mansuri) of Tokyo in Japan signed the agreement.

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.

"A Maiden’s Treasure – Tha-na-kha"

Khin Aye Kyu

Tha-na-kha is a Myanmar damsel’s delight and treasure. Tha-na-kha on a woman’s cheek has fascinated many males. Local songs have been sung praising the beauty of a woman who has applied tha-na-kha on her face, making her glow in an ivory aura. The most famous song “Shwebo tha-na-kha” is one composed by Nanawsoe Saya Tin. Tha-na-kha from Shwebo and Pakokku are well-known in Myanmar.

The botanical name of tha-na-kha is limonia acidissima linn. It is of the same family as the orange, lemon and lime. Tha-na-kha trees grow in the same areas, where there is little rain. In Myanmar, tha-na-kha has been used for over two thousand years. There has been many legends regarding tha-na-kha, and one of those was about Shinmautang tha-na-kha. It is said that a famous Myanmar king by the name of Aunggupta who was touring his kingdom, reached the region of Pahkan and when he got near Taung-ni Mountain his Queen sprinkled some fragrant water on the land. It had been said that many Shinmautang tha-na-kha trees sprouted in that place.

Other regions where tha-na-kha trees grow are India, South Asia, North-West Himalayas and Thailand. Tha-na-kha had been lovingly applied and loved by many royal Myanmar ladies as well as by the commoners.

 Beautifying its users, it also has many medicinal qualities. It is used to relieve headaches, migraines and blocked noses. For women suffering from menstrual problems, it is advised to apply tha-na-kha mixed with turmeric powder on the abdomen. When you have prickly heat rashes because of the hot weather, tha-na-kha is applied on the body to relieve the itchiness. A woman’s skin depends mostly on what she eats and on her health. Except for the brain, the skin is the most complex and complicated part of her body. The skin suffers from all kinds of weather. The heat and the cold plays havoc on the skin. Now-a-days people are getting more beauty-conscious and there are all kinds of cosmetics to attract and lure them. They are very expensive. A bottle or a small jar of foundation cream or lotion can cost over ten thousand kyats or more. These creams and lotions may not only cause oily skin, but clog our pores causing pimples and acne.

It is our tha-na-kha which is most suitable for us and we should not be tempted and lured by foreign cosmetics, but use tha-na-kha as a traditional beauty potion.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 9 April, 2012

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Wakema Township DAC opens inter-village gravel road

Ayeawady Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing, Ayeyawady Region DAC representative U Kyaw Lwin, Township Administrator U Soe Tun and Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Kyaw Naing formally opened the road.

The facility is 1340 feet long and 10 feet wide building.—Myanma Alin

Model paddy plot harvested in Ngapudaw Township

NGAPUDAW, 8 April—A model plot of Threehtetyin paddy strain of farmer U Hsan Tun was harvested on 0.33 acre of Shantaung field in Leikchaung Village-tract in Ngapudaw Township on 26 March.

Together with Township Administrator U Win Ko Ko, Township Manager of Agriculture Department U Htay Myint and Head of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Myint Thein, Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Kyaw Lin Aung and staff members, the village administrator and party harvested the model plot to take the per-acre yield of paddy.

After the works, Thehtetyny paddy (good) strain produced 93.21 baskets per acre.—Township SLRD

PRIZES AWARDED: The first cultural course concluded at Ward 3 in Hline Township on 27 March. Chairman of Ward 3 in Hline Township U Kyaw Lin Oo, Township Administrator U Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Township Administrator U Kyaw Tun and Executive Officer U Kyaw Naing formally opened the school.

Chairperson of District WAO Daw Ohnma Nay Tun views works of female trainees.—MYANMA ALIN

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New school shelter opened in Mawlamyineyun Township

The school shelter was built at a cost of K 180 million donated by Swiss Development Cooperation. After that, school group leader U Zaw Kyaw and the representative of Swiss Development Cooperation cut the ribbon to open the school shelter.

