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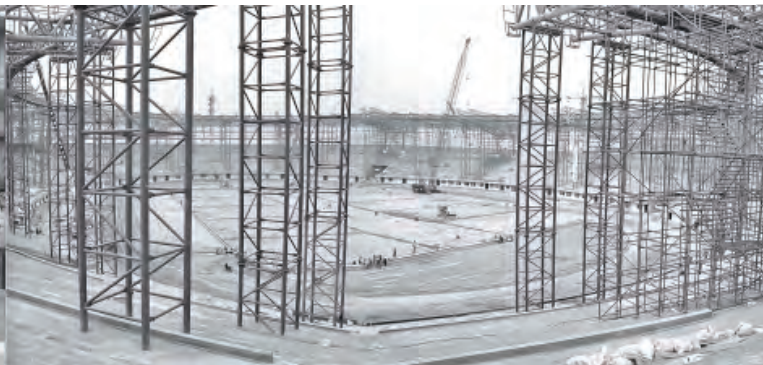
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Sunday, 18 March, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

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

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects preparations for hosting XXVII SEA Games 2013



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects construction of Zabuthiri Modern Stadium.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo this afternoon made an inspection tour of preparations for hosting the XXVII SEA Games 2013.

On arrival at the briefing hall of Athletes Village Construction Project in Nay Pyi Taw, the Vice-President was welcomed by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Member of Nay Pyi

Taw Council U Kan Chun, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and departmental heads.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun reported on construction of 100 buildings at Athletes Village for accommodation of about 7000 athletes and progress of works.

Chairman of Max Myanmar Co U Zaw Zaw and Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Nyan Tun submitted reports on progress in construction of Zabuthiri Modern Stadium and Zeyathiri Modern Stadium, construction of buildings for indoor venues and related buildings, and progress of swimming pool.

Union Minister at the President Office U Thein

Nyunt and Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan gave supplementary reports on preparations for hosting the SEA Games.

They also presented reports on the plans to seek recognition for Zabuthiri and Zeyathiri modern stadiums from FIFA, World Track & Field Federation and Asian Football Confederation.

After hearing the reports, the Vice-President instructed them to complete construction of the buildings in early 2013 meeting set standards and quality, test the sports buildings by holding local sports competitions and repair them if necessary, systematically spend money on

(See page 8)

MLF donates cash, books to village libraries from Yangon South District

YANGON, 17 March—Myanmar Libraries Foundation donated cash and books to rural libraries in townships of Yangon South District, taking place at Shin Saw Pu Hall in Thanlyin yesterday morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Sai Thaw Win of Yangon South District made a speech.

Chairman of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Maung Maung explained the purpose of books donation and presented K 14 million for 30

village libraries from Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Thongwa, Kayan, Twantay, Kungyangon townships and Tadar Sub-Township administrators.

Vice-Chairman-2 of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Executive Committee member of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Chit Naing (Chit Naing-Psychology) handed over 7500 books and publications to the Deputy Commissioner and explained advantages of the literary.

MNA

Sales of Gems Emporium continue for ninth day

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—The 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium, organized by Myanmar Gems Emporium Organizing Central Committee, continued for the ninth day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, today.

Local and foreign gem merchants checked jade lots displayed on the respective areas for sales through competitive bidding system.

Today, a total of 24 lots of jade were sold through competitive bidding system. Sales of jade lots will continue up to 18 March.

Patron of the Central Committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik in the afternoon viewed sales of jade lots through competitive bidding system at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.—MNA

Technological universities and colleges produce more engineers, computer technicians in Bago Region

PAGE 7



Union Health Minister receives guests from ICRC, 3 DF

PAGE 2

ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC)-National Coordinators Meeting and related meetings held

PAGE 2

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 18 March, 2012

Conserve forests for greening and economy

Forests are not only a decisive factor for living beings to survive but also an incredible source of income for a nation. Thriving forest plantations which were once a common sight across the nation are now becoming rare for a variety of reasons.

It has long been established that forests generate weather while scientists are of the view that deforestation often result in climate change which spurs soil degradation, flesh floods, desertification.

As the Arid Zone Greening Department set its sights on establishment of forest plantations, 13 arid districts of the country have now seen a vast stretch of forest plantations which largely constitute teak and other valuable hardwood.

It is undoubtedly necessary for the country to establish forest plantations since teak and other Myanmar hardwood are still a magnet for foreign companies.

Reforestation calls for a package of measures which could be driven by skills, knowledge and better management. But the main drawback to such measures is illegal logging that is rife in some far-flung regions which are of difficult access.

The streamlining of forest conservation must be widely introduced with the handling of deforestation high on the agenda as the country is festooned with extremely fertile soil and favourable weather patterns. However, the government alone is still not capable enough to go without help from the people.

Keeping it in mind the entire people are to do everything possible to reduce deforestation as it has proved completely embarrassing to the nation and represents a threat to environmental conservation.

Measurement standards in Myanmar workshop held

YANGON, 17 March—A seminar and workshop on “measurement standards in Myanmar” jointly organized by National Institute of Metrology (Thailand), Japan International Coordination Agency and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, with the assistance of Myanmar Science and Technology Research Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology took place for the second time from 14 to 16 March.

Vice President of the UMFCIU Zaw Min Win, Deputy Director-General U Win Khaing Moe of Myanmar Science and Technology Research Department and JICA Resident Representative Mr Masahiko Tanaka spoke at the opening of the workshop which was attended by 130 trainees.

MNA

From electoral democracy to liberal democracy at Kyaw Win's talks

YANGON, 17 March—Jointly organized by Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association and sponsored by Ayeyawady Peanut Oil, writer Kyaw Win will give talks under the topic of “from electoral democracy to liberal democracy” at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Bayintnaung Street, West Gyogon, Insein Township here at 2 pm on 24 March. Anyone interested may attend the talks.—MNA

Union Transport Minister pays respects to 1555 older persons in Natogyi

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung met local people from 55 villages in Natogyi

Township from 11 to 14 March and explained education, health, economic sectors and rural development and poverty

alleviation.

During his tour, the Union minister paid respects to 1555 older persons from villages and

eight wards of Natogyi.

At Alekyang Pariyatti Monastery in Natogyi, he met 29 students who will sit for matriculation examination and presented cash assistance for them.

MNA

Union Health Minister receives guests from ICRC, 3 DF

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Mr Georges Paclisanu of the ICRC and party and Final Evaluation Team Leader Dr Greet

Peersman of 3DF and party at his office separately on 14 March.

The Union Minister and the ICRC team held talks on programmes to train skilled workers and provide

modern equipment and inputs for artificial limbs production in Myanmar, and proficiency training courses at home and abroad from docs and skilled workers.

The 3DF team and the Union Minister discussed plans for 3MDG works after the final evaluation works to be carried out for three weeks as the projected campaigns against three major diseases conducted with the fund provided by 3DF has completed.

MNA

ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC)-National Coordinators Meeting and related meetings held

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw attended ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee-National Coordinators Meeting and related meetings held at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia yesterday. The deputy minister also attended the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee and Japan Meeting the same day.

The ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee-ASEAN National Coordinators Meeting deliberated on collaboration among the ASEAN National Coordinators, ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee and the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in implementing the master plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and its priority projects, which was adopted by the ASEAN leaders at the 17th ASEAN Summit held in Hanoi, Vietnam in October, 2010. The meeting also discussed among others, on coordination with dialogue partners, development partners, international and regional institutions and resource mobilization for the



Deputy Minister Dr Kan Zaw attends ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee-National Coordinators Meeting.—MNA

implementation of the master plan.

The deputy minister briefed the meeting on the national projects and activities as well as initiatives to enhance capacity building and collaboration among the relevant ministries pertaining to the

implementation of the master plan on ASEAN Connectivity. The deputy minister was accompanied by officials from the permanent mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to ASEAN. He arrived back here today.—MNA



Vice-Chairman-2 of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Executive Committee member of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Chit Naing (Chit Naing-Psychology) presents 7500 books and publications to Deputy Commissioner U Sai Thaw Win of Yangon South District.

(News on page 1)

MNA

2012 Myanmar CP Open Tennis Tournament kicks off

YANGON, 17 March—Under the arrangements of the Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Tennis Federation organized the 2012 Myanmar CP Open Tennis Tournament with the sponsorship of Myanmar CP Livestock Co Ltd at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, this morning.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik, President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Aung Maw Thein and Adviser to Myanmar CP Livestock Co Ltd U Soe Lwin cut the ribbon to open the tournament. In the debut, a total of 25 matches were held. The tournament continues at 8.30 am daily.—MNA

Alleged Afghanistan 'shooter' arrives in US

CHICAGO, 17 March—A US soldier who allegedly shot and killed 16 civilians in Afghanistan arrived at a US military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, late Friday after a flight from Kuwait, US media reported.

The soldier, identified Friday as US Army Staff Sergeant Robert Bales, had served three combat tours in Iraq, and was on his first deployment to Afghanistan.

Bales allegedly left his base in the southern province of Kandahar before sunrise Sunday, entered an Afghan village and opened fire, killing men, women and children. The incident has plunged US-Afghan relations into the deepest crisis since the 2001 US-led invasion.

The US military has not officially released the soldier's name, nor charged him with a crime yet.

Bales is expected to be held at Fort Leavenworth as army investigators seek to learn more about the tragic events.

Internet



Anar Gul gestures to the body of her grandchild, who was allegedly killed by a US service member in Panjwai, Kandahar Province south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 11 March, 2012. Afghan President Hamid Karzai says a US service member has killed more than a dozen people in a shooting including nine children and three women.

INTERNET

Rockets fly after Jihad-Israeli cease-fire

JERUSALEM, 17 March—Israeli forces and those of Islamic Jihad fired rockets at each other after a cease-fire was declared between the two sides, officials said.

The cease-fire between Israel and the Islamic Jihad, negotiated by Egypt, went into effect 1 am Tuesday following four days of rocket attacks on southern Israel, the Palestinian Ma'an News Agency reported.

Israel broke the truce Wednesday when it flew warplanes that shelled northern and southern Gaza Strip. Palestinians responded by firing four rockets at

southern Israel. No group has claimed responsibility for any of the attacks.

The leader of the Islamic Jihad, Ahmad al-Mudallal, said his group is committed to a cease-fire with Israel, but they would retaliate for attacks on Gaza, the Jerusalem Post reported.

"We don't trust the occupation but we trust our steadfastness and resistance. We cannot be quiet during any aggression on the Palestinian people," Mudallal said, adding, "The resistance is ready to respond to any Israeli attacks."—Internet



Wreckage of a motorcycle is seen on the ground at the scene of a bomb explosion in Kandahar south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 14 March, 2012. A delegation investigating Sunday's shooting killing civilians in Panjwai, Kandahar by a US soldier was meeting in the southern city of Kandahar on Wednesday when a bomb hidden in a motorcycle exploded about 600 yards away.

INTERNET



Picture taken on 15 March, 2012 shows Blue Ridge warship on the waters in Hong Kong, south China. The USS Blue Ridge, flagship for the Commander of the US Navy's 7th Fleet, started Thursday its six-day port visit to Hong Kong.—XINHUA

No early US troop exit from Kabul

ABOARD AIRFORCE ONE, 17 March—US President Barack Obama and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai on Friday reaffirmed that US troops would leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014, despite calls for an earlier withdrawal.

The two leaders spoke by phone Friday and reaffirmed they were committed to the agreed timetable "in which Afghan forces would complete the process of transition and have full responsibility for security across the country by the end of 2014," the White House said in a statement. Karzai, in Thursday talks

with US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta, had insisted international forces should leave Afghan villages and be "relocated in their bases" and that Afghanistan is ready to take responsibility for security.

