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Sunday, 4 March, 2012

It is very important for fourth estate to be of good quality so that nation can transform itself into democracy in correct and efficient manner

Our Three Main National Causes

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



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and party pose for documentary photo with prize winners.

MNA

YANGON, 3 March—The 10th Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award ceremony took place at the Traders Hotel here this morning with an address by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan.

It was also attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe

Win, Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, departmental heads of the Information Ministry, the chairman and CEC members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, members of Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award Selection Committee, literati, family members of Sayawun Tin Shwe and guests.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said literature plays an important part in both a nation and the international community. In this age of technology or knowledge, literature is the basis of knowledge and technology. For the knowledge and technological improvement in the nation, the Tatmadaw government took steps for all young people even from rural areas to be able to pursue basic education easily and then higher education with least difficulty. Now, the new government is also taking measures for national education promotion to ensure quality from quantity.

Moreover, village libraries are being set up for the whole country to become a constant learning society. Now, almost all the villages across the nation have seen libraries and encouragement is being given for the maintenance and durability of those libraries. For national literary development, the State is presenting 15 national literary awards and 13 Sarpay Beikman literary awards. Plans are being made to present a national press award for journals this year, said the Union Minister.

He added that in comparison with the yearly publishing of 4007 books on various subjects and over 7300 journals, the number of awards the State is presenting is only small. So, the State owes gratitude to Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award for narrowing the gap. In addition, Pakokku (See page 8)

Summer Cultural Course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Zeyathiri Township Women's Affairs Organization of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area organized the opening of Summer Cultural Course at Aungzeya Basic Education Post-Primary School in Zeyathiri Township at 9 am today.

Present at the opening ceremony were Chairperson of Township Women's Affairs

Organization Daw Hla Hla Win and members, course instructors and 87 male and female trainees.

Chairperson Daw Hla Hla Win and the leader of course instructors made speeches at the opening ceremony of the training course.

The course will last up to 8 March.

MNA

Men's and Women's Invitational Cycling Contest 24-25 March

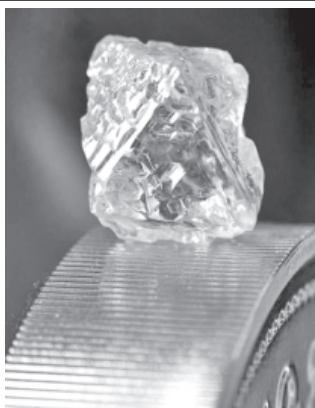
NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—In accord with the directives of the Ministry of Sports, Myan Shwe Pyi Co Ltd (MSP Co Ltd) and Myanmar Cycling Federation will jointly organize the Men's and Women's Invitational Cycling Contest 2012, here, on 24 and 25 March.

Handsome awards will be presented to the winners.

The contest is aimed at holding preparatory contest for enabling Myanmar cyclists to achieve

success in the XXVII SEA Games. The contest will comprise men's 120-km cycling event, women's 100-km cycling contest and the mountain bike-cross country & BMX contest.

Those wishing to take part in the contest may enlist at Join Secretary of Myanmar Cycling Federation Staff Officer U Kyaw Min Than of Sports and Physical Education Department, Nay Pyi Taw Shwekyarbin sports training camp, Tel: 09-73056710, 067-43253 and 90-49203303.—MNA



This photo, released by mining giant Rio Tinto on 22 February, shows a 12.76 carat pink diamond—the largest of the rare and precious stones ever found in Australia.

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Photo taken on 21 Feb, 2012 shows the Aquatics Centre in London, capital of Britain. The Aquatics Centre will be the venue for swimming, Paralympic swimming, diving, synchronized swimming and the swimming element of modern pentathlon.

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Villagers perform the annual "dragon march" to celebrate the Lantern Festival in Gutian township, Fujian Province recently. According to local media, the traditional march, usually performed during Lantern Festival, has a history of more than 200 years.



The marching dragon, made of paper and bamboo and connected by wood planks, set the new Guinness World Records of the longest parade float with 791.5 metres, according to local media.

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PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 4 March, 2012

Prevention is better than cure

Today's call for the people by the government to pursue knowledge on health and to observe good personnel hygiene tips should be taken seriously.

Medical teams comprising specialists, doctors, nurses, volunteers, etc have been providing free medical health care services for the people and disseminating knowledge on health, including importance of personal hygiene.

Personal hygiene provides healthy life for a person, leading to longevity which is one of the measurements for the development.

Health is the greatest assets a person possesses. Health is precious and it is an important gift by nature to us.

Diseases are the worst enemies of good health. There are various kinds of bacteria and viruses in the atmosphere which can attack man and make him ill.

It is wise to prevent a disease rather than trying to cure it once it has already affected a person.

How could diseases be kept away? The best way to do so is by preventing these diseases from affecting us.

Prevention means washing your hands, and also your body. It means being careful not to cough or sneeze on others, cleaning things that you touch if you are unwell, putting items such as tissues (that may have germs) into a bin, and using protection (like gloves or condoms) when you might be at risk of catching an infection.

It is important to raise public awareness of prevention against diseases as part of efforts for helping the people enjoy a healthy life.

Therefore, while voluntary medical teams are providing free health care services for the people, parents and teachers should also educate the young and social organizations should raise awareness of the importance of personal hygiene.

Development undertakings inspected in townships of Yangon Region

YANGON, 3 March—Yangon Mayor Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint this morning viewed participation of people in

dengue hemorrhagic fever on 4th Malarmyain Street in Ward 16 of Hline Township. DHF preventive measures were also taken in Kyimyindine, Botahtaung,

South Okkalapa, Bahan, Hlinethaya and Thingangyun Townships. He inspected Hanthawady and Nanthagon car trading



Dr Myat Kyaw Thu of TB Control Project talked about TB disease at hall of Aungmyethazan Township Health Department on 16 December.—NLM

Rural Socio-Economic Development Subcommittee Chairman Union I & C Minister visits villages in Pale Township, Pakhangyi Archaeological Museum

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Chairman of Rural Socio-Economic Development Subcommittee Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan visited Monkyaing village on 26 February and Nawyoe village the next day while in Pale of Sagaing Region.

He viewed repairing and extension of human resources development schools, construction of village libraries and needs for repairing of inter-village roads and bridges for smooth transport and met locals.

He called for cooperation with responsible personnel in rural socio-economic development tasks comprised of helping youths complete their education, broadening health knowledge and living healthy lives, sustainability of established libraries as second monasteries of the village, maintenance of existing inter-village roads, test cultivation of hybrid paddy instead of conventional farming and growing perennial crops in meeting with the local people.

During his visit to villages, the minister donated K 0.5 million for renovation of Thintee kan village primary school building, K 0.5 million for extension of Nawyoe village post-primary school, K 1 million for renovation of Tonkan village post-primary school building



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan presents publications to Nawyoe Village Library in Pale Township.—MNA

and bookshelves to libraries of the villages.

On 28 February, the Union minister visited Pakhangyi Archaeological Museum in Pakhangyi ancient city state in Yesagyo Township of Magway Region. Director U Thein Lwin of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department and In-Charge of the Museum Research

Officer U Htay Win Maung reported the Union minister on visits of foreign tourists and renovation of religious edifices of Inwa and Nyaungyan eras. The Union minister called for architectural conservation in preserving these ancient cultural heritages.

The Union minister viewed Myanmar's cultural heritages and fossils of new

Stone Age and, Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, Nyaungyan and Konbaung eras showcased in the museum. The museum is closed only on Mondays and Tuesdays and open to public from 9 am to 4 pm on other days. Zone entrance fee for a foreign visitor is US 5 dollars, for local adult visitor is K 200 and for a child is K 100. Students are allowed to visit free.—MNA

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister attends religious ceremony in Zalun

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung attended opening ceremony of Pagoda Feast of Mam Aung Myin Pyitawpyan Buddha Image in Zalun on 1 March. He offered a day meal to members of Sangha and

inspected construction of Sasana Beikman.

He also attended donation ceremony for endurance of Pyilonekatkyaw U Par Ye Pagoda Hill and river bank in Hinthada where locals contributed K 11 million and the Region government K 0.3

million. The Region chief minister viewed erosion of riverbank of U Par Ye Pagoda.

He visited sixth summer Buddhism culture training in Dhamma Beikman Monastery and philanthropic school and donated K 0.5 million.

The Region chief minister visited Tilaw-kaokshaung Buddha Image in Hinthada Township and K 0.3 million for all-round renovation of the Buddha Image.—MNA

camp, placing of concrete on 2700 feet long Thudhamma road section in North Okkalapa Township, extension of driving range in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, upgrading of Bohmu Ba Htoo Road to 48 feet wide facility and proper flow of drainage system.

The mayor also looked into construction works on Ayeyawun Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, placing of concrete on Kamagyi Road in Thingangyun Township and Kyaikkasan Car and Car Parts Trading Camp.

He also oversaw construction of Ngamoyeik Bridge (Parami) linking South Okkalapa and Dagon Myothit (North) townships and dredging of silt at

Elephant Plaza of Kandawgyi Gardens.

Ngamoyeik Bridge (Parami) has completed by 40 per cent.

MNA

Tourist Maps of Myanmar in circulation

YANGON, 3 March — Design Printing Services Co Ltd has distributed Tourist Guide Map to tourists and tour guides.

The Tourist Maps of Myanmar (TMM-28) includes maps of Myanmar, Yangon, Mandalay, Pyin Oo Lwin, Bagan, Mrauk U, Taunggyi, Inlay, Kyeikhtyoe, Myeik, Ngapali, Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha and tourist attractions. It is available at travel shows in foreign countries and at Myanmar embassies and have been handed out to tourists at Yangon International Airport.

Travel businesses and tour guides can get the maps at Myanmar Tourism Service near Sule Pagoda and DPS, No. 165/167, first floor, 35th street, Kyauktada Township, Ph: (95-1) 204020, 204200, Fax (95-1) 245230 during office hour.—MNA



Photo taken on 2 March, 2012 shows the scene of a news conference on the Fifth Session of the 11th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China. The Fifth Session of the 11th CPPCC National Committee is scheduled to open in Beijing on 3 March.—XINHUA

11th CPPCC National Committee starts 5th session

BEIJING, 3 March.—The fifth session of the eleventh CPPCC National Committee started in Beijing at 3pm local time on Saturday. Jia Qinglin, the Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, will

present the national work report.

So far, the top advisory body has received more than 6-hundred proposals, with food safety, education, healthcare and housing being

the top areas of concern.

The session will also use seven ethnic languages. Several CCTV channels, including CCTV news, will be covering the plenary session.—Xinhua

23 killed in suicide blast in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 3 March.—At least 23 people were killed and some 20 others injured in a suicide bomb blast in Pakistan's northwestern tribal area of Khyber Agency on Friday.

Local Urdu TV channel ARY quoted local officials as saying that a suicide bomber blew himself up in front of a mosque while people were coming out from the mosque after on Friday prayers.

Tehreek-e-Taleban Pakistan (TTP) Tariq group, a faction of Pakistan Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack. One local media report said that most of the victims were members of Lashkar-e-Islam, a rival militant group.

Friday's attack could be an retaliation for the killing of 11 members of TTP Tariq group by Lashkar-e-Islam several months ago. The mosque is located in the Tirah Valley, a remote mountainous area near the border with Afghanistan.—Xinhua

Six insurgents killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 3 March.—Six armed insurgents were killed and four others detained during joint operations in two Afghan Provinces, the country's Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

"The Afghan National Police, Afghan army and International Coalition Forces launched three joint operations in Nangarhar and Badghis Provinces killing six armed insurgents and detaining four others over the

past 24 hours," the ministry said in a statement.

They also seized weapons besides defusing five Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in the above operations, it added.

"Two more insurgents were killed by their own IED while they attempted to plant it in the Badpak District of eastern Laghman Province on Friday night," according to the statement.

