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True patriotism

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

Harmoniously taking part in respective sectors

"If we compare our situation with the global situation, our democratization process is a successful transition which the people can take as a model with great admiration. Who deserves credit? Not only the government, but also all the stakeholders including political parties, civil societies, members of the Hluttaws, the judicial pillar, the fourth estate media, national race leaders, and the Tatmadaw have been harmoniously taking part in the respective sectors to reach this situation. The main players in fact are the people or in other words the entire nationalities of Myanmar."

President U Thein Sein

(Excerpt from an address delivered at the regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 1-3-2012)

President U Thein Sein attends inauguration of Paybin River Bridge on Pathein-Ngaputaw Road

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Construction of Paybin River Bridge built on Pathein-Ngaputaw Road, which is No. 11 Road in Ayeyawady Region Road Network Development Project, commenced on 10 January 2011 and it was successfully inaugurated yesterday.

President U Thein Sein attended the opening ceremony of the bridge at the pavilion on Pathein-Ngaputaw Road in Kangyidaunt Township yesterday morning and unveiled the inscription.

When the President and party left Pathein by car, the local people warmly welcomed the President and party along Pathein-Ngaputaw Road waving miniature flags.

On arrival at the pavilion where the opening ceremony will be held, the local people and students heartily welcomed the President, waving miniature flags with pom-pom dances.

Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing, U Soe Thein, U Thein Nyunt, U Khin Maung Myint, U Ohn Myint, U Aye Myint and Dr Mya Aye, Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Hsan Hsint, Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Thein, (See page 6)



President U Thein Sein cordially greets departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people at inauguration ceremony of Paybin River Bridge.

MNA

Photo shows Paybin River Bridge on Pathein-Ngaputaw Road which is 11th Road of Ayeyawady Region Road Network Development Project.

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HONOURING THE 67TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 27 March, 2012

Self-criticism

To err is human. So it's natural that we the human beings make mistakes throughout our lives. However these mistakes sometimes make us more and more perfect if we can take lessons from them. In fact, they are an essential part of learning and developing ourselves. Anyhow, we need to make fewer errors and be more faultless for our own success in life.

First we need to identify our faults and shortcomings. But how? One way is through self-criticism, which is the action of finding our own mistakes and weaknesses. Normally, we miss to find our faults, even though they may be obvious to others because we are just incapable or reluctant to be aware of them. In this context, we can invite criticism from others, especially from close and trusted friends, which can be helpful in discovering our own faults.

Naturally, our ego tends to believe we are always right and that makes us difficult to examine ourselves correctly. In this context, we need to control our excessive pride that is the source of our ego and improve our ability through positive self-criticism.

Here self-criticism does not mean self-hatred or self-destruction. What we need is to analyze our actions and avoid upholding a feeling that we are useless or worthless. Accordingly, it is important to criticize ourselves from the right angle, while knowing our own value.

We must at all times be honest with ourselves so that we may have the power to prevent ourselves from committing bad actions. Otherwise our mind will trick us into believing that we are good, when in truth are just selfish persons.

Through self-criticism, we can turn our mistakes and weaknesses into stepping stones towards greater success in life.

Myanmar Korea Economic Cooperation Forum on 6 April

YANGON, 26 March—Organized by Ministry of Knowledge and Economy (MKE) of Korea and Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), Myanmar Korea Economic Cooperation Forum 2012 will be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) here on 6 April under the aegis of economic division of Korean mission in Myanmar, Maekyung Me Lia Group of Korea and Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Korean delegation comprised of 100 businessmen of medium and large enterprises will meet with Myanmar businessmen of each field to discuss cooperation in investment and economic development.

Prospective attendees are to enlist at the economic division of Korea embassy and nyonyowin.kotraygn@gmail.com of KOTRA.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

MoU on shooting TV series under China-Myanmar cooperation inked

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Under cooperation between China and Myanmar, an MoU on shooting TV series “The Dancing Girl from the Pyu Kingdom” was signed at MICC here at 5.10 pm today. The signing ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and Yunnan Province Governor Mr Li Ji Heng.

Also present were Deputy Information Minister U Soe Win, Deputy Culture Minister Daw Sanda Khin, directors-general, managing directors of the Information Ministry and Culture Ministry, deputy directors-general, directors and officials and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Li



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and Yunnan Province Governor Mr Li Ji Heng attend MoU signing ceremony of TV series “The Dancing Girl from the Pyu Kingdom”.—MNA

Junhua. Shwe Thanlwin Media Co Chairman U Kyaw Win and Chairman of Yunnan Broadcasting and Yun Shi Media Co Ltd Mr Zhao Shuqing signed the MoU and exchanged the notes in the presence of Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan and the Yunnan Province governor.—MNA

Yunnan Province Governor arrives in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt meets Yunnan Province Governor Mr Li Ji Heng.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—A delegation led by Yunnan Province Governor Mr Li Ji Heng arrived here by special flight at 10 pm yesterday. They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Swe and officials.

The Chinese delegation called on Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing at the ministry this morning, and they cordially discussed agricultural cooperation.

Next, the governor attended a ceremony to sign MoU on increased rice production and construction of advanced rice mill between China Yunnan Provincial Overseas Investment Co Ltd, China Development Bank Corporation

and Zalun link (Rice) Company Ltd.

Then, the Yunnan Province governor and delegation members called on Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and discussed trade affairs.

The delegation also visited Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall. Both parties discussed matters relating to tourism development and mutual cooperation in cultural and other sectors.

In the afternoon, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt hosted a luncheon to the Chinese delegation on the lawns of Myat Taw Win Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.—MNA

Free dental and oral health provided for locals in Pobbathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Aungthiri Foundation provided free dental and oral health services to local people of Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at No.191 Post-primary School this morning. Twenty dental surgeons and 20 assistants provided free treatment to 96 local people.

The foundation provided free dental and oral health to 305 local people from the village of the township on 25 and 26 March.

MNA

1000 national race boys novitiated

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—A ceremony to novitiate 1000 national race boys of hilly regions was held in Aunggon Village of Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday, attended by State Ovadaçariya Abhidgaha Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara and Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khemindasami.

It was also attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung. The novitiation ceremony was sponsored by U Soe Tint (Soe Electricity) and wife Daw Yin Nu (a) Daw Yi Yi Mar.

MNA



Chinese President Hu Jintao (L) meets with Lee Myung-bak, president of the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Seoul, capital of the ROK, on 26 March, 2012. The two leaders are meeting on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit slated for Monday and Tuesday in Seoul.
XINHUA

Obama to raise nuclear arms cuts with Putin in May

SEOUL, 26 March—President Barack Obama will Monday commit to raising the possibility of fresh nuclear arms cuts with new Russian president Vladimir Putin when they hold their first meeting in May, a US official said. The US leader will seek to follow on from the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty he concluded with current Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Medvedev will hold his final meeting as president with Obama in Seoul on Monday.

“Having taken a major step forward with the New START Treaty, he will indicate his

confidence that the US can further reduce its stockpile while maintaining its deterrent and commitments,” the official said. “This will continue to be a priority in US relations with Russia, and the president will raise it with president-elect Putin in their first meeting in May.”

Obama will meet Putin at the G8 summit at his official Camp David retreat in Maryland in May. The talks will usher in a crucial new stage in US-Russia relations which the White House “reset” when Obama took office in 2009.—Internet



President Barack Obama.
INTERNET

Taleban threaten NATO supply line

ISLAMABAD, 26 March— The Taleban Sunday threatened to assassinate Pakistani lawmakers who support the reopening of a key NATO supply route into neighbouring Afghanistan.

A Taleban spokesman said the militants were aware of low-key efforts in Parliament to open the roads to NATO convoys and that members who were behind the plan “would not be safe in their homes.”

“We will (also) publicly slaughter drivers who carry supplies for NATO forces,” warned Eshanullah Ehsan. “The Pakistan Army and the rulers are bent on destroying the country and the Taleban are working for a new Pakistan.”

Pakistan shut down the roads used by NATO trucks in November to protest an airstrike along the border that killed two dozen Pakistani soldiers.

Press Trust of India said Parliament was scheduled to debate the relationship with the United States beginning Monday. The Parliamentary Committee on National Security has recommended re-opening the supply lines into Afghanistan.

Internet



People inspect the scene of a car bomb attack in Kirkuk, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq recently.—INTERNET

Former Afghan MP among four killed in roadside bomb

TIRINKOT, 26 March—A former Afghan member of parliament was among four people who were killed Saturday in a roadside bomb attack in the country’s central region, local media reported on Sunday.

The incident occurred on Saturday at around 12:30 pm local time in the Deh Yak Village on the outskirts of Tirinkot, the provincial capital of Afghanistan’s Province of Uruzgan, when former senator Haji Khairo Jan was on his way back home. Uruzgan police chief Farid Ayel told *Pajhwok Afghan News* that Jan and tribal elder Haji Sharafuddin were immediately killed at the scene of the explosion, while two security guards accompanying the men later also died of their injuries. The bodies were transported to the Uruzgan Civil Hospital. No group or organization has claimed responsibility for the attack.—Internet

Iran willing to work with Russia on more power plants

TEHERAN, 26 March—Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) head Fereidoon Abbasi said his country is willing to work with Russia on more nuclear power plants, reports said on Sunday.

“Since the Russian contractor of Bushehr nuclear power plant has worked properly (on the project) in recent years ... we are willing to work with them on several more power plants,” Abbasi was quoted as saying by the semi-official *Fars* news agency, reported *Xinhua*.

Bushehr nuclear power plant has already reached 75 percent of its capacity, he said, expressing hope that the power plant will approach its final capacity of 1,000 MW in late May.

The Russian State Atomic Agency Rosatom on Wednesday announced that work at the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran was proceeding as scheduled.

“There are no deviations from the schedule, everything is going in accordance with the dates set earlier,” Sergei

Kiriyenko, head of Rosatom said.

“Our position is highly tough. There is a deadline, and everything will be completed by that date,” Kiriyenko said, adding that Rosatom was not going to complete any work ahead of the plan at the cost of safety.

Rosatom plans to switch the Bushehr plant to full power in the first half of 2012.

However, the Rosatom chief said that Russia will not build more nuclear power plants in Iran.

Construction of the Bushehr plant began in 1975 by several German companies. However, work halted when the US imposed an embargo on hi-tech supplies to Iran after the 1979 revolution.

Russia signed a contract with Iran to complete the construction in 1998. Completion of the plant’s construction has been postponed several times by mounting technical and financial challenges and pressure from Washington.

Internet

Thai-Myanmar border trade in Q1 likely to reach \$277 m

BANGKOK, 26 March—Thai-Myanmar border trade at a checkpoint was expected to hit about 8.5 billion baht (277 m US dollars) in the first quarter of this year, a Thai chief immigration officer unveiled Monday morning, local media *Komchadluek* reported.

