Our Three Main National Causes
* Non-disintegration of the Union
* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo on inspection tour of Hkamti District

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, accompanied by Union ministers, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Lwin, deputy ministers, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr VS Seshadri and officials, went to Hkamti yesterday.

They were welcomed at Hkamti Airport by Sagaing Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Saw Myint Oo, Chairman of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body U Rhu San Kyu, Pyithu Hluttaw, Anyotha Hluttaw and Region Hluttaw representatives of the region, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local national races.

At the office of Hkamti District General Administration Department, the Vice-President and party met district and township level departmental officials, members of social organizations and towners.

Hkamti Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw and Deputy Commissioner of the district U Kyaw Than reported on locations, areas and administrative matters of the township and district. They also gave account of land utilization, rainfall, monsoon crops cultivation target and progress in 2011-2012, cultivation of cold season crops, production of 10 major crops to meet the targets, cultivation and production of rubber, transformation to mechanized farming, disbursement of agricultural loans, gross production of the district up to December 2011-2012, per capita income, tasks of education and health sectors, and progress of water and power supply to undertake rural development tasks. They submitted requirements of the region.

Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye presented reports on efforts for ensuring smooth development (See page 8)

Union Supreme Court, Region/State High Courts meet

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo delivers an address at second coordination meeting between Supreme Court of the Union and Region/State High Courts.—MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greeting those present at the meeting hall of Hkamti District GAD.—MNA

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo delivers an address at second coordination meeting between Supreme Court of the Union and Region/State High Courts.—MNA
### PERSPECTIVES

**Tears of joy**

There are three happiest days in Myanmar society—wedding day, the day on which a novice monk leaves the Order and the day on which one is released from jail. Among these days, the last two are the happiest days.

Today is the happiest day not only for those who were serving their prison terms in respective jails but also for their families, relatives and friends. Some are overcome with joy and they are on the verge of tears. In the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by President U Thein Sein, Amnesty and clemency are granted to prisoners with the aim of ensuring stability and eternal peace of the State, fostering national reconciliation, enabling them to participate in the nation-building endeavors by realizing the magnanimity of the State. This January alone sees the release of convicts for two times. Late 3rd January, the government set a total of 6656 prisoner free—6087 male and 569 female.

The 651 prisoners were granted amnesty again on 13 January. It is heard that people express special thanks to the State and President U Thein Sein for the releasing because the fact that the recent release included notable persons although the number is less than previous times.

In the time of the new government, the release of prisoners is four times, including this time. Among several reforms of the President, releasing the prisoners is the significant one.

Those people, on their parts, should do their bit for peace and stability of the State and development works. All people happily welcome the release of prisoners and should put all-out efforts into the emergence of a democratic nation.

### Health research conference concludes

**YANGON, 13 Jan**—The final session day of Myanmar Health Research Conference took place at Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Ziwaika Street, Dagon Township here this morning. Resource persons read out seven papers and scholars talked about progress towards malaria control in Myanmar.

In the afternoon, the best papers were chosen and awarded. At the conference, 73 papers were read, 24 research posters were displayed and nine technical seminars were held. —**MNA**

### Libraries open in Lashio, Paungde

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan**—Pyinnya Alin Library in Pontun Village, Lashio Township, Shan State had a new building opened on 6 January. The new library building was built with K 1 million by Myanmar Libraries Foundation and K one million by the local people.

Similarly, a new building of Yangchi Oo Library in Wathithagyi village in Paungde Township, Pyay District was opened on 10 January. Wellwisher U Tin Win Zaw donated a Sky Net receiver to the library. Moreover, a new building of Dhamma Gonyaung Library in Ohnhesin Village, Paungde Township, Pyay District was opened on 24 December. —**MNA**

### New asphalt road commissioned

**YEDASHE, 10 Jan**—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the Mingala Lake asphalt-ringedroad was inaugurated in Yedashe on 29 December. The 1700 feet long road was constructed at a cost of K 10.9 million by Township Development Affairs Committee. Pyidiaungu Hluttaw representative U Myo Thant and Executive Officer U Tin Moe Hlaing of Township DMC formally opened the road. —**Township IPRD**

### Union Information and Culture Minister makes an inspection tour around Pale Township, presents cash assistance for regional development

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan**—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan to engage in development of socioeconomic life of rural people made an inspection tour around Pale Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region on 9 January. He visited Mayin, Bantbway, Watkya and Lekan villages where works on construction of village-to-village roads, pilot plantation of high-yield Palenthaw paddies, and public participation for betterment of small loan disbursment were progressing.

During visit to the villages, the Union Minister presented K one million for Thitkyitaing village library, K 500,000 each for the libraries of Zeithanta, Kyawtaw, Thpeinyikyl, Kanpaak and Hsepyin villages, K 500,000 for Aye Chan Tha health centre, K one million for Mayin village library, K 500,000 for Khinha village library, K one million each for the libraries of Hnawkan and Khayu villages, K 500,000 each for the embankment in Lekan Village, K 500,000 each for the embankment in Khadwin, Kone and Taungpyauk villages, clothes and plastic buckets for villages and knowledgeable books for libraries.

On 10 January, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan inspected repair of Nyopyayoe creek embankment near Hnawka village where the Union Minister later proceeded to Hnawka Village where he donated publications for rural library, calling for sanitation tasks in the village and progress of rural people made an inspection.

### Student aerobics contest organized in Toungoo

**TOUNGOO, 13 Jan**—The inter-basic education school primary level aerobic exercise Volume-I and Volume-II middle level aerobic contest of Toungoo Township was organized at Basic Education High School No. 1 in Toungoo on 7 January.

In the opening ceremony, all contending teams took physical exercise, followed by primary level aerobic contest. Township Education Officer U San Kyaw and officials presented prizes to winning teams in two level contests on 8 January. —**Kyemon**

### Sumitomo Golf Classic reaches third round

**YANGON, 13 Jan**—The Sumitomo Golf Classic, jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA with the sponsorship of Aung Hein Min Co Ltd and Sumitomo Heavy Machinery, continued for the third day at Yedaguntuang Golf Club in Mandalay today.

After the third round, Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) was leading the professional golfers event by firing 209 in three-day total. Thein Zaw Myint put his position behind the leader with 210, and Min Naing (Srixon) securing the third position with 212.

Myo Win Aung was standing at the top position in the men’s amateur event with 213, followed by Naing Ye Lin with 216 in the second position and Ye Htet Aung, 217 in the third.

After the second round of the senior professional golfer event, Myint Shwe was taking the leading role with 143. Myint Thaung (PRGR) and Myint Thein tied at the second position with 149 each.

In the seniors’ second round, U Win Kyi (Su Su Aye Aung Traditional Medicine) scored an ace of Titleist Pro V1 No. 2 ball at 131 yard-distance Hole No. 3 with the use of Srixon Iron No. 9, playing together with partners Nay Win Myint, Sai Kyaw Htin and Aung Htun. —**MNA**
Ali Larijani accepts Turkey talks offer

TEHRAN, 13 Jan—Iran has said it has agreed to talks with six world powers on its controversial nuclear programme, days after the UN confirmed Tehran was producing 20% enriched uranium. Visiting Turkey, parliament speaker Ali Larijani said he had accepted Ankara’s offer to try to restart the talks.

Negotiations have stalled since a meeting in Istanbul a year ago. Analysts say 20% enrichment is a major step to making nuclear weapons, but Iran says it is for peaceful purposes. More sanctions have been imposed on Iran since the last talks, with the US and EU targeting its oil revenues. Mr Larijani was speaking a day after a nuclear scientist was murdered in Teheran, an act that Iran blamed on the US and Israel.—INTERNET

Afghan suicide bomb kills senior official in Kandahar

KANDAHAR, 13 Jan—A suicide bomber in southern Afghanistan has killed a district governor who was considered to be an important figure in the peace process. Sayed Fafuldin Agha, the governor of Panjwai District in Kandahar, was targeted by a car bomb. Two of his sons and two guards were also killed in the attack. A BBC correspondent says Mr Agha had recently persuaded several groups of Taliban militants to stop fighting and be reconciled with government forces.

The attack took place on a road between Mr Agha’s home district and Kandahar City, in the Kobi area. The bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into the vehicle carrying the district governor. Nine policemen and a civilian were injured. Sayed Fafuldin Agha, who took up his position a year ago, was considered one of the most successful district governors in Afghanistan.

