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 receives Pakistani President Mr Asif Ali Zardari and party

President U Thein Sein hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting delegation led by President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr Asif Ali Zardari at the Credentials Hall of the President Residence here at 6 pm today.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, 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 Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and departmental officials.

The Pakistani delegation led by President Mr Asif Ali Zardari was accompanied by Pakistani Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Qazi M Khalilullah—MNA

President U Thein Sein hosts dinner to Pakistani President Mr Asif Ali Zardari and party

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein hosted a dinner for Pakistani President Mr Asif Ali Zardari and party at the President Residence.—MNA
PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 25 January, 2012

Have a sense of gratitude

There is no one who does not owe a debt of gratitude. We owe others a debt of gratitude in a direct or indirect way. Gratitude can be categorized into two aspects – paying gratitude and receiving gratitude.

Gratitude always prevails between parents and children, between teachers and pupils, between employers and employees. Yet, gratitude between parents and children is enormous and so is between teacher and students.

In the world, there are few people who know gratitude. What’s more, there are those who hardly repay any gratitude. However, those valuing gratitude can gain benefits from both the mundane and supra-mundane worlds.

For instance, Prince Kyansittha was deservedly crowned King of Bagan as he had always remained loyal to his gratitude owed to King Anawrahta.

There were also some events in which ungrateful people with no sense of gratitude got into trouble. Consequently, they had to live a difficult life and end up in hell after their death.

Those who have a sense of gratitude can get not only benefits but also help from others, thereby contributing to their well-being.

May we enjoy benefits by showing and paying our gratitude!

Stars appear at hotels

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Following recent developments, Myanmar has attracted more tourists this year. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is shaping sustainable tourism by preserving cultural heritages and traditional customs of national brethrens, and conserving ecosystem.

With a view to developing hotels and rooms to host tourists, improve services of the hotels, hotel grading teams are now in operation. The ministry is decorating hotels which satisfy demanded standards with accredited stars.

So far, 33 hotels in Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan-NyaungU and Taunggyi-Inlay hotel zones have got stars, which will later be upgraded or degraded in the light of continuous monitoring. The grading will continue in hotel zones of Yangon, Mandalay, Taungtha, Myingyan and NyaungU Towns on 22 January.

Mr Thomas Countryman and party at Hluttaw Building welcomed the ICRC Rep calls on Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung at the latter’s office here this morning. The deputy speaker was accompanied by chairmen and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw committees and officials from the President Office U Soe Maung at the latter’s office here this morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Director-General of the President Office U Soe Maung at the latter’s office here this morning.

Cash for X-ray television system donated to Myaungmya hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Cash donation ceremony for purchasing X-ray television system for Myaungmya People’s Hospital was held at the hospital on 22 January. The township administrator addressed the ceremony and, on behalf of donor Chairman of ACE Construction Company U Phyo Ko Ko Tin Hsan, donated K 10 million through District Health Officer Dr U Aung Ngwe San of Myaungmya People’s Hospital.

ICRC Rep calls on Union Minister at President Office

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Representative of ICRC Office Mr Georges Pacisiamu paid a call on Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung at the latter’s office here this noon and discussed further cooperation between Myanmar and the ICRC on artificial limbs, water and sewage and continued cooperation in matters of mutual concern.

Pakistani President arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr Asif Ali Zardari led a delegation which arrived here by special flight at 4.30 pm today.

The deputy speaker was accompanied by chairmen and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw committees and officials from the Hluttaw office.

They frankly discussed improving bilateral relations and cooperation between two Hluttaws.

Progress of Mobile phone installation in Mdy inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun inspected the progress of GSM Mobile phone extension services in PyinOoLwin City in Mandalay Region on 21 January and progress of GSM Mobile phone services in Kyaukse, Kumae, Meiktila, Mahlaing, Yonanzgyi in Taungtha, Myingyan and NyaungU Towns on 22 January.

