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Thursday, 29 March, 2012

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.

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win warmly welcome Malaysian Prime Minister, wife and party



*President of the
Republic of the
Union of
Myanmar
U Thein Sein and
Malaysian Prime
Minister Dato' Sri
Mohd Najib Tun
Razak take salute
of the Guard of
Honour.*

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win extended a warm welcome to the Malaysian goodwill delegation led by Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak and wife on the lawns of the Presidential Palace, here, at 4 pm today.

On arrival at the Presidential Palace from Hotel Amara, the Malaysian Prime Minister, wife and party were cordially welcomed by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win.

On the dais, President U Thein Sein and Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak took the

salute of the Guard of Honour. Meanwhile, the State Band played National Anthems of Malaysia and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

President U Thein Sein and the Malaysian Prime Minister inspected the Guard of Honour.

Next, the Malaysian Prime Minister presented his entourage to President U Thein Sein.

Likewise, President U Thein Sein introduced Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister

for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu and Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Malaysia U Tin Latt to the Malaysian Prime Minister.

MNA

President U Thein Sein receives Malaysian Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak, at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, at 4.15 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Director-General at President Office U Min Zaw.

The Malaysian Prime Minister was accompanied by Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister Hon Dato' Sri Anifah Hj Aman.

At the call, they had a cordial discussion on further strengthening amity between the two countries and promoting economic cooperation.

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*President of the Republic of the Union of
Myanmar U Thein Sein holds talk with
Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd
Najib Tun Razak at Credentials Hall of
Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.*

MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 29 March, 2012

Mindset surgery

The world in 21st century is depicted as the global village on media. The rapid IT advancement has shrunk the world, letting us discover the new things. If so, what have we really discovered?

Western movies have poured into our film market over the recent years either legally or illegally. Leaving aside the parental control over explicit movies, we have learnt not their attitude towards work, love for adventure and innovation but mini-skirts, tight-fitting and backless dress.

Myanmar has its own unique culture and tradition, which shapes our mindset and influences our behaviours. Under the influence of religion, Myanmar people tend to be honest, humble and hospitable. But, the other side of the coin is that we are too easy-going and content with life in nature. Myanmar is rich in terms of natural resources. There are a lot of things we can blame for the poverty. But, have we worked hard enough for the prosperity? It is time to force our idle brains and work hard with concert. Working for a day's meal simply would not make you rich.

We surely have to move with the times. But, we still have to preserve our own culture. We must preserve and promote our fine customs and correct and mend the negative ones, seeking the winning combination. We have to change our outlook in search of flowery future. Changes have to begin within ourselves, from individual to the whole society.

Review on National Forestry Master Plan workshop held

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Opening of workshop on review of National Forestry Master Plan, organized by Forest Department of Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, was held at Forest Department (Head Office) here this morning, attended by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun.

He said: Myanmar is rich in forest resources and biodiversity. The 47 per cent of country's total areas is covered with forests. Systematic forest management has been carried out since 1856. Thanks to it, the country can undertake continued extraction of forest and forest products till now.

National Forestry Master Plan (from 2001-02 to 2030-31) had been drafted since 1998. Implementation of it

Meeting (1/2012) of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control held



Chairman of CCDAC Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko delivers an address at Meeting 1/2012 of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—"Myanmar has been undertaking drug abuse control by laying down two strategies as national duty and drafted 15-year plan (from 1999-2000 to 2013-2014). To hit the goal of a drug-free zone ASEAN 2015, Myanmar has to reduce growing of illegal crops, illegal drug trafficking, drug-related crimes and use of illegal drug," said Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, at meeting (1/2012) of the CCDAC held at Ministry of Home Affairs today.

The MPF Chief reported implementation on CCDAC

meetings (1/2011 and 1/2011) resolutions; Police Col Tin Maung Maung, three-year poppy eradication plan and official from 12 groups, their undertakings. After that, those present discussed providing assistances for poppy eradication programme in cooperation with DEA, UNODC, WFP, NNCC and ONCB. It was also attended by Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Dr Myo Myint, Dr Win Myint, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and Vice-Chief of MPF Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, officials from the CCDAC, UNODC, WFP, DEA, NNCC and ONCB.—MNA

Union Minister receives German human rights commissioner and ICRC rep

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay received German Human Rights Commissioner of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Germany Mr Markus Michael Maria Loning and party and Head of Delegation Mr Georges

Paclisanu of the International Committee of the Red Cross at his office separately this evening.

They discussed promotion of ties between Myanmar and Germany and between Myanmar and the International Committee of the Red Cross.—MNA

Country Director of Norwegian Refugee Council calls on Union I&P Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi received Country Director Mr Christopher

Bleers and party of Norwegian Refugee Council at his office, here, at 10.30 am today.

Also present at the

started in 2001-2002. It needs to review pros and cons in respective sectors and to successfully implement the remaining periods, he added.

A total of 11 papers will be read out at the workshop which will go on till 30 March. Five groups discuss respective works in National Forest Sector Master Plan.

MNA

call were Deputy Minister U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General U Maung Maung Than of Immigration and National Registration Department, Director-General U Myint Kyawing of Population Department, Head of Office U Than Naing Tun and officials.

The guests praised the staff of the ministry for making field trips to remote

areas of Kayin State for issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards and proposed to render assistance for the works.

They discussed endeavours of internal peace-making process, plans for ensuring eternal peace through step by step negotiations, issuance of CSC in field trips, collection of national census, training and technology for uplift of staff's proficiency and assistance for work equipment.

MNA

Health knowledge disseminated in Kyimyindine Township



KYIMYINDINE, 28 March—An health knowledge talk, organized by Township Women's

District, on 18 March.

At the outset, Chairperson of District Women's Affairs Organization Daw Myint Myint Kyi and Chairperson of Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Su San made speeches.

An official of Township Health Department gave talks on health knowledge for women and children.

Myanma Alin



VACCINE PROVIDED: Age-wise anti-measles vaccination campaign was launched at Dhammayon on 28th Street in Ward 3 of Pabedan Township on 22 March. Acting Head of Township Health Department Dr Daw Ei Ei Khaing and health staff inject children from nine months to five years old. MYANMA ALIN

Exchange of fire along Israel-Egypt border



A camel stands along the Israeli side (L) of the border with Egypt near an Egyptian military post (top R) in the Sinai Peninsula in 2009.—INTERNET

TEL AVIV, 28 March—Israeli troops opened fire at a group of suspects along the Egyptian border on Tuesday, two of whom had crossed from Egypt, a military spokesman

said, indicating that several of them were wounded.

The incident took place 2:00 pm (1200 GMT), the army said.

Also during the afternoon, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paid a visit to another area of the Sinai border to examine the ongoing construction of a vast barrier along the frontier to halt the influx of smugglers and immigrants, his office said, without specifying at what time he was there.

"During a routine patrol along the Israel-Egypt border, the force identified two suspects driving ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) from Israeli territory towards Egypt," the spokesman said. "At the same time, two infiltrators crossed from Egypt into Israel." The soldiers fired warning shots, then fired towards the legs of the four suspects, hitting two of them, he said. "The infiltrators then crossed back into Egypt along with one of the two from the Israeli side," he told AFP, saying one had driven over the border on his quad bike.

Once they crossed the border, there was "an exchange of fire with Egyptian security forces," he said.—INTERNET



Police leave a building after searching the apartment of a detainee suspected of belonging to al-Qaeda in Valencia on 27 March, 2012.—REUTERS

Spain arrests Qaeda suspect for inciting attacks

MADRID, 28 March—Spanish police have arrested a suspected al-Qaeda member on charges of broadcasting videos on the Internet to incite militant attacks, the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

A ministry statement said police arrested the man, identified as "MHA", in the eastern city of Valencia after an investigation launched in February 2011. Interior Minister Jorge Fernandez said the man was suspected of working with al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) as well as al-Qaeda North African branch al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

"He was known in the heart of the terrorist organization as 'al-Qaeda's librarian'," Fernandez told a news conference. Fernandez

said the suspect worked full-time from home to recruit potential extremists and arrange for them to travel to Afghanistan, as did an al-Qaeda-inspired gunman who went on a killing spree in France last week. "The training of people like Mohamed Merah, the Jihadist killer in Toulouse, arose through acts with such characteristics," Fernandez said.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said last week France would make it a crime to consult websites that advocate terrorism or hate crimes and would toughen a crackdown on people who went abroad for ideological indoctrination. Militants killed 191 people in co-ordinated bombings on commuter trains in Madrid in 2004.

Reuters

US could fly spy drones from Australian territory

CANBERRA, 28 March—Australia on Wednesday said it may allow Washington to use its territory to operate long-range spy drones, as part of an increased US presence in the Asia-Pacific that has rankled China.

The United States and Canberra are planning a major expansion of military ties, with the first of a 2,500-strong

Marine deployment to northern Australia unveiled last November by President Barack Obama due to arrive next month.

The plan has irked China and worried some Asian countries who see it as a statement by Washington that it intends to stand up for its interests in the region amid concerns of increasing

assertiveness by Beijing.

Australian media carried reports Wednesday citing a Washington Post story that the United States was considering using the Cocos Islands, an atoll in the Indian Ocean off northwest Australia, to launch unmanned surveillance aircraft. They said the Cocos would replace the present US Indian Ocean base of Diego Garcia, which America leases from Britain and is due to be mothballed in 2016.

Aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered attack submarines could also be based in Perth as part of efforts to refocus American defence resources in the region, the



Fact file and illustration on the unmanned US Predator drone.—INTERNET

reports added. Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith said the use of the Cocos Islands was a longer-term option for closer Australia-US engagement and its airstrip would need to be upgraded before it could be used. "Cocos is a possibility... it's a long-term prospect and should be treated as such," Smith told ABC radio.—INTERNET



Photo illustration of a US Air Force Predator drone.—INTERNET

Zambia-DR Congo river accident kills 20

LUAPALA, 28 March—Twenty people from DR Congo drowned when their boats capsized while crossing the river border with Zambia, where they had gone for a football match, local media reported on Tuesday.

The Democratic Republic of Congo nationals were crossing the Luapula, the longest tributary to the Congo river, when their boats were capsized by a passing speed boat late Sunday, the official Zanis news agency reported.

"Their boats were capsized after being hit by waves from a speedboat," Luapula Province deputy commissioner Aaron Mushanga told Zanis.

The victims included members of Congolese football team Virgin KA and their supporters who were returning from a game against a Zambian side known as Senegal that



A boat off DR Congo in 2011.—INTERNET

took place on the Senga islands.

The boats were carrying more than 100 people but 80 are reported to have been rescued by the owner of the speedboat.