The BBC’s Bilal Sarwar, in Kabul, says he was accredited, with bringing relative security to a once restive district, as well as bringing groups of Taliban fighters back into the government. A number of government officials in Afghanistan have been assassinated in recent months by militants opposed to the Afghan government. Kandahar’s police chief was targeted by a suicide attack on Wednesday, but only the bomber was killed.—INTERNET

Correspondents say: Ali Larijani is one of the most influential players in Iran’s opaque political system. — Iranian

Russian spacecraft to crash soon, risks unclear

MOSCOW, 13 Jan—A Russian space probe designed to burnish the nation’s faded space glory in a mission to one of Mars’ moons has turned into one of the heaviest, most toxic pieces of space junk ever. It will come crashing down to Earth in just a few days.

The Russian space agency Roscosmos’ latest forecast has the unmanned Phobos-Ground probe falling out of Earth’s orbit by Sunday or Monday, with the median time placing it over the Indian Ocean just north of Madagascar.

It said the precise time and place of its uncontrolled plunge can only be determined later, and unless someone actually spots fiery streaks in the sky, no one may ever know where any surviving pieces end up. Space experts agree it’s unlikely to pose big risks. At 13.2 metric tons (14.6 tons), the Phobos-Ground is one of the largest spacecraft ever to plummet to Earth, considerably larger than the two defunct satellites that fell to Earth last fall and landed in the water.

Roscosmos predicted that only between 20 and 30 fragments of the Phobos probe with a total weight of up to 200 kilograms (440 pounds) will survive the re-entry and plummet to Earth. It’s the third satellite to crash out of the sky in under five months. An old NASA 6-ton atmospheric research satellite came tumbling down in September, and a 3-ton German science satellite followed suit in October. But both were well past their prime.—INTERNET

Pirates attack Spanish navy ship off Somalia

MADRID, 13 Jan—Spain says pirates have attacked a Spanish navy warship off Somalia, drawing gunfire that reportedly left one dead and prompted a helicopter chase in which six attackers were arrested. A Defence Ministry official says the assailants may have mistaken the 165-metre (540-foot) ship Patino for a freighter in the attack before dawn Thursday.

The Patino is part of an European Union flotilla fighting piracy in the Indian Ocean. The ministry said in a statement that the detainees had confirmed a colleague was killed, and his body thrown overboard. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with department rules.—INTERNET

Drone Strike in N-W Pakistan kills six militants

MURSHIDABAD (Pakistan), 13 Jan—A second drone strike in two days killed six militants in North Waziristan in northwest Pakistan near the Afghan border in Thursday, intelligence officials said, further marking the resumption of the US campaign paused for almost two months.

The suspected US drone fired two missiles at two cars in the Dogga area of North Waziristan tribal region, killing six. The missiles hit two cars that were heading towards the border. Several foreigners were in the cars, but we have no information on their nationalities yet,” an intelligence source told Reuters. The source said there might be more casualties. The strikes come two days after a similar attack killed four militants in North Waziristan, marking the resumption of the unacknowledged US drone campaign, paused after a 26 November NATO cross-border attack killed 24 Pakistani troops. The last drone strike before Tuesday’s was on 17 November. Such attacks have been used increasingly in recent years in the fight against insurgents in Pakistan’s largely lawless Pashtun tribal areas in the west and northwest who fuel violence across the border in Afghanistan.

Drones armed with missiles have played a significant role in US counter-terrorism operations as the Obama Administration winds down the war in Afghanistan and Washington’s focus expands to militant havens in countries including Pakistan.—MNA/Reuters

China develops largest rocket propellant tank

BEIJING, 13 Jan—China has successfully developed its largest rocket propellant tank, which will be used to contain hydrogen fuel for the country’s Long March-5 carrier rocket, the tank’s developer said on Wednesday.

The homegrown rocket tank, measuring five metres in diameter and 20-plus metres in length, consists of bottom parts and eight tubular sections, which are welded together, according to the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology.

The academy made a major technological breakthrough in the welding of such a massive-sized fuel tank, it said, adding that developing and manufacturing a propellant tank are among the most difficult tasks in building a rocket.

According to a government white paper issued last month, China will develop next-generation launch vehicles, including Long March-5, Long March-6 and Long March-7, in the 2011-2015 period. The Long March-5 will use a non-toxic and pollution-free propellant, and will be capable of placing a 25-tonne payload into near-Earth orbit, or placing a 14-tonne payload into geostationary orbit, the paper said.

Xinhua

20 Killed in sectarian fight in N-E Yemen

SANAA, 13 Jan—At least 20 gunman were killed in Thursday in clashes between Shiite Houthi rebels and Sunni Islamist Salafi fighters in Yemen’s northwest restive province of Hajja, a provincial security official said.

“Twenty gunmen, mostly from the Shiites, were killed, while dozens of people from both sides were wounded,” the official told Xinhua by phone on condition of anonymity.

“The clashes, triggered by conflicts related to the disputes over religion difference, flared in the morning in several villages bordering the northern province of Saada, a stronghold of the Houthi-led Shiite rebels who have engaged in fighting with outgoing President Ali Abdullah Saleh’s government forces over the past six years,” the official said.—Xinhua
**Owning TV, car ups heart attack risk**

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**NEW DELHI, 13 Jan—** India marked a year since its last new case of polio Friday, a major milestone in a country once considered the epicentre of the disease and one that gives hope the scourge can be eradicated worldwide.

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**Chicago soybean drops 2.4 pct as rain hits Argentina**

**CHICAGO, 13 Jan—** Chicago soybean price lost 2.4 percent on Wednesday, pressured by increasing precipitation over the main growing area in South America. Corn dipped while wheat ended a tad higher.

**Retail sales weak, jobless claims up**

**WASHINGTON, 13 Jan—** US retail sales rose at the weakest pace in seven months in December and first-time claims for jobless benefits moved higher last week, signs the economic recovery is shaky despite a recent pick-up in growth. Retail sales increased a less-than-expected 0.1 percent, despite continued strength in auto purchases, a Commerce Department report showed on Thursday.

**Why alcohol feels good**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Jan—** Alcohol leads to the release of endorphins in certain areas of the brain. -Internet

*Practice the technique as soon as you sense stress and how you respond.

**Learning how to control stress can help you feel better and improve your health. The Cleveland Clinic says ways to help manage stress:**

- Become aware of the earliest signs of stress and how you respond.
- Learn and practice a relaxation technique that becomes "your" way of "de-stressing."
- Practice the technique as soon as you feel stress.
- Imagine yourself in a stressful situation so you can practice dealing with stress.
- Apply your stress management techniques to real-life situations. —Internet

_The key to people’s enjoyment of alcohol? The release of endorphins in certain areas of the brain._ —Internet

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**File photo of an Indian boy receiving anti-polio vaccination drops by an Indian Health worker as part of a Polio vaccination campaign in Amritsar on 12 January, 2012. —Btvnewsz

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Warmer summers cause colder winters, scientists say

Judah Cohen, lead author of a study published on Friday in the journal Environmental Research Letters, and his team found there was a clear trend of strong warming in the Arctic from July to September. Existing predictions would also expect a warming trend during winter as well. But Cohen and his team found this was not the case for some regions, in a counterintuitive finding that reveals more of the complexity of the world’s climate system than any flaws in the science of global warming.

For the last two decades, large-scale cooling trends have existed instead across the large stretches of eastern North America and northern Eurasia. We argue that this unforeseen trend is probably not due to internal variability alone,” the scientists say in the study.

Astronomers see more planets than stars in galaxy

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan—The more astronomers look for other worlds, the more they find that it is a crowded and crazy cosmos. They think that the easily outnumber stars in our galaxy and they are even finding them in the strangest of places.

And they have only begun to count. Three studies released Wednesday, in the journal Nature and at the American Astronomical Society’s conference in Austin, Texas, demonstrated an extrasolar real estate boom. One study shows that our Milky Way, most stars have planets. And since there are a lot of stars in our galaxy — about 100 billion — that means a lot of planets.

“We’re finding an exciting potpourri of things we didn’t even think could exist,” said Harvard University astronomer Lisa Kaltenegger, including planets that mirror “Star Wars” Luke Skywalker’s home planet with twin suns and a mini-star system with a dwarf sun and shrunken planets.