Karzai gave no timeline other than saying NATO should hand over to Afghan forces in 2013.

In Friday's phone call, Obama agreed to resolve Karzai's concerns over night raids as the two leaders said

they would discuss complaints about NATO troops in villages.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said they discussed "Karzai's recent reiteration of his long standing concerns regarding night raids and house searches and recommitted to conclude ongoing negotiations on a memorandum of understanding to resolve those concerns."

"They also agreed to further discuss concerns

criminals," he said. "We consider that the government will be in control of the situation in the country, which will allow Iraqi residents to get back to normal life."

Russia is available to help develop policy concerning regional issues and problems, he said.

Iraq is preparing to host the Arab League Summit at the end of March.

Bogdanov called the summit "a symbolic event that will confirm the return of Iraq to the family of Arab nations and restore its active role in international relations."

Internet

voiced by President Karzai about the presence of foreign troops in villages," Carney said, briefing reporters aboard Air Force One as Obama flew to Chicago.

Obama called Karzai just after midnight ostensibly to "congratulate" the Afghan leader on the birth of his daughter.—Internet

A Palestinian protester hurls a stone at Israeli soldiers during a protest near Ramallah, against the confiscation of Palestinian land to build the Jewish settlement.—INTERNET



Ten killed, five injured in northern Nigeria overnight attacks

KADUNA, 17 March—Ten people were killed and five others severely injured in three overnight attacks by gunmen in north west Nigeria's Kaduna State.

A witness, Sunday Amos, who claimed to have escaped death by the whisksers told Xinhua late on Friday that the suspected gunmen numbering 20 raided three villages in Chikun local government area.

He said a Christian cleric identified as Innocent Chukwumeka Mari, in charge of the Assemblies of God Church, was among those killed in the attacks that lasted till the early hours of Friday. The gunmen also razed the church building before moving on to another village.

According to the witness, the attackers shot indiscriminately at the villagers and at the same time set many houses in the villages on fire as residents fled.

"The five injured persons during the raid had since been admitted at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria, for treatment," he added.

State police spokesperson Aminu Lawan confirmed the incident to Xinhua, saying he was still awaiting details of the incident. "We have deployed our officers in the troubled area," he said.—Xinhua

Russia: Iraqi security forces improving

MOSCOW, 17 March—Conditions in Iraq haven't worsened since US combat troops left the country in December, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said Friday.

Bogdanov said there are problems but security forces are doing a better job of dealing with them," RIA Novosti reported.

"Iraqi law enforcement structures have improved and are fighting terrorism and

Bin Laden plotted to kill Obama before his death

WASHINGTON, 17 March—Terror mastermind Osama bin Laden ordered his al-Qaeda network to organize special cells in Afghanistan and Pakistan to attack the aircraft of US President Barack Obama and Gen David Petraeus, who commanded the US forces in Afghanistan at the time, US reports said Friday.

The Washington Post quoted administration officials as saying the plot was discovered in documents taken from bin Laden's compound by US forces on 2 May, the night he was killed. They also said the plot was never a serious threat.

The man bin Laden picked to carry out the attacks was Pakistani terrorist Ilyas Kashmiri. A month after bin Laden's death, Kashmiri was killed in a US drone attack.

However, the Post said the plot "was probably bluster," since al-Qaeda apparently lacked the weapons to shoot down US aircraft, and US analysts don't see evidence that these plots have materialized.

Xinhua



Jiayang mini steam engine train runs in Qianwei County, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 14 March, 2012. Built in 1958, Jiayang mini steam engine train with a narrow rail gauge, used to be a coal transportation. Later, added some passengers carriages, it became the major transportation for local villagers living in and around the mountainous Bajiaogou town and Shixi town. As the steam trains disappear in the world, more and more tourists from home and abroad came here to visit the mini steam engine train.

XINHUA

TECHNOLOGY



Participants visit the Android stand of the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona in February 2012.

INTERNET

iPhone hit Instagram heads to Android smartphones

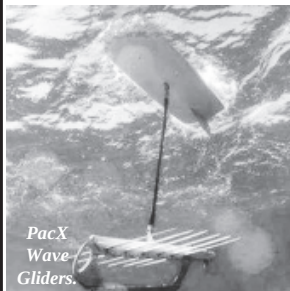
SAN FRANCISCO, 17 March—The makers of an Instagram photo-sharing application wildly popular on Apple gadgets are tailoring a version for smartphones powered by Android software.

Instagram co-founder Kevin Systrom provided a glimpse of the Android “app” to technology trend-setters at a South By Southwest Interactive conference that wraps up on Tuesday in the Texas capitol of Austin.

The application tuned to Apple’s iPhones, iPads, and iPod touch devices has been downloaded more than 27 million times since the first version of Instagram was released in late 2010 by the San Francisco startup, according to Systrom.

The free mini-programme lets people give classic looks to square photos using “filters” and then share them at Twitter, Facebook or other social networks. Apple crowned Instagram its app-of-the-year for 2011. A version of Instagram for Android would bolster the positions of smartphones and tablets powered by Google-backed operating software as they compete with Apple in the hot mobile market. It would also let the Mountain View, California-based Internet titan weave Instagram photo-sharing into its Google+ social network.—*Internet*

Robots in record-distance ocean swim



PacX Wave Gliders.

HONOLULU, 17 March—Four wave-powered robots have set a record by swimming more than 3,200 nautical miles across the Pacific Ocean, their US-based developer said.

Built by Liquid Robotics, the PacX Wave Gliders are taking part in a project to gather data about the composition and quality of seawater.

The first leg of their transoceanic swim from San Francisco to Hawaii took four months and they are expected to cover 9,000 nautical miles by their journey’s end.

They were launched in San Francisco harbour on 17 Nov, 2011. The robots consist of a floating upper part, shaped like a surfboard, connected by a cable to a lower assemble that has fins and a keel. They have no fuel or engine, instead converting energy from the movement of ocean waves into forward motion.

Solar panels installed on the upper surface of the power sensors that take readings every 10 minutes of the surrounding seawater.

“I have no doubt new ocean discoveries, insights, and applications will emerge from the PacX data set,” Edward Lu, chief of innovative applications at Liquid Robotics, told the BBC.

After a short stopover in Hawaii, the robots will split up, with two going on to Japan and two to Australia, crossing the equator.—*Internet*

Egypt finds suggest ancient royal funeral

TORONTO, 17 March—A find in Egypt of a wooden statue of a king, a chapel and animal mummies suggests ritual activity associated with the great Egyptian gods, researchers say.

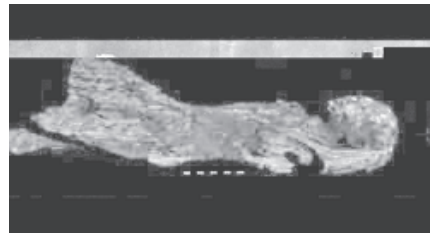
Archaeologists from the University of Toronto said the items and evidence of a monumental building were found in Abydos, Egypt in June and July 2011.

The wooden statue may represent the female king Hatshepsut, often portrayed as male in stone because the Egyptian pharaoh was understood to be son of the god Amon-Re, and Hatshepsut was known to dress as a man for the

role, a university release said Monday.

But this statue has a smaller waist and delicate jawline, acknowledging these aspects of her feminine physique, the researchers said. It is thought to be from a ceremonial procession in which wooden statues of the royal ancestors and of gods were carried by priests from the temple of Osiris to a royal tomb.

Egyptians from all levels of society built chapels and monuments along the processional route to ensure their eternal participation in the festival and their identification with Osiris, the researchers said, but building too close to the route was



This rare example of a royal statue made of wood may represent the female pharaoh Hatshepsut.—*INTERNET*

prohibited by the state and infringement carried the threat of the death penalty.

The proximity of the uncovered offering chapel to the procession route suggests it was that of an elite person and has been dated 1990 to 1650 BC, they said.

“The offering chapel proves that people — probably elites — were able to build monuments right next

to the processional route in the Middle Kingdom, and that at least one such chapel was allowed to stand in this increasingly densely built-up area and continued to receive offerings even 800 years after its initial construction,” Mary-Ann Pouls Wegner of Toronto’s Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations said.—*Internet*

Oldest animal with a skeleton found

RIVERSIDE, 17 March—Paleontologists say they’ve discovered fossils of the oldest animal with a skeleton, between 560 million and 550 years old, in South Australia.

The age of Coronacollina acula places it in a time known as the Ediacaran Period, named after the Ediacara Hills of South Australia, ranging from 630-542 million years ago, before the explosion of life and diversification of organisms that took place on Earth in the following Cambrian period from 542 million to 488 million years ago, they said.

“Up until the Cambrian, it was understood that animals were soft bodied and had no hard parts,” Mary Droser, a geology professor at the University of California, Riverside, who led the team making the discovery, said.

“But we now have an organism with individual skeletal body parts that appears before the Cambrian.

It is therefore the oldest animal with hard parts, and it has a number of them — they would have been structural supports — essentially holding it up. This is a major innovation for animals.”

Apart from its hard parts, it is constructed in the same way that Cambrian sponges were constructed, she said in a university release Friday.

“It therefore provides a link between the two time intervals,” Droser said.

Internet



NASA’s space shuttle “Atlantis” is towed into Orbiter Processing Facility 2 following completion of the space shuttle’s final mission at the Kennedy Space Center on 21 July, 2011. Atlantis will be powered down and “safed” prior to being put on display at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Atlantis completed her 33rd and the shuttle programme’s 135th and final mission with a pre-dawn landing. Atlantis flew to the International Space Station on mission STS 135 and provided equipment and supplies for the next year.—*INTERNET*

Shuttles play musical chairs in Florida

CAPE CANAVERAL, 17 March—NASA says two of its retired space shuttles are swapping places at Florida’s Kennedy Space Centre as part of ongoing preparations to display them in museums.

Shuttles Discovery and Atlantis will swap places, with Atlantis moving from the Vehicle Assembly Building to Orbiter Processing Facility-1, passing Discovery along the way, *Florida Today* reported Friday.

Discovery’s exit from a shuttle-processing hangar will be its last before a ferry flight to Washington’s Dulles International Airport, planned for 17 April, for display at the National Air and Space Museum’s Udvar-Hazy Centre next to the airport.

Atlantis will be the last orbiter to leave the Kennedy Space Centre, making a short journey down the road to the Visitor Complex in November. Endeavour, currently in residence at Orbiter Processing Facility-2, is expected to be ferried to Los Angeles in September for display at the city’s California Science Centre.—*Internet*

Dropbox adds new file and image features

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 March—Dropbox, the US online data storage service, says it has launched a major redesign, simplifying file management tasks and adding a new video and photo viewer.

A new user interface includes an “action bar” that lets users sort files by name, date, size and type, Mashable reported Friday.

Click on a file brings new additional options, allowing users to download, delete, rename, move or copy a file from the action bar.

A new viewer lets users view video and photo content in full-screen mode, but photos and videos now also have



Dropbox now includes improved image viewing.

thumbnails, which makes them easier to preview, Dropbox said.

The redesign is a first step in a complete overhaul of the service, Dropbox said, with more changes and new features coming in the “next few months.”—*Internet*



New study links antibiotics use to asthma in children



Shelley MaKay looks over her inhalers at her apartment on 13 March, 2006 in Toronto, Ont.—INTERNET

VANCOUVER, 17 March—A new study by researchers at the University of BC says the use of antibiotics may increase the incidence of asthma in young children.