Afghan forces and

NATO-led coalition troops have intensified cleanup operations throughout the post-Taleban country recently.

Over 220 insurgents have been killed and more than 600 others detained in the country since the beginning of this year, according to the Interior Ministry.

Taleban militants have yet to make comments.

Xinhua



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (R) and Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh make a brief remarks before a scheduled bilateral meeting in Washington DC, the United States, on 2 March, 2012.—XINHUA

Japan, Britain eye joint arms development

TOKYO, 3 March.—Japan is planning to jointly develop weapons with Britain as Tokyo looks to boost its defence industry after easing a decades-old ban on arms exports, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda is seeking to reach a deal on the defence partnership during a visit by his British counterpart David Cameron planned for April, the Sankei Shimbun said.

The British government has so far proposed plans to

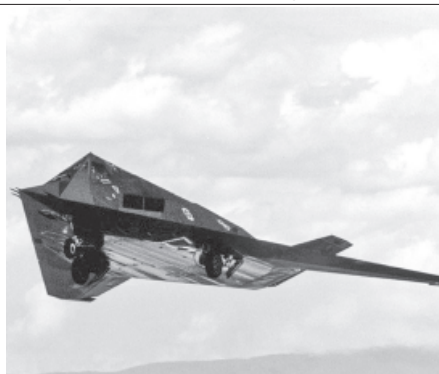
jointly develop four items, including the autoloading system for 155-millimetre (6.2-inch) howitzers, the daily said.

The move came after Tokyo relaxed its self-imposed ban on arms exports in December, paving the way for Japanese firms to participate in multinational weapons projects.

In a move intended to bolster the domestic arms industry and reduce defence spending, officially pacifist Japan is for the first time in

decades routinely allowing its companies to partner with foreign firms to develop weapons.

Japan, whose industries took years to recover after World War II, declared in 1967 that it would tightly control its foreign weapons sales. The new rules allow Japan to develop and produce arms jointly with the United States and European countries and to export military equipment intended for operations such as UN peacekeeping.—Xinhua



The Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk was a single-seat, twin-engine stealth ground-attack aircraft formerly operated by the United States Air Force (USAF).—XINHUA

Al-Qaeda claims responsibility for killing US intelligence officer in Yemen's Aden

ADEN, 3 March.—The Yemen-based al-Qaeda wing said Friday that it had killed a US intelligence officer in the southern port city of Aden.

"Our brave fighters opened fire at a team of US intelligence officers in the southern city of Aden on Thursday, killing a CIA officer," the al-Qaeda said in a text message received by Xinhua.

"We killed the officer after we monitored him and made sure that he was cooperating with the Sanaa government in the war against terrorism," the message said.

The group did not give more details about the attack or elaborate how it conducted the operation against the US team.

A close source to the al-Qaeda militants told to Xinhua that "we saw a team of US senior officers patrolling in the al-Mulla district in downtown Aden in a small military car."

"The officers' car came under attacks, which also injured a number of them," the source said.

On Thursday, a Yemeni security official told Xinhua that a brigade of Yemen's special forces were dispatched from Sanaa to

Aden for an anti-terror training course conducted by a US security team.

He said on condition of anonymity that the Yemeni special forces were preparing to engage next month in battles against al-Qaeda militants in the neighboring restive Province of Abyan.

The Yemeni government has given the militants ultimatum to quit captured cities in Abyan.

Taking advantage of one-year anti-government protests, the resurgent al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), known locally as Ansar al-Sharia (Partisans of Islamic Law),

has taken control of several cities across the restive southern provinces.

The Yemeni government forces have been battling the AQAP militants in the south, leaving hundreds of people killed and thousands displaced.

The AQAP, entrenching itself mainly in Yemen's southern provinces of Abyan and Shabwa, is on the terrorist list of the United States.

Newly-elected President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi vowed to strengthen security and intelligence cooperation with the United States in combating the AQAP that threatened the daily oil shipping routes in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Internet



A police officer inspects a damaged vehicle after a bomb attack in Baghdad's Karrada district February 23, 2012. Car bombs struck across Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 20 people and wounding dozens, in the latest wave of attacks on the Iraqi capital since a political crisis erupted in December, security officials said.

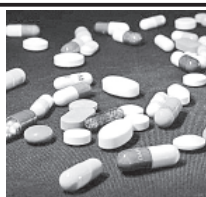
INTERNET

Common sleeping pills linked with higher death risk

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 March—Commonly-prescribed sleeping pills are linked to a more-than fourfold risk of premature death, according to an American study published in the journal *BMJ Open* on Monday. These medications were also associated at higher doses with a 35-percent increased risk of cancer as compared with non-users, but the reason for this is unclear. Doctors led by Daniel Kripke of the Scripps Clinic Viterbi Family Sleep Center in La Jolla, California, looked at the medical records of more than 10,500 adults living in Pennsylvania who were taking prescribed sleeping aids.

These were compared against more than 23,600 counterparts, matched for age, health and background, who did not take these drugs. The study ranged over two and a half years, and looked at widely-prescribed sleep-ing pills, including benzodiazepines, non-benzodiazepines, barbiturates and sedatives. The overall number of deaths that occurred during this period was small in both groups, being less than a thousand in total. But there was a striking difference in mortality, the researchers found.

Internet



Commonly-prescribed sleeping pills are linked to a more-than fourfold risk of premature death, according to an American study published in the journal *BMJ Open* on Monday.—INTERNET

A batch of birth control pills manufactured in India for US distribution has been recalled due to a packaging error that could make the pills ineffective, US health authorities said.

INTERNET



US recalls India-made birth control pills

NEW YORK, 3 March—A batch of birth control pills manufactured in India for US distribution has been recalled due to a packaging error that could make the pills ineffective, US health authorities said on Monday. Seven lots of generic

norgestimate and ethinyl estradiol tablets were recalled by Glenmark Generics Inc. USA, the US Food and Drug Administration said.

The company said the tablets were manufactured and packaged by Glenmark Generics Ltd India, and distributed to wholesalers and retail pharmacies across the United States between 21 September, 2011 and 30 December, 2011.

"As a result of this packaging error, the daily regimen for these oral contraceptives may be incorrect and could leave women without adequate contraception, and at risk for unintended pregnancy," Glenmark said in a statement.

It was not immediately clear how many packets were affected by the error, which rotated some of the pills by 180 degrees out of the usual sequential order and left the lot number and expiry date visible only on the outer pouch.

"Any blister for which the lot number and expiry date is not visible is subject to recall," Glenmark added in a statement.

Internet



New flu virus is found in bats

NEW YORK, 3 March—A new strain of influenza A has been found in fruit bats, indicating for the first time that bats, like birds, can be carriers of the virus, though it is not believed risky to humans, according to US health authorities. "This is the first time an influenza virus has been identified in bats, but in its current form the virus is not a human health issue," said Suxiang Tong, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's pathogen discovery programme.

"The study is important because the research has identified a new animal species that may act as a source of flu viruses." The influenza A virus was detected in a sample of three of 316 live little yellow-shouldered bats captured at two different sites in Guatemala. That type of bat is not known to bite humans but feeds on fruit, and is native to Central and South America.

Previous flu pandemics, such as the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, which came to the public's attention as "swine flu," have been known to originate in animals and eventually transform so that they gain the ability to infect people. "Fortunately, initial laboratory testing suggests the new virus would need to undergo significant changes to become capable of infecting and spreading easily among humans," said Ruben Donis, chief of the Molecular Virology and Vaccines Branch in CDC's Influenza Division.

"A different animal — such as a pig, horse or dog — would need to be capable of being infected with both this new bat influenza virus and human influenza viruses for reassortment to occur." —Internet



This file illustration shows bats hanging from the ceiling of an abandoned building.—INTERNET

Japan retail sales boosted by surge in demand for cars

TOKYO, 3 March—Japan's retail sales rose more-than-expected in January driven up by a surge in car sales as government subsidies on energy efficient cars boosted demand. Retail sales rose 1.9% from a year earlier, with car sales up by 24%. The jump comes after Japan reintroduced subsidies of up to 100,000 yen (\$1245; £786) per car to encourage sales.

The country's carmakers were among the

worst hit businesses by last year's earthquake and tsunami. In December, the Japanese government announced that it would set aside 300bn yen as part of its subsidy programme for energy efficient cars.

Analysts said the subsidies were likely to boost sales further in the coming months.

"The Japanese automotive association predicts that domestic car sales in 2012 will reach 5 million, up 19% year-on-year due to subsidy



and normalization of the supply chain disruption," said Takuji Okubo of Societe Generale in Tokyo. "Car sales account for 10% of Japanese

Japanese authorities have been trying to boost sales of energy efficient cars within the country.—INTERNET

retail sales, and if the association's prediction is true, it would boost overall retail sales by 1.9% in 2012."

Internet

GM may buy small stake in Peugeot



Peugeot Citroen sales fell almost 9% in Europe last year.—INTERNET

LONDON, 3 March—General Motors is close to buying a small stake in Peugeot Citroen, reports say. The two companies are discussing a strategic alliance in Europe where GM's Opel brand lost \$747m (£472m) last year. As part of that deal GM is ready to buy a stake of about 7% in Peugeot, according to Bloomberg news. Last year, Peugeot's car-making business reported a loss due to tough conditions in the European car market. It is thought that the two companies are discussing a plan to develop vehicles together.

They would then sell those cars under their own brands. The deal could be announced in the next few days, Reuters reports, adding that GM is likely to buy a stake of less than 5%. A deal would require the approval of the Peugeot family, which still holds 30% of the company's shares, and because of the way those shares are structured, the family has 48% of voting rights among shareholders.—Internet

Business

Nokia pins hopes on cheaper Windows smartphone

BARCELONA, 3 March—Struggling cell phone maker Nokia kicked off the world's largest mobile phone trade show Monday by unveiling a new low-cost Windows smartphone that operators could give away free to customers, and another aimed at snap-happy consumers demanding better photo quality. Chief executive Stephen Elop told reporters at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona that the new phones — a low-price euro189 (\$254) smartphone that runs on Windows software and a handset with a high-resolution 41 megapixel camera — demonstrate "the actions necessary to improve the fortunes of Nokia." "With great products for consumers, I think the rest will fall into place," Elop said. In many countries, cell phone companies subsidize the sale of smartphones to customers who sign contracts.

The low price of the new phone means their out-of-pocket costs would be low, even if they give the handset away. But shares of Nokia Corp. closed down more than 6 percent at euro4.06 (\$5.44) on the Helsinki Stock Exchange after the announcements, wiping out gains made Friday when investors had hoped the Finnish company would map out bolder plans to claw back market share.—Internet



The chief executive officer of Nokia Corporation Stephen Elop, talks to the journalists during a press conference at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, on 27 Feb, 2012.

INTERNET

Melting Arctic link to cold, snowy UK winters



This winter brought snow as far south as Greece.—INTERNET

LONDON, 3 March—The progressive shrinking of Arctic sea ice is bringing colder, snowier winters to the UK and other areas of Europe, North America and China, a study shows.

As global temperatures have risen, the area of Arctic Ocean covered by ice in summer and autumn has been falling. Writing in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), a US/China-based team show this affects the jet stream and brings cold, snowy weather. Whether conditions will get colder still as ice melts further is unclear.

There was a marked deterioration in ice cover between the summers of

2006 and 2007, which still holds the record for the lowest extent on record; and it has not recovered since. The current winter is roughly tracking the graph of 2007, according to the US National Snow and Ice Data Centre (NSIDC). The new study is not the first to propose a causal relationship between low Arctic ice in autumn and Europe's winter weather. But it has gone further than others in assessing the strength of the link.

Through observations and computer modelling, the team headed by Jiping Liu from Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, US, and the Institute of Atmospheric Physics in Beijing has also elucidated

the mechanisms involved. "For the past four winters, for much of the northern US, east Asia and Europe, we had this persistent above-normal snow cover," Dr Liu told BBC News. "We don't see a predictive relationship with any of the other factors that have been proposed, such as El Niño; but for sea ice, we do see a predictive relationship."