“We’re awash in planets, just 17 years ago we weren’t even sure there were planets” outside our own solar system, said Kaltenegger, who wasn’t involved in the new research. Astronomers are finding other worlds using three different techniques and peering through telescopes in space and on the ground.

Confirmed planets outside our solar system called exoplanets — now number well over 700, still-to-be-discovered ones are in the thousands. —Internet

Tobacco use by ancient Mayans confirmed

ALBANY, 13 Jan—US archaeologists examining Mayan containers say they’ve identified nicotine traces in a flask, the first physical evidence of tobacco use by ancient Mayans. The study published in Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry said the residue was identified in a flask marked with Mayan hieroglyphics reading, “y-ooot— u-may” (“the home of its/his/her tobacco”).

This is only the second case to confirm the text on the exterior of a Mayan vessel corresponds to its ancient use, researchers said.

“Investigation of food items consumed by ancient traditions and customs of a particular civilization,” Jennifer Loughmiller-Newman from the University at Albany in New York said.

“Textual evidence written on pottery is often an indicator of contents of an intended purpose, however actual usage of a container could be altered or falsely represented.” —Internet

‘Smart TVs’ offer new windows into the Internet

SEOUL, 13 Jan—The world’s obsession with tapping into the Internet is being played out on the biggest screen in the house, with software, stamps, TV makers, and technology titans such as Google and Microsoft, in a adding momentum to the trend. Even the beloved firm behind iPads and iPhones is expected to weigh in soon with a revamped version of an Apple TV system that it has long called a hobby.

The Consumer Electronics Show that ends Friday in Las Vegas is brimming with companies large and small betting that “smart TV” will quickly take over living rooms.

“The television is rapidly becoming the gateway of content from the Internet,” Sony executive deputy president Kazuo Hirai said during a CES presentation.

Samsung, Sony, and LG are among major industry players that unveiled new “smart TVs” at the show. South Korea-based LG announced it is making its own chips to beef-up TVs with online capabilities along with gesture and voice controls. “Since the start of the smart TV revolution we’ve found that industry chip sets have hived back from offering high performances,” said LG Electronics chief technical officer Scott Ahn. “Starting this year we will apply our L1 line chips to a premier TV line.”

LG has joined a small cadre of manufacturers building television sets tuned to the Internet with Google TV software. Internet pioneer Yahoo! kicked off the trend at CES three years ago, with “widgets” embedded in Connected TV models to link them to online services like the way “apps” link mobile gadgets to games, videos or other Internet content.

More than eight million TVs with Yahoo! widgets have been bought and sales are accelerating as the technology improves and more sets come with wireless Internet connections, according to Connected TV director Russell Schaffer.

“The next stage is really about engagement; providing relevant content,” Schaffer told AFP. —Internet

A view shows the semi frozen layer of a water reservoir on a cold day on the outskirts of Srinagar on 12 Jan, 2012. —Internet

A visitor touches the screen on Sharp’s 38-inch touch screen TV set Aquos Board, an Interactive Display System during the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. The show kicked off with a dazzling array of high-tech gadgets, including ultrathin laptops, snazzy smartphones, iPad rivals and flat-screen and 3D TVs. —Internet

This unexpected photograph provided by ecoATM shows the ecoATM, which is a cupboard-sized machine with a big touch screen and a big metal “mouth” where you can place your old phone or MP3 player. It takes pictures of the device to figure out what kind of shape it’s in. Then, you choose one of the machine’s many cables to connect your device. The machine will figure out if the device’s internals are working.

When its analysis is complete, it gives you a quote on the spot, based on what a network of hundreds of electronics-recycling companies are willing to pay for it. If you accept, it spins out cash. In a demonstration by ecoATM founder Bill Bowles, it said a Verizon iPhone 4 was worth $221.

An older phone might not be worth reselling, but the machine will take it anyway, and give you a dollar. The company will melt down the phone in an environmentally friendly fashion to extract the precious metals from it. WHY IT’S HOT: It’s tough to recycle old electronics. Collection bins are few and far between, though some electronics stores accept items for recycling. You can sell newer phones on eBay, but it’s a bit of a hassle.

THE UPSHOT: A fast way to deal with old electronics that keeps your conscience clean and might give you a bit of extra money.

THE DOWNSIDE: The ecoATM’s quote probably won’t match what you can get for your item on eBay. On the other hand, you avoid eBay’s seller fees. You have to physically go to the ATM. It’s a big machine, about twice the size of a regular drugstore ATM. It has a lot of complicated moving parts, and could be prone to breakage.

AVAILABLE: There are about fifty of them deployed right now, mostly in grocery stores and malls in California. The San Diego-based machine says it plans to have about 500 out at the end of this year, spreading eastward. —Internet
Crisis-hit Italy is more exposed to mafia power: prosecutor

MILAN, 13 Jan — Mafia has put its hands on the Italian economy cashing in on the ongoing financial crisis, leading anti-mafia prosecutor Antonio Ingroia told Xinhua in an exclusive interview on Wednesday. Ingroia, who is a public prosecutor in Sicily’s capital Palermo, said that the mafia today is still a dangerous economic and financial power in Italy. “Mafia is still far from being defeated, on the contrary, it has become a real criminal holding whose offshoots extend to other European and international countries,” he said.

In the prosecutor’s view, a report released recently by retailers’ association Confesercenti describing mafia as the “biggest bank in the country was not an exaggeration. According to the report, a growing number of small- and medium-sized enterprises are the main victims of racketeers, loan sharking and robberies which generates a turnover of 138 billion euros (175 billion US dollars) a year, or 7 percent of Italy’s gross domestic product.

“Although quantifying the black and grey economy is always a hazard, these numbers give a realistic representation of the mafia phenomenon,” Ingroia said.

The award organizers hope the huge prize may inspire a present-day engineer to figure out the sci-fi gadget’s secret, and “make the show’s millions of viewers when it was first used in the cult series”’ first broadcast in 1966. In the show, which was set in the 23rd Century, the crew’s doctor was able to use the tricorder to diagnose an illness simply by scanning a person’s body.

According to the official Star Trek technical manual, a tricorder is a portable “sensing, computing and data communications device”. The kit captured the imagination of the show’s millions of viewers when it was first used in the cult series” first broadcast in 1966. In the show, which was set in the 23rd Century, the crew’s doctor was able to use the tricorder to diagnose an illness simply by scanning a person’s body.

“A probable first step would be to have a tricorder that can scan and test for a wide range of diseases. This would be an invaluable tool for doctors and nurses,” Dr. Spock said in the show.”

Ford is recalling more than 450,000 minivans, SUVs in US

CHICAGO, 13 Jan — Ford announced on Wednesday that it is recalling more than 450,000 minivans and SUVs for fire risks, the company warned owners not to park the vehicles in garages until they get them repaired.

The 2001 and 2002 model ESCAPE SUVs are equipped with a brake master cylinder reservoir cap and the ABS electrical system will be modified. Separately, Ford’s recalling 265,896 2004-2005 Ford Freestar and Mercury Monterey vehicles in the US, because the torque converter output shafts in their power trains may fail and cause sudden loss of power, increasing the risk of crash.

Amanda has said she is aware of two minor accidents that attributed to this condition, and dealers will replace the brake master cylinder reservoir cap and the ABS electrical system. Meanwhile, he urged the country to “comprehensively assess progress and gaps, carefully sum up lessons learned, firmly uphold the principle of ‘common but differentiating responsibilities,’ always place poverty eradication at the top of the international development agenda, promote the deepening of the reform of the international economic and financial system, and safeguard the important role of the United Nations in the global economic governance.”

With the world economic recovery still fragile, developing countries have to grapple with multiple crises. The G77 and China faces the arduous task of promoting and implementing the international development agenda.

Putting forward his recommendations for further cooperation among G77 countries, Li said the biggest problem facing international development efforts is lack of implementation. Meanwhile, he urged developed countries to “honour their commitments by increasing financial support, technological transfer and capacity building to the developing countries.”

“We should make means of implementation a core task for R20-20 and push for an action-oriented, balanced and pragmatic outcome of the conference,” he added, referring to the conference slated for June in Brazil.