Next, the president of the federation gave gifts to them.—Kyemon

JFA donates football equipment to Myanmar Football Federation

U Zaw Zaw and Director-General Mr Kunio Umeda made speeches. Next, the director-general handed over 50 footballs and related equipment donated by Japanese Football Association to President U Zaw Zaw.

Later, the president of the federation gave gifts to them.—Kyemon

Zwegabin United FC honoured

A ceremony to honour Zwegabin United FC that won over Chin United FC in the 11th match of the first leg of Myanmar National League 2012 was held at the Traders Hotel in Yangon on 3 April evening.

At the ceremony, owner of Zwegabin United U Hla Htay presented K 3 million to Zwegabin United FC. Moreover, the owner of the club presented cash awards to Andaro and Ye Lin Aung who scored goals in the match and Ko Htwe and Zane Moe Aung who created chances for the strikers to be able to shoot the goals.

Later, they were served with dinner.—Kyemon

Nav Pyi Taw, 8 April—A ceremony to honour Zwegabin United Township Administrator U Than Ko and Chairman of the Library Committee U Bo Choke formally opened the library.

At the ceremony, the Township Administrator made a speech. The staff officer of District IPRD explained durability of the library. Chairman of the library Committee U Bo Choke spoke words of thanks.

Next, the book donation ceremony followed. The Township Administrator and township level departmental officials donated 250 books and publications and K 45,000, the staff officer of District IPRD 100 copies of journals, and Head of Township IPRD Daw Ottama Khin 100 copies of books and journals.

The library was built with contributions by the State and the local people. —Myanmar Alin

Bus lines to run during period of Maha Thingyan festival

Four highway bus lines will run their routes up to 12 April and only one bus line on 14 April. Moreover, seven bus lines will run daily. Therefore, 123 bus lines in total will run the routes.

The bus lines that will take break during the Maha Thingyan period are Bandoola (Pamra), Shwe Ethel, YCDC, Shwe Inwa, War veterans (Domestic) and War Veterans (Outside) from 12 to 16 April. The bus fares are fixed as usual during the period of Maha Thingyan festival. All bus lines will run their routes regularly as of 17 April (New Year Day). —Point On

Billiards clubs to take certificates

The billiards clubs can seek the licence from the Township General Administration Department after receiving the membership certificates from the federation for 2012-2013 fiscal year. Thus, they have to take out recognition certificates from the Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation (Aung San Stadium) as much as possible.—MBSF

Rural library opened in Natmauk Township

The opening ceremony of Pyinnya Beikman Library was held in conjunction with the reading habit raising and book donation ceremony to Zwegabin United Village-tract U Aung Kyaw and the representatives of township level departmental officials.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Than Ko and Chairman of the Library Committee U Bo Choke formally opened the library.

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YANGON, 8 April—With the aim of ensuring secure and smooth transportation of the Yangon dwellers and passengers during the period of Maha Thingyan Festival, a total of 2950 buses from 191 bus lines of 10 bus line organizations under control of Yangon Region All Private Bus-line Control Committee will run their routes from 12 to 16 April, according to the media meeting of the APBCC (Central).

A total of 2590 buses from over daily-run 8000 buses will ply their routes from 6am to 6pm daily during the Maha Thingyan period.

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Later, they were served with dinner.—Kyemon

CRIME REDUCTION TALKED: Township Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee organized the talks on crime reduction and traffic rules at the Dhamayagon of Mandalay Ahlot Monastery in Phaungwe Ward of DaikU on 30 March. Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Tin Ohn Choke spoke words of thanks.

At the ceremony, Township Education Officer U Myo Win Swe, Administrator of the primary school gave a speech. Next, the book donation ceremony followed. The Township Administrator and township level departmental officials donated 250 books and publications and K 45,000, the staff officer of District IPRD 100 copies of journals, and Head of Township IPRD Daw Ottama Khin 100 copies of books and journals.