On his inspection tour, Deputy General Manager U Kyaw Zwa Thwin and responsible persons of the project explained about the progress of installation services of Mobile phone which will go into commercial operation in February at reasonable price to the Union Minister.

In meeting with staff from Kyaukse, Kumae, Meiktila, Mahlaing, Yonanzgyi in Taungtha, Myingyan and NyaungU Towns, the Union Minister left the necessary instructions.

The township administrator addressed the ceremony and, on behalf of donor Chairman of ACE Construction Company U Phyo Ko Ko Tin Hsan, donated K 10 million through District Health Officer Dr U Aung Ngwe San of Myaungmya People’s Hospital.

The system will start operation at the hospital soon.
**EU eases sanctions on Myanmar after reforms**

The EU will promote reform through aid, training and greater dialogue with the government, it said. Ministers also called for "progressive engagement" by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Myanmar’s strategic location at a crossroads in Asia and its resources have increasingly made the country of interest to both Western nations and its neighbours, particularly China. EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said “quite extraordinary” changes have taken place in Myanmar since 1991. Reforms in Myanmar have followed a 2010 election. They have included loosening media restrictions and other repressive laws, peace talks with ethnic militants and the freeing of hundreds of political prisoners. — MNA/Reuters

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**Pakistan: US airstrike wasn’t self-defence**

ISLAMABAD, 24 Jan — Pakistan’s army on Monday formally rejected a US claim that American airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani troops last year were justified as self-defence, a stance that could complicate efforts to repair the troubled but vital relationship between the two countries. In a detailed report, the army said that Pakistani troops did not trigger the 26 November incident at two posts along the Afghan border by firing at American and Afghan forces. The US has alleged that Pakistani troops killed a US soldier after a firefight. Pakistan’s army said its troops shot at suspected militants who were nowhere near coalition troops.

"Trying to affix partial responsibility of the incident on Pakistan is, therefore, unjustified and unacceptable," said the report, which was issued in response to the US investigation that concluded at the end of December. The US expressed condolences for the deaths of the Pakistani soldiers but said American troops acted "with appropriate force" in self-defence because they thought they were being attacked by Taliban militants. Pakistan responded quickly by closing a border crossing to supplies for NATO troops in Afghanistan. The borders have remained closed, and Pakistan also kicked out US contractors that was used to service American drones. The differing accounts of what happened could make it difficult for the two sides to move forward, despite their interests. The US needs Pakistan’s help in targeting Islamist militants within the country and negotiating peace with the Taliban in Afghanistan. Islamabad is heavily reliant on billions of dollars in aid from Washington. Pakistan said the fundamental cause of the deadly airstrikes was the decision by coalition forces not to tell Pakistan that American and Afghan troops were conducting an operation near the border inside Afghanistan before dawn on 26 November. — Internet

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**Afghanistan trips by celebrities cost over $400,000 in 2011**

LONDON, 24 Jan — The government spent more than £400,000 on sending celebrities to visit soldiers in Afghanistan last year, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has said. The MoD arranged a series of trips to the front line in an attempt to keep British troops’ spirits high. Pop star Cheryl Cole was among those to visit last year. Defence Secretary Philip Hammond told MPs the total cost, “including an element for UK travel and mobilisation,” was £437,637.

“Entertainment of members of the armed forces is, and has for many years, been an important element of the deployment welfare package,” he told MPs.

“It helps to maintain morale and thereby the combat-effectiveness of service personnel.” The MoD has a contract with combined services entertainment to provide entertainment to members of the armed forces deployed overseas, including Afghanistan. It is not known if the celebrities were paid for their visits to Afghanistan. But Mr Hammond said those who visited were transported and accommodated alongside armed forces personnel “at minimal extra cost to the public purse”. Mr Hammond was responding to a written Parliamentary question from Conservative MP for East Yorkshire, Greg Knight.