ASEAN touted as single destination for tourist travel

JAKARTA, 13 Jan — Indonesia formally introduced ASEAN as a single tourist destination during the region’s tourism forum in Manado of North Sulawesi Province on Wednesday, the Jakarta Post reported on Thursday. Tourism and Creative Economy Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said that conference was launched in Indonesia and would be fully implemented after problems involving issuing common visas for non-ASEAN residents and issuing free visas for ASEAN residents were settled.

Pangestu said that the governments of ASEAN’s 10 member nations were currently finalizing the introduction of the visa. “We are still waiting for approval from Cambodia and Myanmar,” Pangestu said. She said that the heads of the governments of Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ member states had, in principle, agreed to the introduction of common visas for non-ASEAN visitors in four visas for residents of ASEAN member nations.

The 31st ASEAN Tourism Forum, which will take place from 8 to 15 Jan, comprises the 35th ASEAN National Tourism Organization Meeting, Ministerial Meeting and Travel Exchange. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Ford is recalling more than 450,000 minivans, SUVs in US

Ch O I C E 2 0 1 2 — Ford announced on Wednesday that it is recalling more than 450,000 minivans and SUVs for fire risks, the company warned owners not to park the vehicles in garages until they get them repaired. Ford said some repaired vehicles may not have received a proper inspection or application of electrical grease as instructed in the FSA.

Ford is not aware of any accidents or incidents attributed to this condition, and dealers will replace the brake master cylinder reservoir cap and the ABS electrical system. Meanwhile, he urged the country to “comprehensively assess progress and gaps, carefully sum up lessons learned, firmly uphold the principle of ‘common but differentiating responsibilities,’ always place poverty eradication at the top of the international development agenda, promote the deepening of the reform of the international economic and financial system, and safeguard the important role of the United Nations in the global economic governance.”

The 90th European Motorshow with 110 years’ history officially opened in Brussels on Wednesday.

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The award organizers hope the huge prize may inspire a present-day engineer to figure out the sci-fi gadget’s secret, and “make the show’s millions of viewers when it was first used in the cult series” first broadcast in 1966. In the show, which was set in the 23rd Century, the crew’s doctor was able to use the tricorder to diagnose an illness simply by scanning a person’s body.

According to the report, the prices of washing machines, flat-panel TVs and laptop computers are rising more than other competing products, the FTA said.

“Although quantifying the black and grey economy is always a hazard, these numbers give a realistic representation of the mafia phenomenon,” Ingroia said.

G77, China face “arduous task” to promote world development: Chinese envoy

UNITED NATIONS, 13 Jan — The Group of 77 and China (G77 + China) faces the arduous task of promoting and implementing the international development agenda in 2012 against the backdrop of the fragile world economic recovery, a senior Chinese diplomat said here on Wednesday. Li Baodong, Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations, made the remarks at a ceremony at the UN headquarters in New York, where Argentina handed over the G77 chairmanship to Algeria.

“The new year is fraught with challenges and difficulties,” Li said. “With the world economic recovery still fragile, developing countries have to grapple with multiple crises. The G77 and China faces the arduous task of promoting and implementing the international development agenda.

Putting forward his recommendations for further cooperation among G77 countries, Li said the biggest problem facing international development efforts is lack of implementation. Meanwhile, he urged developed countries to “honour their commitments by increasing financial support, technological transfer and capacity building to the developing countries.”

“We should make means of implementation a core task for R20-20 and push for an action-oriented, balanced and pragmatic outcome of the conference,” he added, referring to the conference slated for June in Brazil.

Meanwhiler, he urged the international community to “comprehensively assess progress and gaps, carefully sum up lessons learned, firmly uphold the principle of ‘common but differentiating responsibilities,’ always place poverty eradication at the top of the international development agenda, promote the deepening of the reform of the international economic and financial system, and safeguard the important role of the United Nations in the global economic governance.”

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Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw Representative substituted

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—The Union Election Commission issued Notification No. 4/2012 today.

The translation of the notification is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw Notification No. 4/2012
5th Wanning of Pyatho, 1373 ME
(13th January, 2012)

Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw Representative substituted

According to the request made in accord with Section 33 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute a Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw representative nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in first multiparty democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw representative stated hereunder in Notification No. 3/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 with personnel shown against him.

BC 25110
Major Thein Win

By order
Win Ko
Secretary
Union Election Commission

New Year IT & Mobile Fair starts

YANGON, 13 Jan—New Year IT & Mobile Fair 2012 was opened today at Tatmadaw Conventions Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township here this morning. Chairman of the organizing committee U Thaung Tin explained about the fair which was formally opened by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall was opened today at 11am. The fair which was formally opened by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of the exhibition and viewed round the exhibition. A staff of 53 companies display 147 booths at the fair which concludes on 15 January. MNA

Union F & R Minister calls for modernization of banking services

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—“Banking service is instrumental in national economic growth as it works as it transfers savings of people into investment field”, said Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun at the concluding of Banking Services Course for officers of Myanmar Economic Banks No 2/2011 at Myan Pan Thazin Street in Nay Pyi Taw Banks Zone here this morning.

Basic English proficiency course for staff concludes

Win Ko
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Japan to invest in Myanmar’s energy sector

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—A Japanese delegation led by Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Yukio Edano called on Union Minister for Energy U Myint Swe at his office here this morning. The two sides held a coordination meeting on the Ministry of Religious Affairs (Branch) on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this afternoon with address of the Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung. Official presented prizes to outstanding trainees and completion certificates to the leaders of trainees. Altogether 59 trainees attended the four-week course.—MNA

Winner in satellite image contest

NEW YORK, 13 Jan—An image of the ribbon-like Rakaia river in New Zealand has won an online vote for one company’s best satellite image of 2011. The river, shown in March 2011, runs for about 150km to the Pacific. Commercial satellite imaging firm DigitalGlobe invited Facebook users to choose its best image of last year. The picture of the twisting river beat other striking images of Ground Zero in New York, and Palm Island, Dubai, to claim the top spot. Another satellite imaging company, GeoEye, has also published a 2012 calendar made up of its top images from last year. DigitalGlobe encouraged users to vote on 20 of its images from last year. This was whittled down to five at the beginning of January; the winner has just been announced. In addition to the photos of Ground Zero and Palm Island, the original choices included a satellite photo showing the space shuttle Atlantis being moved out of its assembly building in Florida for its final mission.

The Rakaia river runs through the Canterbury Plains in New Zealand’s South Island. Figtree.

Ottarathiri Township facilitated with new hospital (50-bed)

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—A ceremony to open Nay Pyi Taw Ottarathiri Township Hospital (50-bed) was held in conjunction with the handing over of its documents in the compound of the hospital this morning. Union Minister at President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thein Khin and township Mayor U Hla Thein Swe formally opened the new hospital.

Union Minister U Thein Nyunt unveiled the stone plaque and sprinkled scented water on it together with Union Minister Dr Pe Thein Khin, the deputy minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and members of Nay Pyi Taw Council.

They visited the hospital.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun handed over documents related to the hospital to Director-General Dr Tun Naing Oo of Health Department, and Director Dr Kyi Maung Swe of Aung Chan Co.

Internet
Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo...  

(from page 1)  

transport in Hkamti Township and organizing the local farmers to grow perennial crops like rubber and tea for long-term development of regional economy.  

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Nyunt and U Hla Pe submitted reports on requirements of education, health and electricity in the region.  

The Union ministers and deputy ministers who accompanied the Vice-President reported on progress of respective ministries and arrangements for providing assistance for development of Hkamti District.  

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Aye Myint of Wetlet Township from Sagaing Region briefed the Vice-President and party on legislative matters and progress of Hluttaw affairs at Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw in accord with the Constitution.  

After fulfilling the requirements of education, health and one fire engine, generating of hydropower in the rural area on a manageable basis, upgrading of town ringroad raised by local people by coordinating with the Union ministers and the region chief minister, the Vice-President delivered an address.  

He said that he and his party comprising the Union ministers, the chief minister, deputy ministers and officials were there to see development of Hkamti region and Naga Self-Administered Zone and to provide necessary assistance.  

He said that in studying development potentials of economic sector in today’s Hkamti region, it can be seen that there remains a large acres of vacant and virgin lands in the region. He added that the region has sufficient water for agricultural purpose with 100 inches rainfall. He stressed the need to effectively utilize the land and water resources. However, he said that it is necessary to grow perennial crops such as rubber, tea, orange, pepper and grape fruit which are suitable for the region as it has seen little development. He pointed out that arrangements are to be made for organizing the local enthusiasts and investors to do agricultural business.  