Internet

Oldest new world cave art discovered

NEW YORK, 3 March—Cave painting connects us with our prehistoric artist ancestors. But there's a dearth of such illustration in the Americas. Now a cave in Brazil has been found to house the oldest New World image known. The shelter was excavated from 2002 to 2009. In the last days there, scientists exposed a foot-high figure in the bedrock. It has a c-shaped head, two outstretched arms, two legs, and a very visible penis.

Using radiocarbon dating, the researchers dated an ash layer to between 9300 and 10,500 years ago. A hearth found about an inch above the drawing gives similar results. And the researchers used a technique called optically stimulated luminescence on sediment, which also dated to around 10-12,000 years ago.

The scientists say this makes the petroglyph the oldest reliably dated cave art in the Americas. The research was published in journal *Public Library of Science One*. Echoes of this style exist in other early art in the region, amidst diverse styles throughout North and South America. The researchers the range of images reveals a spectrum of symbolic thought dating back to early in the history of human colonization of the hemisphere.—Internet

Cornwall deer population increasing

LONDON, 3 March—The deer population in Cornwall has risen 10-fold in the past decade, experts have said. The British Deer Society's South West branch said herds up to 20-strong were now regularly spotted. The initial rise has been credited to deer having more roaming space since the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak led to livestock being killed or kept inside.

A population survey is being carried out and will be published in the summer. Paul Messenger, the society's regional spokesperson, said: "I'm seeing a greater number and more people come to the society and say they saw one or two deer a few years ago but now they're seeing herds of 10 or 20 at a time."

However, a rise in deer numbers could have a detrimental effect. Just last year the British Trust for Ornithology carried out research into the impact deer had on falling bird populations such as nightingales as it was claimed the animals could reduce the quality of the birds' habitat. The



There have been multiple sightings of roe, red and fallow deer species in Cornwall.—INTERNET

Tregothnan Estate, near Truro, which grows and sells tea and holly, has also been affected. The estate is home to about 300 fallow deer and wild deer also roam nearby.

Internet



Ship's anchor slows down East African web connection

NAIROBI, 3 March—East Africa's high-speed Internet access has been severely disrupted after a ship dropped its anchor onto fibre-optic cables off Kenya's coast. The ship was waiting to enter Mombasa — one of Africa's busiest ports — when it anchored in a restricted area. It could take up to 14 days to repair, cable owners The East African Marine Systems (Teams) told the BBC. This is one of three undersea cables to have arrived in the region since 2009, delivering faster internet access.

Cables run by Teams, which is partly owned by the Kenyan government, and Eassy—a consortium of telecoms companies — were damaged at the weekend. Internet service providers and mobile phone operators have re-routed to the Seacom link — which was not damaged by the dropped anchor. But the companies have only bought a small amount of bandwidth because of cost. The BBC's Noel Mwakugu in Nairobi says as a result Internet connections are expected to slow down by 20% in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Ethiopia and South Sudan's capital, Juba.



East Africa has enjoyed high-speed Internet access since 2009.—INTERNET

Seacom — the first to be up and running — links East Africa to Europe, India and South Africa. Teams links the region to the United Arab Emirates — and Eassy, which went live in July 2010, links countries along the East African coast. Correspondents say that since then, the increased bandwidth has given a boost to mobile services and the burgeoning tech scene of home-grown developers, programmers and designers in Kenya. In the first 12 months after the cables arrived, the number of internet subscriptions in the country jumped from 1.8m to 3.1m.—Internet

MWC 2012: Nokia reveals 41MP cameraphone

BARCELONA, 3 March — A 41-megapixel Nokia smartphone was among the new technology on show during the opening day of Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. The 808 Pureview offers enhanced low-light performance as well as sophisticated image compression designed to help users share pictures. Nokia hopes to regain ground lost to Google and Apple in the mobile market. However, some have criticised Nokia's decision to use its own operating system, Symbian, on the device. Nokia's other smartphones typically run on Microsoft's Windows Phone software.

Symbian, which first appeared on Nokia phones in the 90s, is widely regarded as inferior to the app and social media-driven Windows Phone system. "The Pureview 808's Symbian Belle operating system might detract from its appeal to a broader market, where it deserves recognition," said Tony Cripps, a principal analyst with Ovum. "It's a pity that Nokia was unable to combine the photographic prowess of the PureView 808 with the style of the Lumia 900. "Such a device may well have been the first smartphone to truly deserve the title of 'superphone'."

Nokia claims the 808 sets a "new industry standard" in mobile imaging devices. "People will inevitably focus on the 41 megapixel sensor," said Jo Harlow, executive vice-president of Nokia smart devices.—Internet



A man takes a look at the Nokia 808 Preview.

INTERNET



Proview seeks to regain global rights to iPad name



A customer tries out Apple's iPad 2 at a retail shop in Chongqing, China, on 27 Feb, 2012. INTERNET

SHANGHAI, 3 March—Proview Electronics says it is now seeking to regain worldwide rights to the iPad name and is suing Apple Inc for alleged fraud and unfair competition, hoping to have a 2009 sale of the trademark ruled void.

The Taiwan-based maker of LED lights said in a release late Monday that it had amended its lawsuit filed earlier this month in Santa Clara, California's Superior Court.

Apart from having the trademark sale voided, it also

is seeking unspecified compensation, a share of Apple's profits from alleged "unfair competition" and an order for Apple to stop using the trademarks. Apple had no immediate comment. Proview insists it owns the rights to the iPad trademark in mainland China. A Shanghai court last week rejected its demand for an injunction preventing Apple from selling the iPad.

It also postponed hearing the case pending a decision by a court in southern China's Guangdong Province, where Proview's mainland Chinese factory is based. The

Guangdong High Court is due to convene Wednesday for an appeal by Apple of a lower court judgment against the US company's claim to the trademark.

It is unclear if Proview's latest legal maneuver is driven by the expectation of a favorable ruling by the Guangdong High Court or by its desire to push Apple for an out-of-court settlement—an option Proview's lawyers have said would be possible. Apple has given no sign it would be willing to settle. It contends Proview failed to transfer ownership of the mainland Chinese iPad trademark as agreed in the 2009 deal.—Internet

New schools opened in Thandaunggyi Township

THANDAUNGGYI, 3 March—A ceremony to open the new building of Basic Education Primary School was held in Htamon Ngwetaung Village of Leiktho Sub-Township in Thandaunggyi Township of Kayin State on 10 February morning.

First, Kayin State Hluttaw representative UJA Win Myint and Assistant

Township Education Officer U Saw Tha Du cut the ribbon to open the school building.

On 11 February morning, a similar ceremony was held in front of Basic Education Primary School in Pheboauk Village.

Administrator of Leiktho Sub-Township U Moe Hein and Assistant Township Education

Officer U Saw Tha Du formally opened the school building.

The school building in Htamon Ngwetaung is of 40 feet long, 30 feet wide one-storey facility with corrugated iron sheet roofing. The school building in Pheboauk is 70 feet long and 30 feet wide, and it is one-storey building.

Township Education

DISTRICT NEWS



REPAVED ROAD COMMISSIONED: Anawrahta Road, repaved with asphalt by Einme Township Development Affairs Committee, was inaugurated in Einme Township on 5 February. Township Administrator U Yazar Win, Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw representative U Mya Than and Executive Officer U Kyaw Soe of Township Development Affairs Committee formally opened the repaved road.—TOWNSHIP IPRD

Vitamin A fed to children

YANGON, 3 March—Myothit C Ward Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women's Affairs Organization of Insein Township provided health care services in the six-month plan to the local people.

On 11 and 12 February, the organizations cooperated with health staff Daw Aye Aye Tin and Daw Ei Wah Hlaing fed vitamin A and anti-hookworm medicines to 317 children between six months and five years old of Myothit Ward C.—Kyemon

FIRE PREVENTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: Administrator of Myitta Nyunt Ward U Tin Oo and party, the deputy commanding officer of Township Auxiliary Fire Battalion and members of Ward Auxiliary Fire Brigade inspected fire preventive measures at public residences, warehouses, use of fire and fire extinguishers on 11 February.—MYANMA ALIN



News BEPS building handed over in Letpadan

LETPADAN, 3 March—The donation of new school building took place at Basic Education Primary School No. 2 in Nyaunggon Village of Kuntheedabin Village tract in Letpadan Township, Bago Region, on 11 February.

Next, Township Administrator U Nay Myo Than, Township Education Officer U Thaung Htay and wellwisher U San Nyein formally opened the new school building.

The wellwisher explained the purpose of donations and handed over documents related to the school building to the

Township Education Officer.

Headmaster U Thaung Htut spoke words of thanks.

The school building, 60 feet long, 30 feet wide and 15 feet high, was constructed at a cost of K 12.4 million contributed by wellwisher U San Nyein-Daw Tin Thawt of Nyaunggon Village.

Myanma Alin

Winners awarded in National Tennis Championships 2012

YANGON, 3 March—The final matches of the National Tennis Championships 2012, organized by Myanmar Tennis Federation, were held at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Yangon on 25 February.

After the final matches, President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Aung Maw Thein presented the medals and cash awards to first prize winner Phyo Min Tha, second prize winner Aung Kyaw Naing and joint third prize winners Min Min and Khin Maung Win in the men's open singles' class.

Officials also medals and cash awards to first prize

winners Khin Maung Win and Phyo Min Tha, second prize winners Min Min and Aung Kyaw Naing and joint third prize winners Aung Moe and Aye Tun, and Christopher and Win Myaing in the men's open doubles event; first prize winner Aung Moe and second prize winner Aye Tun in the men's above-45 singles event, first prize winners Zaw Zaw and Aung Moe and second prize winner Aye Tun and Kyaw San Win in the men's above-45 doubles event; first prize winner Thein Aung and second prize winner Aung Myint in the men's above-60 singles' event.—MNA



LOCAL SPORTS

Prizes awarded to winners in badminton, table tennis

TACHILEK, 3 March—The Badminton and Table Tennis Contests, organized by Tachilek District Badminton Subcommittee, took place at the gymnasium in the township on 10 February.

In the prize presentation, Assistant Director U Aung Zaw Lwin of District Sports and Physical Education Department and Patron of District Badminton Subcommittee Dr Tin Aung Yin made speeches.

Police Major Myo Min of District Special Branch of Myanmar Police Force, Assistant Director U Aung Zaw Lwin of District SPED, U Sai Sai (Moe Thauk Kyel) and officials presented prizes to respective winners.—District IPRD



New school building put into service in Wetlet Township

WETLET, 3 March—A ceremony to open Gangaw school building was held at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Kyaytheegon Village of Wetlet Township in Shwebo District, Sagaing Region, on 16 February.

Region Hluttaw representative U Ye Tint, Township Administrator U Aung Myint and Township Education Officer Daw Sein Tint cut the ribbon to open the school building.

Region Minister for Transport U Tin Ngwe formally unveiled the signboard of the school building.

After that, the Region Transport Minister made a speech.

Headmistress of the

school Daw Myint Myint Khin reported on construction of the new building and handed over documents related to the building to Township Education Officer U Sein Tin.

The school building was

120 feet long, 30 feet wide and 12 feet high facility.

The building was constructed at a cost of K 23.6 million contributed by the Ministry of Education and K 13.1 million by the local people.