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**Romney scores points in debate with attacks on Gingrich**

TAMPA, 24 Jan — Mitt Romney was desperate for a strong debate performance in Florida’s Republican debate on Monday night to restore momentum for his campaign, and delivered repeated sharp attacks on rising rival Newt Gingrich. Romney lashed out at Gingrich at the Florida debate for suggesting he was the speaker of the US House of Representatives under an ethically and repeatedly labelled him an “influence peddler.”

On Monday, Romney used a question about his tax returns as an opportunity to outline his proposals to change the tax system by cutting capital gains and corporate taxes. He joked that the country needed to get more people back to work so they could begin to pay taxes. Romney has promised to release his 2010 tax return and his estimated 2011 taxes on Tuesday.

But from his own financial questions, Romney called on Gingrich before the debate to disclose his contract for the government-sponsored mortgage financing giant Freddie Mac, from which Gingrich made $1.6 million (1 million pounds). Gingrich’s former consulting firm released a contract he signed with the company in 2006, but it shed little light on what Gingrich was hired to do. The document called for a $300,000 retainer and $25,000 in fees monthly for the year.

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**The new light of Myanmar**

**Tokyo, 24 Jan —** The chance of a big earthquake hitting the Japanese capital has increased in the area around Tokyo, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has said. The MoD arranged a series of trips to the front line in an attempt to maintain morale and thereby the combat-effectiveness of service personnel. “The MoD has a contract for the deployment welfare package,” he told MPs.

The MoD has a contract for the deployment welfare package, which in turn leads to a higher probability of a major quake. They say that compared with normal years, there has been a five-fold increase in the number of quakes in the Tokyo metropolitan area since the March disaster. They based their calculations on data from Japan’s Meteorological Agency. They said their results show that seismic activity had increased in the area around the capital, which, in turn, leads to a higher probability of a major quake. The researchers say that government says the chances of such an event are 70% in the next 30 years. The warning comes less than a year after a massive earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan’s north-eastern coastline.

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**Big Tokyo earthquake likely ‘within the next few years’**

Researchers at the University of Tokyo say that compared with normal years, there has been a five-fold increase in the number of quakes in the Tokyo metropolitan area since the March disaster. They say that compared with normal years, there has been a five-fold increase in the number of quakes in the Tokyo metropolitan area since the March disaster. They said their results show that seismic activity had increased in the area around the capital, which, in turn, leads to a higher probability of a major quake. The researchers say that while it is “hard to predict” the casualty impact of a major quake on Tokyo, the calculations take account of greater seismic activity since March, government calculations take account of greater seismic activity since March, government calculations take account of greater seismic activity since March, government calculations take account of greater seismic activity since March, government calculations take account of greater seismic activity since March.
Autists have more psychiatric issues

Boston, 24 Jan.—The presence of co-occurring psychiatric and neurodevelopmental conditions may result in a change in autism spectrum disorder, US researchers say.

Dr. Andrew Zimmern of Massachusetts General Hospital for Children and colleagues at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public said questions remain as to whether changes in diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder are due to sociologic differences — risk factors contributing to the cause of a diagnosis — or shifts in diagnostic determination.

The researchers analyzed data from a phone survey in 2007 and 2008 of 92,000 parents of US children across three developmental stages — children ages 3-5 and 6-11 and adolescents ages 12-17. More than 1,300 said their child had a past or current diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder, but in 453 of those cases, children had been diagnosed by a doctor of having a disorder — but parents said the children did not have a disorder anymore.

The results identified co-occurring conditions that distinguish groups currently diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder from groups with past but not current diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.

Children with learning disability, delayed development, epilepsy and anxiety tended to continue to be classified as having autism spectrum disorder. Children or teens with early hearing problems were less likely than similarly affected older children to be considered autistic. The findings are published in the journal Pediatrics.

Many diagnosed with cancer keep smoking

Boston, 24 Jan — Quitting smoking is always a good idea, and those diagnosed with colorectal cancer have more reason to quit — but many keep smoking, US researchers found.