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VACCINATION PROVIDED: Vaccination was given to expectant mothers and children under two years old in Zeyathiri Township. On 4 April, midwife Daw Sanda Myint and party of Mayangyi rural health branch of Pyisanaung rural health centre vaccinated children under two from the newspaper house on Khayebin junction in Zeyathiri Township.—KYEMON

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South Africa takes TB battle to mine shafts

Johannesburg, 8 April  

As the number of people dying from tuberculosis (TB) in South Africa increases, the government is taking more active steps to combat the disease. The latest move is the decision to use mine shafts as treatment centres for TB patients.

Tiger and leopard attacks in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 8 April —  

The recent attacks by tigers and leopards in Nepal have raised concerns about the safety of people living in the affected areas. The attacks are believed to be triggered by human-wildlife conflict.

Buford, Wyoming, ‘smallest town in US’, is auctioned

BUFFORD, 8 April — This town billed as the smallest in the US has sold at auction for $900,000 (£568,504). Two unidentified Vietnamese men placed the winning bid for Buford, in the state of Wyoming, on Thursday. It includes a school house, a petrol station, a three-bedroom home with a cabin and a general store.

Could “pink slime” be rebranded?

WASHINGTON, 8 April —  

The possibility of rebranding the controversial “pink slime” has been raising hopes among some companies. This meat product, which is used in pet food, has been under scrutiny due to concerns about the safety of the meat.

The endless potential of flying robots

NEW YORK, 8 April —  

The potential of flying robots has been opened up by the development of new technologies. These robots can be used for a variety of purposes, from disaster response to delivery services.

Number of visitors reaches million in Cuba this year

HAVANA, 8 April —  

The number of visitors to Cuba this year reached a million, as of Thursday, the Ministry of Tourism announced. "Arriving again at this important number of visitors, in a shorter period than the previous year, confirms a preference for our destination and our promise of tranquility, health, safety and reliable tourism experience," the ministry said in a statement.

Citizens pose for photographs in the sea of cherry blossoms in Vancouver, Canada.

Vancouver holds a two-week cherry blossom festival to celebrate the cherry blossom season.
Artificially drawn many fans, few critical rays.

San Francisco, 8 April — To fans and the countless collectors who helped build painter Thomas Kinkade’s commercial art empire, his idealized vision of the world usually served as a simple, soothing addition to the living room wall: a soft depiction of a churning seascape or a colourfull garden or a cottage brimming with warmth. Kinkade’s vision, and the artworks he prolifically created from it, paid off handsomely for the self-described “painter of light,” whose business grew into a franchise of galleries, re-produced artwork and spin-off products, said to fetch at their peak some $100 million annually and adored roughly 10 million homes. Kinkade, who died Friday of what appeared to be natural causes in Los Gatos, Calif., robbed of his popularity even as he drew less than appreciative attention from those within the art establishment who derided him, at least in part, for appealing so brazenly to the mass possible audience.

“In their minds, he represented the lowest type of art,” said Jeffrey Vallance, an artist who hosted a show of Kinkade’s artwork in Santa Ana, Calif. in 2004. “He was different from other artists. You kind of felt like he was giving people what they wanted.”

Kinkade’s art empire included reproductions of his numerous paintings in hand-signed lithographs, canvas prints, books and posters, calendars, magazine covers, cards, collector plates and figurines. As his art drew wider and wider attention, Kinkade didn’t shy away.

Sanford, 8 April — Shaken Baby Syndrome” was cited on Friday in the defence of George Zimmerman, the Sanford, Florida, man who shot and killed unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin, in a case that has sparked a national debate. Police said they have located “several outstanding suspects.” The museum will be closed until further notice, the university said. The items had been recovered, police said.

Haiti lorry crash kills at least 20 people.

Port-au-Prince, 8 April — At least 20 people have died in Haiti after a large lorry overturned on a highway south of the capital, Port-au-Prince, officials said. Some 40 others have been hospitalised with injuries, doctors said. A local radio station said the nearby town of Petit-Grove was “overwhelmed” and under equipped to deal with them.