Internet

Drought spreads east and north-environment agency

LONDON, 28 March—A drought affecting southeast England has spread further north to parts of Yorkshire, as another dry month depleted river levels and underground water supplies, the UK's Environment Agency said on Wednesday.

Areas from Chesterfield to Scarborough have fallen into the drought zone, as well as areas around Sheffield, Doncaster, Hull and Driffield.

The rivers Don, Rother, Hull and Derwent are low or very low for the time of year but public water supplies are unlikely to be affected, the agency said in a statement.

The agency appealed to farmers and businesses to use water wisely and share



A water depth marker stands on dry ground at Cropston Reservoir, in Cropston central England, on 20 February, 2012.—INTERNET

available resources.

"Today south and east Yorkshire have moved into official drought status, reflecting the impact that this extremely dry period is having on the environment in the area," Trevor Bishop, the agency's head of water resources, said. A large part of England is already in drought after extremely low rainfall for two winters, which has affected much of the southeast, including London, and East Anglia.

Earlier this month, the agency warned drought could spread to more regions of Britain if dry weather continued this spring, which prompted seven water companies to impose water restrictions on their customers.

Reuters

JetBlue flight diverted, passengers say captain restrained

AMARILLO, 28 March—A JetBlue flight bound for Las Vegas was diverted to Texas on Tuesday following what federal authorities described as erratic behavior by the captain, who passengers said had to be restrained after he pounded on the locked cockpit door.

The FBI is investigating the incident on Flight 191 from New York, which had 135 passengers on board

when the pilot-in-command decided to redirect the plane to Amarillo, Texas. JetBlue said in a statement the flight was diverted due to a "medical situation" involving the captain but made no mention of any commotion on board.

Passengers who were on the plane described a chaotic mid-flight scene in which a man in a JetBlue uniform, apparently locked out of the cockpit, began banging on

the door and demanding to be let inside. Passengers subdued him.

"People behind me, a bunch of big guys, started going up there and trying to help, and we found out that the guy banging was actually the pilot, and he was trying to get into the cockpit because the other co-pilot had locked him out," passenger Grant Heppes told Reuters.

Reuters



Officials remove baggage from JetBlue flight 191 and begin searching for explosives at Amarillo Rick Husband International Airport in Amarillo, Texas, on 27 March, 2012 after an unruly pilot caused the flight to make an emergency landing.—INTERNET

4,000-year-old stone monolith likely an astronomical marker

LONDON, 28 March—An ancient stone monolith in England was likely an astronomical marker, according to new archaeological evidence. The 4,000-year-old stone is triangular in shape and angles up toward geographic south. Its orientation and slant angle are aligned with the altitude of the sun at midsummer, researchers said. And new evidence shows that there are packing stones around the base of the 7.2-foot tall (2.2-meter) monolith, indicating that it was placed carefully in its location and position, they added.

"Given the sensitivity of the site, we can't probe under the surface of the soil," astronomer Daniel Brown of Nottingham Trent University in England said in a statement. "However, through our survey, we have found a higher density of packing stones on one side, supporting the case that the stone has been orientated intentionally." The monolith is located at a ridge called

Gardom's Edge in the Peak District National Park near Manchester, an area that shows evidence of human occupation extending far back though its history.

Internet



This 4,000-year-old monolith in England may have been an ancient astronomical tool to mark the seasons, according to archaeological evidence.

INTERNET

Apple offers refunds for new iPad in Australia over 4G

NEW YORK, 28 March—US technology firm Apple has offered to refund Australian customers who felt misled about the 4G capabilities of the new iPad. The country's consumer watchdog has taken Apple to court for false advertising because the tablet computer does not work on Australia's 4G network. Apple's lawyers said they were willing to publish a clarification. However the company does not accept that it misled customers.

Australia's Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) said on Tuesday "that Apple's recent promotion of the new 'iPad with WiFi + 4G' is misleading because it represents to Australian consumers that the product can, with a SIM card, connect to a 4G mobile data network in Australia, when this is not the case".

The watchdog then lodged a complaint at the Federal Court in Melbourne. At a preliminary hearing, Apple lawyer Paul Anastassiou said Apple had never claimed the device would work fully on the current 4G network operated by Telstra. Apple says the new iPad works on what is globally accepted to be a 4G network. The matter could go to full trial after the Easter break.

The Apple iPad's third version went on sale earlier this month, with Australia the first country where it was available. Shoppers lined up by the hundreds at Apple stores on opening day and the company said it had been its strongest iPad launch to date. The ACCC said it was seeking an injunction on sales as well as a financial penalty against Apple, corrective advertising and refunds to consumers. On its website, Apple does state that 4G LTE is only supported on selected networks in the US and Canada.

Internet



The third version of Apple's iPad went on sale earlier this month.—INTERNET

NZ dolphin survival boosted by Marine Protected Area

WELLINGTON, 28 March—Researchers studied the animals, one of the world's most endangered species of dolphin, for 21 years. Their results show that the survival rate of the dolphins has increased by 5.4% since the Marine Protection Area (MPA) was declared. The findings are published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*. "This is the first evidence that Marine Protected Areas can be effective for marine mammals.

We found a significant improvement in the survival rate," said Dr Liz Slooten from the University of Otago who undertook the research. In 1988 the Banks Peninsula Marine Mammal Sanctuary was established in the hope that resident dolphins would be protected from fatalities associated with the gillnet and trawling activities of the fishing industry. A team of ecologists conducted regular photo identification of the dolphins for 21 years, starting two years before the area was officially protected.

"We can identify individual dolphins from their battle

The best way to solve a problem at work

NEW YORK, 28 March—New research may just change what you think about what you know. That's because when individual employees bring their knowledge and skills to organizational problems, even the most challenging problems can be solved, according to new research. This occurs because, according to study co-author Bryan Bonner, "for groups to be successful, they must

exploit the knowledge of their (individual) members effectively."

Questions included: what is the minimum driving distance between Salt Lake City and New York City and what is the weight of the world's heaviest man? "It doesn't take much. All you have to do is have people sit there for a while and think, 'What is it I already know about this, and how can that help find the solution?'"



Hector's dolphins living off the coast of Christchurch, New Zealand have benefitted from the area's special designation, say scientists.

INTERNET

scars—which range from small nicks out of the dorsal fin to major scarring following shark attacks," explained Dr Slooten. The researchers used the photographs to create a population model; with this they were able to analyse how the animals had fared over two decades. "Estimating population changes in marine mammals is challenging, often requiring many years of research to produce data accurate enough to detect these kinds of biological changes," said Dr Slooten.

Internet

know is the key to solving a range of problems, according to the research. "We solve problems by using the many examples, good and bad, we've gathered through hard-won experience throughout our lives. The problem is that we're not nearly as good at applying old knowledge to new problems as you'd think," Bonner said. "Research over more than a century has tried, without much success, to figure out how we can do a better job."

Internet

Amazon's Kindle Touch comes to Europe, but no Fire news

NEW YORK, 28 March—Amazon is launching a touchscreen version of its Kindle e-reader in the UK, Germany, France, Spain and Italy. The Kindle Touch will be available for delivery from 27 April, five months after it went on sale in the US. Unlike in America, there will not be a discounted version with adverts. The device aims to challenge touch-based e-readers from Kobo and Sony. Amazon had no update on a European release date for its bestselling Kindle Fire Android-based tablet.

The Touch is being sold for £109 with wi-fi, and £169 with both wi-fi and 3G

connectivity, with no monthly fee. Both options allow books to be bought "on the go" from Amazon. The device also contains an "experimental" web browser, but it only works with wi-fi signal. The e-reader is 70 grams (2.5 ounces) heavier and slightly larger than the basic Kindle model, which is sold for £89.

However, it also offers an "x-ray" feature—exclusive to the device—which lets users to find related passages in a book as well as more detailed information from Wikipedia and Amazon's community-written book encyclopaedia "Shelfari". The latest version of its operating system will

allow books to be read in both portrait and landscape mode. US-owners had previously been restricted to holding the device vertically and had pressed Amazon to make both options available.

Amazon said UK readers will have access to more than one million books including the Harry Potter series, which has just become available to the firm and its rivals. "We launched our first Kindle here 18 months ago and it very quickly became successful with 500,000 titles," Amazon's European vice president of Kindle, Jorrit Van der Meulen, told the BBC. "It is the best-selling e-reader in the world,



Users swipe or tap the screen to move page of change text size.

INTERNET

but the comments that we got back... were 'we wish it had touch', and so we're excited now to bring this to the UK market as well."

Internet

Woman kills self while on Facebook

TAIPEI, 28 March — A woman in Taipei killed herself by inhaling poisonous fumes while chatting with friends on Facebook and none of them alerted authorities, police said on Tuesday. Claire Lin killed herself on her 31st birthday, 18 March, and family members who reported her suicide were unaware of the Facebook conversations that accompanied it, Taipei police officer Hsieh Ku-ming said. Lin's last Facebook entries show her chatting with nine friends, alerting them to her gradual asphyxiation. One picture uploaded from her mobile phone depicts a charcoal barbecue burning next to two stuffed animals. Another

shows the room filled with fumes.

One friend identified as Chung Hsin, told Lin, "Be calm, open the window, put out the charcoal fire, please, I beg you." Lin replied: "The fumes are suffocating. They fill my eyes with tears. Don't write me anymore." A few of the Facebook friends chatting with her tried to stop her and track her down on their own, but none called police. Chung did not respond to attempts to reach him for comment. Lin's last words, in Chinese, were: "Too late. My room is filled with fumes. I just posted another picture. Even while I'm dying, I still want FB (Facebook). Must be FB

poison. Haha."

Lin's Facebook postings indicated she was unhappy because her boyfriend was ignoring her, and had failed to return home to be with her on her birthday. Her boyfriend found her body the next morning and alerted her family, Hsieh said. Hsieh said he regretted that none of her friends called police to help her during the 67-minute episode, but he added it may have been difficult for them to know her whereabouts because of the nature of social media. "It could be true that it would be

hard to track down a Facebook friend without her address or phone contact," Hsieh said.

Chai Ben-rei, a sociologist at Taipei's Feng Chia University, said the incident reflected social isolation in the Internet age. "People may have doubts about what they see on the Internet because of its virtual nature, and fail to take action on it," he said. In a statement, Facebook said the company is deeply saddened by Lin's death and that the case serves as a "painful reminder of how people can help others who are in distress or need assistance." —Internet



Survival odds better with bypass than angioplasty

NEW YORK, 28 March — Patients who undergo bypass surgery for heart disease have better long-term survival rates than those who opt for less invasive procedures like angioplasty, a major US study showed on Tuesday. The study looked at data from 190,000 US patients and found that those who had bypass surgery had a lower death rate in the first four years (16.4 percent) compared to those who had angioplasty (20.8 percent).