According to Pongthep Buathap, the chief immigration officer at Thailand’s Mae Sot - Myanmar’s Myawaddy cross-border check point, the two countries’ border trade has shown steady growth since January.

The first month of this

year witnessed trading volume of some 2.8 billion baht (91 m US dollars) and the figure increased to about 3 billion baht (97.6 m US dollars) in February.

The immigration chief anticipated that the trading amount would surpass 3 billion baht in March and as

the result, trading volume in Quarter 1 could accumulate to 8.5 billion baht. Continuous growth resumed this year thanks to improvement in Myanmar domestic politics, he added.

Among products that Myanmar imported the most include fuels and commodities as the country needs for economic development, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



A man adjusts an unmanned aircraft named Panther with a tilt-rotor propeller and a fixed wing vertical takeoff and landing system, which enables runway-free takeoff and landing on an unprepared area, at the campus of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), on 22 March, 2012. IAI exhibited its unmanned vehicle production to visitors Thursday.
XINHUA

Space junk misses station astronauts



This 16 Feb, 2001 file photo provided by NASA, shows the International Space Station as it orbits the Earth. A discarded chunk of a Russian rocket is forcing six space station astronauts to seek shelter in escape capsules early on 24 March, 2012.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 26 March —A discarded chunk of a Russian rocket missed the *International Space Station* early Saturday. However, it came close enough to force six astronauts to seek shelter in escape capsules.

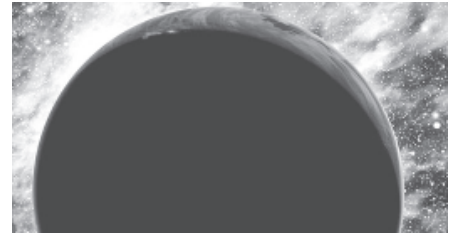
NASA says the space junk was barely close enough to be a threat. Had it hit, however, the station could have been dangerous. So the astronauts — two Americans, three Russians and a Dutchman — woke early and went into two *Soyuz* vehicles ready to rocket back to Earth just in case.

The debris came closest at 2:38 am EDT. It wasn't noticed until Friday, too late to move the *International Space Station* out of the way. This is the third time in 12 years that astronauts have had to seek shelter from space junk.—*Internet*

'Warp speed' planets can reach speeds of 30 million mph

NEW YORK, 26 March — Scientists reckon that 'warp speed' planets could be flying through the galaxy at speeds of up to 30 million miles per hour. Computer simulations have shown how the huge gravitational pull of black holes can tear planets from their orbits and 'sling' them across space. The planets would typically move at about seven to 10 million mph — but could travel at up to 30 million mph. That's more than 450 times faster than the Earth moves around the Sun.

"These warp speed planets would be some of the fastest objects in our galaxy," says Dr Avi Loeb, on the research team at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the US. Astronomers know already that this can happen to stars — the first of these was spotted seven years ago, heading out of the Milky Way at 1.5 million mph.



At the centre of our galaxy there's a really big black hole—called a supermassive black hole—which can tear apart whole star systems. If a dual star system—like our Solar System, but with two suns—goes too close to this black hole, one star would be swallowed up by the hole and the other would be flung out at high speed with a slingshot effect. Scientists now think that any planets that were orbiting the swallowed star could be flung out in the same slingshot manner.— *Internet*

Sexualized clothing on kids sends troubling signals

NEW YORK, 26 March — Preteen girls who dress in sexualized clothing are judged as less competent and less moral than kids in age-appropriate garb, new research finds. Earlier studies have found that adult women who dress in

revealing clothing are seen as less competent than women who are more buttoned-up. One study published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* in November even found that scantily clad men suffers similar judgment.

Clothing for young girls has become increasingly sexualized, said Sarah Murnen, a social psychologist at Kenyon College in Ohio and the senior author of the new study. Last year, a study by Murnen and colleagues found that 30 percent of children's clothing at major retailers had sexualizing characteristics. Abercrombie Kids had

the highest proportion of sexualized kids' clothes, with 72 percent of preteen clothing featuring sexualizing aspects, such as suggestive writing, slinky material or a revealing cut.

With this in mind, Murnen and her colleagues wanted to find out if people judge sexily clad preteens the same way they do adult women. "Given that we now have more sexualized clothing for girls, how might that affect how people see them?" Murnen asked *LiveScience*.— *Internet*

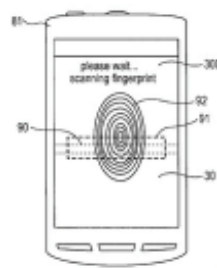
Fingerprint-checking smartphone patent filed by Sony

LONDON, 26 March — Technology to allow smartphones to scan their users' fingerprints through their screens as an identity check has been patented by Sony. It describes a range of ways to build "light-transmissive displays" to allow sensors to look out of the screens. It says an unidentified material would obscure the sensors so users would only see graphics telling them where to place their fingers. Sony has not given any indication of when it might introduce the

feature.

The innovation has been submitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office and was flagged up by the website *Unwired View*. It would not be the first time a smartphone has offered a fingerprint lock—Motorola Mobility launched the Atrix last year—a handset with a biometric scanner fitted to its back. However, Sony's application suggests that allowing the scan to be carried out via the front of the phone would simplify the process.

"[It would] allow even a user who is not familiar with the fingerprint authentication to readily execute an input manipulation for the fingerprint authentication," the patent document says. Many technology analysts predict that mobile phones fitted with near field communication (NFC) technology will be used in place of credit cards to buy goods in the near future. To feel safe with the idea consumers may demand that their phone's security



Sony says placing sensors behind phone screens would simplify scans.
INTERNET

checks are more robust than a four-digit pin code.

Internet

Data theft: Hacktivists 'steal more than criminals'

LONDON, 26 March — Hacktivists stole more data from large corporations than cybercriminals in 2011, according to a study of significant security incidents. The annual analysis of data breaches by Verizon uncovered a huge rise in politically motivated attacks. Verizon found that 58% of all the data stolen during breaches in 2011 was purloined by these groups. Hacktivists were hard to defend against, it said, as their attack strategies were much harder to predict. The Verizon report catalogued 855 incidents around the world in which 174 million records were stolen.

"Hacktivism has been around for a some time but it's mainly been website defacements," said Wade Baker, director of research and intelligence at Verizon. "In 2011 it was more about going to steal a bunch of information from a company." The hacktivist attacks were spearheaded by the Anonymous hacker group and its tech-savvy offshoots Antisec and Lulzsec. These activists scored a significant number of successes by knocking out websites and stealing large amounts of data from private companies and government agencies.

"Data theft became a mechanism for political protest," said Mr Baker. He added that it was hard to develop specific defences against these attacks because they used tactics and techniques crafted for each occasion. He said the attacks by hacktivists were not very common but often netted huge amounts of data when they did penetrate defences. In contrast to that stolen by hacktivists, about 35% of data pilfered from large companies was taken by organized criminal groups which wanted to sell it or use it to commit another crime.—*Internet*



Hacktivists are proving hard to combat, suggests a study of data breaches.—INTERNET

A 3D animation of what the theme parks will look like.—INTERNET

Angry Birds-themed activity parks launch worldwide



LONDON, 26 March — Angry Birds-themed activity parks are set to be constructed around the world. The mobile game's Finnish developer Rovio has paired up with the playground equipment specialist Lappset Group to create and maintain the parks. They will feature interactive content and "exclusive" downloads. The first will be built in Finland this summer, with UK locations to follow.

An unauthorised Angry Birds park opened in China last year, but this marks the first official licensing deal. The game - in which players use a slingshot to fling outsized

birds at pigs hiding in destructible buildings - is the most popular paid-for mobile app of all time. In addition to the game, the series has spawned a raft of merchandise such as cuddly toys and clothing. The parks, the creators said, would encourage fans into more physical activity.

"Rovio wanted to invite people who play the game to not only sit inside on the sofa, but to go out, move themselves and have fun," Lappset's marketing director Johan Granholm told the BBC. "You have large screens where you can play the games in the park. There's a tunnel that you have to run through at a certain speed - if you don't get there in time you get sprayed with water." However, Mr Granholm reassured parents: "We don't shoot anything in the park, that's important to say!"

Theresa Wise, a media consultant, told the BBC that while Angry Birds-related products had seen considerable success, moving into physical experiences was a difficult step for any brand. "These things need a lot of maintenance, there's safety issues — if people film somebody coming a cropper on something, you need a whole marketing team to deal with it. "There are many many more aspects to getting that stuff wrong and destroying the brand."

Internet

Coord meeting of UEC chairman and Magway Region/Township election sub-commissions held

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—A coordination meeting of Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, Magway Region election Sub-commission and District and Township election sub-commissions was held at the City Hall of Magway this morning. Chairman of UEC U Tin Aye made an opening speech.

The chairmen of Magway, Minbu, Pakokku districts election sub-commissions reported on preparation tasks for by-elections. U Kyi Sein, Chairman of region election sub-commission gave supplementary report. The candidates of political parties took part in the discussions.

The UEC Chairman responded to the questions.

MNA



Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye meets chairmen and members of Magway Region Election Sub-commission and District and Township Election Sub-commissions.—MNA



Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital (1000-bed) providing health care to people in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Health infrastructures providing health care to people in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area



* Photo shows People's Hospital (100-bed) built on 41 acres of land in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

People's Hospital (100-bed) in Tatkon Township.



Newly-opened Township People's Hospital (50-bed) in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

Translation: MT

No.2 Pobbathiri Township Hospital providing health care to people in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.



President U Thein Sein attends inauguration of Paybin River Bridge...

(from page 1)

Deputy Ministers U Soe Tint, U Than Tun and Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, departmental heads, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people.

First, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint reported on matters related to construction of the bridge.

The newly-opened Paybin river-crossing bridge is located on Pathein-Ngapudaw road in Kangyidaunt Township, Ayeyawady Region. It is steel truss measuring 720 feet in length and 31 feet in width and of concrete. In the olden days, Ngapudaw had to rely

Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) which is a railcum-road was put into services.

Ayeyawady Region which is the rice bowl of Myanmar can sell paddy, beans and pulses, local crops and marine products throughout the county and export them easily. So the Region would see economic development, thereby contributing to development of education, health, social and administrative sectors. Ngapudaw Township is doing business in salt industry, timber and marine products. Upon completion of the bridges on Pathein-Ngapudaw road, it would see development. Products from

for more strengthening national consolidation plays an important role. So, the Ministry of Construction is carrying out the road and bridge constructions throughout the country after laying down the plans.