Road accidents are common in Haiti, where traffic regulations are rarely enforced and vehicles are often overloaded. One witness told the AFP news agency that the road was known for being dangerous. At least four people were killed in an accident in the same area last week. The lorry, which was carrying retail traders, many of them women, was said to have lost its balance as it climbed a steep incline, according to a local judge who witnessed the incident. Joel Charles, hospital director in the town of Petit-Grove put the death toll at 27 and said 17 of the victims were found dead at the scene. “Some of the injuries are critical, a lot of head trauma and broken bones. We need surgeons, other medical specialists and ambulances,” he added.

Our correspondent says that two priceless artifacts were stolen when thieves broke into a ground-floor gallery at the museum: a large jade bowl with a Chinese poem written inside that dates back to 1769, and a Dehua porcelain plate from the Qing Dynasty. Police said they were still trying to locate “several outstanding suspects.” The museum will be closed until further notice, the university said. The items had not been recovered, police said.

The northern England-based museum confirmed that two “priceless” artifacts were stolen when thieves broke into a ground-floor gallery at the museum: a large jade bowl with a Chinese poem written inside that dates back to 1769, and a Dehua porcelain plate from the Qing Dynasty. Police said they were still trying to locate “several outstanding suspects.” The museum will be closed until further notice, the university said. The items had not been recovered, police said.
Egg hunt tossed because of violent adults

An annual Easter egg hunt in Central City Park in Macon, Ga., was canceled this year because of unruly parents, officials said. The annual Easter egg hunt in Central City Park, which would have been held Saturday, was one of the largest in Middle Georgia. The Macon (Ga.) Telegraph reported. However, officials decided to cancel the event because “parents caused a situation in which some children got hurt,” said Bibb County Commissioner Joe Allen, founder and CEO of Kids Yule Love which coordinated the egg hunt. Allen said some parents insisted on accompanying their children in the hunt and some incidents occurred when parents became violent in attempts to get eggs for themselves or their children.

Woman who collected benefits not blind

Police in Italy said a woman, 60, was arrested on an aggravated fraud charge for collecting $654,000 in benefits by falsely claiming to be blind for 40 years. Investigators said the Lidio di Venezia woman, whose name was not released, had received monthly disability checks over the years, ANSA reported Friday. The woman was arrested Friday after she was filmed performing tasks without assistance.

Marshall guitar amp creator dies, aged 88

LONDON, 8 April—Jim Marshall, the guitar-amp pioneer nicknamed “The Father of Loud,” has died aged 88, his company’s website announced on Thursday.

Rock icons Jimi Hendrix, Pete Townsend and Kurt Cobain were among those who used the London-born businessman’s amplifiers, eager to exploit the so-called “Marshall sound.”

The online statement said it was with “profound sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved founder and leader for the past 50 years.”

“While mourning the Guv’nor though, we also salute a legendary man who led a full and truly remarkable life,” it added.

“While the entire Marshall Amplification family mourns Jim’s passing and will miss him tremendously, we all feel richer for having known him and are happy in the knowledge that he is now in a much better place which has just got a whole lot louder.”

Marshall worked as an engineer and a drummer and also owned London music shops before he went on to build amplifiers in his garage in the early 1960s, forming the Marshall Amplification company in 1962.

$5-6 million expected on first day for “Titanic” 3D

LOS ANGELES, 8 April—The 3D re-release of James Cameron’s “Titanic” was steering toward a possible $6 million haul at the box office in its debut Wednesday, as the 10th anniversary approaches of the sinking of the real Titanic.

Domestic distributor Paramount is projecting that the film, converted into 3D for a hefty $18 million, will take in around $20 million to $25 million over the five-day holiday weekend.

Box-office observers outside the studio say it could do $20 million. That would be impressive, given that the film’s lengthy running time—3 hours, 23 minutes—limits the number of daily showings. It’s playing in 2,600 locations in the US and Canada, including 79 Imax theaters. Fox is handling international distribution for the film, which is opening in virtually all major territories this weekend as well.