Bypass operations involve open heart surgery to create a detour around a blocked artery using a vein taken from somewhere else in the patient's body. The type of angioplasty examined in the study, known as percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), involves a small incision to thread a balloon, a wire stent or a tube through the blocked artery to keep it open. "Our study is the most general one ever done because it uses data from across the whole country. It is also much larger than any other study", said William Weintraub, chair of cardiology at Christiana Care Health System and the study's lead investigator. "Combining data from several large databases, we found that survival was better with coronary surgery than percutaneous coronary intervention." —Internet



Surgeons perform heart surgery in 2009. Patients who undergo bypass surgery for heart disease have better long-term survival rates than those who opt for less invasive procedures like angioplasty, a major US study showed on Tuesday. —INTERNET

Man hugs doctors after seeing face transplant in mirror



Richard Norris is seen before (L) and after (R) his face transplant surgery in this combination of undated handout photos released by the University of Maryland Medical Centre. —REUTERS

BALTIMORE, 28 March — Surgeons from the University of Maryland Medical Centre on Tuesday detailed what they said was the world's most comprehensive face transplant - allowing a 37-year-old man to emerge from behind a mask 15 years after a gun accident almost killed him.

Richard Norris of Hillsville, Virginia, was shot in the face in 1997 and lost his nose, lips and most movement in his mouth. Since then, he has had multiple life-saving and

reconstructive surgeries but none could repair him to the extent where he felt he could return to society. He wore a prosthetic nose and a mask even when entering hospital for the transplant.

But last week, during a 36-hour operation, University of Maryland doctors gave him a new face from an anonymous donor whose organs saved five other patients' lives on the same day. Six days after the surgery, he could already move his tongue and open and close his eyes and was recovering much faster than doctors expected.

"He's actually looking in the mirror shaving and brushing his teeth, which we never even expected," said Dr Eduardo Rodriguez, associate professor of surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and head of the transplant team, who spoke at a Press conference.

Reuters

Study suggests too much sitting can kill you

NEW YORK, 28 March — For better health, try standing up more, a new study suggests. Those who spend 11 or more hours a day sitting are 40 percent more likely to die over the next three years regardless of how physically active they are otherwise, researchers say. Analyzing self-reported data from more than 222,000 people aged 45 and older, Australian researchers found that mortality risks spike after 11 hours of total daily sitting but are still 15 percent higher for those sitting between 8 and 11 hours compared to those sitting fewer than 4 hours per day.

"The evidence on the detrimental health effects of prolonged sitting has been building over the last few years," said study author Hidde van der Ploeg, a senior research fellow at the University of Sydney. "The study stands out because of its large number of participants and the fact that it was one of the first that was able to look at total sitting time. Most of the evidence to date had been on the health risks of prolonged television viewing." The study is published in the 26 March issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

Average adults spend 90 percent of their leisure time sitting down, van der Ploeg said, and fewer than half meet World Health Organization recommendations for 150 minutes of at least moderate-intensity physical activity each week. The data was collected as part of Australia's 45 and Up Study, a large, ongoing study of healthy aging. Strikingly, the elevated risks for dying from all causes remained even after taking into account participants' physical activity, weight and health status. Sixty-two percent of participants said they were overweight or obese (a similar proportion to Americans), while nearly 87 percent said they were in good to excellent health, and one-quarter said they spent at least 8 hours each day sitting. —Internet



Fiji takes control of national airline from Qantas

WELLINGTON, 28 March — Fiji's military government says it is taking control of the country's national carrier Air Pacific from Australian company Qantas. The government of Commodore Frank Bainimarama has issued a decree saying that all Fijian-registered carriers must now be owned and controlled by Fijian nationals. Fiji already owns a majority stake in the airline, holding 51 percent of it while Qantas owns 46.3 percent. But Fijian Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said Qantas since 1998 has exercised effective control over the carrier because Qantas-appointed board members enjoy supermajority and veto rights.

Qantas said it would issue a statement later Wednesday. "It's an open secret that Qantas has proposed to sell their stake to the Fijian government," said Sayed-Khaiyum. He said the two groups haven't been able to agree on a price and that Fiji is hoping

Qantas will agree to a binding independent valuation of its stake. He added the decree has nothing to do with the potential sale. However, the Fijian government's latest move could negatively impact the value of the stake to Qantas and to any interested third parties.

In a question-and-answer statement on the change, the Fijian government said it is "false and misleading" to think Fiji is nationalizing the airline and depriving Qantas of its shareholder rights. Qantas will retain its ownership stake and its right to dividends, according to the Fijian government, but will no longer be able to exercise control over the annual operating budget, the appointment of the airline's chairman, the addition of new routes or a host of other management decisions. Fiji claims Qantas has been directly competing with Air Pacific through Qantas's wholly owned subsidiary, Jetstar.

Internet

Harry Potter breaks e-book lockdown

NEW YORK, 28 March — When the Harry Potter books finally went on sale in electronic form on Tuesday, it was as if Harry himself had cast the "Alohomora" spell on them — the one that unlocks doors. In a break with industry practices, the books aren't locked down by encryption, which means consumers can move them between devices and read them anywhere they like.

If "Pottermore," JK Rowling's new Web store, proves a success, it could provide a model for other



In this 15 July, 2005 file photo shows British author JK Rowling holding a copy of her latest book 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince' as she arrives at Edinburgh Castle in Edinburgh, Scotland, for its worldwide launch. —INTERNET

authors and publishers and undermine the clout of Amazon.com Inc, which dominates e-book sales. "I think it's a very large crack in a dam that's going to collapse in the next nine to twelve months," says Matteo Berlucchi, the CEO of an independent British-based online bookstore, aNobii.

E-books from major publishers are sold in encrypted form today. The text of a book is scrambled so that only authorized devices and software can read it. For instance, a book bought from Amazon can be

Apple, Sony, four others sued by Graphics Properties



An employee presents purchased new iPads to a customer at the Apple flagship retail store in San Francisco, California in this 16 March, 2012, file photo. —REUTERS

NEW YORK, 28 March — Apple Inc, Sony Corp and four other companies were sued by Graphics Properties Holdings Inc, formerly known as Silicon Graphics

read only on the company's Kindle e-readers and on its Kindle applications for smartphones, tablets and PCs. It can't be read on Barnes & Noble's Nook e-readers.

Conversely, a book for the Nook can't be read on a Kindle. A book purchased from Apple Inc. can only be read on iPhones, iPod touches and iPads. Publishers insist on encryption in the form of "Digital Rights Management," or DRM because they believe it stops piracy. It also helps e-book retailers like Amazon defend their business models, keeping non-Amazon books off Kindle e-readers. —Internet

Inc, for allegedly infringing a patent through their sale of mobile phones and other electronic devices. The lawsuits against Apple, Japan-based Sony, Taipei-based HTC Corp, South Korea-based LG Electronics Inc and Samsung Electronics Co were filed in the US District Court in Wilmington, Delaware.

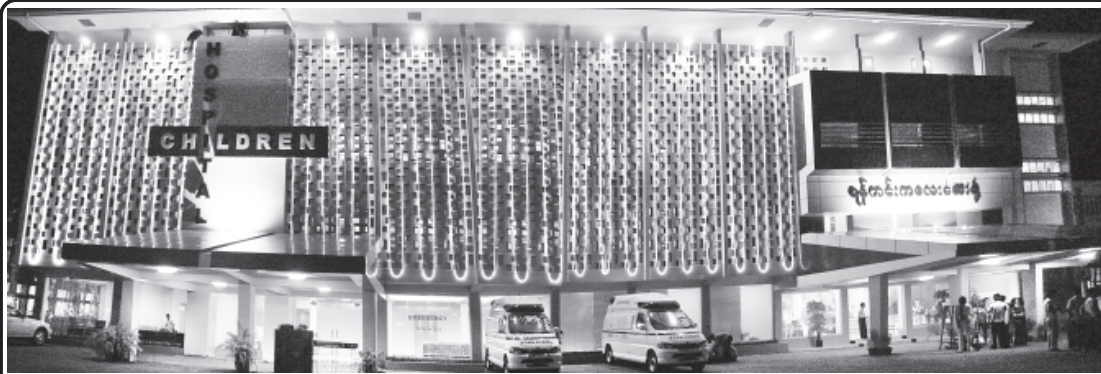
The patent at issue relates to a computer graphics process that turns text and images into pixels to be displayed on screens. According to the lawsuits, the defendants' infringing devices include Apple's iPhone and the HTC EVO 4G, LG Thrill, Research in

Motion Torch, Samsung Galaxy S and Galaxy SII, and Sony Xperia Play smartphones. Graphics Properties said that unless the alleged infringements are halted, it will suffer irreparable harm. The lawsuits seek to stop the sale of infringing products and also seek reasonable royalties and other damages.

HTC spokeswoman Lori Rodney, LG spokesman John Taylor, Research in Motion spokeswoman Tenille Kennedy and Sony spokeswoman Sandra Genelius declined to comment on the substance of their companies' respective lawsuits. Apple and Samsung did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Silicon Graphics filed for bankruptcy in 2009 and sold much of its operations to Rackable Systems Inc. The remaining operations are based in New Rochelle, New York, and are owned by private investment firms and other investors, according to the complaints.

The lawsuits are all in the US District Court, District of Delaware. —Internet





Night view of Yankin Children Hospital (550-bed) in Yankin Township, Yangon Region.

Archive:
Maung Nyein Aye

Translation: MT

Yangon West General Hospital in Yangon Region.



Yangon Children Hospital (extended ward) (550-bed) in Dagon Township, Yangon Region.



Health infrastructures in Yangon Region, providing health care to people



New Yangon General Hospital in Yangon Region.



Traditional Medicine Hospital in Bahan Township, Yangon Region.



Eye Specialist Hospital (Yangon) in Yangon Region.

Snakes, spiders, scorpions taken from New Mexico home

SANTA FE, 28 March—Animal control officials confiscated 31 venomous snakes, two tarantulas, two black widow spiders and about 10 scorpions from an Albuquerque apartment, an official involved with the collection said on Friday.

Following an anonymous tip, animal welfare officials were called to the apartment on Thursday. The reptiles they found were primarily rattlesnakes, which are commonly found in New Mexico, but also included several

cobras, including the cape cobra, "which is probably the most venomous of all the cobras," said Doug Hotle, curator of herpetology at the Albuquerque BioPark. Hotle, who was called in to help collect the snakes, said the owner did not have the proper permits required to keep such a large number of snakes nor to keep animals such as the cobra that are not native to New Mexico. The city of Albuquerque allows residents to keep up to 14 exotic or wild animals without a permit.—Reuters

Colo wildfire could be linked to controlled burn

CONIFER, 28 March—Investigators on Tuesday were trying to determine whether a controlled burn designed to minimize wildfire risk reignited and became a stubborn mountain wildfire that forced hundreds of residents to flee their homes and may have caused the deaths of two people.