Before 1988, there were tarred roads (5543 miles), gravel road (1569 miles), hard road (3628 miles) and earth roads (2895 miles), totaling 13635 miles across the country. Now, the country has concrete road (396/5.5 miles), tarred road (10329 miles), gravel road (3502/1.5), hard road (3455/7.5 miles), earth road (4909/7.5 miles), alignment (885 miles), totaling 23478 miles and six furlongs. Five-year and 30-year plans are being laid down for the development of roads and bridges.

Thetkal Creek-crossing bridge (Over-180-feet)



President U Thein Sein sprinkles scented water on inscription of Paybin River Bridge.—MNA

serve it for the durability of Paybin river-crossing bridge. In conclusion, I would like to express the special thanks to the President, Union

when the transport sector is in good condition, will the region have betterment of economic, education, health, social and other sectors. After 1988, railroads and motor roads were constructed as network in Ayeyawady Region. Moreover, a motor road from Ngapudaw to Pathein was also constructed. In addition, bridges were also constructed in necessary areas for ensuring swift flow of commodities and creating better situation for economy of the local people.

He said that the local people residing in the region know that they have to take shelter of rules of law and peace and stability for development of their life. Thus, the region government will give priority to prevalence of law and order and peace and tranquility of community by joining hands with the region Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw and the local people at any time.

The Region Chief Minister said that at present, plans are being implemented to boost production of agriculture, fishery and salt industry two or three times and improve industrial sector,

energy, tourism, education, health and environmental conservation sectors. Moreover, rice can directly be exported by vessel from Pathein. In addition, arrangements are being made to export salt, beans and pulses, timber and marine products.

He continued that as part of efforts to develop the region and create the job opportunities, the long-term plan is being implemented together with PTT Co of Thailand for construction of the deep sea port in Ngwehsaung Region and industrial zones in Maubin, Wakema and Pathein regions. Moreover, Myanmar Investment Commission allowed conducting of feasibility study for implementation of a project comprising Yangon-Pathein Road, the railroad plan and the offshore gas pipeline plan. In addition, local national entrepreneurs will invest the CMP export garment factories to be able to create the jobs for the local people. The garment industry will emerge within two years and it can create about 50000 jobs for

(See page 7)



President U Thein Sein presses the button to unveil stone inscription of Paybin River-Crossing Bridge.—MNA

only on waterway due to transport barriers. It had to take about four hours to the nearest town, Pathein. There are 330 townships in Myanmar. Ngapudaw is one of ten townships that do not connect to road networks. Pathein-Ngapudaw road of 11 roads built for development of road networks in Ayeyawady Region can link road networks covering the whole countries. Thanks to it, it is easily accessible from Ngapudaw to Pathein within one hour. And then, Paybin river-crossing bridge was built on Pathein-Ngapudaw road in order to reach four corners of the country.

In the past, people had to face transport barriers. After 1988, the government built scores of road networks and of river-crossing bridges including Bo Myat Tun bridge. Thanks to it, the Region's transport has become smooth. The region has easy access not only to motor road but also to rail road as

regions can be exported safely and smoothly by using that road. Thanks to the road, people can move to safer places in short period of time in case of natural disasters.

President U Thein Sein said at the meeting (1/2011) of the Central Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races on 23 April, 2011, said : although land and water resources of the states and regions may vary according to their topography, measures will be taken to improve the various sectors of those regions such as economy, social affairs, education, health and transport. Only if development tasks are carried out to improve the transport, economy, health and education standards of those regions, will national consolidation be strengthened and Union Spirit forged.

According to the President's instructions, transport which is the base

measuring 1820 feet is under construction. Its works will complete soon when the 240-feet-long truss is fixed on it. Upon completion of it, the township including Ngapudaw can connect to road networks and see the rapid development.

Local people are to use it systematically and con-

ministers, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister and ministers, officials, townsenders and local people for successful opening of the Bridge.

Next, Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung made a speech. He said that transport plays a key role in development of a region. Only



Union Minister U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Hsan Hsint formally open Paybin River Bridge.—MNA

President U Thein Sein attends inauguration of Paybin River Bridge...

(from page 6)

the local people. A meeting is now in progress with a Chinese company of garment industry that can create about 200,000 jobs.

He added that the State has agreed in principle to establish one advanced specialist hospital, shop houses and modern housing projects in Ward 5 of Patheingyi, and the companies will report to the MIC. He thanked the President for his attendance to opening ceremony of the bridge and the Head of State, the government, the Ministry of Construction, the organizations, the Ayeyawady Region government and the local people for their contributions to successful construction of the bridge meeting set standards. In conclusion, he urged the local people to safeguard the bridge for its durability.

A local spoke words of thanks.

Next, the President cordially greeted those present.



President U Thein Sein inspects progress in construction of Thetkel Creek Bridge.—MNA

Union Minister U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Hsan Hsint formally opened the bridge.

The President and party posed for documentary photo together with engineers and officials of the construction group.

The President then unveiled the stone inscription and sprinkled scented water on

it. Likewise, the Union ministers, the region Chief Minister and the Speaker of Region Hluttaw also sprinkled scented water on the inscription.

The President and party walked on the bridge and cordially greeted the local people and students. The President and party posed for documentary photo with Kayin dance troupe members and presented cash award to them.

After passing the bridge by car, the President and party arrived at Thetkel Creek Bridge Construction Project.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint and officials conducted the President round the construction site.

At the briefing hall, the President instructed the Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and Deputy Minister U Soe Tint to timely complete the bridge construction tasks.

They left Patheingyi by special flight and arrived in Yangon in the morning.

Paybin River Bridge is of reinforced concrete bored pile type. The bridge was built with RC posts, steel beam at upper structure and RC floor. The structure is 720 feet long with 24 feet wide motor road and 3.5 feet wide pedestrian way on either side. The bridge can withstand 60-ton loads.

The bridge was built by Bridge Construction Special Project Group-7 of the Ministry of Construction. It is the 12th bridge of over-180 feet long facilities in the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the 4th bridge in Ayeyawady Region.

Ngapudaw relied on waterway transport due to poor road transport in the past. Thanks to Paybin River Bridge, the local people of Ngapudaw can take about one hour to Patheingyi and they have now easy access to all regions of the nation.—MNA



President U Thein Sein walks on newly-inaugurated Paybin River Bridge.

MNA

Collective measles immunization campaign-2012 launched



NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Opening of collective measles immunization campaign-2012 was held at the Ministry of Health this

morning, with an address by Chairman of National Health Committee Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thein Khin. The minister and officials

visited the booths and enjoyed the immunization. The campaign will be conducted from 22 to 31 March at the designated places across the

Yunnan Province Governor arrives in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Yunnan Province Governor Mr Li Ji Heng of the People's Republic of China and party arrived at Mandalay by special flight yesterday morning.

They were welcomed at Mandalay International Airport by Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, Consul-General Mr Yu Boren of the

Chinese Consulate-General to Myanmar in Mandalay and officials.

The guests visited Myanankya Golden Palace and Golden Palace Culture Museum in Mandalay.

In the afternoon, the Yunnan Province Governor

called on Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel. The Region Chief Minister hosted a dinner to the Yunnan Province Governor.

In the evening, the guests proceeded to Nay Pyi Taw by special flight.—MNA

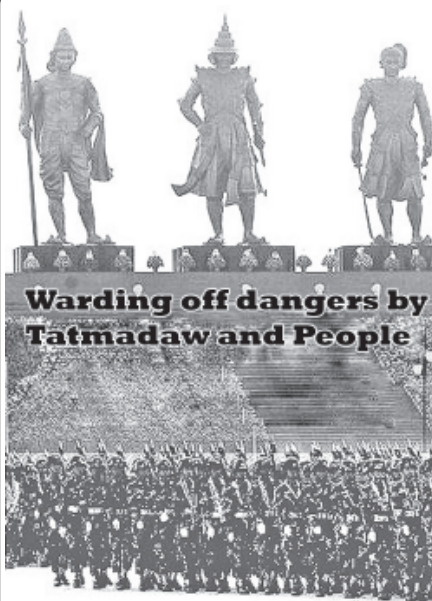
Union Transport Minister receives Director of Thailand-based RIMES

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung received Director Mr Arjunapermal Subbiah of Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) of Thailand at the ministry, here, 3 pm today.

They focused on new generations of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology to be attached to the RIMES for jointly doing research to have technological experiences for issuance of warnings on natural disasters so as to apply their experiences in works of the department, extended opening of earthquake seismological observatory stations in Myanmar and modern technological assistance to be continuously given to Myanmar.—MNA

Chairman of National Health Committee Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thein Khin and attendees view documentary photos on elimination of measles.—MNA

country. Myanmar is actively participating in Year of Intensification of Routine Immunization which is designated by World Health Organization for ASEAN countries.—MNA



Myanmar's Tatmadaw is the armed forces born to the people residing in the Union. It is also the national Tatmadaw equipped with the nationalist favour inherited from ancestors that never gave an inch to the invaders throughout the history.

Sandwiched between two of world's most populous country and largest countries, Myanmar could stand tall with its own monarchy for a thousand years. It portrays the unity and strength of ancient Myanmar nationals in safeguarding the motherland.

Although Myanmar had unfortunately fallen under the yoke of colonialism, all Myanmar nationals denied colonial rule by fight against it with improvised weapons. Although they calmed themselves because of weaknesses in weapons, technologies and force, strong anti-colonialist sentiment was running. Myanmar's Tatmadaw was born with wars against colonialists and fascists in each age under the names of Burma Independence Army, Burma Defence Army, Patriotic Burmese Force and Burma Army.

In post-independence period, Myanmar's Tatmadaw, formed with varieties of national races, sacrificed many lives in civil war sparked by political and racial extremists to restore stability of the country. "The country in its infancy amid the storm devastating" had to overcome many daunting challenges for a newly-independent country. Within a year or two after regaining independence, it faced situations of disintegration similar to Yugoslavia. Efforts of the Tatmadaw which could restore every inch of the territory of the country till now from the situation that a very little space of Yangon was under the government's control, making it called the Yangon government should not go unrecognized.

In those periods, the Tatmadaw also had to fight against alien invaders who threatened the sovereignty and territory of the country. Many Tatmadawmen had to lay down their lives in the fights against domestic and foreign enemies. The State conferred titles on both Bamar and many ethnic soldiers for their performances in the battles. Not only national people, even persons of mixed Anglo parentage and Gurkhas were among the soldiers who fought bravely for the Union. The Tatmadaw was formed with citizens who love the country, regardless of race or colour, and safeguarded the country in love of the country and the Union and in unity.

The Tatmadaw can always stand as a strong and united organization reliable by the people only because of its love of the country and the goodwill to safeguard perpetuation of the Union. Despite some minor cases, Myanmar's Tatmadaw has long-standing reputation of mutual respect, the thorough chain of command and mission accomplishment throughout the history. Disobedience and mutinies are seldom in Myanmar's strongest institution.