Township IPRD

TRAFFIC RULES TALKED: Loilem District Directorate of Road Administration of Shan State (South) is striving for reduction of traffic accidents in its district. Head of District DRA U Chit Tin gave talks on traffic rules at highway bus terminal in Kunhing Township on 20 February.—DISTRICT DRA



Head of Hline Township Immigration and National Registration Department and staff on 28 February issued citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible people of Ward 1 in line with Moe Pwint Plan-2. MYANMA ALIN

Modern technological infrastructures for national race youths of Kayin and Mon States to pursue higher education in their regions

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye



- * Although Kayin State was facilitated with only Hpa-an Degree College in Hpa-an Township in the past, Hpa-an University, Technological University (Hpa-an) and University of Computer Studies (Hpa-an) have emerged there.
- * Thanks to construction of higher education and technological institutions in Kayin State, national race youths grasp learning opportunities to pursue not only higher education but also modern technology. In consequence, a large number of highly-qualified human resources have been well developed in the nation and the state.



- University of Computer Studies (Hpa-an) that can provide advanced computer technology students of Kayin State to become computer technicians. (See top photo)
- Students of Mon State are joyfully learning education at Mawlamyine University in Mawlamyine of Mon State. (See second photo)
- Photo shows magnificent view of Technological University (Hpa-an) in background of Zwegabin Hill in Kayin State. (See left photo)

Translation: TTA

Students of Mon State are pursuing higher education at three-storey buildings of Technological University (Mawlamyine).



It is very important for fourth estate...

(from page 1)

U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Tun Foundation Literary Award and Thuta Swesone Literary Award are being presented and the government welcomes more emerging literary award foundations.

The Union Minister continue to say that it is very important for the fourth estate to be of good quality so that the nation can transform itself into a democracy in a correct and efficient manner. Then, he stressed the need to follow journalistic ethics such as impartiality, describing from various angles, not from one single angle, in writing a certain subject in order that the people can review and decide correctly, exercising freedom and accountability and freedom and rationality, ensuring unity in democracy and upholding the national cause in exercising unity in democracy.

In extending his greetings, MWJA Chairman U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) said he respects Sayawun Tin Shwe. As a doctor, he performed his medical duties steadfastly while he shouldered literary duties in the public interest. His works of literature ranged from knowledge, aesthetics, medicine to Theravada Buddhism. Moreover, he dedicated his life to philanthropic work such as healthcare services. Next, he expressed his thanks to the family members of Sayawun Tin Shwe for presenting the literary award in

accord with the wishes of Sayawun Tin Shwe. This year, honorary literary award also called life-time literary award has been presented to writer-cum-poet Saya Zaw Gyi. The committee will continue cooperation with the Information Ministry, noted U Tin Hlaing.

U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe), member of Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award Selection Committee, briefed on the remarks of the committee.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan awarded Dr Win Swe who won the award for his book on Chithseikye-thinthumya.

Next, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe awarded Professor Thein; Region Minister Daw San San Nwe awarded Kyi Soe Tun; MWJA Chairman U Tin Hlaing awarded U Khin Maung Yi on behalf of award winner Hla Thein; and Daw Aye Thant, wife of Sayawun Tin Shwe, presented honorary literary award Daw Hla Yin Min, on behalf of Saya Zaw Gyi.

Daw Aye Thant presented gifts for the members of the award selection committee to Dr Kyaw Sein and award winning writers spoke words of thanks.

Later, the Union Minister cordially greeted those present.—MNA

**Union Minister for Information and for Culture
U Kyaw Hsan awards Dr Win Swe who secured
prize in 10th Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary
Award.—MNA**



Union Cooperatives Minister meets members of cooperative societies, breeding entrepreneurs

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—As cooperative system initially flourished from Myinmu in Myanmar, Sagaing Region was the place of victory in cooperative system of Myanmar; and in fact, cooperative system can bridge any business with others, said Union Minister for Cooperatives U Ohn Myint at the meeting with district and township level departmental officials, members of cooperative societies from Shwebo and KhinU Townships and livestock breeding entrepreneurs at Yan Gyi Aung Hall in Shwebo on 29 February.

Under the Cooperatives Law 1992, he said that the loans are being disbursed to the needy people through collective responsibility system. As agriculture task can earn incomes four to five months after its starting period, livestock breeding works are to be carried out on a manageable scale so as to establish integrated farms, he urged.

Officials of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries discussed matters related to cooperative, meat and fish sectors with members of the cooperative societies and livestock breeding entrepreneurs.

At Cooperative University (Sagaing), the Union Minister met Deputy Principal U Aung Thura and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that thanks to benevolence and correct endeavours of the government, investors from international community will get job opportunities. Graduates and diploma holders of Cooperative University will have many job opportunities. Students of the university are to focus on cooperative science to be able to apply their experiences in practical works such as businesses, companies, cooperative societies and departments, he urged.

MNA

**Union Commerce
Minister U Win Myint
receives Vice-Chairman
Mr Izumi Arai
and party of Japan
International
Cooperation Agency
(JICA) at his office
on 29 February.
(News reported)**

MNA



Fourth day third regular session of first Shan State Hluttaw held

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—The fourth day third regular session of the first Shan State Hluttaw was held at 10 am on 1 March, in the attendance of Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Speaker of the Hluttaw U Sai Lone Hsaing, state ministers and a total of 135 representatives.

At the session, there were a total of 15 queries relating to education, health, rural development, mines, forest, Pyidaungsu Road and agricultural lands, replied by state level organization members, and the proposal “to allocate additional budget for Shan State in 2012” approved. The session came to an end at 2:55 pm on that day.

MNA

First Rakhine State Hluttaw's third regular session held

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—The sixth day third regular session of the first Rakhine State Hluttaw was held at 10 am on 29 February, attended by Speaker of the Hluttaw U Htein Lin and 40 representatives.

There were 19 queries shot by those representatives replied by State level organization members. The Rakhine State Minister for Finance and Revenue, instead of Rakhine State Government, tabled the proposal to approve the bill on allocation additional budget for Rakhine State in 2012, which was agreed by one representative. The Hluttaw sought the proposal to be discussed, and came to an end at 12 noon of that day.

MNA

Public Works urged to step up efforts for completion of projects

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint called for stepping up efforts for completion of projects of the ministry meeting the set standard and for using allocation of the budget for the projects in accordance with the rules and regulations and minimizing of loss and wastages.

At the work coordination meeting with special construction groups of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction and superintending engineers at the ministry here yesterday, he also urged the deputy ministers of the ministry to make efforts for the projects of the ministry.

During the meeting, Managing Director U Kyaw Lin of Public Works clarified the steps to be obeyed by officials of the ministry and rules and regulations and superintending and deputy superintending engineers reported on the projects of the ministry.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Ministers U Soe Tint and U Kyaw Lwin, superintending engineers and deputy superintending engineers of the special construction groups of the ministry.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the minister.—MNA

Immigration and Population Ministry seeks advice of UNFPA for compiling census

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—A ceremony to acquire suggestions for compiling census for the entire nation by 2014 was held in the Ministry of Immigration and Population here on 1 March.

Chairman of the Central Census Committee Deputy Minister U Kyaw Kyaw Win explained undertakings of the ministry.

Resident Representative Mr Mohamed S Abdel-Ahad of United Nations Fund for Population Activities discussed UNFPA aid programmes for compiling the census and Advisor Mr Ricardo Neupert, necessity of technologies and equipment, field surveys, trainings, challenges and ways for collecting accurate data.

The deputy minister and officials also participated in discussions.—MNA

Stake driven for construction of library



PATHEIN, 3 March—A ceremony to donate the plot for monastery was held in conjunction with the stake driving ceremony for Dhammazedi Library in Kyakhatchaung Village of Thitpokkon Village-tract in Pathein Township on 17 February.

Ledi Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sunanda of Ward 9 in Pathein explained the purpose of donation and handed over documents of the plot related to Township Education Officer U Kyin Thaung.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung spoke words of thanks.

Sayadaws Bhaddanta Sunanda and Bhaddanta Saddhammacara and party drove stakes for construction of the library.

District IPRD

Transformer upgraded in Phayagyi Sub-power Station



BAGO, 3 March—Phayagyi Sub-Power Station of Bago Region Electrical Engineer's Office of Electricity Supply Enterprise under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 supplied electricity to Phayagyi, Phayagale and Waw through 33/11 KV 5 MVA transformer in the past. Electricity Supply Enterprise submitted

installation of 10 MVA transformer in the placement of 33/11 KV 1 MVA transformer and upgraded protection system.

As of 24 February, the enterprise is supplying electricity to the local people of Phayagyi, Phayagale and Waw for power consumption at full capacity round the clock.

Township ESE

Fire preventive measures inspected

PUTAO, 3 March—The Deputy Commissioner of Putao District General Administration Department, heads of District Information and Public Relations Department and Township GAD, the commander of Township Police Force, the Assistant Engineer of Township Development Affairs Committee, officials and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade inspected systematic use of fire at Myoma Market and Putao Airport Market in Putao on 13 February.

They explained systematic use of fire extinguishers.—*District IPRD*

Take Fire Preventive Measures

DISTRICT NEWS

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued

YANGON, 3 March—Moe Pwint-2 plan is being implemented in wards of Shwepyith Township of Yangon Region.

On 23 February, Staff Officer U Thein Zaw Oo of Township Immigration and National Registration Department and staff in cooperation with ward administrator U Aye Lwin and officials issued citizenship scrutiny cards and household registrations to the local people.

Myanma Alin

VITAMIN FED: Kyaukmyaunggyi Ward Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women's Affairs Organization of Tamway Township on 9 February fed vitamins to expectant mothers and vitamin A and anti-hookworm medicines to children from six months to five years old at the ward office.

MYANMA ALIN



Nawngkhio Township gets village library

NAWNGKHIO, 3 March—The opening ceremony of Phyo Thuta Library was held in Bantwwe Village of Bantwwe Village-tract in Nawngkhio Township of Kyaukme District in Shan State on 12 February morning.

Responsible persons opened the building of the library. Township Administrator U Soe Min Htut gave a speech.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Than Than Htwe explained the durability of the library.

Wellwishers donated cash and publications for the library to officials.—*Township IPRD*



SIGNBOARDS PUT UP: Staff members of Muse District and Township Electrical Engineers' Offices put up signboards for prevention against danger of electricity and distributed pamphlets to the local people in Humon Ward of Muse on 12 February.

District IPRD

Myaungmya gets village library

MYAUNGMYA, 3 March—The Pyinnya Banktaik library was opened in Mwetawtechaung Village in Myaungmya Township on 23 February.

Myaungmya Township administrator U Ko Ko Latt, Staff Officer of Myaungmya Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Hla Kyi and Mwedaw Village administrator U Tin Soe formally opened the library.

After the township administrator had

made a speech, the staff office of the District IPRD explained progress of library meeting five-point standard and emergence of enduring library. She donated 400 copies of magazines and journals to the library. Senior Engineer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Naing Lin Maung sponsored purchase of a daily for the library.

The 20 feet long and 15 feet wide library was built at a cost of K 1.5 million by the local people.—*District IPRD*



MLF invites wellwishers to donate 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 Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.

Literary talks mark library anniversary

YANGON, 3 March—The second anniversary of Amyinhtit Library was held in Myothit Ward C in Insein Township of Yangon on 18 February.

The township administrator and CEC members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association spoke on the occasion.

On behalf of Myanmar Libraries Foundation, the

head of Township Information and Public Relations Department donated books and publications to the library.

Next, film director Academy Kyi Soe Tun gave literary talks entitled from the literature to the movies, writer Maung Sein Win (Padeegon) the hero, and Nu Nu Yi (Inwa), the patriotism that I know.

Kyemon



Hole-in-one at Thanlyin Golf Club

YANGON, 3 March—Mr Kwon Soo Gyoung scored an ace of Callaway No. 3 ball into 101-yard hole No. 17 with the use of Swrd Wedge (Taiwa) at Thanlyin Golf Club on 4 February.

At that time, he played together with Mr Moon Cheang Ho, Mr Chang Tuk Gu and Mr Tu Tae Young.

Myanma Alin



Fire fighters hose down fire at a leather product market in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 27 Feb, 2012. The fire has been put under control. No casualties have been reported so far. —XINHUA

London 2012 venues face toilet trouble

LONDON, 3 March—The organizers of the 2012 London Olympics are faced with toilet trouble ahead of the mega sporting event in July.