Federal agencies dispatched two large air tankers to tackle the 7-square-mile blaze that damaged or destroyed 28 structures and resulted in mandatory evacuations of 900

homes south of the commuter town of Conifer, about 8,200 feet up in the Rockies foothills and 25 miles southwest of downtown Denver.

Some 450 firefighters from Colorado, Idaho, Nevada and Utah were sent to assist 250 firefighters on the ground. The fire consumed grass, brush and some Ponderosa Pine tree canopies. Winds were 20 mph to 30 mph before calming late Tuesday. Denver's tightly populated southwestern suburbs were not threatened.—Internet

Malaysian PM, wife and party arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—At the invitation of President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, a Malaysian goodwill delegation led by Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak and wife Datin Sri Rosmah Mansor arrived here by special flight at 2.30 pm today to pay an official visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The Malaysian Prime Minister and party were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Union Minister for

Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife Daw Lin Lin Tin, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu and wife Dr Daw Khin Swe Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Tin Latt and wife Daw Htwe Htwe Mya, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Ahmad Faisal Bin Muhamad and wife, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and staff of Malaysian Embassy.

MNA



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife Daw Lin Lin Tin welcome Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak and wife Datin Sri Rosmah Mansor at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

MNA



President U Thein Sein cordially greets Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak. (News on page 1)—MNA

Union Sports Minister meets Chinese, Japanese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—A Chinese delegation led by Director Mr Lu Jian Kang of China BEIAO International Cultural & Sports Events Co., Ltd of China and party paid a call on Chairman of the Leading Committee for preparation of XXVII SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, at the minister's office here this morning.

At the call, Mr Lu Jian Kang explained LED system to be displayed at opening and closing ceremonies of XXVII

SEA Games and related programmes.

After that, the Union Minister also received CEO Mr Keiichi Tatesawa of Japan-based AZNET Corporation Co., Ltd, at the same venue. Both sides discussed the sponsorships of Japanese companies for the SEA Games and sending Japanese coaches for Karatedo, Judo and weightlifting. Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister U Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General U Thauung Htaik and officials.

MNA

Planning and Implementation course (4/2012) (Officer Level) concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Concluding ceremony of Planning and Implementation course (4/2012) (Officer Level) took place at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here this morning, attended by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein.

He urged project In-charges to submit reports on increase in value and quantity of economic sectors including agriculture and

industry to Township Planning and Implementation Committee, to compile records on the ground, to submit socio-economic, education and health indexes to the committee for review, to scrutinize whether it in compliance with the budget.

After that, the deputy minister presented certificates through group leaders. A total of 210 heads of Township Planning Department attended it.

MNA

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister receives Chairman of Tanzania-based company

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung received Chairman Mr Mahesh Patel and party of Tanzania-based Export Trading Commodities Pte Ltd at the region government office yesterday afternoon and discussed investment in the region.

In the afternoon, the Region Chief

Minister attended the cash donation for placing concrete on the road to Shwezigon Pagoda at the prayer hall of the pagoda in Patheingyi.

At the ceremony, wellwishers including Chief Minister of the region U Thein Aung and wife Daw Khin Htay Myint donated cash to the fund for construction tasks.—MNA

MNA

Prize-presenting ceremony of inter-club cricket tournament held

YANGON, 28 March—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe attended prize-presenting ceremony and dinner of inter-club cricket tournament (2011-2012) at Yangon International Hotel Ball Room, on Ahlon Road, here yesterday.

President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win extended the greeting. After that, Deputy Minister for

Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan awarded Myanmar Timber Cricket Club team that won first prize in Inderjeet Memorial T.13 cup.

Then, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr V.S Seshadri presented the trophy to Myanmar Timber Cricket Club the trophy. Chief Minister U Myint Swe handed over championship shield and medals to Myanmar Timber Cricket Club.—MNA

MNA



CITIZENSHIP CARDS ISSUED: Mingala Taungnyunt Township Immigration and National Registration Department made field trips to the wards of the township to undertake issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards. On 23 and 24 March, Head of Yangon Region Immigration and National Registration Department U Ye Tun Oo and party issue cards to eligible citizens individually.—MYANMA ALIN

Dy Culture Minister receives German Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin received German Ambassador Mr Christian Ludwig Weber-Lortsch together with Cultural Attaché Mrs Katrin Fruehnsfeld at the ministry, here, at 3 pm today.

They discussed cooperation and exchange of culture between Myanmar and Germany.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Kyaw Oo Lwin of Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Director-General Daw Nanda Hmoon of Historical Research Department, Head of Office U Aung Naing Myint and officials.—MNA

Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid of Germany calls on Deputy FM

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany Mr Markus Michael Maria Loning and party called on Deputy Minister for

Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint at the ministry, here, at 4 pm today.

They discussed promotion and protection of human rights and cooperation between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Federal Republic of Germany.—MNA

UMFCCI to hold educative talks

YANGON, 28 March—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will organize a talk at its Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw

Township at 2 pm on 7 April (Saturday).

Writer Maung Wun Tha will give talks on Democratic Society and the Role of the Fourth Estate.

MNA



*President of the
Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
U Thein Sein and
Malaysian Prime
Minister Dato' Sri
Mohd Najib Tun
Razak inspect the
Guard of Honour.*

MNA

Myanmar and Malaysia issue joint Statement

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—At the invitation of His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, paid an official visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 28 to 29 March 2012. President U Thein Sein held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak on 28 March 2012 at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace. The Joint Statement on the Occasion of the Official Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar of His Excellency Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, was issued during the visit.

The full text of the Joint Statement is as follows:-

Joint Statement Between The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar And The Government of Malaysia

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency U Thein Sein and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak met in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 March 2012 during the first Official Visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The visit had strengthened the friendly relations and promoted greater cooperation for the mutual benefit of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of Malaysia.
 2. Both leaders recognized the network of interdependence between neighbouring countries including Myanmar and Malaysia. With both countries being part of the ASEAN family, supporting and complementing the economic and social developments of each other remain paramount in this relationship. The Prime Minister of Malaysia was pleased to note of the significant progress in Myanmar with regard to its national reconciliation process and the aim to transform the country into a modern and democratic state.
 3. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations at all levels, including the positive growth in trade and investment between both countries. They reaffirmed the commitment to consolidate the existing bilateral relations and strive for greater cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia in strategic areas of mutual interest. Both leaders agreed that mutual trust and understanding, including constant engagement in dialogues are the ingredients for elevating the friendly and constructive relations between the two countries.
 4. In order to further expand and deepen the bilateral relations as well as the mutually beneficial partnership and cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia, both leaders have agreed in the spirit of goodwill on the following:-
 - (i) The two leaders agreed to foster greater political linkage through exchanges of visits at all levels in order to further enhance government-to-government cooperation as well as people-to-people contacts;
 - (ii) Both sides agreed to convene the first Joint Commission Meeting headed by
- (iii) The two sides, realizing the tremendous potential that exists due to complementary nature of both economies, affirmed their commitment to elevate the level of bilateral trade and investment. To this end, both leaders are pleased to note the significant impact of the Malaysian Trade and Investment Mission led by the Minister of International Trade and Industry to Myanmar on 23 February 2012;
 - (iv) Both leaders agreed to explore the possibilities of expanding cooperation in potential sectors in the Myanmar economy particularly in the fields of plantation, agriculture, energy, construction, manufacturing, telecommunications, tourism and hospitality where Malaysia has the expertise and experience;
 - (v) The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the close cooperation between the two countries in the areas of labour and human resources. Both countries acknowledged the important contribution of Myanmar's labour force to Malaysia's economic development progress;
 - (vi) Both sides recognized the significance of tourism in fostering greater understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries, and as such are prepared to renew their cooperation in tourism with the aim to further enhance people-to-people interaction as well as to the economic development of both countries;
 - (vii) The two sides agreed to continue working together in the field of capacity building through identified training courses under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) in the specific areas according to Myanmar's immediate need;
 - (viii) Both leaders look forward to continue collaborating closely to ensure the success of Myanmar's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014 before the eventual succession of Malaysia as the next chair of ASEAN in 2015;
 - (ix) The two leaders welcomed the cooperation in the field of training for young and mid-level diplomatic officers to enhance the skills of officers in light of the Myanmar's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014;
 - (x) Both sides agreed to enhance collaboration in the field of Sports through assistance and sharing of experience vis-à-vis Myanmar's preparation in hosting the 27th SEA Games in 2013;
 5. The leaders of both countries reaffirmed that with the Official Visit of the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have further strengthened the bilateral ties between the two countries. The Prime Minister of Malaysia has also extended an invitation to the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency U Thein Sein to undertake an official visit to Malaysia, and President U Thein Sein has accepted the invitation with pleasure.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw**

28 March 2012

Malaysian PM's visit, trip in recognition...

(from page 16)

The Malaysian Prime Minister discussed matters related to mutual relations, establishment of the joint commission, and cooperation in the sectors of trade and investment, energy, education, banking, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, tourism and sports.

The President notified the Malaysian PM of political developments of Myanmar and thanked him for Malaysia's full support for Myanmar's bid for alternate ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014 and unanimous support of ASEAN countries including Malaysia for lifting sanctions on Myanmar at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Cambodia.

The President also discussed matters related to establishment of the joint commission for economic cooperation, continued cooperation in affairs of Myanmar workers in Malaysia and increased cooperation in trade, economic and investment sectors.

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted dinner at Presidential Palace in honour of the delegation led by Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak and wife.

The dinner was also attended by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Union ministers, deputy ministers, the Myanmar ambassador to Malaysia, departmental heads, the Malaysian



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win host dinner to Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak at Presidential Palace.—MNA

ambassador to Myanmar and high-ranking officials.

The State Band played national anthems of the two countries before the dinner.

Artists from the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture performed with Myanmar traditional songs and

dances before and during the dinner.

After the dinner, the President presented the visiting Malaysian PM the documentary photo album of the latter's visit. The President and Malaysian PM gifted the artists with bouquets of flowers.—MNA

Daw Khin Khin Win meets wife of Malaysian Prime Minister and party



NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, met Datin Sri Rosmah Mansor, wife of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak, and party at the hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 4.20 pm today.

Also present at the call were Daw Lin Lin Tin, wife of the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Daw Khin Swe Myint, wife of the Deputy Minister for Sports, and Daw Htwe Htwe Mya, wife of the Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia.