The study found that two widely-used antibiotics alter the bacterial ecosystem in the intestines of mice, and that in turn can result not only in more cases of asthma, but more severe cases as well. The researchers say the same antibiotics—streptomycin and vancomycin—didn't lead to more asthma in adult mice, indicating that early life is a critical period for establishing a healthy immune system.

The report's author, microbiologist Brett Finlay, says the use of antibiotics and modern sanitation methods are hindering the development of intestinal bacteria that may be critical to an effective immune system. He says asthma cases have not increased significantly in developing countries where antibiotics aren't used as much, thus

allowing the normal development of intestinal bacteria. Asthma cases around the world are increasing about 50 per cent every decade, mostly among children in industrialized countries, and the Asthma Society of Canada says about 12 per cent of children in Canada suffer from the condition.—Internet

UNICEF calls for urgent aid to children in Sahel region

GENEVA, 17 March—The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned Friday that there is little time left to stave off a disaster facing more than one million children aged below five in the Sahel region of Africa as the dry, "lean" season begins.

The agency is expecting more than one million children suffering from severe and acute



malnutrition to enter feeding centers over the next six months at best, while more extreme conditions could see the number rise to around 1.5 million.

So far the agency has received 24 million US dollars against an emergency appeal of 119 million US dollars for 2012. The fund can only support an aid until the end of June while the "lean" season will last at least until August, according to UNICEF.

The crisis has been caused by poor rainfall and failed harvests affecting an estimated 10 million people in areas of Chad, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, northern Nigeria, northern Cameroon and parts of the north in Senegal. Meanwhile, the conflict in Mali has also increased demand for emergency assistance both inside the country and in neighboring countries that have received refugees.—Xinhua



A Pakistani health worker gives anti-polio vaccine to a child on the last day of a three-day anti-polio campaign in Lahore, eastern Pakistan on 14 March, 2012. A total of 198 polio cases had been reported in 2011 throughout the country, Pakistan Pediatric Association said.

XINHUA

Stubbed out cigarettes lay in an ashtray. An eight-year-old Indonesian boy who smokes more than a pack of cigarettes a day will undergo a month of therapy to kick his four-year habit, a child welfare official has said.

INTERNET

Indonesian eight-year-old to kick smoking habit

JAKARTA, 17 March—An eight-year-old Indonesian boy who smokes more than a pack of cigarettes a day will undergo a month of therapy to kick his four-year habit, a child welfare official said Friday.

Indonesia's Child Protection Commission chairman

Arist Merdeka Sirait said the boy, Ilham, who smokes around 25 cigarettes a day, needed "emergency help" as his addiction had reached "alert level", affecting his behaviour.

"You can see a dramatic change of behaviour when he doesn't have a cigarette for a while. He becomes emotionally aggressive and uncontrollable. He acts like he's possessed by evil spirits," Sirait told AFP.



The boy's father Agan Umar said his son would become enraged and "smash glass windows or whatever's around" if he is not constantly given cigarettes.

"I hope the therapy works so my son can go back to school and live a normal life like the other kids," Umar said.

The boy will leave his village in Sukabumi in western Java on Monday to start receiving intensive specialist care in the capital Jakarta, Sirait said.

"We'll give him a medical check-up to examine the impact his smoking has had on his health, and he'll be given psycho-social therapy to divert his attention from smoking to playing," he said. Indonesia has the world's highest percentage of young smokers, according to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report from 2006, which found more than 37 percent of high school and university students smoked.

The report found 25 percent of children between the age of three and 15 had tried smoking. A two-year-old boy on Sumatra island kicked the habit with a similar treatment after a video emerged in 2010 of the overweight toddler drawing heavily on a cigarette. His parents admitted he smoked 40 cigarettes a day. Smoking rates have risen six-fold in Indonesia over the last 40 years, with 89 million Indonesians in a population of 240 million smoking today, WHO data shows.—Internet

Business

Singapore shares close lower despite positive US data

SINGAPORE, 17 March—Singapore shares ended 0.5 percent lower on Friday as investors shrugged off positive news of better-than-expected US data that showed improving labor market conditions.

"we believe Singapore market is also a good hedge for higher oil prices as the market is scattered with Oil and Gas, Energy and commodity representatives which tend to benefit from higher oil prices," DBS Group Research said. The benchmark Straits Times Index dropped 15.16 points to close at 3,010.68. Trading volume was 1.36 billion shares worth 1.48 billion Singapore dollars (1.17 billion US dollars). Advancers outnumbered decliners 250 to 159, while 398 stocks finished unchanged.

Among the top actives, shipbuilder Yangzijiang gained 1.8 percent to close at 1.39 Singapore dollars. Bank of America Merrill Lynch raised the target price of Singapore-listed shipbuilder to 2.12 Singapore dollars from 2.08 Singapore dollars, and maintained "Buy" rating, citing a potential rise in orders for large container ship orders from mid-2012. It said the company could see its first rig building contract wins in the second half of the year, helped by support from the Chinese government.

Boustead Singapore rose 1.1 percent to close at 88 Singapore cents. It has recently secured about 35 million Singapore dollars in contracts from the oil and gas industries globally. This brings order book backlog to 345 million Singapore dollars.

JES International jumped 16.7 percent to close at 21 Singapore cents after reporting that its full-year net profit surged 208.4 percent on-year to 202.9 million Chinese Yuan (32.1 million US dollars).—Xinhua



Greg Packer shows his new iPad bought in the Apple store on the Fifth Avenue of Manhattan, New York City, the United States on 16 March, 2012.

Apple's new iPad, featuring a faster processor, a sharper high-resolution display, as well as a model capable of next-generation 4G Long Term Evolution high-speed service with Wi-Fi, started the selling in the United States on Friday.

XINHUA

Judge tentatively approves Honda settlement



Heather Peters speaks in court on 16 March, 2012, in San Diego. A judge tentatively approved a settlement to give owners of Honda Civic hybrids up to \$200 cash over claims that the cars' fuel economy was inflated.—INTERNET

SAN DIEGO, 17 March—A San Diego judge has finalized his approval of a settlement agreement that would give owners of Honda Civic hybrids up to \$200 cash over claims that fuel economy was inflated.

Superior Court Judge Timothy Taylor listened to nearly two hours of arguments Friday before issuing the final ruling.

The ruling provides between \$100 and \$200—plus rebates—to owners of about 200,000 vehicles from model years 2003 to 2009. It also would award plaintiff attorneys more than \$8 million.—Internet

Health Tip: Make 'tummy time' fun

While infants should never sleep on their stomach, tummy time while an infant is awake and being watched is important for baby's development, the American Academy of Pediatrics says. The academy mentions these suggestions to make "tummy time" fun for baby:

* With baby on his tummy, place a favorite toy just a little bit out of reach to encourage him to stretch for it.

* Surround baby with a circle of toys to encourage strengthening muscles by reaching in different directions.

* Once baby is old enough, place baby belly-down on your chest so he will pick up his head to look at your face.

* Encourage other young children to play with baby during tummy time, as long as you carefully supervise them together.—Internet

Pa-O National Organization presents its policy, stance and work programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Pa-O National Organization CEC member U Khun Min Kyaw presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV today. The translation of his presentation is as follows:-



Esteemed people,

I am U Khun Min Kyaw, CEC member of Pa-O National Organization (PNO). I will make my presentation about the PNO's participation in the by-election to be held on 1 April. Pa-O is one of more than 100 national races residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. History says that Pa-O represents Kayin tribe of Tibet Myanmar descendants. At present, more than one million Pa-O nationals are living in Shan State, Kayah State, Mon State, Kayin State and Bago Region. Not only did Pa-O nationals take part in independence struggles but also Pa-O national leader U Phyu gave his signature in the world-famous Panglong Agreement.

In 1948 Myanmar regained her independence from the British colonialists. The independent Union of Myanmar prescribed in its constitution that it would

practise parliamentary democracy. Democracy comes from an ancient Greek word. Demo means people and Kratos means power. Democracy is the most valuable political concept in the modern world. The right of a grown-up citizen to elect rulers by casting a vote is the basis of democracy. According to democratic practices, every citizen with right qualifications has the right to vote and run for election.

A free and fair election is the key to democracy. The more the taste of democracy a nation can enjoy, the more freedom the people living in that country will have. In the three parliamentary democracy elections—the first in 1952, the second in 1956 and the third in 1960—the then Union Pa-O National Organization won seven parliamentary seats.

Our Pa-O National Organization ran for the 2010 multi-party democracy general election with the objectives of ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and flourishing of democracy. Our party won 10 seats—one seat in Amyotha Hluttaw, three seats in Pyithu Hluttaw and six seats in the State Hluttaw. In the forthcoming by-election to be held on 1 April, our party will compete at the Pyithu Hluttaw level representing Kalaw Township of Shan State with a view to ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, democracy cause and eternal peace.

From March 1989 to 6 April 1997 in the times of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and State Peace

and Development Council (Tatmadaw) government, peace was achieved after reaching ceasefire agreement with 18 national ethnic armed groups with 67382 members and 53838 weapons. The root cause of civil wars is political instability. In order to achieve genuine internal peace, it is necessary to discuss and solve major political problems. Only when armed conflicts cease, will all the people enjoy peace. Peace can create human resources, promote education, give the people lots of rights. National development lies at the core of peace. Bamar, Shan, Danu, Pa-O, Intha, Taungyo and Palaung nationals in Kalaw Township have been living in amity and unity since ancient times with their cherished literatures, traditions and customs. With those national people working in concert for regional development, Kalaw Township is progressing. This is why I would like to urge the people to vote for Kalaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw candidate U Khun Than Maung from our party so that we can achieve democracy and genuine eternal peace.

May all the voters of Kalaw Township be healthy and happy and have their prayers answered.



Chinese national killed, two others injured by home-invasion burglars in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 17 March —One Chinese youth was killed and two others were injured in Johannesburg as burglars broke into their house two days ago, South Africa Chinese Community and Police Co-op Centre (SACCPC) confirmed with Xinhua on Saturday evening.

Wu Yinjian, a staff member with the center told Xinhua that the incident

happened on Thursday evening when several armed robbers broke into the empty residence of seven Chinese nationals in Bedfordview area. The Chinese, who went back after dinner and bumped into the robbers, were tied up and forced to hand over their cash.

Some of them were savagely beaten by the robbers with the iron rods. Three of them were injured, according to Wu, and one

died in a nearby hospital the next morning due to a fatal brain injury.

The robbers escaped after take away over 100,000 rands (about 20,000 US dollars), a TV set and computers.

The two injured are currently in stable conditions after receiving medical treatment in the hospital, said Wu. South African police are probing into the incident.—Xinhua



A Shaolin Kungfu master (L) teaches participants to practise basic skills at Stanford University in California, the United States, on 9 March, 2012. About 130 participants have learned Shaolin Kungfu since the course was offered at Stanford University in January 2011.—XINHUA



A Fiat 508 S MM car made in 1934 is shown on the exhibition "the Origins of Myth" during the preview for journalist held in the Enzo Ferrari Home Museum in Modena, Italy, on 9 March, 2012. After making its preview for journalist on Friday, the museum and the exhibition would be officially open to the public on 10 March. The museum complex is built on the basis of the old house where Enzo Ferrari was born in 1898.—XINHUA

Political advisor suggests deepened reforms to attract overseas Chinese

BEIJING, 17 March—Following are some quotes on deepened reforms to attract overseas Chinese from political advisor Ma Jianguo, also vice chairman of Jiangsu Provincial Committee of China Zhi Gong Party, at the ongoing annual session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee on Sunday:

—A total of 50 million overseas Chinese serve as China's unique advantage and important resources.