According to documents obtained from the Olympic Delivery Authority under the Freedom of Information Act, test events at the new handball and basketball arenas were riddled with blocked toilet problems, the *Daily Express* reported.

Plumbers were called out 32 times to the two test events last summer, including to one lavatory malfunction in the basketball stadium's VIP loo. Much thought was put into the design of the Olympic Park's thousands of toilets in an attempt to make the Games green.

There are concerns that the green targets might be the reason behind the blocked toilet problem. The loos have water-saving dual flushes, which, when used in large commercial environments where the drainage pipes are far longer and shallower than in domestic homes, are more prone to blockages.—*Internet*



Two keepers extract milk with a breast pump from a seal mother for the deserted baby seal at the Sun Asia Ocean Park in Dalian City, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 21 Feb, 2012. The keepers here have to act as "mothers" of a baby seal, who was deserted and assaulted by its mother. —XINHUA

Anti-drug official accused of drug ties

BOGOTA, 3 March—The former head of the anti-narcotics initiative "Plan Colombia" faced questioning regarding suspected drug trafficking ties, officials said.

Sandra Suarez, former executive director of the US-funded initiative, was appointed by former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe in 2002 to help combat drug trafficking.

The former Information and Communications Technology director of the now-defunct intelligence agency has accused Suarez of involvement with a regional paramilitary group.

The office of the prosecutor general has said the investigation into Suarez's involvement is preliminary, and her questioning on Monday was voluntary. She was to make a statement Wednesday. So far she has denied involvement and accused the intelligence official of slander.

The paramilitary group, before it was demobilized in 2006, was designated by many countries, including the United States, as a terrorist organization, and was responsible for most drug trafficking in the country.

Suarez is accused of collaborating with three governors and one of the paramilitary group's main leaders, known as Jorge 40, to expand its power into the north of the country in 2006. All three governors have since been sentenced for their ties to Jorge 40, *Colombia Today* reported.

Jorge 40 was extradited to the United States in 2008.—*Internet*

Most factories in Thailand recovered from flood

BANGKOK, 3 March—Most flood-hit factories have already resumed operations as they recovered from the crisis, Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) said on Tuesday.

Based on the meeting of Strategic Committee for Reconstruction and Future Development (SCRF) which is formed by the government to fight flood, 44 percent of the factories situated within

industrial estates have begun manufacturing, whereas 78 percent of those outside industrial estates have also undergone full recovery, said NESDB's Secretary-General Arkom Termpitayapaisit.

However, it takes longer to recover for the electronics and automotive groups as new machinery has yet to be installed.

Regarding the 4 billion-baht (132 million US dollars) construction of floodwalls

around industrial estates, the Ministry of Finance is set to propose that the cabinet provide funding for two-thirds of the total budget.

During heaviest flood situation from July to mid-December last year, almost a thousand of factories were inundated, about 70 percent of which were Japanese companies. As a result, over 600,000 employees were at the risk of losing their jobs.

Xinhua

Huge rare pink diamond found in Australia

PERTH, 3 March—Mining giant Rio Tinto said it has unearthed a "remarkable" 12.76 carat pink diamond in Australia, the largest of the rare and precious stones ever found in the resources-rich nation.

Named the Argyle Pink Jubilee, the huge rough stone was found at Rio's pink diamond operations in the Kimberley region of western Australia and would take 10 days to cut and polish, the miner said on Wednesday.

"This rare diamond is generating incredible excitement. A diamond of this calibre is unprecedented — it has taken 26 years of Argyle production to unearth this stone and we may never see one like this again," said Josephine Johnson from Rio's Argyle Pink

Diamonds division.

"The individual who gets to wear this remarkable pink diamond will be incredibly lucky indeed."

The light pink Argyle Jubilee is a similar colour to the 24-carat Williamson Pink given to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as a wedding gift which was later set into a Cartier brooch for her coronation.

The Williamson was discovered in Tanzania in 1947 and is ranked among the finest pink diamonds in existence.

Rio produces more than 90 percent of the world's pink diamonds from the Argyle mine, and said large stones like the Jubilee typically went to museums, were gifted to royalty or end up at prestigious auction houses like Christie's.—*Internet*



This photo, released by mining giant Rio Tinto on 22 February, shows a 12.76 carat pink diamond — the largest of the rare and precious stones ever found in Australia.

INTERNET

Mails containing suspicious powder reached Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON, 3 March—US lawmakers' congressional offices on Capitol Hill were targeted by mails containing suspicious powder, media reported on Monday.

"In addition to the suspicious letters sent to Senate state offices last week, similar letters addressed to Senate offices in (Washington) DC have been received," the Hill newspaper, which specializes in reporting to the Congress, quoted Senate Sergeant at Arms Terry Gainer as saying.

The letters were

intercepted at the Senate's off-site mailing screening facility and all tests thus far have indicated the letters contained no hazardous materials, he noted in an email to Senate offices.

"Arrival of the letters in DC today is further evidence of the bothersome commitment of the individual or group behind these mailings," Gainer said. "All staff, here in DC and in the state offices, should remain vigilant and follow our established mail-handling protocols."

Last week, district offices for lawmakers including Senators Joe Lieberman, Patty Murray and Pat Roberts received such letters, according to the report.

Gainer also confirmed that all the threatening mails received thus far have been postmarked from Portland, Oregon.

The US capital area — some landmarks such as the White House, the Capitol Hill and the Pentagon in particular — has long been the target of terrorist plots.—*Xinhua*

Three generations go skydiving

PERRIS, 3 March—A California woman said she celebrated her 75th birthday by skydiving with her daughter and grandson.

Faith Gower, who turned 75 Tuesday, said she was inspired to take the Sunday jump at Skydive Perris in Perris, Calif., after watching former President George H.W. Bush jump out of a plane to mark his 85th birthday, *The (Riverside) Press-Enterprise* reported on Tuesday.

"I liked being in the air and thought it would be fun to jump," Gower said.

She said she asked her daughter, Kimberly Main, who turned 50 last month, to jump with her and they decided to bring Main's son, Robert Richardson, 28, who took a skydiving trip to celebrate his 21st birthday.

"Thank you guys for coming with me. You made it so special," Gower told her family members after the jump.

Gower said she might be interested in skydiving again, "but not today."

Internet



Photo taken on 21 Feb, 2012 shows the Aquatics Centre in London, capital of Britain. The Aquatics Centre will be the venue for swimming, Paralympic swimming, diving, synchronized swimming and the swimming element of modern pentathlon.

XINHUA

Israel to test missile defence system

JERUSALEM, 3 March—Israel will test its next-generation Arrow 3 missile defence system, the authorities said on Thursday.

"The initial trial of the advanced Arrow 3 will be performed in the near future to confirm the interceptor's effectiveness," Itzhak Kaya, head of the Arrow Missile Programme at Israel

Aerospace Industries (IAI), said. "A series of different tests will be run to establish the system's high level of reliability within a short time," he said at a military exhibition near Tel Aviv, *Xinhua* reported.

Kaya said that Arrow 3, which utilizes a radar system named "Green Pine", is "more capable than ever" to deal

with future threats. In limited tests conducted a few weeks ago, he said, the system demonstrated improved identification and tracking of incoming missiles "with high levels of certainty".

Asked whether planned cuts to Israel's defence budget would delay completion of the system's development and its acquisition by the Israeli military, Kaya said the programme was "on track".

The Israel Air Force currently deploys two Arrow 2 batteries, with a third on the way. Arrow 3, which is slated to comprise the upper tier of Israel's missile defences, is

scheduled to enter service in 2015.

"There is no such thing as 100 percent defence, but the Arrow is capable of providing adequate defence against Iran's Shahab and Sajil ballistic missiles," Arieh Herzog, who recently stepped down as director of the defence ministry's Homa Missile Defence Agency (HMDA), told *The Jerusalem Post*.

"The Iranians have the ability to launch barrages and that is an important part of their capabilities, but we are prepared and have the ability to intercept those barrages," Herzog said.—*Internet*

Deadly virus killing livestock in Britain

LONDON, 3 March—Schmallenberg, a deadly virus for which there is no cure, is spreading across Britain and causing stillbirths and birth defects in sheep, goats and cattle.

The government has confirmed the virus has reached the southern part of the country after being detected in Germany and the Netherlands last year, the *Daily Express* reported.

According to the BBC,

humans are thought to be unaffected by the virus.

The virus — spread by flies, mosquitoes and ticks — has been found at 74 farms in 12 British counties and on the Isle of Wight.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said it suspected livestock may have got the virus from infected flies blown across the English Channel from affected areas in Europe.

Internet



A fired clay pot with female figurines at the early dynastic royal cemetery of Umm el-Qaab is on display at the Cairo Museum.

INTERNET

British couple caught smuggling artefacts in Egypt

CAIRO, 3 March—Egyptian police prevented a British man and his wife from smuggling 19 artefacts out of the country, an antiquities official told *AFP* on Sunday.

The couple were stopped in the southern Luxor airport with an assortment of relics including figurines and pots dating back to several eras, said Hassan Rasmi, who monitors the movement of antiquities in the country.

Police referred the wife to the prosecution after she broke three of the relics. Egypt has a rich heritage of Pharaonic, Greco-Roman and Islamic antiquities which are often the prey of robbers and smugglers. The country's former antiquities chief Zahi Hawass said more than 5,000 relics had been returned to the country since 2002.—*Internet*

Tornadoes kill 14 in central US

CHICAGO, 3 March—At least 14 people were killed and an entire town was wiped out after tornadoes blew through the US heartland and inflicted extensive property damage on Friday afternoon, local press reported.

In Indiana, eight people died and a small town called Marysville was destroyed. Five others were killed in Kentucky while a man is found dead in an Ohio mobile home.

Storm warnings were being issued across the Midwest and the Southeast, with Schools, government offices and businesses shutting down ahead of the storms, which arrived on the heels of a series of tornadoes that killed 13 people in Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Tennessee two days ago.

There was "extensive damage" to the Henryville Junior-Senior

High School in the Clark County, Indiana, according to Maj. Chuck Adams of the county sheriff's department.

The school building's roof were torn off, with parts of the walls knocked down and windows blown out.

Students who remained at the school when the disaster struck suffered only minor injuries such as cuts and bruises.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Gordon said they have about "half a dozen reports of tornadoes on the ground" as well as reports about "significant damage." He warned that the worst may still be to come.

The threat of tornadoes was expected to remain in place till late on Friday for parts of Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana and Ohio.

Xinhua



A visitor looks at Tony Cragg's works at the gallery of China Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, capital of China, on 2 March, 2012. Turner Prize-winning sculptor Tony Cragg holds his first personal exhibition in China from 2 March to 15 April. Fifty sculpture works and 127 paper works of the British artist are displayed at the exhibition.—*XINHUA*

Minister says obesity threatens Canadian children

OTTAWA, 3 March—Canada is facing an epidemic of childhood obesity, with more children being diagnosed today with dangerous conditions like high blood pressure and Type 2 Diabetes, Canada's Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq warned on Monday.

"Today, more than one in four young Canadians is overweight or obese, with rates

even higher among aboriginal people," Leona Aglukkaq said at the opening of a federal-provincial summit on healthy weights in Ottawa, capital of Canada. "We owe it to our children — and to future generations — to reverse the obesity trend, so that they can live long, healthy lives."

Information released by the government shows the number of obese children is

rising at a startling rate. Overweight adults are a serious problem in Canada, but the rate of increase in childhood obesity is even higher. According to Statistics Canada, the federal department that collects data on national trends, 17 percent of children in Canada are overweight; nine percent are obese.

The proportion of teenage boys classified as overweight or obese has more than doubled since 1981, climbing to 31 percent in 2009. Among teenage girls, it has increased to 25 percent from 14 percent. Aglukkaq said Monday's summit "represents a 'first' in bringing together such a broad cross section of partners to address this issue."