They cordially exchanged views on promotion of bilateral ties between Myanmar and Malaysia, cooperation in women's affairs, maternal and child welfare tasks and social works.—MNA

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein meets Datin Sri Rosmah Mansor, wife of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak and party.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany Mr Markus Michael Maria Loning and party at the hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Hluttaw Complex, here, at 1 pm today.

Present at the call together with Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint were Chairmen of the Amyotha Hluttaw Committee and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

At the call, they exchanged views on human rights in Myanmar, lifting of EU's sanction, Hluttaw affairs, ongoing tasks of development for Myanmar, by-election matters, promotion of friendly ties between Myanmar and Germany and cooperation matters.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany Mr Markus Michael Maria Loning at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid of Germany



It is vital important for country that representatives put forward people's desires to Hluttaw as questions, proposals, bills and laws



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann addresses members of Pyithu Hluttaw committees, commission, townselders from Mandalay and Sagaing Regions, traders, entrepreneurs and social organizations.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met with members of Pyithu Hluttaw committees and commission, and townselders, merchants, entrepreneurs and members of social organizations of Mandalay and Sagaing Regions at City Hall of Mandalay City Development Committee in Mandalay Region on 26 March.

The meeting was attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee U Aung Thaung, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs and Internal Peace Making Committee U Thein Zaw, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Trade Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Maung, Region ministers, secretaries and members of Pyithu Hluttaw committees, chairpersons, secretaries, CEC members, members and officials of business organizations in Mandalay and Sagaing Regions, members of social organizations, townselders, intellectuals and intelligentsia and guests.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said that he would like to extend his greetings to all those present at the meeting. He was happy to meet with townselders, merchants, officials of industrial federation, chairpersons of local NGOs, CEC members, and business and social entrepreneurs in Mandalay, Sagaing and Monywa regions. He had attended two similar meetings in Yangon Region, a political, commercial and social hub, since his assumption of duty as Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker. Those two meetings were arranged when he was in Yangon for foreign trip. But, the meeting for this time was on purpose. The Pyithu Hluttaw committees and commission are formed in the Pyithu Hluttaw. Those Hluttaw committees formed to perform Hluttaw's duties are small Hluttaws which report to the Hluttaw on their undertakings and carried out legislation tasks as the main duty and the check and balance among executive, judicial and legislation institutions as the second duty.

To go into detail, the accomplishment of these duties depends on performance of the Hluttaw committees. Originally, there are four committees in the Pyithu Hluttaw. It formed 19 new committees out of necessity. Another commission was necessarily established to

report to the Hluttaw and the Speaker in performing Hluttaw duties. That is Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission which is tasked to suggest the Hluttaw through the Speaker to abolish laws after studying existing laws and to prescribe new laws and to provide the respective committees with suggestions through the Speaker regarding political, economic, social and technological cases arose by any factor. It is believed that the commission comprised of legal specialists, experienced persons of international affairs and specialists from revenue, education, health, social and science and technology fields may contribute to the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw committees.

The Pyithu Hluttaw could somewhat take on the duty of legislation and check and balance. As per the motto of the Hluttaw, it needs to know actual desires of the people. It is vital important for the country that the representatives put forward these desires to the Hluttaw as questions, proposals, bills and laws. The Hluttaws play a key role in Myanmar's political transition which could be completed only through legislation not by orders. The bills which need be drafted and submitted to the Hluttaw hastily are as important as questions and proposals. To enable the representatives perform the duties successfully, suggestions of townselders, businessmen, merchants and intellectuals and intelligentsia are very important. Questions and discussions which would serve the interests of the region and the State would be acquired at the meeting. It is believed that the Hluttaw could produce the pragmatic solutions for the State.

He said that he has wanted much to go there and make coordination because Mandalay and Sagaing regions especially can play a leading role both in political and social affairs. Now, his wishes have been fulfilled. Economic and Trade Development Committee, one of the parliamentary committees, came to Mandalay Region to hold discussions and seek suggestions and submitted the results to the Hluttaw, which were found to be highly effective. So, he said that he came there to Mandalay Region to have discussion with businessmen, traders and Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He said that he believes the discussions would bear fruitful results. Therefore, he would like

to ask them to discuss frankly everything beneficial to the nation and the people. Personnel concerned would give an answer whether possible and not, take the requirements to the Hluttaw to write a related law or introduce a related process.

After that, Committee Chairmen U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Zaw and U Aung Thaung elaborated on the ongoing works of their respective committee and future works.

Those present cordially discussed difficulties and advantages and disadvantages they are now facing in actual practice and matters that could be done by the government.

In his concluding remark, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said: the reports are very interesting and can be said profitable ones for the State and its people. He would carefully memorize the reports and coordinate with committees and ministries concerned. There must still be inconveniences during transition period while transforming from one era to another and one system to another. However, they need to change the law in finding the solutions for hindrances. To change the law, they must change our mindset first. It is necessary to change their basic thoughts and actions in efforts for positive change.

To finalize the reports, it can be seen that they need urgent measures to compete AFTA in 2015. Our parliament desperately needs to

take actions to face any global challenge apart from AFTA. To face those challenges, they need to assign clear duties, choosing who for what. People's representatives are to fulfill the needs of the people through parliament and the parliament in turn needs to draw up legislation effectively and speedily. In so doing, it needs to check whether laws and by-laws enacted are actually beneficial to the State and its people and to revoke them if they fail to meet the expectation.

Therefore, they need to strengthen and consolidate the parliament, the legislative mechanism. He has urged the MPs to devote to the interests of the nation and citizens abandoning party attachment, racism, sectarianism, and dogmatism. He said that the Hluttaw has managed to function well to certain extent. This has enhanced the dignity of the Hluttaw, lending auspiciousness to the government. He said that he has heard very good ideas as people had suggested on behalf of the people. He was grateful to respective organizations for their contribution of ideas for the welfare of the nation and its people. The Hluttaw and committees would always be loyal to the interests of the nation and its people.

After the meeting, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann cordially greeted the attendees.—MNA

Constitutional Tribunal of the State delivers final verdicts

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—The Constitutional Tribunal of the State inclusive of the chairman and all the members delivered final verdict on proposal No 1/2012 and proposal No 2/2012 submitted the Attorney-General of the Union on behalf of the President at Room No. 1 today.

According to the verdicts, in the proposal No 1/2012, Union level organizations formed under the constitution and the members or personalities of those organizations are

members and personalities of Union organizations appointed by the President with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Committees, commissions and groups formed by respective Hluttaws are parliamentary organizations. The additional definition of the committees, commissions and groups formed by respective Hluttaws as Union level organizations violates the provisions of the constitution.

In the proposal No 2/2012, the Attorney-General of the Union on behalf of the

President asked the tribunal to reconsider its resolution made on 14 December, 2011 which defined that provisions of the Article 5 and Article 17 of the Region or State Personalities' Allowances, Emolument and Insignia Law are not conformity with the constitution because Region or State national races affairs ministers are officially appointed as Region or State ministers of respective Region or States. The tribunal did not accept the proposal as its resolution is final verdict legally.—MNA

Dawei University of Computer Studies collectively donates blood



DAWEI, 28 March—Staff and students of University of Computer Studies (Dawei) of Taninthayi Region donated blood for the third day at the meeting hall of the university at 9 am on 16 March.

It was attended by Principle of the university Dr Daw Khin Aye Than and staff, students, Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Tun of Taninthayi Region General Hospital and health staff.

Altogether 28 staff and students of the university donated blood at the ceremony.—*Soe Nyunt (Dawei)*

Football tournaments for rural people held in Dedaye Township

YANGON, 28 March—Myanmar Economic Management Executive Association organized the Myanmar Economic Management Executive Association Shield Football Tournament with the participation of eight children's football teams and eight men's football teams from nine village-tracts and

villages in Hsukalat Island of Dedaye Township in Ayeyawady Region.

Chairman of the Myanmar Economic Management Executive Association U Myint Maung Tun opened the football tournaments in West Mayan Village Spots Ground on 15 March and the football ground in Kawat

Yayganchaung Village.

In focusing on rural development tasks steadfastly, the association organized the football tournament with the aim of strengthening friendship relations among the rural people, promoting relations among the villages and broadening the horizon of the local people.—*Kyemon*

DISTRICT NEWS

Wakema Township gets rural library

WAKEMA, 28 March—As a gesture of hailing the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2012, Alindaga Library was opened in Tayoksu Village of Thayagon Village-tract in Wakema Township of Ayeyawady Region on 13 March morning.

At first, Township Administrator U Soe Tun, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Myint Myint Kyi and Village Administrator U Hla Myo Oo formally opened the library.

The 24 feet long, 14 feet wide and 12 feet high library cost K 1 million funded by the State and K 700,000 contributed by the people.

Township IPRD

Eugenia plantations thriving in Yedashe on commercial scale

YEDASHE, 28 March—As farmers facing unbalance of cost effectiveness in paddy cultivation, they grow Eugenia plants on a commercial scale in Yedashe. The thriving Eugenia plantations can be seen in Hsingwe Village of Yedashe Township.

Farmer U Hla Hmway

explained that he bought Eugenia at K 6 per sapling from Meetaingaw region of Kyaukkyi Township.

It was reported that Eugenia plants are to be supplied water in the summer for its thriving. Depending on growth of the saplings, Eugenia plants can be sold at K 2 million to K 4 million per

acre yearly.

"At present, I see some customers purchase Eugenia plants worth K 200, K 500 or K 1000. Now, it is time to pluck the sprouts of the plants, so we can earn incomes for covering the kitchen costs", farmer U Hla Hmway explained.

Kyemon

Environmental journalism course for new generation journalists 7 May-9 June

YANGON, 28 March—The environmental journalism course will be conducted from 7 May to 9 June.

Those wishing to attend the course may enlist not later than 6 April.

The training course is aimed at disseminating knowledge about environmental conservation among the periodicals for creation of news and articles on environmental protection, emerging the journalists to become scholars in

environmental affairs and enabling them to have exposures on environmental conservation.

The coming course will be the 4th batch and it will be kept open three days a week. Two persons from each journal and magazine may attend it.

The experienced trainers will provide new writing on environmental affairs, interviews on environmental situations and incidents, journalists and

reporters ethics and translation. Moreover, the experts from environmental social economic field will give talks on their respective sectors.

The applicants may submit the applications to be attached to two photos to Spectrum Office, Room-C, 9th floor, Myenigon Plaza, Sangyoung Township, Yangon.

Htet Khaing-Sangyoung

Cash donated to war veterans

MEIKTILA, 28 March—To mark the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to donate cash to the aged members and disabled members of Meiktila Township War Veterans Organization on 21 March morning.