It was the Tatmadaw which had to salvage the "split-up dramas" of politics prone to sectarianism and rivalry, leading to the downfall of the country.

It was the Tatmadaw which had to save the country from anarchy leading to jamming of government mechanism caused by various instigations to the people who were hit by the crisis due to the weakness of one-party political

Honouring the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Tatmadaw born of the Union

Ko Myanmar

system and centralized economic system and honestly asked for democratic change.

Though, the Tatmadaw had to deal with hindrances and accusations against attempts for perpetuation and stability of the Union. Actually, it is not such easy to rescue a country from devastating conditions. Sometimes, it had to employ force unavoidably. Sometimes, it had to risk its reputation. Sometimes, it had to be misunderstood.

Whatsoever, the main duty of the Tatmadaw is to uphold non-disintegration, sovereignty and territory of the Union. It is not the light duty, but the onerous one. And, it is also the national interest. To perform the duty, the Tatmadaw in a spirit of goodwill faced accusations and misunderstanding.

Some politicians who lost their interests accused the Tatmadaw as a stooge of authoritarian rule. Some narrow-minded nationalists name it as Bamar army. They accused that it oppressed the minority, breached human rights, and committed mass genocide.

There are persons who criticize parliament for allowing 25 per cent of seats for Defence Services personnel representatives, citing it as undemocratic. However, the Tatmadaw, due to traumatic experiences of the early parliamentary democracy period, worries that the nation would be thrown into turmoil by bigoted egocentric politicians engaged in fierce power struggle, neglecting the interests of the nation and its people. So, it is unfair to blame the Tatmadaw for this. Even in England, known as the oldest democracy of the world, the senators of the entire upper house, known as the House of Lords, inherit the title generation after generation and are not elected ones.

Also in Indonesia, there were service personnel representatives in the parliament in 1998 when democratic reforms were first introduced. Only in 2004, military presence came to an end in parliament. It should be noticed that the constitution of Myanmar is not a non-amendable one but is allowed for legal amendments under changing conditions for the interests of the people. What is important is the coordination among all those engaged in the main political trend with mutual understanding and mature political politeness in national interests.

Myanmar is now in the process of reforms towards a democratic society in new era under new system. At this turning point of great importance in Myanmar history, Myanmar Tatmadaw must prepare to accomplish new historical duties in response to the changing conditions.

Nowadays, the world's strategic spot has shifted to the East Asia under the present international strategic landscape, with the superpowers extending their influences towards Asia Pacific Region. Regional countries have become pawns on the global political chessboard getting entangled in the sensitive strategic moves between the new great power and the present major world power. In the tug of war for balance of power, a strategically important nation like Myanmar must prepare in advance to protect itself safe and sound with solid alertness for self-defence and security.

Another major mission of the Tatmadaw is to play an active role in building eternal peace. In reality, the Tatmadaw constituted with Union national brethren, despite the previous fights with ethnic armed groups for national stability,

(See page 9)

Honouring the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

POEM

Victorious warriors of the nation

- * Having conviction for nation
In fore was the resolve
Releasing country from subjugation
For new age of independence
In unity nationalities of Myanmar
Founded they all the Tatmadaw
- * From the start of the journey
Never wavers till now
Ever ready to sacrifice
Lives for the country
Marching forward vigorously
Safeguards the Tatmadaw
Our motherland Myanmar
To exist forever intact
Facing difficulties in unity
Courage and zeal added
- * Never has Tatmadaw belief in
The way to settle difficulties
Through battles and casualties
Among our kinship
But with resolve in heart
Paving way for unity
Peace and prosperity for all
Strives through correct process
Having trust in internal strength
The might of Myanmar
With love for people
Marching forward ever
The powerful Tatmadaw
- * O..Army, Navy and Air Force
Three brothers in arms
Never reluctant, but ever brave
Sacrificing spirit their soul
People's Armed Forces, our Tatmadaw
Removing all obstacles
Motherland the Tatmadaw serves
For people it braves difficulties
Army, Navy and Air Force
Victorious warriors of the nation
And also brothers in arms
Ever making progress they are

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

The democratically-elected State government is now holding talks with the remaining ethnic groups for long-lasting eternal peace, bearing encouraging results. Military representatives have been the active members of the peace-making teams while battalions and stations concerned are acting with Union spirit and goodwill for building mutual understanding and ceasefire agreement in the process of negotiations. The Tatmadaw born of Union national brethren would actively participate in regional development and socio-economic development drive in the interests of the national brethren following the progress in peace process.

Tatmadaw born...

(from page 8)

has never liked the meaningless fights between national brethren. Ceasefire discussion with the KNU in 1949, attempt for making peace with the leftists, general amnesty of the Revolutionary Council and attempt for internal peace in 1963, peace talks with KIA in 1980s, peace negotiations with 17 major ethnic armed groups and a number of small groups in the time of State Law and Order Restoration Council and State Peace and Development Council are the concrete evidences that the Tatmadaw has always extended an olive branch for internal peace, under successive governments since the early independence period.

The democratically-elected State government is now holding talks with the remaining ethnic groups for long-lasting eternal peace, bearing encouraging results. Military representatives have been the active members of the peace-making teams while battalions and stations concerned are acting with Union spirit and goodwill for building mutual understanding and ceasefire agreement in the process of negotiations. The Tatmadaw born of Union national brethren would actively participate in regional development and

67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- * To firmly uphold the objectives, namely, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- * To play a leading role in national politics of the State with Union Spirit, the true patriotic spirit
- * To safeguard the constitution, the main responsibility of the Tatmadaw in building modern, developed democratic nation
- * To build a strong, competent, modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the State

socio-economic development drive in the interests of the national brethren following the progress in peace process.

Another major obligation of the Tatmadaw is to safeguard the constitution. For over two decades, Myanmar has stood without constitution and now it has one ratified by the majority of the people in the referendum. As the State government and the entire Myanmar national people are working hard in

union to establish multi-party democracy system and market economy in accordance with the constitution, the Tatmadaw, the outstanding offspring of the people, at this rare historical turning point, would join active hands with the people in building peaceful, modern, developed, democratic new nation, safeguarding the constitution.

Translation: HKA+TKK

General Min Aung Hlaing attends extended broadcasting of MWD TV Channels of No. 2 Defence Services TV Broadcasting Unit

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—As a gesture of hailing the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the station of No. 2 Defence Services TV Broadcasting Unit that extends broadcasting of Myawady TV channels through international level digital system was launched at the station, here, this morning, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief's Office, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, service personnel of the station and guests.

At the ceremony, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye and Director of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare Maj-Gen Than Soe formally opened the station.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services sprinkled scented water on the inscription.

The second section of the ceremony continued at the theatre of the station. General Min Aung Hlaing launched six extended Myawady TV channels.

The General and party enjoyed entertainments of the mobile public relations units.

Next, they visited the new station.

No. 2 Defence Services TV Broadcasting Unit



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing formally unveils the stone inscription of Myawady TV Channel Station.—MNA

launched the new programmes through six TV channels such as MWD Variety, MWD Movies, MWD Series, MWD Music, MWD Documentary and MWD Shopping through international level digital system upon completion of test-running programmes.

Existing Myawady TV Channel and FM Radio Channel of Thazin Radio Station will be operated

simultaneously through digital system. Those wishing to receive Myawady TV channels through satellite dish may apply Satellite Palapa-D, satellite location 113°E, downlink frequency 4109.5 MHz, symbol rate 11.669012 Mboud, modulation PSK, FEC ¾, polarization horizontal and through MWD set top box.

MNA

Union Minister meets local people from Yesagyo Township



Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung presents foodstuffs to local people at BEMS Branch in Khinmon Village of Yesagyo Township. MNA

Union EP-1 Minister inspects Kintar Hydropower Plant

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw

Min looked into Kintar Hydropower Plant away from 21 miles of Kumae in

Mandalay Region on 24 March and left necessary instructions.

He then met staff and urged them to do the best in their related fields.

Next, the Union Minister inspected water conditions flowed into main dam, condition of storage of water, maintenance of sluice gate, power intake structure and spillway.

Kintar Hydropower plant with the capacity of 56 megawatts can generate 165 million through power grid network per year.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung visited the 10-acre plantation of Palethwe hybrid paddy in Kyawmakya Village in Yesagyo Township in Magway Region and met the local people at Kungyangon Monastery in Miphaya Village on 22 March. Then, he presented meals, sport equipment and publications to the local people. He also donated periodicals for the library in Thagaung Village.

The Union Minister met local people from Myaysudaw Village-tract, presented sport equipment, gift food and journals and inspected schools in the township.

On 23 March, he met local people at the middle school in Khinmon Village, viewed the 40-acre summer paddy plantation and met local people of Htanbo V village-tract.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan met a delegation led by Yunnan Province Governor Mr Li Ji Heng at the VIP Holding Room of Myanmar International Convention Centre here at 4.20 pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Information Minister U Soe Win, Deputy Culture Minister Daw Sanda Khin, directors-general and managing directors of the Information Ministry and Culture Ministry, deputy directors-general, directors and officials. The Chinese delegation was accompanied by Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.

Both sides discussed matters related to strengthening of Myanmar-Yunnan amity and cooperation, exchange of visits between media groups regarding the information sector, information sharing, cooperation in news and information tasks, signing of an MoU on shooting TV series on "The Dancing Girl from the Pyu Kingdom" under the first ever cooperation between China and Myanmar in order to further strengthen Myanmar-Yunnan friendship, cooperation in the movie sector, exchange of visits between cultural troupes and cooperation in preservation and maintaining of ancient cultural heritages. — MNA

Yunnan Province Governor calls on Union Minister for Information and for Culture



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan meets Yunnan Province Governor Mr Li Ji Heng and party at VIP Holding Room of MICC.

MNA

THE OPEN SEASON

BY BA THAN

The Open Season has come to our Golden Land of Pagodas.

Monsoon has ended. It is the most welcome friend of our farmers as it brings precious pearly water to fill our millions of acres of paddy fields for rice cultivation, to grow staple crop for sustenance and for export, coming and leaving on nature's clock, year after year without fail. With the backdrop of the clear blue horizon the paddy plants are ripening with golden yellow hue, unending, undulating stretch as far as eyes can see, heavily laden with paddy grains as they dance to melody of the wind. In no time harvesting will come, and sales when the farmers' satchels or Shan bags will bulge with crisp new bank notes mingled with soiled tattered ones patched with strands of tape, good improvisation you know, ready and itchy on spending spree.

Festivities abound as rural network turned into amusement park. Charity is the order of the day as they donate generously to novitiate ceremonies, alms-giving to the monks, weddings etc on 'come-one come-all' invitation. It is the time when no fire burn in the kitchens of the houses of villagers as they converge to the monasteries to have their belly full of rice and curry. The village society is more close-knit, gregarious, communal and egalitarian than urbanites, you know!