The original “Titanic” opened to $28.6 million in December 1997, held the No 1 spot for a record 15 weeks and went on to gross more than $600 million domestically. Worldwide, the original “Titanic” took in $1.8 billion, a record that stood for more than a decade. It was topped by Cameron’s “Avatar,” which took in $2.7 billion in 2009.

News Album

Children roll Easter eggs during the annual White House Egg Roll on the South Lawn of The White House, in Washington on 9 April, 2007. The White House Egg Roll has been an annual tradition since 1878, when it was started by President Rutherford B Hayes.

The event, he said, became a liability for Kids Yule Love. “When people get hurt, they want some kind of compensation,” he said. “People forget what the programme was about... An Easter egg hunt is only part of what Easter is all about,” he said.

3D re-release of James Cameron’s “Titanic”.

In this 18 March, 2012 photo, actors Jennifer Coolidge, left, and Eugene Levy pose for a portrait during a media day for the upcoming feature film “American Reunion” in Los Angeles. The film opens nationwide on 6 April. — Internet

LOS ANGELES, 8 April—There’s a hint of mature romance—or at least hot sex involving older folks—in the latest sequel to “American Pie.” “American Reunion” brings back the comedy ensemble from the 1999 gross-out hit and includes a comical breakup between Eugene Levy, who plays Jason Biggs’s square-than-square dad, and Jennifer Coolidge, who plays Team William Scott’s boy-seducing mom.

It all starts as Biggs’ Jim, home for a high school reunion, tries to get his widower dad to hook up with someone more promising, and I love that I would hook up with Jim’s dad,” Coolidge said in an interview alongside Levy. — Internet

In this 4 April, 2012 photo released by Fox, DeAndre Brackensick performs on the singing competition series “American Idol,” in Los Angeles. — Internet

Another finalist sliced from ‘American Idol’

LOS ANGELES, 8 April—“American Idol” viewers apparently didn’t like Deandre Brackensick. The falsetto-powered 17-year-old student from San Jose, Calif., impressed the “Idol” judges with Delilah’s “I’d Like It” on Wednesday’s 1980s-themed installment, but he wasn’t rescued by the panel Thursday after receiving the fewest viewer votes. Jennifer Lopez, who has been with Brackensick that she was a Yes, and Randy Jackson to use the judges’ one-time-only ability to save him from dismissal. “I only get one vote,” said Lopez. “I’m not saving you tonight.” Before his last-chance performance of Stevie Wonder’s “Master Blaster,” Brackensick was joined in the show’s bottom three by rockin’ 28-year-old singer Sam Woolf and artsy 26-year-old singer Curtis Finch Jr.

Airline employee resigns amid celeb tip-off claims

LONDON, 8 April—A Virgin Atlantic employee has resigned following allegations she routinely fed information about the celebrities’ clientele — from Madonna to Sienna Miller — to a paparazzi agency. The employee was a junior member of the team that looks after high-profile clients, Virgin said Friday. She quit Thursday before reports published in the Guardian and the Press Gazette alleged that she had passed the booking information of more than 60 celebrities on to the Big Pictures photo agency.

Among those allegedly targeted: Britain’s Princess Beatrice; singers Madonna and Rihanna; actors Charlie Cox, Kate Winslet, Daniel Radcliffe and Miller;

Surveillance cameras watch over the entrance to the London offices of paparazzi agency Big Pictures on 6 April. A Virgin Atlantic airline employee has resigned following allegations that she routinely fed information about the airline’s celebrity clientele to the Big Pictures agency, the airline announced Friday.— Internet

Baby born 36,000 feet over Africa

A plane en route from Nigeria to California was diverted to Senegal when a woman gave birth to a baby about 36,000 feet above Africa.

Greg Idoni, 38, of Fresno, Calif., said his fiancee, Katherine Oyedoh, 28, was cleared to fly from her home in Nigeria to California 23 March so the couple could be together for the expected 15 April birth of their child, The Fresno Bee reported Thursday.