At the hall of No. 1 fire station, officials presented K 2,365,000 to 138 members of Township WAO.

On behalf of the war veterans, an aged member spoke words of thanks.

Myanma Alin



CASH DONATED: Wellwishers and social organizations donated cash and kind to fire victims of Yadana Manaung Ward in Meiktila on 18 March. Thakinwe Health Social Group presents K 690,000 to officials for the fire victims.

MYANMA ALIN

Tasks of microfinance institutions clarified in Thayawady



THAYAWADY, 28 March—The Bago Region Microfinance Institution Development Work Committee made a clarification at the hall of Thayawady Township Internal Revenue Department at 2 pm on 18 March.

Bago Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U

Myint Lwin Oo explained facts about microfinance institution to be undertaken in the township.

It was also attended by departmental officials at region, district and township levels, ward administrators and responsible persons of Myanmar Finance Co Ltd.—*District IPRD*

APBCC inspects safety of gas cylinders, pipelines at NVGs

YANGON, 28 March—A combined team inspected gas safety of natural gas vehicles of All Private Bus-line Control Committee (Central) in Yangon Region for life

safety of passengers beginning 22 March, said an official of APBCC (Central) in meeting with media.

The combined team comprises eight special

inspection teams of APBCC (Central) and CNG experts.

They inspected safety of gas cylinders and systematic installation of gas pipelines at the vehicles.

Myanma Alin

ROAD COMMISSIONED: In commemoration of 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to inaugurate Letpanhla-Marle rural gravel road and bridges was held in Singu Township on 10 March. Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Tauk, Township Administrator U Sai Maung Lu and Executive Officer of Township DAC U Khin Maung Htwe formally open the road.—*TOWNSHIP GAD*



Light truck turns over on Htonbo-Myitnge shortcut

MYITNGE, 28 March—A pilgrimage Light truck turned over near Daungyway Village on Htonbo-Myitnge shortcut in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region at 9 am on 11 March.

In the incident, three persons were dead and seven, wounded.

The people from Yekyipauk, Katipa and Myittu villages of Myitnge went to the Buddha Pujaniya of Shwesayan Pagoda in Patheingyi Township in the morning by Light truck drive

by Myint Tun. Near Daungyway Village, the car bumped into a tree due to puncture of left rare wheel and without control. In the scene, Ko Soe Lwin on board the car died on the spot, and Ko Thauang Naing Win and Ko Myo Win died at Mandalay General Hospital. In total, three passengers died and five men and two women were wounded.

Myitnge Police Station opened file against driver Myint Tun under the law.

Kyemon

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Vacancy Announcement (Recruitment for Myanmar-China Pipelines Project) (For Local Service Only)

Co-invested by companies from China, Myanmar, Korea and India, the Myanmar-China Pipelines are established for energy transportation. For business development requirements, posts are hereby open for the eligible in Myanmar.

(1) Oil/Gas Station Operation Post (50 posts- Male)

Responsibilities in brief

- Complete shift handover, patrol and monitoring according to operation instruction manual; promptly find, report and handle various problems; respond to emergencies without delay and handle emergencies based on emergency procedures.
- Conduct process operation and parameter control according to dispatcher's order, and duly report relevant information to superior dispatchers.
- Be well aware the equipment operating status and dynamics of the pipelines. Conduct real-time station monitoring.

Requirements

- Male with good health. Solid English education as being proficient in oral and written communication.
- AGTI / B.Tech/ B.E in Mechanical, Mechatronics, Chemical, Petroleum, Civil
- Preferable with more than one-year working experience. Able to work in any place along the pipelines and accept shift work and long-term field work.
- Accept potential post adjustment.

(2) Managerial Post for Pipeline Patrol Support (10 Posts-Male)

Responsibilities in brief

- Assist station management in daily management of local patrol man, and assist in and coordinating relevant local affairs along the pipelines.
- Assist in interpretation and evacuation for field pipeline maintenance and emergency repair operation.
- Assist station management in pipeline protection and safety publicity. Assist station management in collecting, sorting and filing information and documents of pipeline management.

Requirements

- Male with good health. Preferable with abilities being proficient in Chinese, English and Myanmar language.
- Preferable who majors in infrastructure engineering, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, electromechanical engineering and petroleum engineering, with educational qualification of AGTI or above. (4) Able to work in any place along the pipelines and accept long-term field work. Accept potential post adjustment.

Remuneration and Benefits

Employment Contract will be signed between successful applicants and the Company. The Company will strictly abide by Myanmar's labor law, ensure local employer's right to have holidays, especially arrange the field-working employees to have holidays by turns. The Company will purchase Myanmar social insurance for local staff and provide labor protection appliances based on the nature of post. After being recruited, the employer will be provided with corresponding training as required by the job. During and after training, the employer will be paid subject to corporate remuneration policies.

Application Center : Upon consultation with MOGE the company will entrust **Career Development Consultancy Co.,Ltd (CDC) (Local Recruitment Reg No.3/2011)** authorized under the Ministry of Labor. Requirements: CV in English, Labor Registration Card, NRC Card Copy, and qualification documents.

Address: Building-C, Shwe Pyaesone Market Building, 6th Floor, New Mingalar Market, Corner of Setyone Road & Banyardala Road, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township, Yangon. Tel: 01-9000874, 0973133693 Email: linkcdc@gmail.com (CV Receiving: up to Apr 30, 2012)

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(For: Domnarn Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated: 29 March, 2012.

**Buymyface.com founders
Ross Harper (right) and
Ed Moyses pose in
London on 23 March.
With record youth
unemployment in Britain,
theirs is an unusual
success story.**
INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (299)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (299) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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.

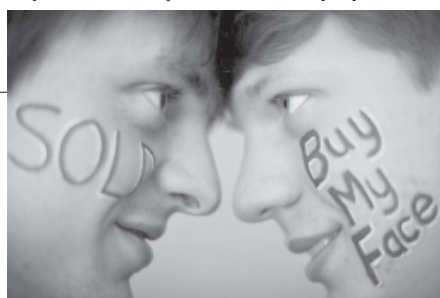
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

UK students turn human billboards to pay off debts

LONDON, 28 March—In their scruffy jeans and trainers, Ross Harper and Ed Moyses look just like any other British 22-year-olds — except for the words "Buy My Face" and



German parties reject Merkel timeline on fiscal pact

BERLIN, 28 March—Germany's main opposition parties rejected on Tuesday plans by Chancellor Angela Merkel's government to push a European pact on budget discipline through parliament by June, saying more time was needed to complement it with measures to bolster growth.

The pact, which aims to enshrine German-style fiscal rules across 25 EU countries, requires a two-thirds majority in parliament to pass, meaning Merkel is dependent on the opposition. The chancellor's



German Chancellor and Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party leader Angela Merkel waves before a party board meeting in Berlin, on March 26, 2012.—REUTERS

original plan was to link the vote on the pact to legislation authorizing Europe's new

bailout facility, the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), with both going to the Bundestag lower house of parliament in May and the Bundesrat upper house in June. But opposition parties argue that Merkel has focused too much on consolidating euro zone finances and not enough on getting struggling countries such as Greece out of deep multi-year recessions. They are pushing for additional growth-friendly policies as a condition for approving the pact.

The Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens reacted angrily to comments by Merkel's finance minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, on Monday evening where he effectively ruled out the introduction of a financial transaction tax in the euro zone because of opposition from other member states.

Both parties want such a tax to help finance growth-boosting measures. They made clear on Monday that they did not consider the transaction tax to be dead and saw no reason to approve the fiscal pact according to the government's timeline.

Reuters

"Sold" emblazoned brightly on their faces.

Standing in the middle of London's shopping mecca Oxford Circus, the two Cambridge University graduates attract more than a few curious glances from the hordes of passers-by. "How much?" a young man calls out from a gaggle of Spanish tourists, to which Harper, a former neuroscience student, replies that it's £100 (\$160, 120 euros) to hire the two faces as advertising space for the day. "A hundred pounds?" The tourists throw up their hands in mock outrage before bursting into laughter.

There may be no customers here, but others are queuing to hire the two human billboards. Harper and Moyses have made over £30,000 since setting up Buy My Face in October in a bid to pay off their student debts. The enterprising duo plan to launch the business, which works by directing online traffic to advertisers' websites through their own entertaining site, on the international market in May.—Internet

Hungarian rows canoe across Atlantic Ocean

After 76 days, Gabor Rakoncay — isolated and incommunicado for nearly 50 of those after his canoe capsized — has become the first person to paddle across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe to the Caribbean.

Rakoncay, who began his adventure in Lagos, Portugal, on 21 Dec, and stopped for several days in the Canary Islands for rest and supplies, reached the island of Antigua on Sunday, he told *The Associated Press*

in a phone interview from the Caribbean nation.

When his 24.61 feet (7.5 metre) canoe capsized at sea, the Hungarian adventurer said he managed to save it but his communications equipment was damaged and he had not been in contact with his family since 6 Feb.

Rakoncay made the journey without a satellite tracking system which would have allowed him to signal that he was all right. So his wife, who stayed behind in

Hungary, could only hope for the best. "The supplier raised the price at the last minute and I decided to leave without one because it was not possible to postpone the trip," the 30-year-old said from Nelson's Dockyard in southern Antigua.

"This trip was the first time I didn't have a tracking system and the first time I really would have needed one." During the nearly seven weeks he was out of reach, Viktoria, his wife, gave no



A 13 Jan, 2012 photo provided by Viktoria Rakoncay shows Hungarian architect and adventurer Gabor Rakoncay as arrives from Lagos, Portugal, in Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, Spain. After 76 days, Gabor Rakoncay, isolated and incommunicado for nearly 50 of those after his canoe capsized, has become the first person to paddle across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe to the Caribbean.

indications that she was anything but totally sure that her husband was alive and that only equipment failure was to blame for their lack of

communication.

She kept posting entries on their web page nearly every day, speculating about Gabor's position and how the

weather conditions were affecting his voyage on the canoe nicknamed "Vitez," which means "valiant" in Hungarian.

Homes sought for 2,500 teddy bears

A Florida family says it is trying to find homes for more than 2,500 stuffed bears filling what was once a two-car garage.

Jerry Gamble, 80, of Delray Beach said his wife Jean, who died in February at the age of 78, would rescue

the unwanted bears from garage sales, fix them up and find them new homes, the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* reported on Tuesday.

"She would rescue the bears," Gamble said.

"She used to buy a hell of a lot of bears. We would

come home sometimes with 50 bears in the car." Gamble said he and his son, Jeffery, are trying to honor her memory by finding new homes for the bears.

"I have given away 500, which is an immense number by itself," Jeffrey Gamble said. "It barely made a dent."