Moreover, he said that poverty alleviation. The plan is necessarily to be implemented, he said. He requested that those in the leadership role, respective rural people and those related to the plan are to harmoniously participate in the successful undertaking of the plan. He said that nowadays, representatives elected by the people are sharing legislative, executive and judicial powers in undertaking their respective tasks in accord with the constitution. He noted that activities and effectiveness are gradually emerging as a democratic nation.  

For perpetual development of the country, special emphasis is placed on peace and stability of the State and the rule of law. Now, the country sees a lot of progress in an attempt to stop armed insurgencies that have existed since post Independence period.  

All inclusiveness of political parties and people in national building endeavors is the first priority. For the economic development of the country, the government is highlighting rural development potential to reduce rural poverty. The government is stressing the need to understand laws and procedures and regional development. So, people are urged to make cooperation with the government for eternal peace and development of the country, he concluded.

Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co, Ltd U Kyaw Win presents DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and portable generator for Hkamti District People’s Hospital.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets the medical superintendent, doctors and nurses at Hkamti District People’s Hospital.—MNA

After that, Chairman of Shwe Thandwin Co., Ltd U Kyaw Win donated DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and generator for Hkamti District Administration Department, Hkamti Township Administration Department and Information and Public Relations Department through deputy commissioner and township administrator.  

After the meeting, the Vice-President cordially greeted those present.  

At the meeting, Union Solidarity and Development Party and entrepreneurs donated K 50 million for the fund of education and health in Hkamti region and K 50 million for rural development foundation. They also have made arrangements for regional development with the assistance of departments and under the leadership of town elders.
On arrival at District People’s Hospital, the Vice-President and party were welcomed by medical superintendent, doctors and nurses.

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw representative Thura U Aye Myint handed over incubator donated by USDP, the Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co, DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and portable generator through the medical superintendent.

The Vice-President encouraged patients at the hospital and inspected operation theater, delivery room and site for construction of new building.

In meeting with the principal and faculty members at Government Technical Institute (Hkamti) of Ministry of Science and Technology, the Vice-President urged them to nurture their students to become qualified human resources.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo greets faculty members and students at Government Technical Institute (Hkamti) and Government THS (Hkamti).

Japanese Economic Minister calls on Union Mines Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—A Japanese delegation led by Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Yukio Edano called on Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik at the ministry here at 10.30 am today.

At the call, they cordially discussed test-exploration and production of minerals in Myanmar, environmental conservation, procedures in making investments, and mutual cooperation and continued cooperation between Geological Survey and Minerals Exploration Department and Japan Oil Gas and Metals National Corporation.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and party being welcomed by officials at Hkamti Airport.—MNA

Notice for micro finance associations to apply for registration, business license

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—Micro Finance Service Law (The 2011 Pyidaungshu Hluttaw Law No.13) was promulgated on 30 November 2011 for development of private small loan enterprises, one of the eight rural development and poverty alleviation tasks.

According to Micro Finance Service Law Section 13, it must be a registered organization formed with in accord with Myanmar Companies Act, Cooperative Society Law, Associations Formation Law or a certain existing law. Moreover, according to Section 65, it is stated that those association that have been engaging in micro finance services before the promulgation of Micro Finance Service Law, if they wish to continue their service, shall have to apply for their business licences in accordance with the provisions of the law within three months as from the date of the passing of this law.

Therefore, the associations engaged in micro finance service in the States, Regions and Nay Pyi Taw area are to promptly apply for registration and business licence in accord with Micro Finance Service Law Sections 13 and 65, announced Myanma Micro Finance Service Supervisory Enterprise (Head Office).

YANGON, 13 Jan—A delegation led by Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Yukio Edano accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito called on UMFCCI delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung at Chatrium Hotel here yesterday morning.

The meeting focused on promoting cooperation in investment and economic sectors between the two countries, and investment of Japanese entrepreneurs in Dawei Deep-Sea Port Project and Thilawa Port Project.—MNA

YANGON, 13 Jan—Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Bo Yeik and Township Administrator U Aung Ko Ko awarded winners. A total of 1503 local people participated in the event.—MNA

YANGON, 13 Jan—Dimawhso Township celebrated the 60th Anniversary Kayah State Day with a marathon this morning. Dimawhso Township celebrates 60th Anniversary Kayah State Day with a marathon this morning. Dimawhso observes Kayah State Day

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Japanese minister meets UMFCCI president

BUS LINES DISCUSS: Mon State All Bus Lines Supervisory Committee met ten Township ABLSCs in Mawlamyine on 7 January and they discussed provision of convenient transportation service for passengers.

MNA
Scientists say cut soot, methane to curb warming

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — An international team of scientists says it has figured out how to slow global warming in the short run and prevent millions of deaths from dirty air: Stop focusing so much on carbon dioxide. They say the key is to reduce emissions of two powerful and fast-acting causes of global warming — methane and soot.

Carbon dioxide is the chief greenhouse gas and the one world leaders have spent the most time talking about controlling. Scientists say carbon dioxide from fossil fuels like coal and oil is a bigger overall cause of global warming, but reducing methane and soot offers quicker fixes.

Soot also is a big health problem, so dramatically cutting it with existing technology would save between 700,000 and 4.7 million lives each year, according to the team’s research published online Thursday in the journal Science. Since soot causes rainfall patterns to shift, reducing it would cut down on droughts in southern Europe and parts of Africa and ease monsoon problems in Asia, the study says.

Two dozen scientists from around the world ran computer models of 400 different existing pollution control measures and came up with 14 methods that attack methane and soot. The idea has been around for more than a decade and the same authors worked on a United Nations report last year, but this new study is far more comprehensive.

Peoples walk past a huge poster about sales outside the store Le Printemps in Paris, France, on 11 Jan. The 5-week-long winter sales began in France.

Web addicts have brain changes, research suggests

LONDON, 13 Jan — Web addicts have brain changes similar to those hooked on drugs or alcohol, preliminary research suggests.

Experts in China scanned the brains of 17 young web addicts and found disruption in the way their brains were wired up. They say the discovery, published in PlosOne, could lead to new treatments for addictive behaviour. Internet addiction is a clinical disorder marked by out-of-control internet use.

A research team led by Hao Lei of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Wuhan carried out brain scans of 35 men and women aged between 14 and 21. Seventeen of them were classed as having internet addiction disorder (IAD) on the basis of answering yes to questions such as, “Have you repeatedly made unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back or stop Internet use?” Specialised MRI brain scans showed changes in the white matter of the brain — the part that contains nerve fibres — in those classed as being web addicts, compared with non-addicts.

There was evidence of disruption to connections in nerve fibres linking brain areas involved in emotions, decision making, and self-control. Dr Hao Lei and colleagues write in PlosOne:

“Our overall findings indicate that IAD has abnormal white matter integrity in brain regions involving emotional generation and processing, executive attention, decision making and cognitive control.”

“The results also suggest that IAD may share psychological and neural mechanisms with other types of substance addiction and impulse control disorders.”

Prof Gunter Schumann, chair in biological psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry at King’s College, London, said similar findings have been found in video game addicts.

Beijing to construct more subway lines, regional roads this year

BEIJING, 13 Jan — Beijing will speed up construction of subway lines and regional branch roads to ease traffic pressure, according to the municipality’s government report released on Thursday.

The city’s mayor Gao Jinlong read the report at the fifth session of the 13th Beijing Municipal People’s Congress, saying the city will open another four subway lines and construct 454 km of branch roads to form regional road networks to ensure the traffic flow this year.

Other measures will include developing rental bike facilities and improving bike road lanes. According to the report, under the regulation of monthly lottery for new car plates put into use last year, the number of the city’s annual automobile increase fell by 617,000 units, and the sales volume of autos dropped 44.3 per cent year-on-year in 2010. Three new subway lines opened at the end of last year, bringing the total length of the city’s subway lines to 372 km, which also helped ease traffic pressure in the city.

M5.8 quake jolts Fukushima, Japan

TOKYO, 13 Jan — A magnitude-5.8 earthquake jolted Japan’s Fukushima at around 12:20 pm local time (0330 GMT) Thursday, according to Japan Meteorological Agency.