—We shall issue special identity documents for overseas Chinese to provide them the same convenience concerning children education, medical service, home purchases and entrance-exit procedures as domestic citizens to facilitate overseas Chinese returning to the motherland to live and start businesses.—Xinhua

At least 15 suspected militants killed in US drone attack in South Waziristan

ISLAMABAD, 17 March —At least 15 suspected militants were killed when two unmanned US drones hit them in the South Waziristan Agency, officials have said.

In the first strike, which took place in Uthgalai village of Barmal Tehsil, a drone fired four missiles at a vehicle.

"The target of the attack was fighters of Commander Maulvi Nazir. Eight suspected militants were killed in the attack," *The Express Tribune* quoted an intelligence official, as saying.

Sources added that two top militant commanders of the Mullah Nazir Group — identified as Ameer Hamza Tojikhel and Shamsullah — were among the dead. Both were believed to be key members of the group. The bodies were shifted to the Angoor Adda area.

Mullah Nazir, who is allied with Hafiz Gul Bahadur, a powerful militant commander in the neighbouring North Waziristan Agency, sends fighters into Afghanistan to attack US and NATO troops.

Internet

Technological universities and colleges produce more engineers, computer technicians in Bago Region



Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

Toungoo Technological University enables local youths to pursue higher education.

Institute of Education in Toungoo, Bago Region turns out local youths for education sector.

Pyay Technological University advances local youths' technological knowledge.

(Translation: AKK)



Bago Degree College Main Building produces experts.



Pyay University Main Building brings higher education to local youths.

- * An education policy has been adopted for development of Regions and States and the whole Union as well as human resources development.
- * Efforts are being made for improvement of quality and quantity of youths in Bago Region.
- * Extended opening of higher learning institutions in Bago Region was aimed at enabling youths in the region to continue pursue their studies within their reach. The project covers two arts and science universities, one degree college and two education colleges.
- * Moreover, each technological university and university of computer studies and technical high school were opened in Pyay and Toungoo, which are strategically located, for producing more engineers and computer technicians.

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Wu Yijian, a staff member with the center told *Xinhua* that the incident happened on Thursday evening when several armed robbers broke into the empty residence of seven Chinese nationals in Bedfordview area.

The Chinese, who went back after dinner and bumped into the robbers, were tied up

and forced to hand over their cash.

Some of them were savagely beaten by the robbers with the iron rods. Three of them were injured, according to Wu, and one died in a nearby hospital the next morning due to a fatal brain injury.

The robbers escaped after take away over 100,000 rands (about 20,000 US dollars), a TV set and computers.

The two injured are currently in stable conditions after receiving medical treatment in the hospital, said Wu.

South African police are probing into the incident.

Xinhua

Gunman robs doctors mid-surgery at Venezuelan hospital

CARACAS, 17 March —A man robbed a surgeon and his staff at gunpoint during a procedure being performed in the operating theater of a hospital in the central Venezuelan city of Maracay, making off with watches, cell phones and money, an official said.

The robber, pretending to be a patient, broke into the operating theater Thursday at Red Cross headquarters in Aragua, the head of the institution in that state, Juan Mario Gualano, said.

"He (the robber) suddenly took out a gun, burst into the operating room and demanded the submission of the medical staff doing surgery on a patient," Gualano said,

describing the incident as "a really crazy thing".

The assailant grabbed cell phones, watches and cash from the operating theater staff, who never interrupted the surgery.

"The patient is in stable condition, but imagine the crisis it put our medical personnel in, having to continue operating while being assaulted," the official said.

Gualano added that, according to patients' accounts, the individual talked on the phone with another person just before pulling out his gun, with which he also threatened patients in the ward and their relatives in the waiting room.—Internet



**Vice-President
Thiha Thura U
Tin Aung Myint
Oo inspects
construction of
Zabuthiri
Stadium.**

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects preparations for...

(from page 1)

construction tasks, check the buildings whether they meet set standards or not, constitute one inspection team from construction groups, another team from Ministry of Science and Technology and the Office of Auditor-General of the Union and the next one from intellectuals to be able to inspect the standards and expenditure in construction works and submit the reports on inspection, and instructed construction groups to system-



Progress in construction of Zabuthiri Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Lodgings for sport athletes under construction at Sports Village Project in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

atically follow the remarks from findings of the inspection teams.

Next, the Vice-President and party looked into progress of buildings for athletes at Sports Village.

After the XXVII SEA Games, the Sports Village will be used as staff quarters.

At the briefing hall of the Zabuthiri Modern Stadium, the Vice-President heard reports on progress of the stadium, preparations for holding the sports competitions and construction of

30,000-spectator-capacity stadium presented by Chairman of Max Myanmar Co Ltd U Zaw Zaw.

After giving necessary instructions, the Vice-President inspected construction tasks at the stadium.

Next, the Vice-President and party viewed round progress of Zabuthiri Indoor Venue Project.

Later, they viewed construction of international standard Zabuthiri Swimming Pool Project.

MNA

Myanmar delegation attends first meeting of Conference of the Parties to ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergence Response in Indonesia

YANGON, 17 March—Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi attended the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 1) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergence Response-AADMER held in Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia, on 15 March.

The meeting was attended by ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and disaster management

ministers and deputy ministers from 10 ASEAN countries and Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare of Indonesia Mr Agung Laksono chaired the meeting.

Participants discussed the setting of rules and regulations on the meeting, laying down of financial rules on ASEAN disaster management and emergency rescue funds and financial matters for ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on

Disaster Management-AHA Center.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi also spoke on the occasion. Next, the Union Minister together with the delegates visited AHA center situated on the 17th floor of BNPP building.

The Union Minister met Indonesian Minister for Manpower and Transmigration Mr Muhaimin Iskandar. He briefed on promoting of democracy in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and

both sides exchanged views on matters related to labour organizations and migrant workers.

Director-General U Soe Aung of the Relief and Resettlement Department, who accompanied the Union Minister, attended the 19th ASEAN Disaster Management Committee's meeting on 13 to 14 March. The Union Minister and delegation members arrived back in Myanmar yesterday evening.

MNA

Second meeting on JDS Project 2012-2013 held

YANGON, 17 March—Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe attended the second meeting on JDS Project 2012-2013 at the hall of Yangon University of Foreign Languages, here, yesterday afternoon.

Minister-Counsellor Mr Ichiro Maruyama of the Japanese Embassy explained matters related to JDS Project. Those present took part in the discussions.—MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, farmers observe thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing met with Pyithu Hluttaw representatives from Sagaing, Kawlin, Indaw, Ayadaw, Myaung and Lahe Townships of Sagaing Region, those of Kyonpyaw Township of Ayeyawady Region, those of Waw Township of Bago Region, those of Kanma, Salin, Gangaw, Htilin, Pauk and Natmauk townships of Magway Region, those of Singu and Singaung townships of Mandalay Region, those of Dimawhso and Pruho townships of Kayah State, those of Papun and Myawady townships of Kayin State and Pauktaw Township of Rakhine State led by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Saw Hla Tun of ChaungU Township Constituency of Sagaing Region, and farmers led by U Thauung Htaik of ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region, who made a trip to observe thriving Palethwe

hybrid paddy plantations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, at the briefing hall of 369-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation near Ayinlo Village of Pyinmana Township this morning.

The Union Minister explained good agricultural patterns being applied by farmers, entrepreneurs and agriculturists from the paddy transplanting to harvest period, post-harvesting technology, operating of rice mills for doubling the incomes of farmers.

Deputy Minister U Khin Zaw discussed that development of agricultural tasks cannot be brought about through traditional farming system. It is necessary to apply good agricultural patterns for modernizing the agricultural system, he said.

The Union Minister and the deputy minister pre-

sented seven kilos of Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds per acre to farmers.

The excursion group members viewed thriving 95-day-old paddy plantations. Staff members and local farmers explained prospects for production of over 200 baskets of paddy per acre due to thriving equal and quality ears of paddy.

The excursion group members viewed thriving 45-day-old Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation on 288 acres of advanced farmlands in Aungchantha Village of Zabuthiri Township. They also looked into cultivation of vegetable plantation on vacant lands beside the farmlands, construction of production roads, feeder canals and drains, broadcasting of fertilizer at four species of Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations in Tegyigon Village of Zabuthiri Township. They also viewed Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations of Vietnam and China species on 500 acres of farmer educative farmlands in Pobbathiri Township, cultivation of vegetable plantations on vacant areas beside the farmlands, sorting of paddy seeds and packaging works.

MNA

Training courses of MPT conclude



Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun speaks at the concluding of Multimedia Web Content Development Course and Network and System Administration Course (Level 2).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Multimedia Web Content Development Course and Network and System Administration Course (Level 2) were concluded at the Telecommunications and Postal Training Centre of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications on 16 March morning. Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun spoke on the occasion and presented certificates to the

trainees.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Tint Lwin and departmental heads. A total of 76 service personnel from various ministries did the four-week courses. Since 24 April 2006, the centre has conducted 26 courses, turning out 4421 trainees.

MNA

Kayin State Chief Minister looks into development tasks in Papun District

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min on 9 March viewed nurturing of various saplings at the temporary nursery in Ward 3 of Papun, rubber farm of U Sai Ohn Naing in Model Village on west bank of Papun and seasonal crop plantations and rubber farm of U Sein Win Nyunt.

On 10 March, he sowed the seeds at the nursery of Papun Township Forest Department.

In the afternoon, he met local people, departmental personnel, social organizations and townseiders at the hall of Papun District General Administration Department and presented aids to officials for education, health, transport, agriculture and regional development.

After inspecting Yunsalin Creek Bridge, he looked into basic education schools, rural health centre, wooden bridge and construction of Papun-Kamamoung road section on 11 March.

MNA

Thuta Swesone Literary Award presented to winners for seventh time

YANGON, 17 March—Organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, the Seventh Thuta Swesone Literary Award Presenting Ceremony of Swesone Media Group was held at Traders Hotel, here, this morning.

Managing Director Daw Khin Moe Moe of Swesone Media Group explained the purpose of awarding the prizes. Member of the Literary Award Selection Committee Chairman of Swesone Media Group Dr Tin Tun Oo explained matters related to selected works.

Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint presented Thuta Swesone Life-time Achievement Literary Award to Daw Yi Yi Hla

(Yuwady Khin Oo); Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe gave Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Arts genre) to Dr Kyaw Sein for his work; Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Belle-letter genre) to Sein Myo Myint; Director-General U Ye Htut of Information and Public Relations Department Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Political Genre) to Maung Wun Tha, Managing Director U Ye Tint of Printing and Publishing Enterprise Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Biography Genre) to Naing Zaw, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw

Chit) Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Social Economic Genre) to Daw Thiri Khin on behalf of her husband Hein Latt, Chairman of Swesone Media Group Dr Tin Tun Oo Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Applied Science Genre) to U Kyaw Thu, and Managing Director Dr Khin Moe Moe of Swesone Media Group Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Knowledge Science Genre) to Win Kyaw.

The Chairman and the Managing Director of Swesone Media presented gifts to U Ko Ko (Ko-University) on behalf of the award selection committee.