News Album

Landmark Amsterdam museums get 21st-century facelifts

AMSTERDAM, 28 March—A virtual adventure at sea with storms and battles, a new "jewel box" for Asian art and a high-tech building shaped like a bathtub: Amsterdam's landmark museums are getting facelifts to catapult them from their dusty pasts into the 21st century.

The makeover of three of the capital's most important museums, the Maritime Museum, the Rijksmuseum and the Stedelijk Museum, has been hailed as the dawn of a "new cultural

golden age" to attract the 12.2 million visitors to Amsterdam every year.

At the recently reopened National Maritime Museum in the grand white 17th-century Zeemagazijn (sea storehouse) building, excited children and their parents lined up for an experience spiced with interactive computer games and electronic simulations.

"We have chosen to redefine the museum," said spokeswoman Kerstin Ruter.—*Internet*



This file handout photo shows Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum. The museum is currently undergoing a major restoration ahead of a scheduled reopening in 2013.—INTERNET

New Met 'Manon' stars Netrebko, Beczala

NEW YORK, 28 March—Unlike some recent productions that bury the music in hyperactive theatrics, the Metropolitan Opera's new production of "Manon" comes alive amid bold but minimalist sets that keep the focus on its stars — soprano Anna Netrebko and tenor Piotr Beczala.

In the new production of Jules Massenet's 19th



In this 23 March, 2012 photo, Anna Netrebko performs the title role alongside Piotr Beczala as Chevalier des Grieux during the final dress rehearsal of Jules Massenet's "Manon," at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. INTERNET

Susan Boyle takes to stage in new musical of her life

NEW CASTLE, 28 March—Susan Boyle made a triumphant return to the stage on Tuesday at the premiere of a musical charting her rise from humble church volunteer to global superstar. Wearing a glittering red dress, the 50-year-old received several standing ovations as she sang her signature tune, "I Dreamed A Dream", at the opening night of the musical of the same name in Newcastle. "We love you," shouted out a member of the audience.

"I love you too — see me outside," replied Boyle, displaying the cheeky sense of humour that has won her millions of fans, some of whom had travelled from as far as Australia and the United States to attend the premiere. Before this week, Boyle had not performed in public in Britain since singing for the pope in September 2010. Her two-song set after the musical ended left the Theatre Royal buzzing with excitement.—*Internet*



Susan Boyle sings during the musical "I Dreamed A Dream" at the Royal Theatre in Newcastle, north-east England, on 27 March. I Dreamed A Dream follows Boyle's journey from a humble beginning from a large working class family in central Scotland to a global star.—INTERNET

Kate Winslet, James Cameron at Titanic 3D premiere

LONDON, 28 March—Actress Kate Winslet and director James Cameron walked the red carpet in London on Tuesday for the premiere of the 3D version of the hit movie "Titanic."

The 1997 drama — one of the highest grossing films of all time — will be available in British cinemas in 3D in April, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the Titanic's doomed maiden voyage from southern England's Southampton in April 1912.

"The 3D enriches all of Titanic's most thrilling moments and its most emotional moments," Cameron told reporters. "It kicks the whole experience up to another level."

The director came to London fresh from his latest venture, which saw him descending seven miles (11 1/4 kilometres) below the surface of the Pacific to the deepest place on Earth.

"One of the reasons I



Director James Cameron, left, and actress Kate Winslet arrive at the 'Titanic 3D' UK film premiere at the Royal Albert Hall in Kensington, West London, on 27 March, 2012. The re-launch of the Titanic 3D version comes 15 years after the film was a huge box office hit.—INTERNET

made Titanic was that I was fascinated by deep sea exploration," he said. "It was an opportunity to dive in a submarine very deep at that time."—*Internet*

Lindsay Lohan lands guest spot on "Glee"

LOS ANGELES, 28 March—Actress Lindsay Lohan will appear as a guest star on TV musical comedy "Glee", her spokesman said on Tuesday, in the latest step of a comeback for the once rising star whose career has been tarnished by drinking, drugs and legal troubles. Lohan's spokesman declined to give details of the episode involving the "Mean Girls" actress. But entertainment website TVLine.com said Lohan would play herself and serve as a celebrity judge when the "Glee" choir performs at a key contest toward the end of this current season. The "Glee" guest stint marks a turnaround for Lohan, who was the butt of a joke on the show in 2010 when actress Gwyneth Paltrow's school teacher character Holly Holliday delivered a sharp quip about Lohan's many stints in rehab.—*Reuters*



Actress Lindsay Lohan arrives at the annual American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) New York Gala at Cipriani's on Wall Street in New York, on 8 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET



Ros Cramp, left, has developed a fully inclusive club for disabled athletes.—INTERNET

Sharapova solves Li to reach semis at Key Biscayne

KEY BISCAINE, 28 March—Second seed Maria Sharapova stormed into the semi-finals of the Sony Ericsson Open after ending her jinx against China's Li Na with a convincing 6-3, 6-0 win on Tuesday. The Russian had lost her previous four meetings with Li in straight sets, including the semi-finals of last year's French Open, but needed just 68 minutes to seal victory on Tuesday.

"I came into this match having lost to her the last few

times. I just really wanted to change that, so I was extremely focused and looking forward to the match," said Sharapova. "I was just really consistent today in those conditions where, you know, it's a little gusty and blowing around and I was facing a tough opponent." It was a scrappy start to the encounter with the first five games all being broken before Sharapova eased into her baseline game and won eight consecutive games to emerge victorious. Sharapova

Disability athletics coach wins Barclays Award

LONDON, 28 March—The Barclays Community Sports Award for February has been awarded to Ros Cramp, Disability Coordinator at the Stevenage and North Herts Athletics Club. Ros has spent the past 12 years developing a fully inclusive club for disabled athletes, four of whom are due to take part in the Paralympics test event on 8th May 2012 and seven will compete in the UK School Games on 9th May.

Supported by volunteer coaches, the entire club trains together on Monday evenings where Ros mentors and encourages the disability squad, the coaches and the wider club. With some young members travelling for an hour to train at the site at Ridlins Stadium in Stevenage, it is clear they value Ros as an important role model who has dedicated her life to helping youngsters achieve their sporting goals.

In addition to her role at Stevenage and North Herts Athletics Club, Ros also runs the N-Able Herts Disability Sports Association, which includes North Herts Bocca Club, the Hitchin Town Ability Counts Football Team, and the North Herts Disability Swim Squad. Upon receiving the award, Ros commented: "I was overwhelmed when I found out that I had won the Barclays Community Sport Award.—Internet



China's star hurdler Liu Xiang, seen here on 11 March, is still struggling with an injury that ended his quest to win a gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, state media reported Wednesday, quoting his coach.—INTERNET

China's star hurdler Liu still dogged by injury

BEIJING, 28 March—China's star hurdler Liu Xiang is still struggling with an injury that ended his quest to win a gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, state media reported Wednesday, quoting his coach.

The 28-year-old Chinese athletics star was a shock Olympic champion in the high hurdles at the 2004

Athens Games and remains history's second fastest man in the event.

"Liu's physical condition is good and stable right now, although the Achilles' (tendon) injury still poses a problem and plays up when the training is very intense," coach Sun Haiping was quoted as saying by the *China Daily*.

"But the whole team has done an excellent job of controlling his old injury and avoiding new wounds," he said.

Sun added Liu was focusing on outdoor training ahead of the Olympics in London, which starts in four months.

During the 2008 Games in Beijing, he pulled up injured in the 110m hurdles in front of an expectant home crowd.—Internet



Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a shot to Li Na of China during their women's singles match at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 27 March, 2012.—REUTERS

will next face the winner of Tuesday's later match between Caroline Wozniacki and Serena Williams.

Reuters



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot to Richard Gasquet of France during their men's singles match at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 27 March, 2012.—INTERNET

KEY BISCAINE, 28 March—World number one Novak Djokovic and second ranked Rafa Nadal moved into the quarter-finals of the Sony Ericsson Open with straight

Djokovic and Nadal punch quarter-final tickets

set victories on Tuesday. Djokovic, a 7-5, 6-3 winner against Richard Gasquet, had a game on his hands in the opening set when he was broken in the fourth game by a fine backhand winner from the Frenchman.

The Serb, the defending champion, broke back in the sixth only to face break point in the ninth game, but three times he held firm and was able to emerge with the set. The Frenchman's determination faded in the second set as Djokovic broke in the

fourth and sixth games to run out winner in one hour 40 minutes.

Djokovic will play the winner of Tuesday's late match between Juan Martin Del Potro and David Ferrer. Nadal, a three-time finalist at the Miami Masters series event, beat 16th seed Kei Nishikori of Japan 6-4, 6-4. The Spaniard made a sluggish start but Nishikori missed out on six of seven break point chances in the opening three games.

Reuters



The Premier League title race in England will come down to the Manchester derby at Eastlands on 30 April, according to United midfielder Ryan Giggs.—INTERNET

LONDON, 28 March—The Premier League title race in England will come down to the Manchester derby at Eastlands on 30 April, according to United midfielder Ryan Giggs. Speaking to Tuesday's edition of *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, the Welsh wizard made his prediction of an all-or-nothing decider. United lead City by three points with eight games remaining following their 1-0 win at Fulham on

Monday night. But crucially, City have a better goal-difference and will be the hosts when the sides next meet.

"We have the experience but City have the hunger, if we both keep going like this, everything will be decided in the derby," said Giggs. Both sides would still have two games left after the derby, including tricky away ties in the northeast. As for his own career, Giggs is hoping to keep going for a while longer and wrack up 1,000 appearances for United. Last month he notched up his 900th game for the Red Devils against Norwich, in which he also scored an injury time winner.

Looking back over his career, mostly as a left winger, the 38-year-old singled out Lee Dixon, formerly of Arsenal, and Inter Milan's Javier Zanetti as the toughest opponents he came up against. "I faced Zanetti for the first time in the Champions League quarter-finals in 1999, he was the right back and I was on the left," said Giggs.—Internet

Spurs and Everton set up FA Cup semifinal

LONDON, 28 March—Tottenham Hotspur scored three late goals to beat Bolton Wanderers on Tuesday and set up an FA Cup semi-final against Chelsea, after replaying the game that was abandoned when midfielder Fabrice Muamba suffered a cardiac arrest on the pitch.

With Bolton's Muamba watching on television from his hospital bed, according to media reports, Spurs triumphed 3-1 to book an April 15 date with Chelsea at Wembley Stadium.