The epicentre was initially determined at 36.9 degrees north latitude, 141.3 degrees east longitude, with a depth of 20 km. Strong tremor was felt near Tokyo. But so far no damage has been reported.

Potential suitors circle American Airlines

New York, 13 Jan—US Airways Group, Delta Airlines, and private equity firm TPG Capital are among several parties interested in potential bids for AMR Corp, the bankrupt parent of American Airlines, people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

These parties have been following AMR’s bankruptcy proceedings closely to evaluate prospects for a merger or tie-up with American Airlines, the sources said. The sources and airline experts, however, cautioned that any deal is unlikely to materialize before AMR is close to completing its court restructuring, which could take a year or longer. “At this point I wouldn’t take it a bit seriously. But if AMR does the restructuring correctly, I think it’s going to be a very attractive target,” said Ray Neidl, aerospace analyst with Maxim Group.

Delta hired Blackstone as its financial adviser to assess a bid for American Airlines, one of the sources said.

Los Angeles, 13 Jan — Douglas Trumbull will receive the Gordon E. Sawyer Award, the second Academy Award he has ever won, for his body of work and technical innovation in cinematic visual effects, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced on Wednesday.

The Academy’s Board of Governors voted to give the prize, an Oscar statuette, to the visual effects pioneer at its Scientific and Technical Awards presentation held on 11 Feb. at the Beverly Wilshire in Los Angeles. Trumbull is credited for having “created, developed or improved numerous filmmaking techniques and tools” during his career, the Academy said in a press release. This is the second Oscar for Trumbull, a developer of the industry’s first modern 65 mm camera who shared a Scientific and Engineering Award in 1993.
New Zealand woman auctions tattoo space on backside

Wellington, 13 Jan — A cash-strapped New Zealander is auctioning off the chance to put a tattoo on her backside so she can pay her bills. Wellington woman Tina Bezneec, 23, says she needs the money after being made redundant twice in the past year.

She set up an online auction under the title “Your Tattoo on my Bum” and within 24 hours bidding had reached NZ$10,250 (US$8,135) while another three people have followed suit with auctions offering body parts to be tattooed.

“You might think I am crazy for doing this! But yes, the winner of the auction gets anything they like tattooed on my bum!” Bezneec said in her auction notice. She said 20 percent of the winning bid would go to charity “and the rest will go to me, I deserve, I have been made redundant twice over the past year. The tattoo would be 9x9 centimetres (3.5x3.5 inches), it could be on either cheek and could be something personal or “a business promotion” she said.

“The way I see it is it’s going to be on my bum and it is something I can look back on in the future and remember this point in my life,” she told the Stuff.co.nz website.

In a YouTube video, a woman who identified herself as “Marie” said she decided to copy Bezneec’s money-raising scheme because “I’m in a single Mum struggling just to pay the bills”. S J Parker said he was auctioning his backside for a tattoo because “I was laid off myself at the end of the year so have mounting bills. I’ve been offered a job teaching overseas shortly so got to get that airfare somewhere.” — Internet

Hundres of villagers evacuated after gas leaks from smashed tanker truck

Hirze, 13 Jan — Nearly 1,000 people were evacuated early Thursday morning after a highway crash triggered a gas leak from a tanker truck in east China’s Anhui Province, local firefighters said.

Up to 24 tonnes of liquified petroleum gas are leaking from the damaged vehicle, which collided with a car at 2 am in Lixin county, according to the local fire brigade.

The car’s driver, the only passenger, was killed in the crash. Local authorities have evacuated nearly 1,000 nearby villagers due to fire and poisoning concerns. Firefighters are working to dilute the gas. — Anhui

Ind officer: Looked up, saw stolen cruiser leave

South Bend, 13 Jan — An Indiana police officer whose squad car was stolen by a suspect he’d handcuffed and put in the backseat said on Thursday he only realized the cruiser was gone when he looked up and saw the taillights leaving the parking lot. “I probably had a really dumb look on my face for maybe half a second,” Knotts police Sgt Dave Johnston told The Associated Press.

Johnston, an 11-year veteran, said he was responding to a call about a reckless driver when he pulled behind in William Francis Blankenship, 22, of Knox, at a gas pump Tuesday night. When he spotted what he thought was drug paraphernalia in Blankenship’s car, Johnston said he handcuffed Blankenship with his hands behind his back and put him in the back of the running patrol car.

The officer said that after finding what he believed to be drugs in Blankenship’s car, he informed the man he was under arrest and then went back to search more thoroughly. Johnston said he was searching for only another minute or two when he looked up. As Johnston saw the taillights, a passer-by said: “Hey, a guy’s driving off in your car.” The officer said when he asked the witness why he didn’t say something earlier, the man replied, “I thought you had a partner.” Blankenship remained at large Thursday as police continued their search. — Internet

Police ticket boy after toy motorcycle hits SUV

Cudahy, 13 Jan — Police in this border city repented Thursday over ticketing a 6-year-old boy for reckless driving, driving without a license and not having his vehicle registered after he drove his miniature motorcycle into an SUV.

The boy’s brother, Karla Noriega, said police impounded the miniature gas-powered motorbike that her son got for Christmas after he crashed into an SUV on 27 Dec. Noriega decided to go to the media and made the case public after finding out she would have to pay what she called a “ridiculous” $185 fine.

City council Secretary Hector Arceluz said Thursday that authorities had dropped the fines, released the motorbike and would punish the police officers for having acted improperly. Noriega’s son Gael was happy to get his minibike back, but said it is no longer works after the accident. — Internet

Tattoo on my Bum” and within auction under the title “Your past year.

needs the money after being made redundant twice in the past year.

A cash-strapped New Zealand woman was responding to a call about a reckless driver when he pulled behind in William Francis Blankenship, 22, of Knox, at a gas pump Tuesday night. When he spotted what he thought was drug paraphernalia in Blankenship’s car, Johnston said he handcuffed Blankenship with his hands behind his back and put him in the back of the running patrol car.

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US woman sparks bomb hoax to stop errant husband

Los Angeles, 13 Jan — A US woman called in a bomb threat to an airline to stop her husband flying from Los Angeles to Atlanta to see another woman, the FBI said on Thursday.

Amy Francis said she was auctioning his backside for a tattoo because “I was laid off myself at the end of the year so have mounting bills. I’ve been offered a job teaching overseas shortly so got to get that airfare somewhere.” — Internet

Thousands of villagers were evacuated early Thursday morning after a highway crash triggered a gas leak from a tanker truck in east China’s Anhui Province, local firefighters said.

The 49-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of murder. The emergency services were called to the property by a member of the public.

Dr Adam Carter told the inquest how Mrs Bevan suffered a fatal heart attack after a loss of blood.

The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death. Mr Carter said the removal was the easiest part and he asked a trainer present, who had never done it before, to carry it out. The beginning of the routine operation took about 2.8 inches into the groin area. But, the court was told, when it came to removing the kidney, the peritoneal sac was covered by more fluid and matter than usual.

A trainee surgeon was in the theatre that day, and that registrar put her hand in to remove the kidney, but the registrar became unsure, lost her confidence and Mr Carter took over.

He said it was possible that while she was manipulating the organ the thin membrane protecting the liver, the peritoneal sac, was breached.

The inquest then heard how the surgeon felt what he believed was Mrs Francis’s kidney and pulled down sharply, a normal procedure for organ removal.

But, the coroner was told, the anaesthetist immediately reported a fall in the patient’s blood pressure. Mr Carter said he immediately realised he had pulled the right kidney and, as a result, had torn the organ.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DIBENA UNITY VOY NO (141)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA UNITY VOY NO (141) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV STELLA BEAUTY VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV STELLA BEAUTY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOMOSADA CORPORATION
S/A
Phone No: 256924/256914

Hammersmith Flyover to reopen to light traffic
LONDON, 13 Jan — Boris Johnson, mayor of London, has announced that the Hammersmith Flyover in west London, which has been closed for three weeks, will reopen on Friday. It was shut when serious damage to cables in the structure was discovered. Transport for London (TfL) has said one lane will be open in each direction but it will be closed to HGVs and coaches. Closure of the A4 route, which is usually used by about 90,000 vehicles a day, has caused serious congestion in west London.
A steady seepage of salt water into the structure, built in the 1960s, has weakened the structure, but engineers said it was now safe to take light traffic.