The advent of winter also heralds the sacred month of full moon Thadingyut marking the end of Vassa when the monks of the Order of Buddhist Sanghas are free to move out to the wide world of the laity. Boys and girls are also free to move into the wide world of matrimony. Lovers-to-be, lovers ready, and lovers more than just already all await impatiently for lifting of sanctions to rush ahead for the 'I dos'. Eros or Cupid (*hpoo-zar-yay nat*), after three months of hibernation is now awake, alert and ready, as he checks the tension of his bows and sharpens the love-tipped arrows for maximum matching for the busy season ahead.

The Thadingyut Festival of Lights is the first religious festival of the open season. It was reminiscent of Lord Buddha's descent from the Tusita Abode of Celestial Beings to the earth abode of Sangatha-Nagara on the full moon night of Thadingyut, when the Devas and earthlings greeted Lord Buddha with lights. Then follow the festivals of Tazaungtha lights, and the donation of Kathina Civaras sangha robes. Here the boyish pranks held the nights at bay, as everything went topsy turvy, with ladies' garments hoisted on the flag poles and the name plates of the famous barristers hung on the toilet door. Then there was the treasure hunt when the boys search for the hidden cash or sweets to add to the excitement of the festive occasion. Then there is the month of Tapotwe (February), when the festival of sandalwood bonfire was held to give warmth to Lord Buddha against the chilling Vesali cold. A food festival of Htamane glutinous rice was held to the gourmet's delight.

The open season is the best time for pilgrimage tours for our Buddhist community. Many pagodas abound around the country worthy of respect and devotion, and Myanmar's

Shans, Palaungs, Paos Insars etc are avid pilgrims. Among the famous and most frequented are the Shwedagon, Kyaik-hti-yoe Golden Rock, Bagan ancient heritage site, Mount Popa, Mandalay Mahamuni Sacred relic Image, Mandalay Hill, Yankin Hill, Sagaing Hills, Kaung-Hmu-Taw, Thanboddhay, Ketku pagodas of Shan State, Hpaung-Taw-Oo Images of Inle Lake, Mrauk-Oo and Myohaung Pagodas, ancient heritage site of once flourished Rakhine Maritime kingdom etc, etc. In the Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Yangon, the old residents take this opportune season to go sightseeing to enjoy outdoor sunshine and visit pagodas on pilgrimage, nostalgically reliving their younger years. Another devout pilgrimage tour for the affordable is the Buddha Gaya in Nepal, India.

Sarsodaw Day or Literati Day is a memorable intellectual highlight of the open season celebrated on the 1st Waxing Day of Nattaw (December) every year. It has its origin since the heyday of Myanmar dynasties of kings, when the reigning sovereigns honoured the learned scholars for their outstanding contributions to literature. The present Myanmar Sarsodaw Day was initiated during the Japanese Occupation Period when the 'Pyinnya Tagun Literary Association' proposed to celebrate 'U Ponnya Day' in honour of Myanmar popular versatile playwright and poet of the late Konbaung Period. Later it was decided to celebrate 'Sarsodaw day' in a wider context and fixed 'the first waxing day of Nattaw' as the auspicious day. The first "Sarsodaw Day" was held on 1st Waxing day of Nattaw 1306 Myanmar Era (15th November 1944). The significance of the celebration was paying homage to the doyen writers, poets, cartoonists, playwrights, journalists who have reached 80 years and contributed understanding to the world of letters. The ongoing puja ceremony was being held continuously since 1994 to this day. The author was one of the 80+ doyen writers to be so honoured.

Following the significance of the Sarsodaw Day is the yearly Literary Awards ceremony where publications for previous year are screened and awards given to the most deserving authors and poets by categories: by the Government namely: National Literary Award, and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award. There are also four private donors from publishing enterprises and foundations who contributed to development of literature by giving awards, widening the scope and content of literary talent. Premier awards by order of precedence are: *Lifetime National literary Award, Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Literary Award, Tun Foundation Lifetime Literary Award, and Swesone Lifetime Literary Award*, given to the most outstanding literary personality for the year. *Sayawun Tin Shwe Foundation* created the outstanding award his year on its tenth ceremony by nominating Saya Zawgyi.

The Government has also established titles and citations to honour outstanding writers, and artists on Independence Day. The foremost award was the *Alinka Kyawswa*. In later regimes 'Vijja Pyinnya Htoo Chun' (1st, 2nd and 3rd grades)

were awarded. Beginning from the 64th Independence Honours Awards the title 'Sithu' was conferred to outstanding Lifetime Literary Award Winners.

Another endearing ceremony held in the open season was paying respect to the teachers: 'Achariya Puja'. Buddhists pay foremost respect and devotion to the **Three Jewels: Buddha, Dhamma and Sanghas**. They also pay respect to the virtues of the parents: the mother, who brings them to life and nurture them, and to the father for rearing them to manhood. And then there is the teacher, who teach them the ways of the world through formal education, informal and non formal lifetime pursuits. The education institutions begin from primary level to the high schools and universities of tertiary learning. Students come and go, as much as teachers teach and train them. Eventually the students choose their life destiny many poor, some lead comfortable lives and some extremely wealthy with enviable status. The teachers teach new batches year after year, generation after generation and as they grow old retired, leading lean lives on *cetana*, and *piti* but no *pya* so to say. Many well meaning Samaritans remembered the Sayas and thus the puja ceremony was inaugurated and has now become a feature of the open season. Now the doddering oldies with no seeing, no hearing, limbs weakening, sit at the front rows facing the now affluent students of yore, accepting their dana with trembling hands, wheezing voices of prayers and gratitude, with tears trickling down their shriveled cheeks. This is the real *piti sans comparisons*. The Mandalay University Achariya Puja was held on 23rd December 2011 and the author was among those so honoured.

The open season is a scare for some segment of population viz; the high school students appearing for the matriculation examination (hundreds of thousands nationwide) convening in March. The examination last just a few excruciating days for the students depending on the subject combination, but the preparation really tax the parents much more. Thus year in year out the show will go on.

Then come Thingyan the water festival washing out the old year and heralding the New Year by lunar calendar. It was a long held tradition dating back to ancestry through patronage of reigning sovereigns. Famous astrologers calculate the coming year and the change of Devi guards in custody of the Head of Brahma "Asi". This year (1373) Prokka Devi handed over to Rassaka Devi as Nandar Devi awaited the arrival of King Banuraja the Apollo. The revelry lasts for three days for the young, and not so young too. Some adults spend their time in merit-making. However old tradition linger as youths go to the old age homes or elders of the village or ward to groom them, greeting the new year 1374, on the 11th waning day of Tagu, 17th April 2012.

By now the activities of the open season have tapered. Monsoon is about to come and the farmers, 65% of the active working population prepare their farm implements and trusted oxen for the ploughing season. The new admissions for students are under way as the new academic year starts in June.

Soon the spring showers, harbinger of monsoon, will rain from the sky, cooling the scorching heat of the summer sun, marking the end of the Open Season.

Au revoir, a bientot... till the next Open Season!

Ayeyawady Region Government disburses loan to Wakema Township



WAKEMA, 26 March—With the assistance of Government, the second loan disbursement was held in Ayeyawady Region Shwekhe Thiri Sports

Ground in Wakema at 3 pm on 15 March.

At first, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing and Township Administrator U Soe Tun explained matters related to micro-finance institutions.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing handed over K 40 million loans to the township administrator.

Myanma Alin

Free toilet service given at Yangon Zoo

YANGON, 26 March—Zoological Gardens (Yangon) gives free toilet service to the visitors at present.

Boards are put up in the public areas in front of the toilets at the zoo to enable the visitors to see it for free use of toilets.

"I have seen such service to provide free toilet use

for the visitors among playgrounds and parks. I witness toilets are clean and good water supply," a visitor said to Kyemon daily.

It was reported that parks and playgrounds in other countries do not collect any charge after the visitors have paid entrance fees. Thanks to services of Zoological

Gardens (Yangon), visitors from various regions of the nation are convenient in their relaxation.

A private company was allowed by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry to manage Yangon Zoological Gardens (Yangon) under the long-term contract.

Kyemon

Broom plants from Thandaung Township higher demand in Yangon

YEDASHE, 26 March—The traditional brooms are used in urban and rural areas up to now. Most of the best traditional brooms are extracted from the forest reserves in Thandaung Township. Merchants from Yangon buy brooms in Thandaung.

At present, paddy, sugarcane, gram and other crops have been harvested. At the spare time, local people of Yedashe Township passing Sittoung River collect broom plants from the forest reserves in Thandaung Township.

Wet broom plants already cut are sold at K 200 per viss and the dried ones at K 400 per viss. Raw brooms are brought from Yangon by 10-wheeled vehicle. They carry broom weighing 7000 viss. The broom can be sold at K 500 per viss in Yangon. The majority of girls of the region are trying to earn incomes in selling the broom plants so as to buy necessary utensils at the Buddha Pujaniya of the pagoda in Yedashe to be held on 6th April.—Ko Lwin (Swa)



Summer sports courses concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—The summer sports training courses 2012, organized by Taninthayi Region Sports and Physical Education Department, concluded at the gymnasium of Taninthayi Region in

Dawei on 21 March morning.

The department opened the training courses to conduct trainees in 15 sports events. The training courses were attended by 101 male trainees and 91 female trainees.—MNA



Summer cultural course concludes in Insein Township

YANGON, 26 March—The summer cultural course concluded at Ottamawuntha Monastery in Myothit (C) Ward of Insein Township of Yangon North District on 13 March afternoon.

Presiding Nayaka of the monastery Bhaddanta Viveka gave an Ovadakatha.

The ward administrator and officials presented prizes to the winners from the third standard to the eight standard.

The course commenced on 4 March, and it lasted 13 days.

Altogether 217 students attended the training course.—Kyemon

CASH AND KIND DONATED: U Khin Maung Oo and family of Pansodan Street in Kyauktada Township donated one day meal and two wheelchairs worth K 200,000 to Home for the Aged in Kyauktan on 12 March. Secretary of the Home U Hla Myint and Administrator U Myint Aung accept donation. TOWNSHIP IPRD



Thingyan pandals under construction in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 26 March—In the Mandalay City Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1373, the

decorated pavilions and water throwing pandals will be allotted around the moat of Mandalay Nanmyo.

The Mayor's Maha Thingyan Awarding Pandal is under construction in front of the Mandalay City Development Committee. The design contest invites the contestants to decorate

the pandal.

In the Mandalay City Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival, there may be over 40 water throwing pandals from departments and companies.