Award winner Maung Wun Tha, Sein Myo Myint and Dr Yi Yi Hla (Yuwady Khin Oo) spoke words of thanks.—MNA



Sagaya Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye and wife Daw Wai Wai comfort cleft lip and palate patients at Monywa People's Hospital on 14 March. (News reported) MNA

UMFCCI President and party leave for Japan

YANGON, 17 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, Central Executive Committee members Dr Aung Thein and Dr Tha Tun

Oo, executives U Ye Myat Thu, U Moe Myint Kyaw and U Kyi Min left here by air on 12 March evening to attend the meeting with officials of the Japanese Government, scholars and entrepreneurs to be held in Tokyo

of Japan.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by General Secretary of UMFCCI Dr Myo Thein, Joint General Secretary U Moe Kyaw and officials.

Myanma Alin

Two decades of ASEAN-India cooperation

Article: ST (NLM)

Today, the entire global community sees the term 'internationalism' as an integral part of international relations. Actually, internationalism means the belief that countries should work together in a friendly way. With this end in view, regional, sub-regional and international organizations such as ASEAN, EU and African Union have emerged across the globe to work together for peace and development of global society. For expanding its international or external relations, ASEAN has been trying to develop friendly relations and mutually beneficial dialogue, cooperation and partnerships with all countries as well as sub-regional, regional and international organizations and institutions. In forging friendly relations with all countries, ASEAN has also been focusing on its relations with India, which is not only an emerging economy but also a country with advancing science and technology. Indeed, India is the immediate neighbourhood of ASEAN. Both share land and maritime borders with Myanmar, Indonesia and Thailand, all of which are ASEAN member countries. Therefore, we cannot deny the fact that ASEAN-India cooperation is vitally important. With two decades of ASEAN-India cooperation, it has covered economic, political and security and development cooperation dimensions with a number of mechanisms established to promote dialogue and cooperation in these areas. In recent years, multilateral cooperation sectors such as science and technology, transport, media, infrastructure and small and medium enterprises have gained momentum. Recently, we, a media group of the Information Ministry of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, together with journalists from ASEAN countries including a representative from ASEAN Secretariat, had the opportunity to pay a visit to India to take part in the ASEAN-India media familiarization programme, which was held in conjunction with Delhi Dialogue IV in New Delhi last month at the invitation of Indian External Affairs Ministry.

Recognizing the need for greater engagement, an annual international conference (Delhi Dialogue) has been held since 2009 with the active support of India's Ministry of External Affairs. The theme for Delhi Dialogue IV which was held on 13-14 February 2012 is 'India and ASEAN: Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability', and the event was categorized into four thematic sessions which addressed economic cooperation, regional security, non-traditional security threats and networks of knowledge and science. The inaugural session of the dialogue meeting was held at Shahjahan Hall of Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi with an opening remark by Director General Mr Sudhir T Devare of Indian Council of World Affairs and keynote addresses by Foreign Affairs Ministers from India and ASEAN countries, including Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The first session highlighted the discussion of issues of economic integration including mechanisms for sectoral cooperation, interlinking of the two regions in a common production and services network, and dispute settlement mechanism. The second session highlighted issues of non-traditional security (NTS) threats and challenges which from climate change, water security, food security, terrorism, piracy, pandemics, cyber security and so on. At this session, Daw Yin Yin Myint, Director of Institute of Security and International Studies in Yangon, discussed outbreaks of natural disasters in Myanmar and efforts for rescue and rehabilitation work. The third sessions examined the evolving security architecture in Asia Pacific region, and the last session explored the level of exchanges of knowledge and cooperation in scientific endeavours between India and ASEAN countries. The valedictory session was graced by the attendance of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Former President of India, who also delivered his valedictory address.

According to the ASEAN-India media familiarization programme, we, ASEAN journalists, paid courtesy calls on Indian External Affairs Minister and Deputy Chairman of Indian Planning Commission and visits to Taj Mahal and



Delhi Dialogue IV in progress in New Delhi, India, with the participation of ASEAN Foreign Affairs Ministers.

Agra Fort in Agra, New Delhi, and Indian Institute of Science, Supercomputer Education and Research Center, Infosys, Biocon, India Space and Research Organization (ISRO) and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) in Bangalore, which is an industrial city of India.

Taj Mahal, one of the world's wonders, is the biggest tourist attraction in India and Agra Fort itself is historically impressive. While we were on visit to the facilities of Bangalore, most of which are restricted areas, we witnessed the rapidly advancing science and technology of India.

On arrival at the Indian Institute of Science, which is more than 100 years old, we found it with old but impressive buildings. The institute is the first example of a public private partnership in this country. In the briefing room, we learnt from a liaison officer that the institute's departments ranging from Biochemistry to Aerospace Engineering have served to nucleate research and development in both the public and private sectors. Many of India's most distinguished scientists have been associated with the institute as students or faculty. Now, it offers a variety of Master's degree programmes in Engineering, an integrated PhD (Post-BSc) programme in Sciences and PhD programmes in a wide spectrum of disciplines in science and engineering attracting local and foreign students. In addition, the library and computational facilities at the institute are amongst the best in India.

Then, we proceeded to the Supercomputer Education and Research Centre (SERC) under the institute. The centre provides the state-of-the-art computing environment, which can compare well with the top computing centres anywhere in the world. The Computer Centre, established in 1970, became SERC in 1990 engaging in research programmes (PhD and MSc) and course programme (MTech in Computational Science). It conducts three major research streams: Computer Systems, Computational Science and bioinformatics.

On 16-2-2012, we paid a study visit to Infosys, an IT company of India. Its offerings span business and technology consulting, application services, systems integration, product engineering, custom software development, maintenance, re-engineering, independent testing and validation services, IT infrastructure services and business process outsourcing. Infosys has 64 offices and 68 development centres in US, India, China, Australia, Japan, Middle East, UK, Germany, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Poland, Canada and many other countries with 145,088 employees in total.

In the afternoon, we visited Biocon, an integrated healthcare company, delivering innovative biopharmaceutical solutions. Biocon is renowned for producing affordable therapies for insulin dependent diabetes and cancer vaccines. It is also pursuing a path of breakthrough innovation through phase III human clinical trials to develop the world's first oral insulin. According to the chairman of the company at the question & answer

session, we learnt that the market of Biocon products is developing not only in Africa but also in Asia and ASEAN regions.

In the afternoon, we visited Indian Space Research Organization to study Indian space activities which started during early 1960s. India has nine communication satellites operating for television broadcast, telecommunications and meteorological applications; remote sensing satellites for management of natural resources. Besides, India has its current and future programmes to build and launch more satellites.

On 17-2-2012, we visited Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Airbus Assembly, Helicopter Assembly and Aeronautical Museum under it. Today, HAL has 19 Production Units and 10 Research & Design Centres in 8 locations in India. It has manufactured over 3658 aircraft/helicopters, 4178 engines, upgraded 272 aircraft and overhauled over 9643 aircraft and 29775 engines.

Our study tour of Indian facilities in Bangalore has made us witness its rapid advances in science and technology as well as developed our willingness to cooperate with India in the area.

During the tour, questions the Indian journalists raised interestingly also included Myanmar's current political situations and activities, the stances of the Myanmar people and the new government's achievements.

In my opinion, all the journalists on a study visit to India were found to have keen interest in India blessed with many interesting places and its advancing science and technology. They seem to have a desire to make a study visit not only to India but also other ASEAN's partner countries. They want ASEAN to become a strong and reliable organization standing together with powerful nations among the global community.

All the journalists are optimistic about Myanmar and they seem to have recognized Myanmar's changes and reforms. They are well-experienced in international issues and I have found that ASEAN nations are easy to deal with by just looking at their benevolent attitude towards their association. India on its side also accepts and recognizes ASEAN for its important role in multilateral cooperation with big nations, especially with China and India.

Overall, this ASEAN-India media cooperation has allowed us to facilitate the possible establishment of an enduring and understandable communication network in the ASEAN media field. We, Myanmar representatives, have had our opportunities to learn Indian's economic and technological development plus its traditional culture and regional knowledge. Moreover, through the ASEAN-India media familiarization programme, we have been able to strengthen the amity, understanding and knowledge among the ASEAN nations and between India and ASEAN.

May these 20 years of ASEAN-India cooperation continue to last forever!

Assistance provided to students at matriculation examination

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 17 March—Hlinephone Village Basic Education High School was designated as new examination centre for 2012 matriculation examination in Mawlamyinegyun Township.

On 12 March morning, Mawlamyinegyun Town-

ship Administrator U Htay Maung and Township Matriculation Pass Rate Raising Committee members visited the school.

They viewed the students sitting for the examination and attended the needs.

After that, the

DISTRICT NEWS

Township Administrator and party inspected the hostels where students of matriculation students from Ale Yegyaw Village sitting for the examination at Hlinephone Exam Centre stayed and fulfilled the requirements.

Myanma Alin

Stake driven for construction of village library



MAUBIN, 17 March—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of the village library was held in Botesu Village of Shwetaungmaw

Village-tract in Maubin Township of Ayeyawady Region on 2 March morning.

The library will be built with contribution of the State

and wellwishers.

Staff Officer Daw Yin Swe Win of Maubin District Information and Public Relations Department, Head of Township IPRD Daw Tin Tin Hlaing, Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Naing Lin Tun and Village Administrator U Khin Win drove stakes.

Later, they met members of the library committee and townselders and discussed programme for construction of the library.

District IPRD

Revenue management computerization course concludes in Monywa

MONYWA, 17 March—The revenue management computerization system e-RTS course concluded at the hall of the Sagaing Region Internal Revenue Department in Monywa on 13 March afternoon.

Head of Sagaing Region Internal Revenue Department U Nyi Nyi Htin Paw

spoke on the occasion and presented the first prize to Deputy Head of Department Daw Mar Mar Thin, the second prize to Staff Officer Daw Thida Moe and the third prize to Deputy Head of Department Daw Yi Yi Mar.

Altogether 22 trainees attended the training course.—Township IRD

Action to be taken against discipline offending vehicles

YANGON, 17 March—The Yangon City Development Committee will form the disciplinary enforcement teams to take action against the undisciplined vehicles in the municipal area of YCDC.

Deterrent action will be taken against the overage vehicles installed with temporary number plates, the

vehicles without number plates and other discipline offending vehicles.

Three vehicle disciplinary enforcement teams will supervise the vehicles. If the vehicles do not accept inspection of the teams and run away, white BSA motorcycles will be used for arresting them.

In realizing their

assignments, the teams will take action against the offenders by banning the licences.

Myanma Alin

Crime reduction talks given in Shwegyin

SHWEGYIN, 16 March—An educative talk on crime reduction was held at Yadana Hall of Basic Education High School in Shwegyin of Bago Region on 3 March morning.

At first, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Khin Maung Win gave talks on crime reduction.

Next, Police Inspector Maung Maung Win of Bago Region Anti-Human Trafficking Special Squad, Police Inspector Kyaw Swe Oo of Special Anti-Drug Squad and Sub-Police Inspector Aung Naing of Traffic Police Force gave talks on their respective sectors.

Later, they distributed pamphlets to the attendees.

Township IPRD

TAKE FIRE PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Fire breaks out in Ward 4 of South Okkalapa



YANGON, 17 March—A fire broke out at a house on Thuta 1st Street in Ward 4 of South Okkalapa Township in Yangon Region.

Starting from the wire shock upstairs of the house, a total of 14 houses were burnt in the incident. The burning started at 6.15 pm.

Fire brigade members

and local people put out the fire with the use of over 40 fine engines, management vehicles and supporting vehicles. They controlled the burning at 6.45 pm and died out it at 7.20 pm.