Burnt forest rises from the ashes
LONDON, 13 Jan — Hundreds of people have volunteered to help replant more than 85 acres of woodland in Berkshire which were destroyed by a forest fire. The blaze in Swinley Forest raged for three weeks in May 2011, damaging more than 100,000 trees, most of them pines. The Forestry Commission has cleared away the charred trees left after the fire in May 2011. — Internet

The Forestry Commission has cleared away the charred trees left after the fire in May 2011. — Internet

New JetBlue flight connects West Palm, Hartford
WEST PALM BEACH, 13 Jan — JetBlue is launching a new daily flight between West Palm Beach and Hartford, Conn. An official for the airline says both markets have seen growth over the past year. Beginning Thursday, an afternoon flight will fly from West Palm Beach to Hartford. A return flight leaves Hartford each evening. — Internet

Stop and search overhaul planned by Met
LONDON, 13 Jan — The Metropolitan Police commissioner has ordered a radical overhaul of stop and search policing in London. During a question and answer session, Bernard Hogan-Howe admitted that the tactic had not always been used professionally. The BBC understands there will be new limits on issuing section 60 orders — which allow searches without suspicion.
But officers defended their right to use the tactic, which they say helps to target drug and knife crime. “One, to target searches properly. “Number two, when we do it, even if we end up with resistance, we come out of that better if we remain professional, cool and calm,” said Mr Hogan-Howe. “Sometimes we are not always able to manage that,” he said.

Tensions caused by stop and search were highlighted 13 years ago in the Macpherson report, which looked into how the Met failed to properly investigate the murder of Stephen Lawrence. A group of black teenagers in Brixton said their approach us in a calmer way we would feel safer. But they come with it. “One, to target searches properly. “Number two, when we do it, even if we end up with resistance, we come out of that better if we remain professional, cool and calm,” said Mr Hogan-Howe. “Sometimes we are not always able to manage that,” he said.

Hazlitt, a forester with the Forestry Commission, said it was now safe to take light traffic. A steady seepage of salt water into the structure, built in the 1960s, has weakened the structure, but engineers said it was now safe to take light traffic.

Claims Day Notice

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (148)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (148) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV THOR ENDEAVOUR VOY NO (1112)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV THOR ENDEAVOUR VOY NO (1112) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: CITIC-SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

 CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
 MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (106N)
 Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (106N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SONG WEN ENTERPRISE CO LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

 Bernard Hogan-Howe admitted that some of his officers had, in the past, failed to treat people in a professional manner. — Internet

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Man accused of grabbing swan by neck

Police in Florida said they arrested a man accused of grabbing a swan by the neck at Lake Eola in downtown Orlando. Orlando police said John Wynne was arrested Tuesday after allegedly grabbing the bird by the neck at the lake and he was charged on charges of animal cruelty and grand theft, WOFL-TV, Orlando, reported. Investigators said bicycle officers spotted Wynne choking the Australian black swan, named Ruffles, and carrying it several feet by its neck, the Orlando Sentinel reported. They said he dropped the bird when he saw the officers.

Police said Wynne was taken to the Orange County Jail in lieu of $1,000 bond. Sheila Bolin, chief executive officer of The Regal Swan Foundation, formerly served as caretaker for the Lake Eola swans and was called by police to assess the bird’s injuries. She said Ruffles appeared to be eating but refused to let any humans come near him.

“Tried to catch the bird that night,” Bolin said. “But the head and neck were a wreck. He (Ruffles) didn’t want anything to do with people.”

Man allegedly hit mom twice with car

Police in Florida said a man allegedly hit his mother with her car twice when she attempted to stop him from driving. The St Johns County Sheriff’s Office said the mother told them Anthony Migliaccio, 23, hit her with the car, knocking her onto the hood, when he was 22. Migliaccio was charged a second time while she was on the ground. She sustained minor injuries and was treated and released from Flagler Hospital. Investigators said Migliaccio crashed the car into a fence and the area on foot. He was arrested when deputies found him crunching in some nearby woods. Migliaccio was charged with felony counts of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, hit and run, and criminal mischief. He was also charged with a misdemeanor count of resisting arrest without violence. He was jailed with bond set at $62,000.

Grand theft suspect threatens to eat police, dogs

Police say a man in Indiana accused of stealing a car threatened to hunt down and eat his arresting officers, their families and and police dogs.

The Journal & Courier reports (http://on.jconline.com/yGO09G) that 39-year-old Paul M. Brock of Frankfort was charged Wednesday with auto theft, resisting law enforcement, intimidation and operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Police in Lafayette, 60 miles northwest of Indianapolis, used dogs to subdue Brock during his arrest on Friday.

Police say Brock later told officers that he would hunt them down and eat them, their families and their dogs. He had a blood-alcohol content more than three times Indiana’s legal limit.

He was jailed on a $25,000 bond at the Tippecanoe County Jail.

Rihanna’s “We Found Love” Choice Awards on Thursday, the top winner at the Critics’

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan—The comedy/drama box office hit “The Artist,” directed by Michel Hazanavicius (I.), actress Berenice Bejo (2nd L) and producer Thomas Langmann celebrate their winners at the 17th Annual Critics’ Choice Movie Awards in Los Angeles on 12 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Los Angeles, 13 Jan—Silent film “The Artist” was the top winner at the Critics’ Choice Awards on Thursday, boosting its profile as the Hollywood season heats up ahead of the Oscars.

The comedy, shot in black and white, picked up four awards, including best picture and best director for Frenchman Michel Hazanavicius, who called it “a love letter to American cinema.”

Comedy/drama box office hit “The Help,” was the night’s other big, and surprise, victor. The tale of black maids and their white employers in the 1960s US South brought acting honors for its star, Viola Davis, and cast member Morgan Freeman.

Annoyed by the lack of celebration for Davis’ success, Freeman angrily told inductee Viola Davis that she was supposed to be there and not Freeman. The room fell silent.

“The Help” won best ensemble cast. Octavia Spencer in their roles as black maids and their white employers in the 1960s US South brought acting honors for its star, Viola Davis, and cast member Morgan Freeman.

“The Help” was named Favourite TV Crime Drama, while its star Nathan Fillion earned the Favourite TV Drama Actor accolade.

“Mother” was voted best ensemble cast. Octavia Spencer and male romp “The Help” during the People’s Choice Awards on Thursday.

Emmy-winner for her role as the female romp “The Help” during the People’s Choice Awards.

Robin Wright, right, presents Viola Davis with the award for best actress for “The Help” during the 17th Annual Critics’ Choice Movie Awards on 12 Jan, 2012 in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

A distracted dad in family drama “The Descendants” and female romp “Bridesmaids” won the award for best comedy.

Cast member Jeremy Jordan

Newspaper Executive

‘Mother,’ Perry nab Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan—The TV programme “Glee” and “How I Met Your Mother,” and singer Katy Perry picked up multiple People’s Choice Awards in Los Angeles Wednesday night.

“Glee” was named Favourite TV Crime Drama, while its star Nathan Fillion earned the Favourite TV Drama Actor accolade.

“Mother” was voted best ensemble cast. Octavia Spencer and Morgan Freeman.

“Mother” was named Favourite TV Comedy/Drama and cast member Neil Patrick Harris Favourite TV Comedy Actor. Pop star Katy Perry won the award for Favourite TV Guest Star for her appearance on “Mother.”

Perry, who canceled her plans to attend the ceremony after her husband, comedian Russell Brand, filed for divorce, also won the awards for Favourite Female Artist and Favourite TV Headliner, Favourite Show of the Year for “Glee” featuring Kenzy West and Favourite Music Video for “Last Friday Night.”

“Glee”’s Lea Michele was declared Favourite TV Comedy Actress and Nina Dobrev from “The Vampire Diaries” Favourite TV Drama Actress.

“S是中国的” won the prizes for Favourite TV Network Drama and Favourite Sci-Fi/Fantasy Show, while the Favourite Cable TV Dramatic role went to “Pretty Little Liars.”

Tatum, Deschanel to host ‘SNL’

New York, 13 Jan—Channing Tatum and Zooey Deschanel have been booked as guest hosts on the American sketch comedy show “Saturday Night Live,” NBC said Thursday.