Everton will meet local rivals Liverpool in the other semi-final after beating

Sunderland 2-0 in their quarter-final replay. There was applause around White Hart Lane before kickoff in honour of Muamba and the medical staff who helped the stricken player 10 days ago. Players from both teams warmed up wearing T-shirts with the slogan 'Uniting for Fabrice'. The 23-year-old Muamba remains in intensive care in the London Chest Hospital.

Everton, held to a 1-1 draw by Sunderland at Goodison Park 10 days ago, went through thanks to a cool Nikica Jelavic finish in the first half and David Vaughan's

own goal on 57 minutes at the Stadium of Light. Jelavic, bought from Scottish club Rangers in January, was



praised by team mate Tim Cahill. "He has changed a lot of our games," the Australian midfielder told ESPN. "It doesn't matter if he misses, we

Second-half goals from Ryan Nelsen, Gareth Bale and Louis Saha sent Tottenham into the semi-final of the FA Cup, where they will face Chelsea.

INTERNET

Magic Johnson group to buy Dodgers for record \$2b

NEW YORK, 28 March—A group that includes former Lakers star Magic Johnson and longtime baseball executive Stan Kasten agreed Tuesday night to buy the Los Angeles Dodgers from Frank McCourt for a record \$2 billion. The price would shatter the mark for a North American sports franchise, topping the \$1.1 billion Stephen Ross paid for the NFL's Miami Dolphins in 2009.

Mark Walter, chief executive officer of the financial services firm Guggenheim Partners, would become the controlling owner. The deal, revealed about five hours after Major League Baseball owners approved three finalists for an intended auction, is one of several steps

toward a sale of the team by the end of April. It is subject to approval in federal bankruptcy court.

"I am thrilled to be part of the historic Dodger franchise and intend to build on the fantastic foundation laid by Frank McCourt as we drive the Dodgers back to the front page of the sports section in our wonderful community of Los Angeles," Johnson said in a statement.—Internet



Basketball legend turned entrepreneur Magic Johnson tours the Sports Museum of America in New York, on 21 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(29-3-12 09:30 am ~ 30-3-12 09:30 am) MST

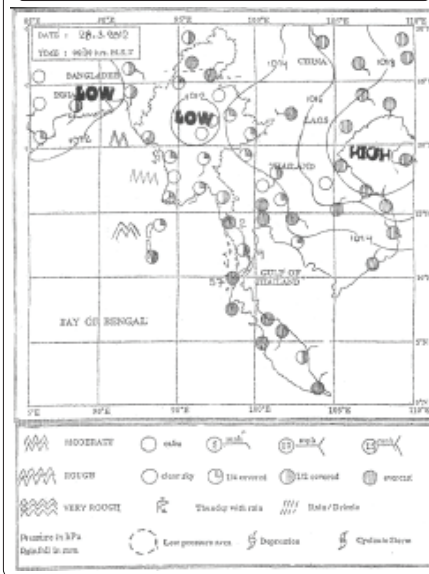
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MYANMAR TV

(29-3-2012)(Thursday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region
- Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:30 am
- 2. Morning News
- 7:50 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:10 am
- 4. Dance of National Races
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 4:00 pm
- 6. Martial Song
- 5:15 pm
- 7. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:20 pm
- 8. One Village & One Product
- 5:50 pm
- 9. Science and Environment
- 6:00 pm
- 10. Evening News
- 6:20 pm
- 11. Myanmar Series
- 6:40 pm
- 12. Approaching Science
- Discovery World
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 15. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 29th March, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		Forecast	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	32/90	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
2	Kayah	34/93	18/64	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayah	40/104	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
4	Chin	26/75	08/46	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	36/97	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
6	Lower Sagaing	40/104	20/68	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	37/99	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
8	Bago	38/100	24/75	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	41/106	22/72	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	41/106	25/77	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	38/100	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
12	Yangon	38/100	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
13	Rakhine	32/90	20/68	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	31/88	15/59	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	34/93	12/54	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyarwady	38/100	24/75	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	40/104	22/72	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Vangon	38/100	23/73	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	41/106	24/75	Generally fair weather	

During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Tanintharyi Region and Kachin State, isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Mon State. weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon Region, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Sagaing, Magway and Bago Regions, Northern Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, (5°C) to (6°C) above March average temperatures in Southern Shan and Chin States and about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (42°C), Mandalay and Pyaw (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthong (2.25) inches, Vay (0.11) inch, Pasa and Machabaw (0.25) inch each.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay, partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

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

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

Kalou strike gives Chelsea victory at Benfica

LISBON, 28 March—A second-half goal by Salomon Kalou handed Chelsea a 1-0 win over Benfica in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final on Tuesday.

The Londoners always appeared in control and Kalou grabbed the only goal in the 75th minute, tapping the ball in from close range after excellent work down the right by Fernando Torres and Ramires.

"This was a very good result. We knew the difficulties we were going to face and now we will take the game back to London where we will have the support of our fans," said Chelsea centre back David Luiz.

"Nothing is won yet but we showed a lot of maturity and experience," added the Brazilian who was signed from Benfica in a big-money transfer 14 months ago.

Kalou's goal vindicated the decision by interim coach Roberto Di Matteo to start the Ivory Coast forward in place of England international Daniel Sturridge who was rested from the

starting lineup along with Didier Drogba, Frank Lampard, Michael Essien and Gary Cahill.

Juan Mata had also gone close for Chelsea on the hour when he rounded keeper Artur Moraes but struck the post from an acute angle. Mata then had a late chance to put the tie beyond Benfica's reach ahead of the second leg at Stamford Bridge on 14 April.

The Spanish playmaker was set free on the left with four minutes to go after



Chelsea's Salomon Kalou (L) scores past Benfica's goalkeeper Artur during their Champions League quarter-final first leg soccer match at the Luz stadium in Lisbon on 27 March, 2012.—REUTERS

substitute Sturridge sprinted away down the right but his tame left-footed chip went wastefully over the bar. Defender Jardel had Benfica's

best chance midway through the second half when his close-range header was acrobatically saved by Petr Cech.

Reuters

Apael Nicosia 0-3 Real Madrid



somehow missed from three yards out minutes before the interval. Ailton lifted the home crowd with a wonderful solo run down the left at the start of the second period before the introduction of Kaka and Marcelo triggered a change of gear by Real.

Kaka crossed deliciously from the left and Benzema dived to head past Chiotis, before Marcelo was caught in the box by Paulo Jorge but kept his balance and cut the ball back for the former AC Milan playmaker to slot home. Benzema then tucked away Ozil's inviting low pass in the last minute for his 26th Champions League goal to put Real on course for the last four.—Internet

MADRID, 28 March—Kaka came off the bench to inspire Real Madrid to victory over a spirited Apael Nicosia side in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final tie.

French striker Karim Benzema had missed an open goal in the first half before he buried a curling cross from Kaka. Brazilian Kaka - who was in superb form - then finished off a fine run and pass from fellow substitute Marcelo. And Benzema

wrapped up the win in stoppage time when he swept in Mezut Ozil's ball from the right.

The Cypriots had already accounted for Lyon - perennial foes of Madrid in the Champions League - and despite losing defender Marcelo Oliveira to injury inside 10 minutes produced a rousing first-half display to shut out Jose Mourinho's side. Ozil tested goalkeeper Dionisis Chiotis with a volley and then Benzema



WATER SUPPLY LAUNCHED: In commemoration of the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the installation of water taps for water supply from spring was launched in Hichaya Village of Myawady Township on 25 March. The deputy commissioner and officials cut the ribbon to launch the water supply task.—MYANMA ALIN

Sports competitions of Tabaung Festival held in Pindaya

YANGON, 28 March—The sports competition to mark the Tabaung Festival of ShweUmin natural tunnel pagoda were held in at the foot of the pagoda in Pindaya of Danu Self-Administered Zone in Shan State from 3 to 8 March.

Local people actively participated in the volleyball, Sepak Takraw, greasing pole and traditional cane-ball contest at the festival.—Myanma Alin



Singer Deborah Cox

Deborah Cox to join 'Jekyll & Hyde' in 2013

NEW YORK, 28 March—Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde have found their love interest — Deborah Cox.

Producers of the Broadway-bound revival of "Jekyll & Hyde" announced Tuesday that the Grammy-nominated singer will join Constantine Maroulis in the musical that's slated to come to New York in spring 2013 after a 25-week national tour that starts in San Diego on 2

Oct. Cox, who sang the lead role in Elton John and Tim Rice's Broadway musical "Aida," has had six top 20 Billboard R&B singles, including the smash "Nobody's Supposed To Be Here." Maroulis, who was a finalist on the fourth season of "American Idol," has been in "Rock of Ages" and received a best actor Tony nomination for his performance.—Internet

Malaysian PM's visit, trip in recognition of Myanmar's political, economic and social reforms and its bid for democracy

Myanmar President U Thein Sein

Emphasis is placed on mutual relations, establishment of joint commission, cooperation in the sectors of trade and investment, energy, education, banking, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, tourism and sports

Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met a goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak, at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 4.50 pm today.

Also present at the meeting together with the President were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Than, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Tin Latt and heads of department, and together with the Malaysian delegation were

Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Ahmad Faisal Bin Muhamad and high-ranking officials.

The President said that on behalf of the Myanmar government and people, he would like to warmly welcome the visiting Malaysian PM and delegation members. It was heartened that the Malaysian premier paid the first goodwill visit to Myanmar since taking office. He took the Malaysian

PM's visit as the trip in recognition of Myanmar's political, economic and social reforms and its bid for democracy. He was swelled with pride in Malaysia's friendly attitude and support towards Myanmar.

The visiting PM expressed thanks for warmly welcoming the Malaysian delegation.

(See page 9)



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and party have a discussion with goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace.—MNA

It is vital important for country that representatives put forward people's desires to Hluttaw as questions, proposals, bills and laws

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Meeting (1/2012) of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control held

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Eye Specialist Hospital (Yangon) in Tamway Township, Yangon Region.

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Carroll nervous over Newcastle return

LONDON, 28 March—Liverpool striker Andy Carroll has admitted it will be with no little trepidation that he will head back to Newcastle this weekend.

Carroll left Newcastle for Liverpool in January 2011 in a £35 million deal and he will make his first appearance at St James' Park since the transfer. It is not clear exactly what reception Carroll will receive from the Newcastle faithful and he will be nervous when he trots out ahead of the game.

"I don't usually get nervous but this might be a bit different," Carroll said. "All of my family and friends will be there. I'm not sure who they will be supporting."

Newcastle have kicked on since Carroll's departure and are ahead of Liverpool in the table. The striker is delighted to see his home-town club doing so well under manager Alan Pardew. "It's great to see Newcastle doing so well," Carroll told Liverpool's official magazine. "Obviously I support them, I was brought up there and was lucky enough to play for them. They will always mean something."—Internet