However, Idoni said Oyedoh’s water broke about a half hour into the Delta Airlines flight, and flight attendant Susan Carnes said she noticed about 36,000 feet into the flight that Oyedoh was giving birth and there was no time to land the plane before the birth. Oyedoh gave birth to baby boy Ebosalume Idoni with the help of an obstetrician and nurses who were aboard the plane and the flight was diverted to Dakar, Senegal, where the mother and infant received medical treatment.

Idoni said the mother and baby are scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles Saturday. Idoni, a naturalized US citizen, said he is a US citizen by default and Oyedoh plans to obtain US citizenship after they are married.

With a hint of maturity and quirk.

In this 4 April, 2012 photo released by Fox, DeAndre Brackensick performs on the singing competition series “American Idol,” in Los Angeles. — Internet

Jim Marshall, the guitar-amp pioneer nicknamed “the Father of Loud”, has died aged 88, his company’s website announced on Thursday.

Clint Cavanagh seemed more likely to be eliminated after receiving a thumbs-up on Tuesday night from his fellow contestants. However, the young actor was joined in the show’s bottom three by rockin’ 28-year-old singer Sam Woolf and artsy 26-year-old singer Curtis Finch Jr. The falsetto-powered 17-year-old student from San Jose, Calif., impressed the “Idol” judges with Delilah’s “I’d Like It” on Wednesday’s 1980s-themed installment, but he wasn’t rescued by the panel Thursday after receiving the fewest viewer votes.

“While mourning the Guv’nor though, we also salute a legendary man who led a full and truly remarkable life,” it added.

An in-flight attendant Susan Carnes said the mother was giving birth and there was no time to land the plane before the birth. Oyedoh gave birth to baby boy Ebosalume Idoni.

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Dalglish denies talk of Liverpool paranoia

LONDON, 8 April — Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish has insisted there is no sense of paranoia at Anfield despite taking issue with a number of decisions given against his team in recent weeks. The Reds' Premier League problems continued with a 1-1 draw against Aston Villa at Anfield on Saturday, which was the 11th time in 16 home matches they have failed to win this season. In the Villa game, Dalglish felt his team should have been given two penalties, for an Alan Hutton challenge on Luis Suarez and for an Eric Lichaj handball. He also claimed Stephen Ireland could have broken Suarez’s foot in a challenge that resulted in the Uruguayan striker being booked for diving.

Dalglish, who also battled with football’s authorities over Suarez’s eight-match suspension for racially abusing Manchester United’s Patrice Evra, is adamant the Reds have not developed a negative attitude towards officials. “I think if we keep trying it will turn but sometimes for some people paranoia will set in and you think there’s an agenda against the football club from people of importance,” said the manager. “It’s not true, but sometimes for some people that will happen.”

**Liverpool’s striker Luis Suarez (L) celebrates scoring his goal during their Premier League football match against Aston Villa at Anfield in Liverpool. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.** — Internet

Barcelona’s Lionel Messi goes past 60-goal mark for the season

ZARAGOZA, 8 April — Barcelona forward Lionel Messi has become the first European top-flight player in almost 40 years to score 60 goals in a season. The Argentine scored two goals in the 4-1 La Liga win over Real Zaragoza on Saturday, as he cut the gap on table topping Real Madrid to three points. The 24-year-old notched seven goals behind Gerd Muller’s all-time record for goals in a season. The German legend netted 67 times for Bayern Munich in the 1972-73 campaign.

Barcelona were given an early scare at La Romareda, where the Argentinian side took the lead on the half-hour mark through Carlos Aranda’s goal. However, after Carles Puyol levelled matters in the 36th minute, Messi made it 2-1 to Barcelona three minutes later with a finish from 15 yards from an Alexis Sanchez pass. His second came from the penalty spot with four minutes of the game remain — ing, and Pedreroom — piled the scoring for Barcelona with a fourth goal in the final minute. Messi has scored 38 goals in La Liga this season, and a further 14 in the Champions League, including five in the last 16 second leg win over Bayer Leverkusen in March. Messi has also netted twice in the Copa del Rey, three times in the Supercopa, one in the UEFA Super Cup and two in the Club World Cup.