The one-day meeting heard from Canada's chief public health officer, Canada's federal minister of sport, Olympic gold medalist Adam Kreek, health officials from across the country, along with fitness and education associations.

MNA/Xinhua



Revellers perform during the Cochabamba Carnival Parade in Cochabamba, Bolivia, on 25 Feb, 2012. *XINHUA*

Traffic police in Russia promote prayer

MOSCOW, 3 March—The key to a safe car trip is wearing a cross and asking for God's blessing before setting off, traffic police in southern Russia advised drivers.

"Ten Commandments for drivers," which appeared on the police's website, were compiled with the help of a local Orthodox priest identified only as Father Andrei in the Krasnodar Region. Despite their religious slant, they are recommended for all motorists. About

half of all "Commandments" on the list are strictly practical, advising against speeding or blocking other vehicles on the road, as well as urging drivers to thank fellow motorists for polite behaviour.

However, the list published on Friday also urges prayers for the souls of aggressive or rude drivers instead of curses, thanks to God after safely concluding a trip and spending traffic jams in prayer and not idle chitchat.

Internet

Monkeys suffer shocking tests in Britain

LONDON, 3 March—More than 2,600 monkeys in Britain have become targets of "horrifying experiments" that included sawing open their skulls while still alive, putting electrodes in them and forcing them to watch TV, a report said. According to the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV), scientists at a university in Edinburgh last year force-fed pregnant marmosets with toxic chemicals used in plastics to monitor the effect on the sexual organs of their unborn babies.

At another university, two anaesthetised monkeys had their skulls sawn open and electrodes were inserted into their brains.

Their eyes were then kept open and focused on a TV screen for five days to test whether the "after image" is in the eye or the brain, the *Daily Express* reported on Sunday.

Most experiments were done in the name of medical science, but animal rights activists claim many of the reasons were "completely frivolous".—*Internet*

Thai Parliament buildings catch fire

BANGKOK, 3 March—Fire broke out on Friday in a Thai Parliament building in Bangkok, causing panic as people scurried to safety, officials said.

No injuries were reported.

The 12:30 pm blaze started in power lines located behind Parliament Building 3, the *Bangkok Post* reported.

The newspaper said inadequate fire extinguishers

hampered efforts by staff members to knock down the flames, causing the fire to spread. Witnesses reported explosions and fireballs..

The fire was brought under control but not before it had spread to Building 2, officials said.

Investigators said an electrical short circuit probably was to blame for the fire.

Internet

He Yong (R), deputy secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, also a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, meets with Soumaila Cisse, leader of Mali's Union for the Republic and Democracy, in Beijing, capital of China, 2 Mar 2012.

XINHUA

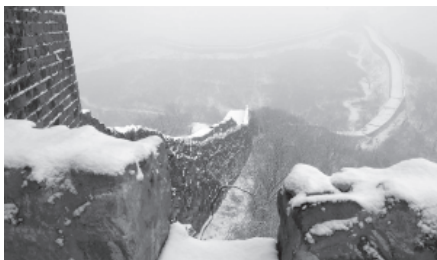


Photo taken on 2 March, 2012 shows the snow-covered Hefangkou section of the Great Wall in Beijing, capital of China. The capital city witnessed a snowfall Friday.

XINHUA

18th century Chinese merchant vessel discovered in C Philippines

ROXAS CITY, (Philippines), 3 March —The Philippine National Museum had validated the recovery of an 18th century Chinese Merchant Vessel in the Roxas City sea in Central Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said on Saturday.

Junior Grade Jimmy Oliver Gingno, station commander of PCG- Roxas

told local media on Saturday that he received the report of the National Museum.

"Personnel from the National Museum conducted an exploration in the sea in February. They validated the findings on the broken porcelains found inside the vessel as antique," said Gingno. The PCG however expressed disappointment

since there were no artifacts found in the said vessel when it was discovered. PCG officials believed the artifacts may have already been taken away by divers who discovered the existence of the vessel earlier.

"We only document the said vessel and we hope to preserve it," Vingno said.

Xinhua

Five dead, 50 injured in Cuba road accident

HAVANA, 3 March—A bus overturned and fell down a cliff at dawn on Friday in central Cuba, killing 5 people and injuring 50 others, official Press reported.

A 7-year-old boy was among the dead of the accident which occurred on the Central Highway at about 3:00 am local time (900 GMT) in the Santa Clara municipality of the Villa Clara Province.

The driver apparently lost control as the bus got out of the lane and overturned, the official National Information Agency (AIN) reported.

Children between 2 and 12 years' old were among the injured and all of them were in serious conditions and were being treated at the Santa Clara Children Hospital.—Xinhua



Two children pose for a photo in front of a three-dimensional painting during a Japanese trick art exhibition in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 2 March, 2012. A total of 53 creative works were displayed at the exhibition that opened on Friday.—XINHUA

Fighter jet delays raise British concern

LONDON, 3 March—The British government, amid concerns about delays and rising costs, is reviewing a plan to purchase up to 50 new fighter jets, officials said.

The F-35C Joint Strike Fighters, being built in the United States, were chosen to replace the Royal Navy's *Harrier* jet because they would be easy to operate from aircraft carriers but

there are problems with the design of the landing gear, *The Daily Telegraph* reported.

A redesign, expected to be costly, could seriously delay the project, leaving Britain's new aircraft carriers without any fighter jets to land on them, *The Guardian* said on Friday.

Philip Hammond, Britain's defence secretary, may be forced to choose an alternative model of the Joint Strike Fighter, which would affect an agreement between Britain and France to share weapons and equipment,

putting it in doubt, the newspaper said.

Jim Murphy, the Labour Party's shadow defence secretary, expressed his concerns on Thursday in a letter to Hammond.

"There are increasing fears in the United States and in other countries that the proposed programme for aircraft for our new aircraft carriers will not be completed to time and on budget," he said. "There are real worries that time and money may have been wasted."

Internet

5.1-magnitude quake hits Halmahera, Indonesia

HONG KONG, 3 March—An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale jolted Halmahera, Indonesia at 17:52:29 GMT on Friday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 60.60 km, was initially determined to be at 1.8587 degrees north latitude and 127.0796 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua

Tourists enjoy the view of the rupture of the leading edge of the Perito Moreno glacier near the city of El Calafate in the Patagonian Province of Santa Cruz, southern Argentina, on 2 March, 2012. Part of Perito Moreno glacier collapsed on Friday, the first time since 2008.

XINHUA



Four dead, 12 injured in cargo ship explosion in east China

NANJING, 3 March—Four workers were killed and 12 injured in a boiler explosion on a cargo ship in the eastern Chinese City of Nanjing on Friday night, a shipyard said on Saturday.

The explosion occurred at about 11 pm Friday on a bulk carrier as the Zijinshan shipyard of Nanjing Tanker Corp would be about to deliver the ship to its parent China Changjiang National Shipping (Group) Corp after repair, the shipyard said in a statement.

Of the 12 shipyard workers who were admitted to a hospital, two slightly injured have been discharged and the rest are still under emergency medical treatment, it said.

An investigation into the cause of the explosion is underway.

Xinhua

Four killed in German small plane crash

BERLIN, 3 March—German police confirmed that a small plane crash near Frankfurt has killed four persons on board, as one more body were found in the wreckage on Friday.

So far, rescue workers are still making efforts to find the last one among the five persons on board the Cessna plane, which crashed and caught fire late Thursday near Egelsbach tarmac south of Frankfurt.

Three bodies were found in the wreckage on site shortly afterward, further informations about the victims and the cause of the crash remain to be identified.

Police affirmed the crashed plane is a small business jet which took off from Linz, Austria, with one pilot, his assistant, and three passengers on board.

A panel of experts from Germany's flight safety authority were dispatched to the scene for investigation into the cause of the accident.

Xinhua

Police officer charged with fridge thefts

Police in Texas said an officer is facing charges after security cameras recorded him taking other people's food from a station refrigerator.

Deer Park Police Chief Greg Griggs said the cameras were installed after food including lunches, drinks and 60 pounds of deer sausage was taken from the department's refrigerator,

KTKR-TV, Houston, reported on Friday. Griggs said officer Kevin Yang was caught on camera taking food and Monster energy drinks from the fridge on 19, 22, 26 and 27 November.

"The same officer was taking the items each time," Griggs said. "Nobody else was taking it during that three week period." Griggs said Yang was placed on a 30-day

unpaid suspension on Tuesday and is facing misdemeanor theft charges.

Yang said he was just trying to keep the refrigerator clean.

"A lot of times we clean up the community refrigerator like once a week, everything take by Friday or certain date or everything gets thrown out, which we don't do here," he said.

Teen lifts car to save grandpa

A 15-year-old Michigan boy says he has no idea how he was able to lift a 2,000-pound Buick enough for his grandfather to escape from underneath.

Austin Smith said he was working on the 1991 Buick with his grandfather, Ernest "Papa Ernie" Monhollen, at his grandparents' Ida Township home on Saturday when the car fell from the cinder blocks holding it up and trapped Monhollen underneath, WDIV-TV, Detroit, reported on Tuesday. "I was just so scared,"

Smith said. "I didn't know what to do."

Smith said he instinctively grabbed the front end of the 2,000-pound car and was able to lift it enough for his grandfather to get out.

"Probably all the adrenaline," Smith said of how he was able to lift the car. "I mean, I couldn't do it right now." Monhollen was treated for a serious cut to his face, fractured ribs and a fractured eye socket. "Thank God he was here because if it was just me and his grandmother it would have been over."



Villagers perform the annual "dragon march" to celebrate the Lantern Festival in Gutian township, Fujian Province recently. According to local media, the traditional march, usually performed during Lantern Festival, has a history of more than 200 years. The marching dragon, made of paper and bamboo and connected by wood planks, set the new Guinness World Records of the longest parade float with 791.5 metres, according to local media.

Minneapolis take a presidential walk

Thirty of the country's 44 presidents are immortalized in Minneapolis' Northeast neighbourhood, where Presidents Day is marked with a trivia contest and a walk.

Sheila Biernat, who helped coordinate the activities, said walkers during the weekend event occasionally stopped their meandering to discuss presidential biographies and the evolution of the area, the *Star Tribune* reported on Monday.

About 30 streets in Northeast are named for US presidents.

The event on Saturday ended at a middle school, where about 150 residents participated in a trivia contest.

For the record, President Harry S Truman was the only president to visit the section of Minneapolis, and Delano — to honor Franklin Delano Roosevelt — is the neighborhood's shortest street.

News Album



Lindsay Lohan arrives for the amfAR's annual Fashion Week New York Gala at Cipriani Wall Street in New York on 8 February, 2012.—INTERNET

Lindsay Lohan confirms she'll play Liz Taylor

NEW YORK, 3 March—US actress Lindsay Lohan confirmed she will play screen icon Elizabeth Taylor in a TV movie.

Lohan, 25, is a former child star with a string of hits behind her such as "The Parent Trap," "Freaky Friday" and "Mean Girls." But her once-bright career has been eclipsed in recent years by legal problems stemming from her addictions to drugs and alcohol. She went through rehab and is on the comeback trail, having booked a gig as guest host of "Saturday Night Live" in March.

"We're in the middle of casting," Lohan told "Today" show Matt Lauer about her Taylor project in an interview to air Thursday on NBC. "We

start production soon. I've been doing tons of research. But I've always kind of researched her. She's always been a fascinating woman to me. So I'm really honoured. And I will not let anyone down, especially myself."

Asked why she felt the need to add that last part to her reply, Lohan said: "I could see where it could be scary for people to invest in me. And I don't want people to have that reason to be scared anymore. So being able to have this opportunity with 'SNL' and the film, I'm gonna do what I'm supposed to do, and enjoy doing it, and do it as best as I can."

Taylor died last year at age 79.