There was no casualty in the fire. Fire victims are being accommodated at the relief camp.—Myanma Alin

Talks on boosting production of paddy given



YANGON, 17 March—The educative talks on thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy strain was held on 12 acres of farmland owned by farmer U Kyaw Htay for production of over 200 baskets of paddy per acre in Hsatgale Village of Htantabin Township in Yangon Region on 11 March.

The paddy was cultivated on the farmland through good agriculture pattern.

Head of Yangon Region Myanmar Agriculture Department U Tin Aung Win, Deputy Head of the department U Thein Lwin, Township

Administrator U Ngwe Doe and Township Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Department U Sann Lwin gave talks on good agriculture pattern, boosting production of paddy and cultivation of quality paddy strains.

Myanma Alin

Chairman of MRIA receives Japanese businessmen

YANGON, 17 March—General Manager Mr Hiroshi Mochizuki and party of Agricultural Product Department of Marubeni Corporation of Japan met the chairman, the general secretary and CEC members of Myanmar Rice Industry Association at its office on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lannadaw Township on 14 March morning.

their discussions focused on fertilizer inputs, agro-based industries, modern storage, processing, milling and exporting of paddy, investment at ports and purchase of Myanmar rice.—Myanma Alin

CHILDREN HONOURED: Children from pre-primary school of Social Welfare Department performed entertainment of dancing for 2011-2012 in Mingala Theikdi Ward of Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. On 17 March, Assistant Director Daw Khin Nwe of Nay Pyi Taw Social Welfare Department presents flower basket for children through an official.—MNA



Truck bumps pedestrian on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

WUNDWIN, 17 March—While crossing from the right side to the left side, odd job worker Ko Htay Oo, 37, of Ywshay Village in Wundwin Township of Meiktila District was bumped by a truck near mile post No. 368/0 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in the area of Shwedaung Police Station in Wundwin Township on 1 March afternoon.

The truck run away after bumping him.

The injured was sent as in-patient to Wundwin Township People's Hospital.—Myanma Alin

Two people injured in bumping bicycle by car

KAWKAREIK, 17 March—A HiAce Super Custom driven by Kyaw Soe, 23 of Wingyi Mosque quarters of Ward 3 in Kawkareik hit Ma May Lwin Oo (a) Mi Lon, 23 and his daughter Ma May Kyel Zin Lin, 4, of Bogoyoke Road in Ward 2 of Kawkareik in Kayin State who were cycling at 10 am on 12 March near Directorate of Road Administration on Bayintnaung Road.

The car bumped a Swedaw (*Bauhinia acuminata*) tree beside the road again due to out of control.

In the incident, the bicycle was destroyed. May Lwin Oo broken her left hand and was injured at her forehead, and May Kyel Zin Lin suffered from broken left hand and injuries at head. The injured persons were sent as in-patient to Kawkareik District People's Hospital.—Myanma Alin

Parents redecorate hospital rooms in late son's memory



Zach Hamilton is seen in this undated photo.—INTERNET

TORONTO, 17 March—The parents of a Toronto-area child who died a year ago are working to ensure his memory lives on at the hospital where he spent his final days.

Three-year-old Zack Hamilton died after battling several health problems related to a congenital heart defect. His parents Heather and Peter spent a lot of time with him in a particular room at York Central Hospital,

where he would often watch the TV show "Elmo's World."

"He couldn't speak, but when he wanted to watch his favourite show he would hum the Elmo song," Heather told CTV's Canada AM on Friday, adding, "York Central Hospital... took such good care of him."

While Zack was in the hospital, Heather began reaching out to a community of other mothers on Twitter.

On the day he died, many of them added Elmo to their avatars, and have continued showing support to the Hamiltons throughout their grieving process.

"We didn't realize how powerful that medium was," said Peter, wearing an Elmo T-shirt under a black blazer on Friday. "The love... that was demonstrated over Twitter is phenomenal. To this day we still get messages from strangers saying, 'We're there for you. What can we do for you?'"

Shortly after Zack's death, his parents began harnessing their existing network and newfound community to raise money for the hospital. Their goal was to turn the drab room where they spent so much time into a colourful haven fit for a young child.—Internet



Primary school students in Lommel form a circle around a heart drawn with chalk, during a minute of silence for victims of the on 13 March bus crash near the town of Sierre in southern Switzerland.—INTERNET

Alert as Western Australia braces for cyclone

SYDNEY, 17 March—A tropical cyclone bearing down on Western Australia intensified on Saturday, placing the region on high alert as the storm threatened to bring destructive gale-force winds.

Severe tropical cyclone Lua, upgraded to a Category 4 storm—five is the highest—is moving steadily towards the coast and is expected to make landfall on Saturday afternoon.

"There is a threat to lives and homes. You are in danger and need to act immediately," Western Australian emergency officials said in a warning to residents in the sparsely populated Pilbara region.

The small communities of Pardoo and Wallal are believed to be in the line of the cyclone

and residents of those areas have been warned to seek shelter immediately.

"Destructive winds to 160 kilometres (100 miles) per hour are possible between Port Hedland and Bidyadanga extending to the inland eastern Pilbara later in the day," the Bureau of Meteorology said in a warning.

"Very destructive winds up to 230 kilometres per hour are forecast near the cyclone centre."

Commercial flights into the area have been cancelled and the main highway closed, while the Port Hedland port has been shut down.

Western Australia's Pilbara region is an important resources hub, with major iron ore and gas facilities.

Internet



Model Heidi Klum performs during the UNICEF Playlist With The A-List at El Rey Theatre, in Los Angeles, California.—INTERNET

Two bus parks to be built to accommodate new buses



Passengers boarding buses.—INTERNET

SINGAPORE, 17 March—Two additional bus parks - one in the east and the other in Woodlands - will be built to accommodate the

incoming fleet of some 800 new buses to Singapore.

The government will bear the development and land costs for the depots, and lease them to transport operators at a nominal fee.

The tender for the Woodlands bus depot will close in April 2012.

It is expected to be completed before the end of the year and can accommodate some 200 to 300 buses.

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) will call for a tender for the other depot in the east within the next one to two months. The LTA said details for the second bus park are still being finalised.

Internet

300 people evacuated after oil warehouse fire

HANGZHOU, 17 March—Fire-fighters in an east China City evacuated more than 320 people from their homes in the wee hours Saturday, after a warehouse for cooking oil caught fire.

About 152 fire-fighters joined the fire extinguishing after the warehouse which belongs to China's popular soybean oil producer Jinlongyu, in Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province, caught fire. They evacuated the people from a school, a hotel and a staff dormitory adjacent to the warehouse immediately after they arrived at the fire scene. The huge blaze was brought under control at 2:40 am. The fire department said the warehouse keeps stocks of cooking oil and rice. No casualties occurred in the fire. The cause of the fire and the economic losses it incurred were not immediately known.—Xinhua



Fire-fighters work in the accident site after a warehouse for cooking oil caught fire in Ningbo City, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 17 March, 2012. No casualties occurred in the fire. The cause of the fire and the economic losses it incurred were not immediately known.

XINHUA

High numbers of Saudi women smoking

NAJRAN, 17 March—Saudi Arabia was found to have the second most female smokers in the Arab Gulf region, prompting an anti-smoking campaign at a university, officials said.

The campaign—called "lead it"—kicked off Thursday at Najran University with a speech from

Abdul Rahman al-Shamrani, the chairman of the Waaie ("enlightened") society, bikyamasr.com reported.

"If there are 8 million smokers in the Kingdom, each consuming one pack at about SR5 [\$1.33] a day, then the Kingdom annually spends over SR14 billion [\$3.73 million] on cigarettes," al-

Shamrani said.

A number of government and private establishments are participating in the week-long campaign, including health affairs, the drug-combat police, the university hospital, the faculty of dentistry and the boy scouts, bikyamasr.com said.

Internet

Laptop with photos of slain daughter taken

DONCASTER, 17 March—A man in the north of England has issued a plea for the return of a stolen laptop loaded with pictures of his 13-year-old daughter, who was fatally stabbed.

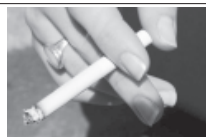
South Yorkshire police said the computer was removed from Anthony Kearney's home in Edenthorpe sometime Thursday morning, *The Sun* reported.

Casey Kearney was stabbed in the stomach in a Doncaster park last month as she headed for a meeting with friends. Hannah Bonser, 26, has been charged with her murder.

"Photos and videos hold all the precious memories of my beautiful daughter and I desperately want these back," Kearney said in a statement.

"Photographs hold an incredible sentimental value to anyone—but these pictures even more so as I will never be able to take any more of Casey."

Internet



Saudi Arabia was found to have the second most female smokers in the Arab Gulf region, prompting an anti-smoking campaign at a university, officials said.

INTERNET

Boy, 8, takes sister for late night drive

Police in Utah said an 8-year-old boy who crashed his parents' car into a tree told officers he was taking his 5-year-old sister to the store. Ogden police Lt Danielle Croyle said the boy and his sister climbed into the car and drove off around 2 am Thursday and a police officer noticed the car crashed into a tree a short time later, *The Salt Lake Tribune* reported on Thursday.

The children, who were not injured, were still inside the vehicle. The boy told police he had taken his parents' car because his sister needed to go to the store. Police said the children's parents were asleep and did not know the kids had left. No criminal charges are expected, police said.



Thai taxis and buses are parked near the Royal Palace in Bangkok. Thai police said a taxi driver has returned 8.2 kilograms (18 pounds) of gold ornaments worth around \$410,000 to their owner who had left them in his car three days ago.—INTERNET

Thai taxi driver returns \$410,000 in gold to owner

A Thai taxi driver Friday returned 8.2 kilograms (18 pounds) of gold ornaments worth around \$410,000 to their owner who had left them in his car three days ago, police said.

Bangkok cabbie Saksri Ketsrikaew, 56, said he spent two days driving around Bangkok searching for the owner because he had no contact number.

He said he contacted community radio after he learned gold shop owner Eakerat Kanokwattana, 60, had filed a complaint with police and the story of the missing gold hit local headlines. But police were not convinced he had a heart of gold. "His excuse doesn't make sense if he intended to return the gold to its owner as he knew where they got off," case officer Lieutenant Colonel Udom Sukprasert told *AFP*.

Calif snake found in NY toilet

A California kingsnake was in a New York state of mind when it came out of a man's Staten Island apartment toilet, scaring him, he said, half to death.

"I turned the light on at 6:30 am and went to open the vanity when I thought I saw something move in the toilet," Allen Shepard said about his Tuesday encounter with the reptile.

"The snake was getting on the top of the rim, ready to strike." He slammed the lid down and ran to grab some spray toilet cleaner with which to do battle. No go. Time for reinforcements, Shepard called his building super, Karen Genco, WCBS-TV, New York, reported Wednesday.

"I didn't believe him at first, I thought he was joking,

but it was for real," Genco said. "It was like a scene out of a cartoon, it was hysterical."

Genco then called plumber Kenneth Rosenthal, WPIX-TV, New York, reported.

"All I saw was the tail of the snake, then I kept pulling out more and more and more and before I knew it, I had 4 feet of snake," Rosenthal said.

"So I was wrestling with this thing to get him out in one piece and finally I hooked him. I got him and threw him into a thermos and that was the end of him."

Well, not the end: The non-venomous constrictor was taken to a sanctuary in Manhattan.

The speculation is the snake, probably someone's pet, escaped and entered into the plumbing.

News Album

Roberts' kids won't see 'Mirror Mirror'

LONDON, 17 March — Oscar winning actress Julia Roberts has revealed that her two children will not be seeing her new movie "Mirror Mirror".