**Barcelona’s forward Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring a goal during their Spanish League football match against Real Zaragoza at La Romareda stadium in Zaragoza. Barcelona forward Lionel Messi has become the first European top-flight player in almost 40 years to score 60 goals in a season.** — Internet

Hanson holds off charge by Mickelson at Masters

AUGUSTA, 8 April — Phil Mickelson set off roars at Augusta National with a 20-foot eagle putt for a share of the lead, and an amazing flop shot behind the 15th green that only he would dare try.

Peter Hanson answered with four birdies on his last five holes, claiming some of those for himself and taking the outright lead Saturday in the Masters with a 7-under 65, the lowest score of the tournament. What a finish — and it’s all just beginning. Fortune favours the brave at times here,” Padraig Harrington said. “When you’re leading a tournament, that’s not the type of golf course you want to be on probably a boring golf course — which is one thing I could have done anything against anybody,” Williams said. “I think it was just one of those days that I could have done anything against anybody.”

**Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga. — Internet**

Dortmund stay three points clear with Wolfsburg win

BERLIN, 8 April — Champions Borussia Dortmund grabbed a 3-1 win at VfL Wolfsburg with two goals from Robert Lewandowski to stay three points clear at the top of the Bundesliga. Hanson, who already knew exactly what he had seen in Augusta National with the lead at Masters with a 7-under 65, the lowest score of the tournament on 6 April, 2012. Williams beat Stosur 6-1, 6-1.

**Fried Couples pumps his fist after a birdie on the ninth hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament on 6 April, 2012.** — Internet

A booming surprise: Couples in the lead at Masters

**Internet**

Serena routs Stosur, reaches Family Circle final

CHARLESTON, 8 April — Serena Williams even impressed herself with her powerful shot. The 25-year-old from the USA defeated Samantha Stosur of Australia in the Family Circle Cup on Saturday, Williams needed less than an hour to dispatch second-seeded Samantha Stosur 6-1, 6-1 and advance to the clay-court final.

“Your know, I think it was just one of those days that I could have done anything against anybody,” Williams said. There aren’t many people in the world who could’ve withstood Williams’ pressure moments later, and eliminated Stosur from a tournament for the second straight week. Williams took over after Stosur 7-5, 6-3 last week at the Sony Ericsson Open, serving 20 aces — tying personal best — in the hard court win. Williams only had seven aces in this one, but was in command of nearly every shot she hit. “I have to say this is probably the best match I’ve played in my career, either in a long time or it’s you there in the top five,” Williams said. Safarova has lost all four times she’s played Williams.

**Internet**

Peter Hanson, of Sweden, waves after his birdie on the eighth green during the third round of the Masters golf tournament on 7 April, 2012, in Augusta, Ga. — Internet

International Sports

VfL Wolfsburg’s Petr Jersek (L) and Felipe Lopes (R) challenge Borussia Dortmund’s Robert Lewandowski (C) during their German Bundesliga first division soccer match in Wolfsburg, on 7 April, 2012. **Internet**
Six Colombian soldiers, three FARC rebels killed in clash

BOGOTA, 8 April—At least six soldiers were killed in a clash on Saturday with rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a military source said.

An ensuing confrontation resulted in the death of six soldiers who were killed by the rebels using explosives. Giraldo also said at least three FARC members were killed and two others wounded in the clash. — Internet

Manchester City’s title hopes ruined by Mikel Arteta’s Arsenal strike

LONDON, 8 April—For Manchester City, it was the killer blow. A five-point lead at the top of the Premier League has turned into an eight-point deficit in little more than a month and the players’ body language at the final whistle told its own story. Some stood with their hands on hips. Others sank to their knees and their walk to the away end was an apologetic one. They knew it was over.