Lead researcher Dr Elyse R Park of the Harvard Medical School — who is also director of behavioral sciences for the Massachusetts General Hospital Tobacco Research and Treatment Centre — and colleagues analyzed data from 1,400 smokers newly diagnosed with lung or colorectal cancer. The study, published online in the journal Cancer found five months after learning they had cancer, just over one-third of those with lung cancer and two-thirds of those with colorectal cancer were still smoking.

The quit rates in the study are much higher than seen in most studies of quitters — on average, only about 6 percent of people who stop smoking are still off cigarettes six months later.

“Our results underscore just how difficult it can be to quit smoking,” Park told the publication Harvard Health.

“A diagnosis of cancer can certainly be a powerful motivator, but it isn’t always enough — people need help to quit.”

Those with cancer who continue to smoke might lessen the effectiveness of cancer treatment and slow recovery, the researchers said. — Internet

Dollar falls as Greek debt talks approach conclusion

New York, 24 Jan.—The US dollar fell against major currencies in late New York trading on Monday as investors waited the result of Greek debt talks.

Investors expected that private creditors have to accept losses of 65 to 70 percent of Greek debt holdings.

Meanwhile, Germany successfully sold 12-month bonds with an average yield of 0.07 percent, well below the yield of 0.36 percent at the last auction, suggesting that demand for German bonds has recovered.

The uncertainties in euro zone have temporarily elminated and investors began cautiously betting on the euro.

The shared currency climbed against the dollar on Monday and stayed above 1.30 in late trading session.

With no major US economic data due out on Monday, the dollar index retreated back to below 80 as the euro recovered.

In late Monday trading, the dollar bought 77.00 Japanese yen, comparing with 76.98 from late Friday. The euro rose to 1.3015 dollars from 1.2923.

The Swiss franc fell 0.9351 Swiss francs to 0.9276, and also fell to 1.0682 Canadian dollars from 1.0138.

US and Canada extend softwood agreement

Washington, 24 Jan.—US and Canada trade ambassadors Monday signed a two-year extension to a softwood trade agreement, the Office of the US Trade Representative said. The Trade Representative Ron Kirk and Canadian International Trade Minister Ed Fast signed the agreement in Washington, extending it through 12 Oct, 2015, two years past its previous end date.

The Softwood Lumber Agreement is very important for the US and Canada, particularly when both sides of the border are facing weak demand,” Kirk said. “Trade agreements are about providing a predictable and fair environment for conducting international trade.”

The agreement, which took effect in 2006, ended years of dispute over duties imposed on Canadian lumber with the United States contending the industry in Canada was unfairly subsidized. In the trade agreement, the United States stops imposing extra duties on Canadian softwood in exchange for Canada applying export restrictions when the price of lumber falls below a certain level. — Internet

Auto show a sign of industry resurgence

Detroit, 24 Jan.—Attendance at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit was well above expectations, the event’s chairman said.

The attendance record is more than 800,000, set in 2003, said event chairman Bill Perkins, who also owns several auto dealerships. The Detroit News reported Monday that this year it was predicted that 725,000 people would attend during the nine-day run that is open to the public. Instead, 770,932 showed up, Perkins said.

“People want to feel good about the industry, which is now obviously in a better place than it was a few years ago,” he said.

“A lot of people counted Detroit down and out, but it has been a major year for the auto industry and our show,” Perkins said. Perkins said the show’s economic impact was “huge … better than the Super Bowl.”

The show, which draws visitors from near and far, has an estimated $400 million impact on southeastern Michigan, the newspaper said.

Women feel pain more intensely than men

Stanford, 24 Jan—in almost every disease category, women report more-intense pain than men, researchers at Stanford University School of Medicine in California say.

Using a database from electronic medical records, Stanford scientists examined more than 160,000 pain scores reported for more than 72,000 adult patients. From these, they extracted cases in which disease-associated pain was first reported, and then divided the findings by disease and gender, the researchers said.

Dr Atul Butte and colleagues said the medical literature contains numerous reports indicating that women report more pain than men for one or another particular disease, but this study focused on pain intensity, whereas most previous studies have looked at prevalence.