The actress plays the evil Queen in the film which is a re-telling of the fairytale Snow White but Roberts feel that her kids are a little young to see the movie, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*

"I think they are too



Oscar winning actress Julia Roberts

young considering the part t "We have a pretty rigid viewing feeling in our house. We're more book people in

our house," the actress told *People*. "Those nice, cosy, very short hours before bed, we just really spend together as a family talking and sharing the day and reading books, and really, before you know it, it's time for bed."

"Part of it is there's just not time for that. We would prefer something different in that time," she added.

Mirror Mirror is releasing 6 April.—*Internet*

Strathairn to star in 'Heiress' on B'way

NEW YORK, 17 March—Actor David Strathairn is to co-star with Jessica Chastain in the Broadway production of "The Heiress" this fall, producers said Thursday.

The play by Ruth Goetz and Augustus Goetz is being directed by Moises Kaufman.

Strathairn is best known for his work in the film "Good Night, and Good Luck" and in HBO's "Temple Grandin."

This production of "The Heiress" comes 17 years after the celebrated play was last seen on Broadway. The play is based on the classic Henry James novel "Washington Square," which was adapted for the screen in 1949 as "The Heiress" — winning four Academy Awards, including a Best Actress Oscar for Olivia de Havilland.

Internet

'Madagascar 3' to premiere at Cannes

CANNES, 17 March—The animated adventure "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted" will have its world premiere at France's Cannes Film Festival in May, *The Hollywood Reporter* said.



American actor Chris Rock attends the premiere of "Madagascar - Escape 2 Africa" at Empire, Leicester Square in London on 23 Nov, 2008.

INTERNET

The Paramount and DreamWorks Animation film is the first major studio feature to be scheduled as part of the Cannes lineup. An official announcement about the

screening is expected soon, the entertainment industry trade newspaper said Thursday.

"Madagascar 3," which hits US theaters June 8, takes its cartoon cast of New York zoo animals to Monte Carlo, London, Rome and the Swiss Alps.

Internet



The funeral program is held by a mourner outside of The New Hope Baptist Church after the Funeral of Whitney Houston in Newark, New Jersey on 18 Feb, 2012.

INTERNET

Lopez blames wedding rumours on hacker

LONDON, 17 March—Actress and singer Jennifer Lopez has blamed an internet hacker for spreading rumours suggesting she is to wed her new dancer boyfriend.

Gossips spread when a post on Roberto Cavalli's Twitter.com page suggested Lopez had asked the fashion designer to make a wedding

dress for her upcoming marriage to Casper Smart.

The message read, "Today, Jennifer Lopez. Call me(sic)...She ask me. To create a special dress. For her next wedding! Which colour...Do you advise me?" However, Lopez confirmed the wedding rumour is not true.

"Here's the truth now: Roberto Cavalli's Twitter account was hacked. The rumour is not true," she wrote on the website.—*Internet*

Singer Marc Anthony and his wife, actress and singer Jennifer Lopez.—INTERNET



'Bodyguard' returning to theaters

CENTIENAL, 17 March—The 1992 romantic thriller "The Bodyguard," starring Kevin Costner and the late Whitney Houston, is headed back to 400 US theaters, screening organizers said.

The one-night event is to take place at select theaters 28 March in honour of the film's 20th anniversary. Tickets are available at participating theater box offices and online at *www.FathomEvents.com*.

"When originally

released, the story and unforgettable songs of "The Bodyguard," captured the hearts of audiences everywhere," Shelly Maxwell, executive vice president of NCM Fathom Events, said in a statement Wednesday. "Through this special anniversary presentation, fans will be able to come together for one night and see it once more on the big screen."

Directed by Mick Jackson, the movie stars

Costner as a former Secret Service Agent-turned-bodyguard hired to protect Houston's pop singer character from a stalker.

Warner Bros. also will release "The Bodyguard 20th Anniversary Edition Blu-ray" 27 March.

Internet

Russell Brand arrested in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, 17 March—British comedian Russell Brand turned himself in to New Orleans police after hearing a warrant was issued for his arrest, officials said Thursday.

TMZ said the "Arthur" star and ex-husband of singer Katy Perry is accused of grabbing a paparazzo's cellphone and throwing it through the window of a law firm Monday.

The photographer got his phone back and Brand agreed to pay for the window, but the warrant was still issued for his arrest. The celebrity news Web site said Brand was released on \$5,000 bond Thursday.

Internet



British actor/comedian Russell Brand attends the premiere of "Arthur" at Cineworld, O2 Arena in London on 19 April, 2011.

INTERNET

Federer and Nadal to meet in last four



Roger Federer of Switzerland

INDIAN WELLS, 17 March—Three-times champion Roger Federer and twice winner Rafa Nadal won their quarter-final matches at the Indian Wells ATP tournament on Friday to set up an enticing last four showdown.

Federer booked his place in the semi-finals with a ruthless 6-3 6-2 victory over big-serving Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina before Nadal fought back to beat David Nalbandian, also of Argentina 4-6 7-5 6-4.

Saturday's other semi-final will pit Serbian world number one Novak Djokovic against 11th-seeded American

John Isner, both players having advanced on Thursday. Second seed Nadal was delighted to scrape through, having saved two breakpoints in a gripping 10th game of the third set before sealing victory with a forehand drop shot to end an absorbing baseline rally.

Nadal will face Federer for a 28th time in Saturday's semi-finals, but it will be their first ever meeting at Indian Wells.—Reuters



Two time former champion Rafael Nadal

Milan could reach Champions League final if they beat Barca, says coach

ROME, 17 March—AC Milan head coach Massimiliano Allegri said his side's route to the final could be easier if they beat Barcelona in the quarterfinals.

The Rossoneri were handed the most difficult of opponents on Friday morning's draw for the quarterfinals. The winners will play Benfica or Chelsea in the semis. "Let's look at the



AC Milan midfielder Gennaro Gattuso could make a return to action on Saturday after being included in the squad for the away match against Parma.—INTERNET

positives, if we get past them then we'll have a good chance of reaching the final," Allegri was quoted as saying.

"Little changes really and we've already faced them. They are the strongest team in the world, but we have to believe. Milan will give their best." The two teams met in the group stage this term with the Nou Camp encounter ending 2-2, while Barcelona triumphed 3-2 at San Siro.

"We'll have to attack them and be more focused. The two previous games against them have helped us to grow.

"We were good defensively in Spain, while we did well in the return too even if we lost. I hope to have all of my injured players back before we face Barcelona," Allegri added.—Internet

Anelka scores in China league debut

BEIJING, 17 March—French striker Nicolas Anelka scored in his highly-anticipated debut in the Chinese Super League Friday but was powerless to prevent new club Shanghai Shenhua losing 3-2 to fierce rivals Beijing Guoan.

The former Arsenal and Chelsea striker equalized for Shenhua to make it 2-2 with a simple tap midway through the second half after a defensive lapse from Beijing — raising hopes of a victory in a match dubbed the "China Derby".

The capital side had gone two goals ahead thanks to efforts from Piao Cheng and Portuguese midfielder Manu.

Australian striker Joel



French International player Nicolas Anelka (2nd left) from the Shanghai Shenhua club is surrounded by opponents during Shanghai Shenhua's 2-3 league match loss against Beijing Guo'an at the Workers Stadium in Beijing.—INTERNET

Griffiths started the Shenhua comeback, showing nerves of steel to make it 2-1 from the penalty spot in his first game

for the club since signing from Guoan in January.

Former Shanghai winger Mao Jianqing ended the

hopes of his old club however, scoring the late winner for Beijing, in what was his first match for Guoan.

Last Saturday Anelka had disappointed supporters after missing Shenhua's opening Chinese Super League fixture against regional rivals Jiangsu Sainty due to injury.

The Frenchman had been rated as doubtful ahead of the clash at the 68,000 capacity Workers' Stadium in Beijing, but was deemed fit enough to come out for his new side.

He saluted the 150-strong away support who responded with a rapturous cheer and chanted their new hero's name.

Internet

Sharapova meets Azarenka in Indian Wells Final

INDIAN WELLS, 17 March—It would be a replay of the 2012 Aussie Open final, as former World No 1 Maria Sharapova of Russia will take on current World No 1 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in the final of 2012 BNP Paribas Open. Sharapova was leading with a set when her opponent Ana Ivanovic retired due to a back injury in the second semi-final match on Friday evening.

What expected as a gruelling tussle, turned out as a bitter memory for the former World No 1 Ana Ivanovic, who played so well throughout the week to reach the semi-final of the 2012 BNP Paribas Open, but failed to continue in that manner — as an ill-timed injury shattered her dreams.

In the second semi-final match on Friday, Maria Sharapova of Russia was leading with a set and the score was 6-4 0-1, when her opponent Ana Ivanovic of Serbia retired due to a back injury. Ivanovic did avail the medical time-out just before the final game of the first set,

but that did not work out and finally the Serbian left the court with tears. Finally, the contest ended in 1 hour and 12 minutes, as the Russian mustered 66% points on her first serve and hammered 15 winners. Ivanovic played some terrific tennis early on in the first set, but then her intensity dropped and it kept on plunging due to pain and then she decided to retire.



Earlier in the first semi-final match, World No 1 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus ended the dream-run of Angelique Kerber of Germany at Indian Wells, as she beat the German in straight sets with a 6-4 6-3 scoreline and reached the final of the 2012 BNP Paribas Open.—Internet

Azarenka beats Kerber to reach the final in Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 17 March—World No 1 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus ended the dream-run of Angelique Kerber of Germany on Friday night at Indian Wells, as she beat the German in straight sets with a 6-4 6-3 scoreline and reached the final of the 2012 BNP Paribas Open.

Enjoying a dream run in 2012 season, World No 1

Belarusian extended her winning streak to 22 matches.

Azarenka took 1 hour and 28 minutes to beat Angelique Kerber. The top-seed earned 73% points on her first serve with the help of 25 winners and much had been contributed by Kerber's 28 unforced errors.

In the end, Azarenka converted 6 out of 9 break-points to surge through.

The World No 1 claimed the first set in 48 minutes. After losing a game on her serve early on, the top-seeded geared up and opted for a perfect counter-attack.

Azarenka mustered 76% points on her first serve with the help of 15 winners and converted 2 out of 4 break-points.

The Belarusian was duly benefited from Kerber's 11 unforced errors — in the first set.

Both contenders exchanged breaks early on in the second-set, but then the World No 1 earned the decisive ones in the seventh and ninth games — to win this encounter.

Internet

Woods to play next week in 2 events

JUPITER, 17 March—Tiger Woods returned to practice Friday and declared himself ready to play next week.

Woods said in a story on his website that his left Achilles tendon felt good and that he would play in the two-day Tavistock Cup exhibition that starts Monday, and then the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill.

Woods withdrew from the Cadillac Championship on Sunday after 11 holes with



Tiger Woods

what he described as tightness in his Achilles tendon.

He said he didn't want to risk further damage. One day later, he said doctors told him it was only a mild strain.

It was the left Achilles that caused him to miss two majors last year.

Woods has won Bay Hill six times. It will be his final tournament before the Masters begins on 5 April.

Internet

Bolt to make season debut at home on 5 May

KINGSTON, 17 March—Olympic champion Usain Bolt will officially make his season debut at the Jamaica International Invitational Meet on 5 May, announced the tournament organizers.

The IAAF world challenge-level meeting will be held in the national stadium in Kingston. "It is always a great privilege to run in front of my home fans," Bolt responded on his website.

"This will be my first big

meet of 2012 as I prepare to defend my titles in the Olympic Games in London in August," he added.