Film stars have made arrangements to perform entertainments at Mandalay City Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal, that of Central Command Headquarters, Nanmyothu Pandal and Alpine Pandal on the southern moat of 26th Street in Mandalay.

Kyemon



Photo shows Mandalay City Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal being built on southern moat of 26th Street in Mandalay.

Free accountancy courses on 29 April

YANGON, 26 March—Myanmar Accountants Association will conduct the 242nd book-keeping course and the 153rd second level accountancy course free of charge on 29 April.

Those who passed the matriculation examination may enlist to attend the courses. The 242nd book-keeping course will open two classes which are the first

one to be opened every Sunday and the second one, Saturdays and Sundays for conveniences of workers and staff.

Those wishing to attend the courses may contact No. 91/93, 49th Street (Central Block), Pazundaung Township of Yangon Region, Tel: 01-291826, 095019979 and 0954-10909.—Tin Tun Aung

CASH DONATED: Students of Yangon International School of Thumigala street in Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region donated cash to the fund to be spent on fire fighting of Thingangyun Township Fire Station on 15 March. The head of Township Fire Services Department accepts cash donations.—MYANMA ALIN



Multiplier health care course opened in NyaungU

NYAUNGU, 26 March—The township level multiplier course for public-based TB patient care service was kicked off at Anawrahta Hall in NyaungU of NyaungU District on 26 February morning.

Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Myo Thet Nwe made an opening address. Head of District Health Department U Khin Maung Htay explained health care for TB patients.

Altogether 30 trainees from wards and villages attended the training course.—District IPRD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1212)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1212) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (631)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (631) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 02 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 02 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SANG THAI SHIPPING CO LTD**
Phone No: 256924/256914

7.2-magnitude quake hits offshore Maule, Chile

MEXICO CITY, 26 March—Chilean authorities have ordered for evacuation of people from low-lying coastal areas after a powerful earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale jolted offshore Maule, at 22:37:04 GMT on Sunday.

The US Geological Survey said the epicenter, with a depth of 10.00 km, was initially determined to be at 35.1160 degrees south latitude

and 72.6580 degrees west longitude.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre ruled out a Pacific-wide tsunami but said a quake of this size may generate local tsunamis that can be destructive along coasts located within a hundred kilometres of the epicenter. It advised local authorities to take preventive measures.

Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BRILLIANT PESCADORES VOY NO (34)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BRILLIANT PESCADORES VOY NO (34) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-7 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KASHA LTD
JAPAN**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BANGKAJA VOY NO (74)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKAJA VOY NO (74) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (12006)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (12006) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S T.S LINES**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Children pose with toy rifles during a parade as part of Pakistan's National Day celebration in Islamabad.

INTERNET

Notification for the Public

Under the instruction of an authority invested by U Aung Myo Thaik (N.S.C No. 12/ Sa Kha Na (Naing) 004934), United Network-Management and Business Center, Located at No.9, Shwelawin Street, Kyuntaw-South Ward, Sanchaung Township, Yangon Region, it was notified as under:

Presently there have been many gossips, ill talks and fabricated stories on operation of United Network-Management and Business Center and also on personal affairs of U Aung Myo Thaik. Therefore it is hereby notified and warned to creators of such fabrications not to gossip, ill talks and make false accusations and those who create such fabrications shall be dealt with law.

Under authorized instruction of U Aung Myo Thaik

**Daw Sandar Wynn (LLB)
Advocate**

No. 31/33, 4th Floor, 35th Street,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV AN BAO JIANG VOY NO (186)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN BAO JIANG VOY NO (186) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Vacancy Announcement
(for Local Service Only)

Secretary to Chairman Female(1)Post

- Any Graduate
- Age 25-30 years old.
- At Least 2 years experience in related field.
- English 4 Skill & Good computer skill.
- Able to know secretarial procedure.
- Can work overtime and able to travel.
- Able to use E-mail & Internet

This interested, a copy of labour registration card, kindly submit your cv with one recent photo, relevant documents and references to:
HR Department.

Victory Myanmar Group Co.,Ltd.
No.216, Bogyoke Aung San Rd.,5th Flr,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
Closing date:two week from advertising date.

Green tea could aid athletes hide testosterone doping

LONDON, 26 March—Green tea could inadvertently help athletes who dope on testosterone as it has been found to mask the hormone's presence in urine testing.

Although testosterone is naturally present in the human body, unnatural amounts of it can be spotted by detecting its unusual ratio to another hormone called epitestosterone in urine. Declan Naughton and colleagues at Kingston University London conducted lab tests and discovered that compounds called catechins - found in green and white tea but not in black-inhibit an enzyme called UGT2B17. This enzyme attaches glucuronic acid to testosterone, making it more likely to be excreted through urine. "Levels from a strong cup of green tea match those we used in our experiments," the New Scientist quoted Naughton as saying. Athletes who dope themselves on testosterone may be able to use green or white tea to reduce the amount of hormone reaching their urine. Tea alone may block its excretion and increase the amount which remains circulating inside the body.—Internet

Man proposes at Boston aquarium

A Massachusetts man brought his girlfriend to the New England Aquarium in Boston, where he arranged for divers in a fish tank to hold a sign proposing marriage.

"Will you marry me, Katie?" the sign read.

Groom-to-be Peter Gallagher, 29, brought his girlfriend Katie Ellis, 28, to the aquarium Saturday afternoon for the prearranged event, the *Boston Herald* reported.

"I've been nervous for the past week. Very nervous," said Gallagher, who is a middle school teacher in Lakeville. "But I wouldn't have done this if I was afraid she'd say no."

Ellis, a fellow teacher, said yes. "I'm really shocked. I don't have words," Ellis said a few minutes later. "I'm very happy." "I knew it was coming but ... I thought it would be a

month from now."

The couple have only been dating since December, but have known each other since they were teenagers, Gallagher said. "It felt right," Gallagher said. "When it feels right, that's when you do it."

The aquarium isn't the only creative spot for proposals in Boston; last year, 62 men proposed to their girlfriends at Fenway Park front of Red Sox fans.



Youths and students participate in the Spring equinox celebration at Sventaragio Valley in Vilnius late.

Humane Society places rats in good homes

The Michigan Humane Society held an adoption event to find forever-homes for 13 domesticated rats.

The Saturday event at the Berman Centre for Animal Care in Westland, called "Oh, Rat!" was the organization's first adoption event dedicated to find rats homes, *The Detroit News* reported.

Three or four families were waiting in line at the adoption event when the centre's doors opened at 10 a.m. said Linda Reider, director of animal welfare for the Michigan Humane Society. Reider said by late morning, five of the 13 rats had been adopted.

Humane Society officials

said rats can make good pets.

"They are very friendly," said Kevin Hatman, a society spokesman. Jesse Stump, 9, agreed. His family adopted two rats, sisters named Thelma and Daphne, that immediately took a liking to Jesse. "They started biting me," he said. "They started crawling up."

Mental athletes test memories in NYC

Mental athletes gathered in New York City to participate in the 15th Annual USA Memory Championship, officials said.

The winner of Saturday's competition was memonist Nelson Dellis, 27, of Miami, who also won last year, the *New York Daily News* reported.

Dellis said he associates numbers with images, which helped him recall 303 consecutive digits Saturday.

"I have a system of converting a bunch of numbers into pictures," said Dellis, who teaches memory techniques for a living.

"When I see numbers, I see people doing weird actions with objects."

Dellis and 50 other mental athletes were also challenged to recall names and faces, the sequence of cards in a deck and the exact wording, spelling and punctuation in a 50-line poem.

Competition founder Tony Dottino said eating foods rich in DHA and Omega-3, such as salmon, mackerel, tuna and eggs, can foster brain power.

News Album

Miley Cyrus sparks engagement rumours by tweeting diamond ring pic



Miley Cyrus

LONDON, 26 March—Miley Cyrus, who donned a pair of tiny white hot pants as she prepared to board a flight out of Los Angeles, sparked engagement rumours by posting a picture on-line of a huge sparkler on her ring finger.

The 19-year-old tweeted a picture of what appears to be a large, diamond engagement ring on her newly manicured hand, with a message promoting a brand of nail polish.

The photo sparked speculation about whether or not she and Australian actor, Liam Hemsworth, are engaged.

If she and 'The Hunger Games' star do plan to get hitched, it might not come as a surprise.

"They're not still keeping it a big secret, but they're seriously talking marriage. Liam is crazy about her! Miley wants the whole nine yards as far as a big wedding goes," the *Daily Mail* quoted a source as telling OK Magazine. The 'See You Again' singer met Hemsworth on the set of their 2010 film, 'The Last Song', and the pair have been dating ever since.—*Internet*

Julia Roberts loves Lily Collins's dad

LOS ANGELES, 26 March —Actress Julia Roberts has revealed that she was thrilled to work on "Mirror Mirror" with Lily Collins because she is a big fan of Lily's rocker dad Phil Collins.

The Oscar winning actress admits Phil Collins and his band Genesis is the sound of her youth so she was thrilled to get the chance to work with his daughter on the movie.

Julia said: "Are you kidding, Genesis? I'm in my forties. Genesis is like my youth."

The 44-year-old also admitted she is happy not to be a young actress like Lily because it is so much more difficult to deal with fame than it was in her day.

"It seemed so much easier, it made more sense. It was more kind of a gradual progression of things I think for the way the business was when I started out. But she seems to be holding her own, she's got no problem. This culture of meanness is new," reports okmagazine.com.

"I like my job, I'm happy at work, it's fun and pretty extraordinary."—*Internet*



Actress Julia Roberts

'Hunger Games' devours US box office

LOS ANGELES, 26 March—"The Hunger Games," based on the young adult novel, posted the third-biggest weekend opening in US box office history with \$155 million in receipts.

"21 Jump Street," a remake of the TV show with Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum, trailed a very distant second with \$21.3 million in its second week, while the animated "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax," featuring the voice of Danny DeVito, was third with \$13.1 million in its fourth week of release.

All studio estimates of gross US box office receipts are via Box Office Mojo.

"John Carter" was fourth with more than \$5 million; "Act of Valor" fifth with more than \$2.1 million; "Project X" sixth with \$2 million; "A Thousand Words" seventh with \$1.9 million; "October Baby (2012)" eighth with \$1.7 million; and "Safe House" ninth with \$1.4 million.

"Journey 2: The Mysterious Island" rounded out the Top 10 with \$1.37 million.—*Internet*



Actor Liam Hemsworth, a cast member in the motion picture sci-fi thriller "The Hunger Games", attends the premiere of the film at Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles on 12 March, 2012.

INTERNET

Lindsay Lohan takes mom's advice to avoid controversies



Lindsay Lohan

LONDON, 26 March—Lindsay Lohan's mother Dina has advised her to stay at home and "live in a bubble" to avoid getting into trouble

till Thursday, when her probation ends.