Internet

Leary penning holiday-themed book

NEW YORK, 3 March—US writer-actor Denis Leary is penning a Christmas-themed novel, which will be the first offering from Comedy Central's new publishing division.

Leary's book will become available in October as part of the cable television network's deal with Running Press, a member of the Perseus Books Group.

The announcement was made Wednesday by Michele Ganeless, president of Comedy Central, and Christopher Navratil, publisher of Running Press.

The joint publishing relationship will build on established and developing



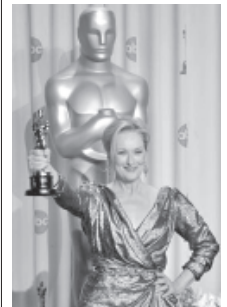
Denis Leary performs in concert at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Florida on 26 April, 2009. INTERNET

brands of the cable network.

"Success today means reaching our fans on all

different platforms. This publishing relationship is another example of the kind of extension that keeps Comedy Central the No. 1 brand in comedy," Ganeless said in a statement.

"I am truly delighted to be in business with Running Press and deliver a funny Christmas book based on a special I did for Comedy Central 7 1/2 years ago," Leary said. "Sorry for the delay, but I was a tad busy with 'Rescue Me,' two teenaged kids, two Red Sox World Series victories, the 17th Boston Celtic NBA championship, the Bruins winning the Stanley Cup and online porn. Mostly the porn."—Internet



Meryl Streep holds her Best Actress Oscar for "The Iron Lady" backstage at the 84th Academy Awards at the Hollywood and Highlands Center in Los Angeles on 26 February, 2012.—INTERNET

Streep donates \$20,000 in Davis' honour

PROVIDENCE, 3 March—Hollywood actress Meryl Streep made two \$10,000 charitable donations this week in honor of her friend and "Doubt" co-star Viola Davis, officials said.

Streep beat out Davis for the Best Actress Oscar Sunday for her performance in "The Iron Lady." Davis had been nominated for her work in "The Help."

The *Providence (RI) Journal* said Streep made one donation to Upward Bound, a programme housed at Rhode Island College that helps poor high-school students attend university. Davis spent two years in the program before enrolling at RIC, the newspaper said. Streep also made a donation to the Segue Institute for Learning in Central Falls, Davis' hometown, the report said.—Internet

'Lone Ranger' starts shooting in N Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, 3 March—Shooting has begun in New Mexico on Disney's big-screen adaptation of "The Lone Ranger," starring Armie Hammer and Johnny Depp, producers said.

Hammer is playing the title character in the comedy-western, while Depp will play his sidekick Tonto in the film. Jerry Bruckheimer is producing and Gore Verbinski is directing. The characters previously appeared in comic books, a TV show and numerous films.

E! News said Wednesday "The Lone Ranger" shoot is



Johnny Depp will play the roll of sidekick, Tonto, in Disney's big-screen adaptation of "The Lone Ranger." INTERNET

starting with exterior shots and studio work in New Mexico. The production then will move on to Arizona, Utah and Colorado. The film's cast will also include frequent Depp collaborator Helena Bonham Carter, as well as Tom

Wilkinson, Barry Pepper, William Fichtner and Ruth Wilson, E! said.

Depp, Bruckheimer and Verbinski previously collaborated on the "Pirates of the Caribbean" blockbuster franchise.—Internet

'21' tops album chart for 22nd week

LOS ANGELES, 3 March—Adele's "21" is No 1 on the US album chart for a 22nd week, Billboard.com reported on Wednesday.

Coming in at No 2 on the Billboard 200 chart is Whitney Houston's "Whitney: the

Greatest Hits," followed by fun.'s "Some Nights" at No 3, Tyga's "Careless World: Rise of the Last King" at No 4 and the "Now 41" compilation CD at No 5.

Rounding out the top tier are "The Bodyguard" soundtrack at No 6, Adele's "19" at No 7, Chiddy Bang's "Breakfast" at No 8, "Whitney Houston" at No 9 and the "2012 Grammy Nominees" compilation CD at No 10.—Internet

Adele cradles the six awards she won at the 54th annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on 12 February, 2012.—INTERNET



Ferguson savours Tottenham clash

Man Utd manager relishing trip to White Hart Lane for Sunday's crunch clash

LONDON, 3 March — Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson says taking on Tottenham Hotspur is one of the highlights of the season for his club. United travel to White Hart Lane on Sunday for the eagerly-anticipated match that could have significant bearing on both clubs as they look to hunt down Barclays Premier League leaders Manchester City.

United are currently in second place, only two points behind City, while Spurs are in third — eight points further adrift — after a superb season to date.

"Tottenham away is always a tremendous highlight for us, it's always an interesting game with the history of both clubs," said Ferguson, whose side defeated Norwich last time out. "It's a real football ground at Tottenham. I

enjoy going there and I think the players do too. "It's an old-fashioned football ground and Villa Park is much the same. It's a good pitch, it's always been a good pitch and the atmosphere is guaranteed to be good."

With the high-profile matches at the top of the table coming thick and fast, Ferguson was under no illusion as to how crucial the

Tottenham contest could be. "I think everyone at the club realises how important it is on Sunday to maintain our challenge," said Ferguson. "We know Sunday is an important game for us. The most important game so far. "Hopefully we can navigate it. I'm not interested in anyone else's [title challenge]. We need to win on Sunday."

Internet



Manchester United recorded a 3-0 win over Tottenham when the sides met in August. — INTERNET

Wenger and Odemwingie win Barclays awards

February achievements of Arsenal boss and West Brom striker recognized by Barclays

LONDON, 3 March — Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger and West Bromwich Albion striker Peter Odemwingie have been named as the Barclays Manager and Player of the Month for February. Wenger was rewarded for an excellent month in the Barclays Premier League during which the free-scoring Gunners were unbeaten. After securing a point away to Bolton Wanderers at the start of the month, Wenger's men romped to a 7-1 win over Blackburn Rovers at the Emirates Stadium — with Robin van Persie scoring a hat-trick, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain netting two and Thierry Henry and Mikel Arteta finding the net.

A trip to in-form Sunderland saw Wenger's side take another three points, as Gunners legend Henry secured the vital victory with a 90th-minute goal in the final domestic match of his loan spell. Arsenal finished the



Arsene Wenger has won Barclays Manager of the Month for the 12th time. INTERNET

month with a thrilling 5-2 victory over their North London rivals Tottenham Hotspur. Having trailed 2-0 the first half, goals from Bacary Sagna, van Persie, Tomas Rosicky and a brace from Theo Walcott secured the win. Wenger receives the Barclays Manager of the Month award for the 12th time in his career.

West Brom striker Odemwingie was recognized for his fantastic recent form — the third time the Nigerian has won the award. Odemwingie hit a hat-trick in his team's impressive 5-1 win away to local rivals Wolverhampton

Wanderers — Albion's fifth win at Molineux in their last seven visits. He also scored two goals in West Brom's 4-0 home win against Martin O'Neill's in-form Sunderland.

Odemwingie established himself as a huge fans' favourite in his debut season with West Brom and has been a key figure in Roy Hodgson's side ever since. The decisions were made by the Barclays Awards Panel, which includes representatives from football's governing bodies, the media and fans.

Internet

International Sports

Johnson's crew chief surprised by suspension

AVONDALE, 3 March — Jimmie Johnson's car failed inspection before the Daytona 500 and he didn't last long in the race, collected in a wreck on the second lap.



Jimmie Johnson, left, and his crew chief Chad Knaus talk outside their garage during NASCAR auto racing practice at Daytona International Speedway, in Daytona Beach, Fla. NASCAR has fined Knaus \$100,000 and suspended him for six races because Johnson's car failed an inspection before the Daytona 500. — INTERNET

His crew chief was suspended six races and fined \$100,000, and his car chief will have to watch for six races, too.

Johnson also was docked 25 points and heads into this weekend's race at Phoenix International Raceway last in the Sprint Cup standings.

He's hoping to have a good race just so he can get out of the red in points. Coming off his worst year in NASCAR, this isn't how the five-time champion wanted to get his season started."

It's certainly not a position we want to be in," Johnson said on Friday. "But there's a lot of racing between now and September." Johnson wasn't much of a factor last season in his bid to win six straight Sprint Cup championships. He made the Chase after winning just one race and finished sixth in the final standings, 99 points behind champion Tony Stewart. Johnson vowed to turn it around in 2012, but it didn't get off to a very good start. — Internet



MANCHESTER, 3 March — Manchester City opened up a five-point lead at the top of the Premier League table with a 2-0 victory over Bolton Wanderers at the Etihad Stadium this afternoon.

Hosting City could have been three goals up within the opening five minutes. First Samir Nasri saw a shot blocked by David Wheater, then Mario Balotelli struck the post after collecting possession from Yaya Toure.

Balotelli had another chance moments later, but he sent Adam Johnson's low cross wide of goal.

Man City 2-0 Bolton Wanderers

Mario Balotelli scored as Manchester City pulled five points clear of Man Utd at the Premier League summit after beating Bolton.

The deadlock was finally broken by the home side in the 23rd minute.

Full-back Gael Clichy struck an effort from distance which beat goalkeeper Adam Bogdan courtesy of a deflection off Wanderers defender Greta Steinsson.

Young winger Ryo Miyaichi had Bolton's best chance of the half in the 43rd minute, but his rising effort was tipped over by Joe Hart.

City continued to dominate after the restart, with Balotelli forcing Bogdan into low save in the 53rd minute.

Bogdan was beaten by his own teammate just before the hour mark, but thankfully for Bolton Darren Pratley's attempted clearance

cannonned back off the crossbar before being cleared to safety.

Balotelli put the match beyond Bolton's reach in the 69th minute, flicking a cross from England international

Johnson past Bogdan from close range.

Despite dominating for the remainder of the match, City were unable to extend their lead further.

Internet



Mario Balotelli scored as Manchester City pulled five points clear of Manchester Utd at the Premier League summit after beating Bolton.

INTERNET

Gymnastics champion Liukin spurred on by Beijing silvers



Olympic gold medalist gymnast Nastia Liukin of the US poses for a photograph at the Gymnastics World Championships in London on 13 Oct, 2009. — INTERNET

NEW YORK, 3 March — Nastia Liukin treasures her 2008 Olympic gymnastics all-around gold, but the trio of silver medals she also took away from Beijing has fuelled a comeback bid to reach the London Games, the American has said.

Liukin has not competed in two years but has set her mind on winning a spot on the US Olympic gymnastics team. "I had these visions about a year ago," Liukin, 22, told reporters on Friday ahead of the American Cup gymnastics meeting at Madison Square Garden.

"I figured I'll be in London either way, and I didn't want these thoughts of sitting in the stands, watching Team USA walk out on the floor and wondering, 'what if?' Those two words are the scariest words for me. "I didn't want to have any regrets. I felt like I owed it to myself to try." A taller, more solid Liukin than the Beijing version poured herself back into training after last October's world championships following a lengthy period promoting gymnastics and fashion interests, appearing on television, doing gymnastics shows and enjoying life. — Internet



Results on Saturday, 3 March 2012

Liverpool	1-2	Arsenal
Blackburn	1-1	Villa
Man City	2-0	Bolton
QPR	1-1	Everton
Stoke	1-0	Norwich
WBA	1-0	Chelsea
Wigan	0-2	Swansea

Blatter hopeful '14 WCup will have goal technology

BAGSHOT, 3 March — FIFA President Sepp Blatter is hopeful that he can convince soccer rule-makers to approve goal-line technology for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Blatter ended his long-standing opposition to the high-tech aids after England midfielder Frank Lampard's "ghost goal" against Germany at the 2010 World Cup. His shot bounced down off the cross bar beyond the goal line but was not counted.

The International Football Association Board will assess the latest test results on Saturday before sending approved firms into another phase of checks ahead of a final decision in July. "We don't want a repeat of last World Cup (and the) experiences in last week in Italy," Blatter said, referring to some disallowed goals in Serie A. "I think I can convince the IFAB board that we must go forward with technology."