At this stage of the season there was no alternative for Roberto Mancini’s team but to win and exert some pressure on the leaders. Instead, they have won only one of their past five games, taking five points from 15. Their form has deteriorated at just the wrong time and Arsenal fully deserved the win that takes them back into third place, two points clear of Tottenham Hotspur.

Arsene Wenger’s team dominated for long spells, struck the post through Robin van Persie and Theo Walcott, missed an open goal twice and could reflect on a number of other chances before the decisive moment, on 87 minutes, when Mikel Arteta dispossessed David Pizarro 40-yards from goal, advanced towards the City penalty area and beat Joe Hart with a dipping right-foot drive.

Their opponents had been restricted to only brief spells when they threatened to get on top and there was a sizeable amount of ignominy attached to City’s performance, too, with another moment for the increasingly bulging file otherwise known as the Mario Balotelli portfolio of idiocy.

Balotelli has already missed eight games through suspension this season and is now looking at another lengthy ban because his red card, for two bookable challenges committed against Bacary Sagna, told only part of the story. The more serious offence was the challenge on Alex Song that left Arsenal’s midfielder in a crumpled heap, after 17 minutes. It was his studs versus his opponent’s knee-cap, the classic over-the-top leg-breaker. Song was fortunate he was not badly hurt and if the referee, Martin Atkinson, tells the Football Association that his view was impeded, as television replays appear to demonstrate, Balotelli could be looking at a retrospective ban for the second time this season. For City, it seemed to sum up how their on-off affair with Balotelli may be heading for divorce but, ultimately, there were plenty more reasons to be disappointed.—Internet

Purified water supplied to prisoners in Shwebo

SHWEBO, 8 April—With a view to supplying purified drinking water to prisoners, a water purifier worth K 21.49 million was installed at the Department in Shwebo as of 4 December 2011. The water poured from the purifier is sufficiently supplied to about 900 prisoners of the jail. — Kyemon
NAV PYI TAW, 8 April—Htawpai Creek Bridge, constructed by Bridge Construction Project Special Group (3) of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction, was opened this morning.

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint explained about construction works. He said: The newly opened Htawpai creek Bridge was at milepost 26/3 on the Bogale-Sethsaing-Htawpai-Ahmar road section, which is No. 6 road included in Ayeyawady delta road network development project.

In the past, those from the village-tracts including Ahmar Sub-township along the coast in southernmost of the region had to rely only on waterways when they traveled to Bogale. They did so at the risk of their lives braving strong winds and heavy waves in the rainy season. The Pyapon-Kyonkadon-Ahmar road was constructed in 1991.

But local people had to take time when going to Bogale since they have to use Payapon as a transit. As transport in the region was in bad shape, local people had to suffer much the impact of Nargis cyclone that occurred on 2 May 2008, leaving people dead and property destroyed.

Therefore, the government has laid down Ayeyawady delta road network development project and is constructing 11 major roads. Now the Bogale-Sethsaing-Htawpai-Ahmar road section has emerged with bridges large and small including Htawpai Bridge on it.

The construction of Htawpai creek Bridge started on 17-3-2009 and it was completed today. The facility has emerged in a short period of time in the interest of local people. With the advent of the bridge, the village-tracts such as Htawpai, Sethsaing including Ahmar Sub-township which is encircled by water are now enjoying better transport and economic development. Meanwhile, their education, health and social status will improve all the more. In addition, in case of natural disasters, they will be evacuated to safety in time. Linking it with transport facilities already in place, there will be easy access to different parts of the nation.

In conclusion, the Union minister stressed the need for local people to use the bridge built by the State for national development in a systematic manner and maintain it for durability and expressed thanks for the union ministers, the Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister and ministers, those from the respective organizations, townsenders and local people who contributed their shares for successful opening of the bridge.

On behalf of the people of Ayeyawady Region, Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung spoke words of thanks for opening the bridge. He said: Development of transportation played an important role in development of the region.

(See page 8)