The star has been on her best behaviour in recent months - she fulfils her community service hours and attends therapy sessions relating to her 2011 conviction for a probation violation. Lindsay's probation ends 29 March.

"I said (to Lindsay) do

not leave the house! She's coming down the home stretch and the paparazzi is just stalking her right now and trying to do anything, crash her car, just trying to hurt her before her court date on the 29th and we just wanna put this behind us," Dina told US talk show host Wendy Williams over a phone interview.—*Internet*

Katy Perry brushes six times a day



Singer Katy Perry

inspired by Britney Spears. "I brush my teeth all the time. I wanted them to be, like, Britney Spears white. I used

to grow up seeing her music videos and be like, 'What does she do? Does she get a new set of teeth all the time? They're so white'," she said.

"I'll brush my teeth (after) breakfast, lunch and dinner... I did have 13 cavities at one time, so you can imagine why I'm so freaked out. When I was a kid I didn't really go to the dentist a lot and when I finally went, they were like, 'You might as well get a new set of teeth'," she added.

Internet

Kimberley Walsh's weighty issues

LONDON, 26 March—Singer Kimberley Walsh is worried about staying in shape once she finishes her stint in "Shrek: The Musical".

The singer who took over the role of Princess Fiona last October is concerned that when her time in London's West End comes to an end in May she will pile on the pounds because she won't be so active.

"Being on stage is a great way of staying in shape. We do eight shows a week and my dressing room is up two flights of stairs, so I'm always working out," she told *Closer* magazine in an interview.

Internet



Singer Kimberley Walsh

Cisse hits two as Magpies sink Baggies

LONDON, 26 March — West Bromwich Albion 1-3 Newcastle United. Papiss Cisse hit two as Newcastle United found their away form to stay in the hunt for Champions League qualification with a win at West Bromwich Albion. The Magpies — who had just one away win in 2012 before the match at the Hawthorns — raced into a 2-0 lead inside 12 minutes thanks to Cisse's side-footed opener and Hatem Ben Arfa's crisp finish.

Ben Arfa then turned provider for Cisse with 11 minutes of the first half to go, as the Senegalese forward fired in his fifth goal for the Magpies. Shane Long capitalised on a mix-up between Mike Williamson and Tim Krul to pull one back for the Baggies, but Newcastle held on for a win which moved them level on points with fifth-placed Chelsea. — *Internet*



Hatem Ben Arfa scored one and set up two goals for Newcastle United. — *INTERNET*

International Sports

Nadal, Murray advance in Miami

MIAMI, 26 March — World number two Rafael Nadal cruised through to the last 16 at the Miami Masters, while fourth seeded Andy Murray advanced without even breaking sweat. Nadal continued his domination over Czech Radek Stepanek with a straight forward 6-2, 6-2 victory in a third round match on centre court. Murray reached the fourth round by not hitting a ball when Canadian Milos Raonic withdrew with a right ankle injury.

Nadal, who is chasing his first Miami title, has now beaten Stepanek in all six contests dating back to their first meeting in 2004. "I am just happy to be in the fourth round winning two matches with positive feeling and with comfortable results," Nadal said. "I will just try to keep doing well and try to keep improving a little bit the level."



Rafael Nadal was far too good on the night for Radek Stepanek, thrashing him 6-2, 6-2 at the Miami Masters. — *INTERNET*

Nadal finished with three aces, won 74 percent of his first-serve points and saved both break point chances he faced in the 86 minute match. Nadal advances to face Japan's Kei Nishikori who breezed past Czech Lukas Rosol 6-4, 6-2 on Sunday. The 24-year-old Scot Murray will tackle French 13th seed Gilles Simon for a place in the quarter-finals of a tournament he won in 2009. — *Internet*

Tiger Woods a winner on tour again after 30 months



Tiger Woods hoists the championship trophy after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill in Orlando, Fla, on 25 March, 2012. — *INTERNET*

ORLANDO, 26 March — His ball safely over the water, Tiger Woods walked toward the 18th green Sunday as he had done over the last 30 months on the PGA Tour, with one big

difference. There was no mistaking that smile. "Pure joy," he said. Woods finally brought the buzz back to the very thing that made him famous — winning.

Two weeks after another injury scare, Woods looked dominant as ever in that bright red shirt to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill. It was his first PGA Tour victory since a sex scandal at the end of 2009 led to one of the greatest downfalls in sports. And with the Masters only two weeks away, Woods looks more capable than ever of resuming his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus in the majors.

Woods closed with a 2-under 70 and won by five shots over Graeme McDowell. "I think he really just kind of nailed home his comeback," McDowell said. "Great to have a front-row seat watching maybe the greatest of all time doing what he does best — winning golf tournaments." Woods had gone 923 days and 27 tour events since he last posed with a trophy, and it showed. — *Internet*

Conte despairs of Milan squad strength

MILAN, 26 March — Antonio Conte admitted he feels powerless to stop AC Milan's charge to a second straight Serie A title despite his Juventus side beating Inter Milan in convincing fashion. Juve remain four points behind league leaders Milan after a 2-0 win over Inter on Sunday. But Conte admitted that Milan seem to have something extra as despite a host of injuries they still managed to come from behind and overcome Roma 2-1 the day before.

And unless Milan slip up somewhere down the line, Conte believes second place is all he can hope for despite his side being unbeaten in 33 matches in all competitions this season. "I've never bluffed to put pressure on others. Milan have a squad of 34-35 players and are clearly better than the rest," said Conte. "They're proving it because despite all these injuries, the latest being that of Thiago Silva, they've maintained this incredible rhythm in the league. "We need to keep doing what we're doing, we're unbeaten and that's great, it's a great satisfaction and we'll give our best because we're still in two competitions."

"In the first, the Cup, we've achieved the maximum by getting to the final." In the league we'll try to secure second place, which in itself would be fantastic. "But we'll keep an eye open because if Milan do slip up we've got to capitalise." Alessandro Del Piero was the hero on Sunday, coming off the bench to score the crucial, killer second goal. And Conte paid tribute to his club captain, who has quietly accepted a peripheral role this season. — *Internet*



Juventus players celebrate after beating Inter Milan 2-0 on Sunday in Serie A to keep the heat on leaders AC Milan. — *INTERNET*

Venus Williams rallies for win at Key Biscayne

KEY BISCAINE, 26 March — Weary winner Venus Williams stood near the net swatting souvenir balls to cheering fans, but a marathon match had taken its toll, and one of her attempts didn't even reach the stands. Williams had already expended all her energy, erasing a match point and outlasting Aleksandra Wozniak 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5) in Sunday's third round at the Sony Ericsson Open.

Her career comeback now includes a come-from-behind win. Williams is playing in her first tournament since withdrawing from the US Open last August after being diagnosed with a fatigue-causing autoimmune disease. The three-set victory was her second in less than 48 hours, and took nearly three hours. "I just kept coming back," Williams said. "I tried not to let anything discourage me." Other winners included Rafael Nadal, bidding for his first Key Biscayne title, and two-time champion Victoria Azarenka. American John Isner was eliminated.

Wozniak served for the match at 5-4 in the final set, but dumped a forehand in the net when she had a match point. Talking later about the situation, Williams claimed to be unaware Wozniak had been so close to victory. "She had match point?" Williams said. "Oh no. Thank God I'm oblivious to the score a lot of times." The tiebreaker swung Williams' way when she smacked an overhead that clipped the net cord before landing softly for a winner and a 4-2 lead. On the final point, she somehow found the strength to whack a 119-mph service winner. — *Internet*



Venus Williams of the USA shows her emotion during her three set victory against Aleksandra Wozniak of Canada in their third round match at the Sony Ericsson Open at Crandon Park Tennis Centre on 25 March, 2012 in Key Biscayne, Florida. — *INTERNET*

Stewart wins rain-shortened race in Fontana



Crew member Brad Pickens tries to keep the gas can in the pit box as Jeff Gordon leaves during a pit stop in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race, on 25 March, 2012, in Fontana, Calif. — *INTERNET*

FONTANA, 26 March — When dark clouds ominously obscured majestic Mount Baldy north of Auto Club

Speedway early in Sunday's race, NASCAR's drivers all realized they were probably in for a short day on a long track. Nobody did a better job racing until the raindrops fell than Tony Stewart.

Stewart got his second NASCAR victory of the season when rain shortened the race at Auto Club Speedway by 71 laps, extending the defending Sprint Cup champion's unusually strong start. Kyle Busch finished second, and Dale Earnhardt Jr added to his good start to the season in third. "You hate to have it end with rain like that," Stewart

said. "But we've lost some that way, and we didn't back into the lead."

Stewart has won seven of the last 15 races, including Las Vegas last month, in a remarkable stretch of dominance for a driver who rarely gets rolling until summer. Although Stewart sees nothing special about his approach to the new season, he's clearly focused. Stewart and new crew chief Steve Addington didn't mention the rain to each other until moments before it hit one end of the 2-mile oval, but they had already done the work necessary to win. — *Internet*

Tseng storms to second straight title

CARLSBAD, 26 March — World No 1 Yani Tseng stormed to her second straight LPGA Tour title with a commanding six-shot victory at the Kia Classic in California. Taiwan's Tseng closed with a two-under 70 to reach a 14-under 274 total and take her third win in five events this year. "Today the first hole I just kind of felt like every day is the same," Tseng said. "I didn't feel like today was Sunday. I didn't feel like I had a three-shot lead. I just focused on playing one shot at a time. I think I did a good

job to just kind of focus on myself."