We cannot afford to just wait and see what happens." But UEFA President Michel Platini, who will miss Saturday's meeting because of a family death, opposes computer-aided



FIFA President Sepp Blatter, right, speaks with Jordan's Prince Ali, chairman of the Jordan Football Association, in Amman, Jordan. — INTERNET

calls in matches. He's pushed for additional referees' assistants.

After being tested in continental club matches, the five-official system will be deployed at the European Championship, which starts in June. — Internet

Milan, Juve jostle for glory, Ranieri for survival

MILAN, 3 March — After last weekend's nailbiting affair between the two left AC Milan a point clear, Juventus will hope to take command in Serie A on Saturday with a seemingly easier fixture than their rivals. The 'Old Lady' were lucky to escape from the San Siro with a point after Sulley Muntari had a header ruled out despite crossing the line and now the Turin outfit will look to beat midtable Chievo.

Milan, having played a game more, head for Palermo a point clear of Chievo and clearly a tougher proposition in front of their partisan fans, whom they have treated to 10 home league successes for only two losses. A win for Juve and a draw for the rossoneri would put Antonio Conte's men top of the heap as they chase down their first Scudetto since 2003 — since when seven coaches have come and gone before the arrival of Conte, a veteran of more than 400 league games in the black and white. — Internet



Juventus' Alessandro Matri (R) celebrates after scoring a goal during their Serie A match against AC Milan at the San Siro stadium in Milan, on 25 February. — INTERNET

Rose and Gillis take joint control at Honda

PALMBEACH GARDENS, 3 March — Britain's Justin Rose and American journeyman Tom Gillis moved into a share of the lead in Friday's third round at the Honda Classic where ideal scoring conditions saw the course record smashed by three strokes.

American Gillis, 43, fired six birdies during mostly wind-free morning hours for a six-under-par 64 that was good enough for a tie of the course record until compatriot Brian Harman's outstanding round.

"I've never lead out here after two days but I kind of wanted to do that this week -

I don't know why," said Gillis, who described himself as the prototypical journeyman. "I don't want to get too far ahead of myself but I feel like we are going to start knocking on the door. That's how I feel."

Rose, who started on the 10th hole, would have had the outright lead if not for bogeys on the sixth and seventh holes that left him with a four-under 66.

"For the most part I am really happy with my game. I hit a lot of quality iron shots and the difference is I just made a few of those mid-range putts to get me up towards the lead," said Rose.

"I've been playing nicely all year and feeling very comfortable with things and just been waiting for something to happen."

The low round of the day went to rookie Harman, who got off to a birdie-birdie-eagle and set the PGA National course record with a nine-under 61 that left him two shots back.

Rory McIlroy, who can claim the world number one slot from Luke Donald with a win here, is one stroke off the pace after closing out his round with three birdies on his final five holes for a three-under-par 67.

Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(4-3-12 09:30 am ~ 5-3-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

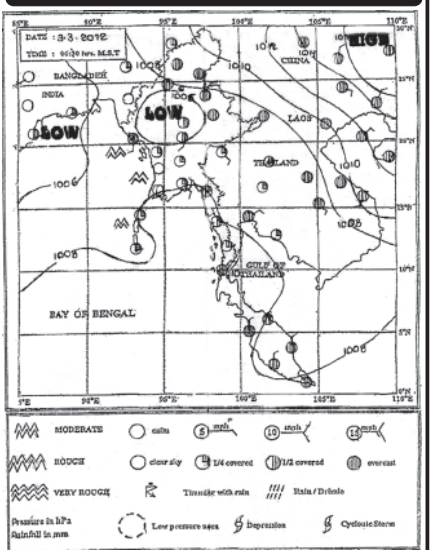
- * News
- * "Great Shwedagon" Repository of the Buddha Scripture And Archives of Shwedagon Pagoda
- * News
- * 65th Union Day Cultural Show (Part-1)
- * News
- * 65th Union Day Cultural Show (Part-2)
- * News
- * Let's Explore the Customs of Mindut
- * News
- * MI People's Celebrities "Zaw Paing & Moe Hay Ko"
- * Precious Spirulina from Amazing Lake
- * News
- * Heritage of Inlay Region
- * News
- * Shwesharyan Pagoda Festival
- * News
- * Caves of Myanmar
- * Myanmar Movies "Life As Parents"

MYANMAR TV

(4-3-2012) (Sunday)

- 7:00 am 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am 4. (38) Phyar Mingalars
- 8:40 am 5. International News
- 11:00 am 6. Martial Song
- 11:40 am 7. TV Drama Series
- 1:30 pm 8. Documentary
- 2:45 pm 9. International News
- 4:10 pm 10. Musical Programme
- 5:15 pm 11. Songs in honour of (67th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 6:00 pm 12. Evening News
- 6:50 pm 13. Tamyetnnar Takwetsar
- 8:00 pm 14. News
- 15. Cartoon Series
- 16. New Melody

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 4th March, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		The Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	26/79	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	32/90	13/55	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	38/100	19/66	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	19/66	10/50	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	20/62	14/57	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	36/97	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
7	Taintharyi	36/97	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	37/99	18/64	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	38/102	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	36/97	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Maw	38/100	18/64	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	37/99	21/70	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	30/86	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	27/81	12/54	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	31/88	12/54	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	11/52	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	35/95	21/70	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	37/99	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	37/99	21/70	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	36/97	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershower have been widespread in Lower Sagaing Region and Chin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State, isolated in Taintharyi, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Northern Shan and Rakhine States and weather has been partly cloudy in Mon State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (°C) below March average temperatures in Kachin State, (°C) above March average temperatures in Kayah State and above March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperature were Chindwin, Mawlaik and Magway (°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Patheingyi (2.00) inches and Falam (0.83) inch.

Summary of observation at 09:30 te MST on today

Bay Reference Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea Seas will be moderate in the Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Upper Myanmar areas.

I will never quit Chelsea, says Villas-Boas

LONDON, 3 March — Managing Chelsea is one of the toughest tasks in soccer but the under-fire Andre Villas-Boas has no intention of quitting, he said ahead of Saturday's Premier League game at West Bromwich Albion. Villas-Boas has been the subject of intense scrutiny in recent weeks with the London club in a form slump and media reporting a rift with several players. "It is one of the most difficult jobs in the world," the Portuguese told British newspapers. "(But) I would never resign. "I would never give up. It's not part of my education."

Villas-Boas, the seventh manager to be appointed at Chelsea since Russian billionaire Roman



Andre Villas-Boas

Abramovich took over as owner in 2003, went on the attack when he was asked whether he had cleared the air with some of his squad. "Why do you think I haven't?", he replied. "Who says I haven't?". Vice-captain Frank Lampard has been in and out of the team all season and last week the midfielder said his relationship with Villas-Boas has "not been ideal".

"Frank explained his personal view," the manager added. "He feels something is missing but for me there is nothing missing. "It is an unhappy dressing room because we are fifth in the league. If we are first and 17 points ahead it would be an extremely happy dressing room. "Any problems would be put to one side," added Villas-Boas. "I don't see any problems in my relationships with players. "Lampard? Ask any player who doesn't play all the time if he has a good relationship with the manager."

Villas-Boas also said leaders Manchester City now had more financial muscle in the transfer market than Chelsea. — Internet



Pyitha No. 1 oil well starts drilling

YANGON, 3 March—MPRLE&P Pte Ltd, a joint-venture of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy, started drilling of Pyitha No.1 Exploration Well at offshore block No.A-6 this morning.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Ayeyawady Region Chief

Minister U Thein Aung, Director-General U Htin Aung of Energy Planning Department, Managing Director U Aung Htoo of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, officials and CEO Moe Myint of MPRLE&P Pte Ltd.

First, company technical manager Dr Elói Dolivo explained drill plans and underground geological condition and CEO Moe Myint gave a supplementary explanation.

Then, the Union Minister and the Chief Minister pressed the button to start drilling. It is estimated that it takes 35 days to carry out drilling.

MNA

Union Energy Minister U Than Htay and Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung press button to launch drilling of Pyitha No.1 Exploration Well at offshore block No.A-6.—MNA

Bolt, Powell line up Oslo clash

OSLO, 3 March—Usain Bolt and Asafa Powell will clash in the 100m at the Bislett Games in Oslo on 7 June, the pair's second confirmed pre-Olympic sprint showdown. Olympic champion and world record holder Bolt had already been announced for the Oslo Diamond League meeting in January

with his Jamaican teammate confirming his place in the race on Friday.

Bolt and Powell will also meet in the 100m in Rome on 31 May.

"These two Jamaicans are the best known personalities in athletics at the moment and we are very proud and excited that they are both coming to Oslo in an Olympic year," said Oslo meet director Steinar

Hoen. Bolt holds the world record of 9.58sec with Powell's personal best at 9.72.

The first Diamond League meeting of the season takes place in Doha on 8 May.

Internet



Usain Bolt (R) and Asafa Powell will clash in the 100m at the Bislett Games in Oslo on 7 June, in a dress rehearsal for the eagerly-awaited sprint showdown at the London Olympics.

INTERNET

Noteworthy amounts of rainfalls (3-3-2012)

Paletwa (2.09) inches
Falam (0.83) inch

Liverpool 1-2 Arsenal

Robin van Persie double wins it for Gunners

LONDON, 3 March—Arsenal captain Robin van Persie scored twice, including a stoppage time winner, to secure all three points for his side away at Liverpool this afternoon.

The first chance of the match fell to the visiting Gunners in the seventh minute. Mikel Arteta picked out Theo Walcott with a 60-yard pass, but the England international's shot from a narrow angle was held by Liverpool goalkeeper Pepe Reina at the second attempt.

Despite Arsenal's early domination, it was the home side who broke the deadlock in the 18th minute. Luis Suarez exchanged passes with Dirk Kuyt, before being brought down by Arsenal goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny inside the area. Kuyt took responsibility from 12 yards, but the Polish keeper made amends by saving Dutch international's effort, before getting up to parry away the rebound.

However, Liverpool did get themselves in front with 23 minutes played. Jordan Henderson's cross from the right failed to find a teammate but Arsenal defender Laurent Koscielny sliced the ball into his own net.

Henderson almost doubled his team's tally moments later, but Szczesny palmed away his effort, while Suarez struck the post from the rebound.

Liverpool's failure to score a second

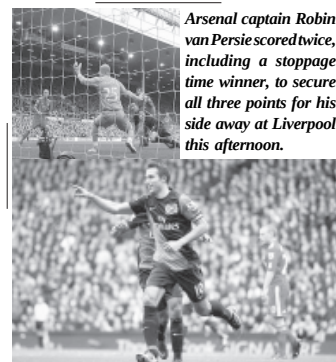
was punished in the 32nd minute when Van Persie headed his first of the afternoon following a cross from Bacary Sagna.

The home side hit the woodwork again in stoppage time as Kuyt turned Charlie Adam's cross against the post in the 70th minute.

Martin Kelly had Liverpool's best chance after the break, but he failed to make contact with Kuyt's cross from six yards out.

Just as the match looked to be heading for a 1-1 draw, Van Persie latched onto a lofted through ball from Alex Song to volley past Reina at the near post.

The defeat was Liverpool's first of the season at Anfield.—Internet



Arsenal captain Robin van Persie scored twice, including a stoppage time winner, to secure all three points for his side away at Liverpool this afternoon.

Revellers perform during the Cochabamba Carnival Parade in Cochabamba, Bolivia, on 25 Feb, 2012.



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The Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk was a single-seat, twin-engine stealth ground-attack aircraft formerly operated by the United States Air Force (USAF).

PAGE 3



Two children pose for a photo in front of a three-dimensional painting during a Japanese trick art exhibition in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 2 March, 2012. A total of 53 creative works were displayed at the exhibition that opened on Friday.

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