The double world records holder has already been confirmed for the Golden Spike in Ostrava, Golden Gala in Rome and Bislett Games in Oslo. According to organizer Donald Quarrie, Bolt is one of seven athletes signed on for the ninth edition of the event.—Xinhua



Olympic champion Usain Bolt

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL****(18-3-12 09:30 am ~ 19-3-12 09:30 am)****MST**

- News
- 2012 Myanmar Environmental Innovator Program Workshop
- News
- Myanmar Movies Impact "May Khin Ka Nyar"
- News
- Four Countries One Destination
- News
- Where the Rhododendron Blooms
- News
- MI People's Celebrities "Are they Future Brides?"
- News
- ICE Wonder Land
- News
- How to cast vote?
- Eco-Friendly Rattan & Hyacinth
- News
- Meet Peculiar Salamander
- Myanmar Movie "Love On The Internet"

MYANMAR TV**(18-3-2012) (Sunday)**

- 7:00 am 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:40 am 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:20 am 3. Teleplay (Health)
- 8:45 am 4. International News
- 11:00 am 5. Martial Song
- 1:30 pm 6. TV Drama Series
- 2:30 pm 7. Documentary
- 2:50 pm 8. Myanmar Movies
- 4:10 pm 9. Songs Of National Races
- 4:45 pm 10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 4:50 pm 11. Beautiful "ASEAN"
- 5:05 pm 12. Songs in honour of (67th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 6:20 pm 13. Cartoon Series
- 6:45 pm 14. TV Drama Series
- 7:45 pm 15. How to Cast Vote (Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayone)
- 8:00 pm 16. News
- 17. Talk Of The Political Parties
- 18. Cartoon Series
- 19. TV Drama Series

PASSED AWAY**Ebramim Eusoof Mayet (Anwer)@****U Mg Mg (M.D. Mayet Enterprise Ltd.)**

Of No. 30(H) Inya Road Kamayut Township, beloved husband of Sakina Bi Bi @ Daw May Hnit San, father of Ilyas Mayet @ U Kyi Moe (M.D. M.E.C), Yusuf Mayet @ U Kyi Toe (temporarily in U.S.A) was called away to his heavenly home on 12.3.2012 and buried in Yeway Soonni Muslim Kabrastan on 13.3.2012.

Bereaved Family

Fulham 0-3 Swansea City

LONDON, 17 March—Swansea City moved up to eighth place after Gylfi Sigurdsson's double helped secure a third successive victory for the first time this season. Sigurdsson beat Mark Schwarzer with a diving header inside the six-yard box after Scott Sinclair's deft touch. The midfielder struck again after the break with a controlled finish from Wayne Routledge's cut-back. Joe Allen completed a comfortable victory with an 18-yard effort after pouncing on sloppy Fulham play. The third goal, which came towards the end of a second half of almost uncontested authority, was indicative of a strangely flat Fulham display at their customary Craven Cottage stronghold. Swansea, riding high on confidence since toppling Manchester City, became only the fourth side to win on Fulham's home patch this season and a fourth away win can now surely end any lingering doubts that Premier League survival has been secured.—Internet

Answers for Yesterday's Crossword Puzzle**Cash and kind provided to war veterans in NyaungU**

NYAUNGU, 17 March—As a gesture of hailing the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to provide cash assistance and clothes to members of NyaungU Township War Veterans Organization was held at the hall of Township War Veterans Organizing Committee in NyaungU on 12 March morning. At first, Chairman of the Township WAO Captain Aung Myint (Rtd) spoke on the occasion.

Region organizers of the Township WAO presented K 20,000 each, one sarong and one traditional jacket each to 142 members of War Veterans Organization. The assistance in total amounted to K 3,189,000.—District IPRD



According to Moe Pwint-2 Plan of Immigration and National Registration Department, Head of Township INRD U Htay Win and staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible local people in Panhlaing Ward of Kyimyindine Township on 10 March.—MYANMA ALIN

NLM-ner Joke Computer Acronyms**PCMCIA**

People Can't Memorize Computer Industry Acronyms

ISDN

It Still Does Nothing

APPLE

Arrogance Produces Profit-Losing Entity

SCSI

System Can't See It

DOS

Defective Operating System

BASIC

Bill's Attempt to Seize Industry Control

IBM

I Blame Microsoft

DEC

Do Expect Cuts

CD-ROM

Consumer Device, Rendered Obsolete in Months

OS/2

Obsolete Soon, Too.

www

World Wide Wait

MACINTOSH

Most Applications Crash; If Not, The Operating System Hangs

PENTIUM

Produces Erroneous Numbers Through Incorrect

Understanding of Mathematics

COBOL

Completely Obsolete Business Oriented Language

AMIGA

A Merely Insignificant Game Addiction

LISP

Lots of Infuriating & Silly Parenthesis

MIPS

Meaningless Indication of Processor Speed

WINDOWS

Will Install Needless Data On Whole System

GIRO

Garbage In Rubbish Out

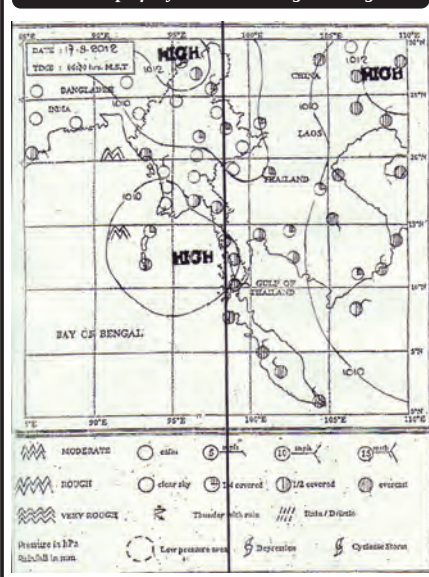
MICROSOFT

Most Intelligent Customers Realize Our Software Only

(for) Fools (&) Teenagers.

EPL Results on Saturday, 17 March

Fulham 0 - 3 Swansea
Wigan 1 - 1 West Brom

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**Weather forecast for 18th March, 2012**

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	32/90	15/59	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
2	Kayah	33/91	13/55	Generally Fair Weather	
3	Kayin	40/104	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
4	Chin	20/68	11/52	Generally Fair Weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	31/88	12/54	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
6	Lower Sagaing	38/100	17/63	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	36/97	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
8	Bago	38/100	20/68	Generally Fair Weather	
9	Magway	40/104	19/66	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	35/95	18/64	Partly cloudy	60%
11	Mun	36/97	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
12	Yangon	38/100	19/66	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	28/82	11/52	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	31/88	08/46	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	33/91	13/55	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	36/97	20/68	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	38/100	16/61	Generally Fair Weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	38/100	19/66	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	18/64	Partly cloudy	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today: During the past (24) hours, light rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Tanintharyi Region and Shan State and Generally Fair in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (3°C) above March average temperatures in Rakhine and Kayin States and about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperature were Mitha (45°C), Chak, Pava, Khayam and Bawlabhe (40°C) each.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and Generally Fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally Fair in the whole country.

Donations made to hail 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade for 2012

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—A cash-donation ceremony to hail the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade for the year of 2012 took place at Hsinbyushin Hall of No. 7 Transit Centre here at 3 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Chairman of the committee for organizing the Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Chairman of the management committee for organizing the Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, Military parade Commander and column commanders, senior military officers of the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence

Services, well-wishers and officials concerned.

Chief of Armed Forces Training presented certificates of honour to the donors—Rothamans of Pall Mall (Myanmar) Pte Ltd and its sister companies, Kanbawza Bank Limited, Myawady Trading Co Ltd and its brother companies, Eden Co, Max Myanmar, Asia World, Htoo Trading, Original, Ayeyar Shwe Wah, Golden Flower, Golden Gate Companies.

Afterwards, Shwetaung, Saungghayman, Tagaungbwar, Aung Chan Tha, Myanmar Sun silk, Myanmar Brewery and its sister companies, Myanmar Economic Cooperation, Win Win, Kaytumadi, Myanma Beauty, Shwetaung U made their donations, and the donor companies accepted the certificates of honour presented by Commander of Nay

Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye.

Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Yar Pyae expressed thanks.

A total of 24 wellwishers donated K 650,000,000 to hail 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade for the year of 2012.

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**Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win
of Office of
Commander-in-Chief
of Defence Services
attends cash donation
ceremony for 67th
Anniversary Armed
Forces Day Parade
2012.**

MNA



Everton, Sunderland play to draw in FA Cup



LONDON, 17 March—Tim Cahill secured an FA Cup replay for Everton against Sunderland after the Premier League sides drew 1-1 in the quarter-finals on Saturday.

Phil Bardsley fired Sunderland into a 12th-minute lead at Goodison Park with a long-range strike but Cahill equalized 11 minutes later.

Nikica Jelavic's header from Leighton Baines' cross was going wide, but Cahill nodded the ball on past goalkeeper Simon Mignolet.

Everton was frustrated in its search for a winner, with Mignolet denying John Heitinga and Jelavic late on.

"The equalizer knocked us back, we lost a bit of confidence with it," Sunderland manager Martin O'Neill said. "There was a big surge from the home crowd.—Internet

Fabrice Muamba collapses during Spurs-Bolton FA Cup tie

LONDON, 17 March—Bolton Wanderers midfielder Fabrice Muamba collapsed and stopped breathing during the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Tottenham.

Medics spent 10 minutes trying to resuscitate the 23-year-old on the field after he fell to the ground with no other players around him.

The score was 1-1 when the match was abandoned after 41 minutes.

Medical staff gave Muamba mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and tried to revive him with a defibrillator. In total six medics were treating the player.

Both sets of supporters chanted Muamba's name as he was taken off the pitch on a stretcher. ESPN, who were broadcasting the match, reported that he was not breathing as he was taken into the tunnel.

A Bolton spokesman said: "Fabrice Muamba has been taken to hospital following his collapse. There is no further information at this time."

The former Arsenal midfielder was accompanied in the ambulance by Coyle and club captain Kevin Davies.—Internet



**Play is abandoned in
Tottenham's FA Cup game
against Bolton after Trotters
midfielder Fabrice Muamba
collapses during the match.**

INTERNET

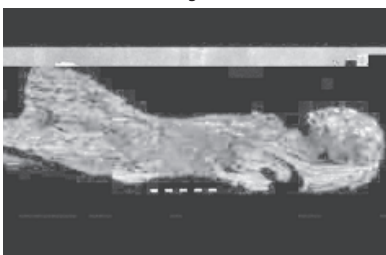
Summer sailing course concludes

YANGON, 17 March—Under the arrangements of the Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Sailing Federation and No. 3 Basic Education Department held the concluding ceremony of 2012 Summer Sailing Course, prize presentation and dinner on the lawns of the Yangon Boat Club of Myanmar Sailing Federation on Inya Road, here, yesterday evening.

Vice-President of MSF Chairman of Yangon Boat Club U Myo Tin extended greetings. General Secretary of Myanmar Sailing Federation U Thein Soe presented certificates to the trainees. Vice-Presidents of the federation U Maung Win and U Myo Tin awarded the outstanding trainees.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of SPED U Thauang Htaik presented prizes to the winners in the last year's sailing contest and member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Secretary of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw L Khun Yi presented prizes to school heads of Latha BEHS No. 2 and Kamayut BEHS No. 2.—MNA

Egypt finds suggest ancient royal funeral



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**Robots in
record-distance
ocean swim**

PAGE 4

Bolt to make season debut at home on 5 May



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**Anelka scores in China
league debut**

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