The 23-year-old Tseng led wire-to-wire at the La Costa's Legends Course, becoming the second-youngest player to reach 15 LPGA Tour wins. Nancy Lopez was 22 when she did it. Tseng also won the LPGA Founders Cup last week in Phoenix and won the LPGA Thailand in February. She led the LPGA last year with seven victories, including the Women's British Open. Tseng has won six of the last seven times she has held a 54-



World number one Yani Tseng of Taiwan reacts to her final putt to win the Kia Classic in California by six shots. — *INTERNET*

hole lead. She is 7-5 overall in her career with the lead heading into the fourth round. — *Internet*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-3-12 09:30 am ~ 28-3-12 09:30 am) MST

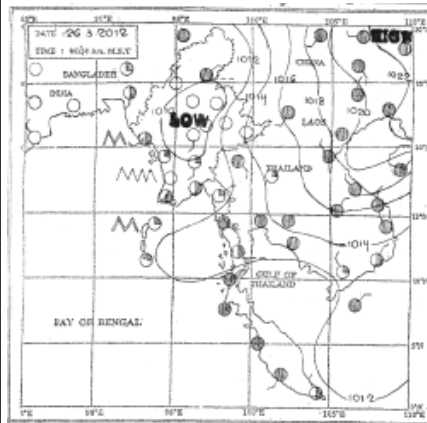
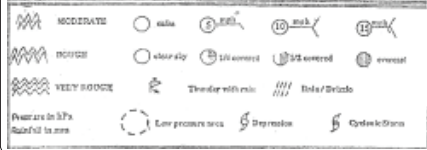
- News
- Honouring the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day "TODAY'S TATMADAW"
- News
- A Warm Welcome From the Golden Land
- News
- Music Gallery
- News
- Unprecedented Images of Pale Town
- News
- Topic on Journal "The Art of Bronze Casting"
- News
- Large Parasol "A Souvenir of Patheingyi"
- News
- True Desire out of Enthusiasm
- News
- Your Home in Pyin Oo Lwin
- How to cast vote?
- Myanmar Movie "Essence of Devotion"

MYANMAR TV

(27-3-2012) (Tuesday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Live Broadcast of 67th Tamadaw Day Parade
- 8:20 am
- 2. Songs in honour of (67th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 8:30 am
- 3. Documentary
- 4:00 pm
- 4. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
- 5. Musical Programme
- 4:45 pm
- 6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 4:55 pm
- 7. One Village & One Product
- 5:15 pm
- 8. Teleplay (Traffic)
- 6:00 pm
- 9. Evening News
- 6:15 pm
- 10. Weather Report
- 6:35 pm
- 11. Documentary
- 7:00 pm
- 12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. International News
- 15. Teleplay

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 27th March, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		Forecast	
		Maximum	Minimum		Percent
1	Kachin	31/88	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
2	Kayah	35/95	15/59	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
3	Kayah	38/100	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
4	Chin	27/81	07/45	Fairly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	37/99	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
6	Lower Sagaing	39/102	20/68	Fairly cloudy	
7	Taintharyi	36/97	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
8	Bhamo	37/99	24/75	Fairly cloudy	
9	Magway	42/108	21/70	Fairly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	41/106	22/72	Fairly cloudy	
11	Maw	38/100	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
12	Yangon	38/100	24/75	Fairly cloudy	
13	Bahaw	33/91	21/70	Fairly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	30/86	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
15	Northern Shan	35/95	11/52	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
16	Eastern Shan	33/91	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
17	Ayeyawady	37/99	21/70	Fairly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	41/106	22/72	Fairly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	38/100	24/75	Fairly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	41/106	22/72	Fairly cloudy	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been fairly widespread in Taintharyi Region, isolated in Kachin and Mon States, weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon Region and Rakhine State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (7°C) above March average temperatures in Northern Shan and Chin States, (5°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kachin, Rakhine and Kayah States and about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperature were Chau, Mawla and Magway (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Dawei (8.47 inch).

Bay Information

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

State of the Sea

Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Checklist for next two days

Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thunderstorms in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Two killed in Somali rebels' mortar attack on palace

MOGADISHU, 26 March—At least two people were killed and 8 others wounded after mortar rounds fired by Somali rebel group al Shabaab towards the presidential palace landed on a nearby camp for the internally displaced, witnesses and officials said on Monday.

Under pressure from African Union and Somali government troops, the al Qaeda-linked militants withdrew from Mogadishu in August prompting a return to relative calm in the capital, although they still manage to launch sporadic attacks.

Paddy Ankunda, spokesman for the African Union force known as AMISOM, said some mortars hit a camp for Somalis displaced by war and famine about 300 meters from the presidential palace.

Isma'il Nur, a resident of the camp, said one mortar killed two members of a single family.

"A mortar landed on our camp - a father and his son died. Eight others including three women were injured," Nur, who is a nephew to the dead father, told Reuters.



Mourners bury the remains of a man killed during mortar shelling in Hawlwadag Refugee camp near Somalia's presidential palace, in southern Mogadishu, 26 March, 2012.—INTERNET

Al Shabaab said they fired mortars at the heavily protected presidential compound, their third attempt to strike at the heart of the government in a fortnight.

Internet



CITIZENSHIP CARDS ISSUED: Head of Pyay Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Kyaw Zaw and staff undertook issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards in Paungtale Village-tract in Pyay Township on 16 March. They prepare works for issuance of the cards to eligible citizens. TOWNSHIP INRD

Lashio observes World TB Day

LASHIO, 25 March—The World TB Day was observed at the hall of Nursing/Midwifery Training School in Lashio on 24 March morning.

The Deputy Commission of Lashio District read the message by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and the Additional Head of Shan State Health Department the opening address delivered by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham at the 2012 World TB Day ceremony.

Shan State TB Officer Dr U Kyaw Zaw explained facts about TB disease and future tasks.

At the ceremony, the book on knowledge about TB disease was displayed.—Ma Ma-Lashio

Dominican Republic seizes 1.5 tons of cocaine

SANTO DOMINGO, 26 March—Dominican Republic anti-narcotics agents have seized 1.5 tons of cocaine and arrested three Venezuelan citizens, officials said Sunday.

It was announced by President of the National Anti-Drug Bureau (DNCD), Major General Rolando Rosado Mateo, at a press conference.

The cocaine was intercepted in waters off the coast of Juan Dolio, 45 km from the country's capital of Santo Domingo. Agents found the cocaine, shipped in 1,236 packages, on a 40-foot boat which left Colombia last

Friday night and landed here early Sunday, said Rosado.

Agents also arrested Richard Chirino, Eliezer Hernandez and Cruz Natera Fermin—the three Venezuelans that form part of a Colombian drug-trafficking ring that, according to Rosado, works for Ramon Rosario Puente, a Dominican drug trafficker who was extradited to Puerto Rico last December. The three detainees were equipped with high-tech night vision and communication devices that agents also seized on the boat, said Rosado.

MNA/Xinhua



In this Nov. 17, 2011 file photo, New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez (6) and Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow (15) walk off the field together after an NFL football game, in Denver. Tebow has been traded from the Denver Broncos to the New York Jets.—INTERNET

Tebow the Jet: Celebrity backup meets media

FLORHAM PARK, 26 March—Tim Tebow is getting his first New York close-up.

At his introductory news conference Monday, the New York Jets backup quarterback, acquired from Denver last Wednesday, says he's grateful and excited to be with the team.

Tebow is speaking at a massive gathering that's

being held at the Jets field house because the overflow of media was so great the session couldn't be held in the team's normal pressroom. That's a first for any Jets player—including starting quarterback Mark Sanchez.

The Jets No. 2 QB says he and Sanchez have known each other for three years and have a "great relationship."

Tebow is coming off a

season of incredible comebacks with the Broncos, and the Jets are hoping he has more surprises left in him. Coach Rex Ryan, general manager Mike Tannenbaum and owner Woody Johnson are not at the news conference. They're down at the NFL meetings in Palm Beach, Fla., far away from the wild scene at the team's headquarters.

Internet

Muamba out of bed, eating after cardiac arrest

LONDON, 26 March—Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba has started to eat again and gotten out of bed, making "encouraging progress" in his recovery from cardiac arrest during a game.

A joint statement from Bolton and the London Chest Hospital on Monday says Muamba remains in intensive care in serious but stable condition.

The statement says the 23-year-old player was able to "sit out of bed for a short time, watch television and has begun to eat" over the weekend.

Muamba's heart stopped beating on its own for 78 minutes after he collapsed during an FA Cup quarterfinal against Tottenham on 17 March.—Internet



Bolton Wanderers players warm up wearing Fabrice Muamba shirts prior to the English Premier League soccer match against Blackburn Rovers at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton, England, Saturday 24 March, 2012.

INTERNET

President U Thein Sein receives Governor of Yunnan Province and party

President U Thein Sein receives a delegation led by Yunnan Province Governor Mr Li Ji Heng of the People's Republic of China at the Credentials Hall of the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Yunnan Province Governor Mr Li Ji Heng of the People's Republic of China at the Credentials Hall of the President Office, here, at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call were Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U

Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun and departmental heads.

The Yunnan Province Governor and party were accompanied by Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Li

Junhua.

At the call, they frankly discussed further strengthening of strategic ties between Myanmar and China, promotion of economic cooperation between the two countries, enhancement of road transport and stability of border regions with Yunnan Province which plays a pivotal role in relationship between Myanmar and China.—MNA

Chinese women ease to second win in table tennis worlds

DORTMUND, 26 March — Chinese women paddlers beat Ukraine 3-0 in Championship Division Group A on the second day of the world team table tennis championships in Dortmund.

Li Xiaoxia opened the tie with an 11-4, 11-5, 11-5 victory over Tetyana Bilenko on Monday afternoon, followed by an 11-9, 11-2, 11-6 win of reigning individual world champion Ding Ning against Ganna Gaponova. Guo Yan completed the Chinese rout with another 3-0 win over

Ievgeniia Vasylieva (11-3, 11-3, 11-6).

China, who beat Belarus 3-0 in its first match on Sunday, will next play Hungary on Tuesday.

Shi Zhihao, coach of Chinese women's team, said he was satisfied.

"It was an easy game today," he said. "Our players were fitter than yesterday, and the opponents today were not so strong. Maybe you noticed that we lined up different players for this match, I mean, Guo Yan played for the first time.—Internet

Wang Hao of China returns the ball during the Championship Division Group A match against Kalinikos Kreanga of Greece at the 2012 World Team Table Tennis Championships in Dortmund, Germany, 25 March, 2012. Chinese men's team won 3-0.—INTERNET



Human resources development course for carbon emission opens

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Jointly organized by Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea, the human resources

development course for carbon emission from deforestation and forest degradation was opened at the hall of the Forest Department, here, this morning.

Union Minister for

Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun delivered an address.

Altogether 20 trainees—staff officer and senior forester levels are attending the course that will last up to 30 March.—MNA

Pyinnyayeikmon self-reliant library opened

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—To mark 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Pyinnyayeikmon self-reliant library was opened at Thittat Village in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area today, with an address by

Nay Pyi Taw Council Member Col Myint Aung Than. Chairman of Library Committee accepted a set of TV and receiver worth K 160,000 donated by Nay Pyi Taw Council and fund of K 100,000 by Zeyathiri Township Administrator,

books and K 240,000 by nine well-wishers.

The library measuring 24 feet X 24 feet was built with the funds of K 2 million by Nay Pyi Taw Command and the contribution of K 2.2 million by local people.

MNA

Honouring the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Tatmadaw born of the Union

The democratically-elected State government is now holding talks with the remaining ethnic groups for long-lasting eternal peace, bearing encouraging results.

PAGES 8+9

Ko Myanmar

POEM

Victorious warriors of the nation

Having conviction for nation
In fore was the resolve
Releasing country from subjugation
For new age of independence

Myinmu Maung
Naing Moe (Trs)

Cisse hits two as Magpies sink Baggies



Tiger Woods a winner on tour again after 30 months

PAGE 14

PAGE 14