Tatum will make his debut as host 4 Feb. He can next be seen alongside Jonah Hill in the movie “21 Jump Street” due out 16 March. His past film credits include “Coach Carter,” “Step Up,” “Napoleon Dynamite” and “Dear John.”

Deschanel will make her debut “SNL” appearance at host 11 Feb. She is the star of the hit sitcom “New Girl.” Her film credits include “500 Days of Summer,” “Yes Man,” “The Good Girl” and “Elf.”

Pop music duo Keenan will make their first musical guest appearance 11 Feb. Internet

Zooey Deschanel attends the Fox Press Tour All-Star Party in Pasadena, California, 8 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Jeremy Jordan returns to ‘Newsies’ for Broadway

New York, 13 Jan—For Jeremy Jordan, bad news for “Bonnie & Clyde” means good news for “Newsies.”

The actor whose role as the bank-robbing male lead in the musical “Bonnie & Clyde” was cut short last month by poor ticket sales, has jumped aboard the Broadway-bound “Newsies,” a musical based on the 1992 film. Producers announced Jordan will play rebellious newsboy leader Jack Kelly, the role he created at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey last year. “Newsies” will open in April at Broadway’s Nederland Theatre on 15 March.

Jordan, who stars opposite Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton in the movie “Joyful Noise,” was also on Broadway in “Rock of Ages.”

Alan Menken and lyricist Jack Feldman have transformed the film credits include “500 Days of Summer,” “Yes Man,” “The Good Girl” and “Elf.”

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He was jailed on a $25,000 bond at the Tippecanoe County Jail.
Barcelona set up Real clash in Spanish Cup

BARCELONA, 13 Jan — Second half goals from Alexis Sanchez and Sergi Roberto gave Barcelona 2-1 victory over Osasuna on Thursday and a quarter-final clash with arch-rivals and titleholders Real Madrid in the Spanish Cup. Dejan Lekic had put Osasuna ahead five minutes before the break in Pamplona before Sanchez headed in a 48th-minute equaliser for the Catalans. Substitute Lionel Messi set up Sanchez to make it 1-1 before a 4-2-3-1 victory. Real Madrid qualified as a 2-0 win over Getafe. It is the first time since 1960-61 that the two will meet in the first full-field tournament of the season in the first full-field tournament of the year.

Federer, Nadal in same half of Australian Open draw

MELBOURNE, 13 Jan — Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are in the same half of the tournament. Federer will begin his Australian Open title defence against India’s Paola Lorenzi. Nadal and Federer will meet in the semi-finals.

Graham DeLaet, of Canada, lines up his putt on the 13th green during the final round of the Sony Open golf tournament, on Sunday, in Honolulu.—AP

International Sports

Wozniacki’s tough draw at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 13 Jan — World number one Caroline Wozniacki was drawn Friday to face French Open champion Li Na in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open as she searches for her maiden grand slam title in Melbourne. The Danish top seed, whose top ranking is under threat by Czech number two Petra Kvitova, also has defending champion Kim Clijsters and third seed Victoria Azarenka in her path.

DeLaet is happy to be back, and it shows

HONOLULU, 13 Jan — One year after back surgery that made him wonder if he could ever play golf again, Canada’s Graham DeLaet clipped in for eagle and twice holed 35-foot birdie putts for a 7-under 67 at Thursday’s semi-finals of the Sony Open. He is the first male major-winner since Fred Perry in 1936, takes on American Ryan Harrison.

Graham DeLaet, of Canada, lines up his putt on the 13th green during the final round of the Sony Open golf tournament, on Sunday, in Honolulu.—AP

Dubious Goals Panel rulings

LONDON, 13 Jan — The Premier League’s Dubious Goals Panel has made a decision on 25 dubious goals that were scored in the Barclays Premier League between 12th October to 21st December. The Dubious Goals Committee - drawn from people who have participated as a referee, player or manager at the highest level of the game - have ruled on the following goals:

Steven Gerrard scores the only goal of the Carling Cup semi-final first leg at Man City.—Internet

Barcelona’s Sergi Roberto (2nd L) shoots to score against Osasuna’s goalkeeper Asier Rioseco (R) during their Spanish Cup football match at the Reino de Navarra stadium in Pamplona.—INTERNET

Barcelona’s Sergio Roberto (2nd L) shoots to score against Osasuna’s goalkeeper Asier Rioseco (R) during their Spanish Cup football match at the Reino de Navarra stadium in Pamplona.—INTERNET

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Federer, Nadal in same half of Australian Open draw

MELBOURNE, 13 Jan — Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are in the same half of a grand slam draw for the first time in seven years as they selection made Friday for next week’s Australian Open in Melbourne. Defending champion Novak Djokovic will have world number four Andy Murray in his top half of the men’s singles draw, while worldnumbertwo Nadal and third seed Federer were placed in the bottom half.

It is the first time since 2005 that a British Open first male major-winner since Fred Perry in 1936, takes on American Ryan Harrison.

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Wozniacki, who started her Open campaign against Australian Anastasia Rodionova, has Agnieszka Radwanska in her path after losing to the Polish eighth seed at this week’s Sydney International. Wimbledon champion Kvitova, beaten by Li in Thursday’s semi-finals of the Sydney International, will also have some tough obstacles in her path.

World number one Caroline Wozniacki.
A man speaks frantically into the phone, “My wife is pregnant, and her contractions are only two minutes apart!” “Is this her first child?” the doctor queries. A man and his wife were making their first doctor visit. They had been together for ten years and were trying to have a child for a long time. The wife had started to show signs of pregnancy, and the doctor had suggested that they come in for a check-up. When they got to the office, the doctor took a small stamp and stamped the wife’s stomach with indelible ink. This was to indicate that she was pregnant, and her contractions were only two minutes apart. The couple was curious about what the stamp was for, so when they got home, the husband got out his magnifying glass to try to see what it was. In very tiny letters, the stamp said, “When you can read this, come back and see me.”
State level peace-making group, KNU peace-making group sign initial agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—A ceremony to sign the initial agreement between the State level Peace-making Group and Kayin National Union (KNU) Peace-making Group was held at Zwegabin Hotel in Hpa-an of Kayin State yesterday to restore peace with KNU that offered the olive branch to the Government at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It was attended by Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein and Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, Kayin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Lwin, Mon State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Hay Myint Aung, Bago Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Thein Tun, Taninthayi Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Lwin, State Advocate-General U Thein Lwin, State Development Supervisor U Thein Naung, Secretary of Kayin State Government U Ohn Myint, General Staff Officer (Grade-I) (People’s Militia) Lt-Col Kyaw Myint of South-East Command, General Staff Officer (Grade-I) (Operations) Lt-Col Than Aung of Southern Command, General Staff Officer (Grade-I) (Operations) Lt-Col Nyunt Oh of Coastal Region Command and officials of the Union level peace-making group, General Saw Mutu Say Pho and Pado Saw David Htaw of KNU peace-making group.

The state level peace-making group and the KNU peace-making group signed the five-point agreement to be implemented as preliminary task and the 11-point agreement to be continued as the Union level peace-making talk, in the presence of Union Minister U Aung Min, Union Minister U Soe Thein, Union Minister U Khin Yi and State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, and then exchanged gifts.

Statement by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued a statement dated today.

The full text of the statement is as follows:

1. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has made appeals to the President that at a time when the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is building a democratic nation and striving for national unity, those among prisoners who were in various prisons for committing various crimes, who do not pose a threat to national security, public peace and tranquility and national interest, be given amnesty to enable them to take part in whatever way they can in nation-building tasks.

2. Subsequently, the President had granted amnesty to 6359 prisoners on 12 January 2012.

3. In the interest of enduring peace and national unity, to enable an inclusive political process and on grounds of humanitarian consideration, the President had granted amnesty to the prisoners. In view of the President’s magnanimity, the Commission strongly urges those who have been released to peacefully take part in whatever way they can in building national unity and a democratic State.

The full text of the statement is as follows:

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—At the invitation of the Government, the state level peace-making group of Kayin State Government and the KNU peace-making group signed the five-point initial agreement in Hpa-an of Kayin State yesterday to restore peace with Kayin National Union (KNU) that has offered an olive branch to the Government.

The President Office has sent an order to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) dated today that all military camps and mobile columns to suspend the attacks while building the understanding by both sides as the agreement has been signed at the initial stage.

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