The search identified 47 separate diagnostic categories for which there were more than 40 pain reports for each gender. The sample included more than 11,000 individual adult patients, of which 56 percent were women and 44 percent were men. The researchers were able to further analyze these 47 categories by condensing them into 16 disease clusters.

“We saw higher pain scores for female patients practically across the board,” Butte said in a statement, “Those reported differences were not only statistically significant, but also clinically significant.”

The findings are published in the journal Pain.

Toyota shows off the new Prius C model at the 2012 North American International Auto Show at the Cobo Centre in Detroit, on 10 Jan, 2012.— Internet
Underwater photographer fights off 12-foot shark with camera

**New approach could spur green technologies**

**WASHINGTON, 23 Jan**—A new approach to chemical reactions between water and metal oxides, the most abundant minerals on our planet, could prompt faster development of “green” technologies. It could not only lead to a better understanding of corrosion and how toxic minerals leach from rocks and soil, but also help create new types of batteries and improve water treatment technologies, does not mix — and corrosive — so most other electricity don’t mix — and biological systems, researcher Peter Cowman said, as fish had not yet become specialized to live in or among corals. “By 200 million years ago we were starting to see fish with jaws capable of feeding on corals, but the real explosion in reef diversity doesn’t occur till about 50 million years ago when we see fishes very like today’s specialist coral feeders emerging,” he said. The ever-increasing complexity of the relationship between corals and fishes over the last 20 million or 30 million years means each has become more critical to the survival of the other as their lives have become more intertwined, he said. “The study of the past tells us that reefs are all about relationships and, like a family, for them to survive those relationships need to remain strong,” Cowman said. “In coming years it is probable reefs will be subject to relentless pressures that may cause them to change fundamentally.”

**Strong solar storm on its way toward Earth**

**BOULDER, 24 Jan**—A solar storm of energetic radiation and charged plasma could disrupt GPS signals and the electrical grid, US space weather experts said. Scientists at the Space Weather Prediction Centre, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, Col., have issued a geomagnetic storm watch. The agency said it is the strongest solar radiation storm since May 2005. “With the radiation storm in progress now, satellite operators could be experiencing difficulties, so there are probably impacts as well to high frequency [radio] communications in polar regions,” Doug Biesecker, a physicist at the center, told The Washington Post.

Such radio blackouts can force airlines to reroute flights at high altitude, between North America and Europe or Asia. NASA scientists said the storm should peak about 9 am EST Tuesday, although uncertainty in the prediction means the storm could peak up to seven hours earlier or later. “It’s not going to be a catastrophe, but there could be noticeable geomagnetic current induced on the electrical grid,” said Michael Hesse of NASA’s Space Weather Laboratory at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Md.

The storm began Sunday night with a burst of X-rays shooting out of a sunspot followed by a huge explosion of plasma, known as a coronal mass ejection. The bulk of the plasma cloud is speeding toward Earth at around 4.5 million mph, Hesse said. “We’re going to be monitoring this,” he said. “The models we use to predict these events are not correct all the time. But at the moment, it looks like it will be pretty interesting.”

**Aquatic power generator takes to the sea**

**LONDON, 24 Jan**—An aquatic system likened to a bicycle pump is set to take water current wave power into clean electricity, a British company says. The system’s inventor, says the Seaser system, unlike other wave power technologies, does not control the electricity in the hostile environment of the ocean but rather pumps water into an onshore generator. “If you put any device in the sea, it will get engulfed in storms, so it has to be totally sealed,” Alvin Smith told The Guardian newspaper. “Water and electricity don’t mix — and sea water is particularly corrosive — so most other devices are very expensive to manufacture and maintain.” The Seaser system, acquired by green energy company Ecotricity, has been tested in prototype form, the company said.

It uses the rise and fall of a large float to pressurize water, and then sends pressurized sea water onshore to drive an electrical generator. Ecotricity says it is “not over-ambitious” to expect 200 Seaser devices to be installed at depths of 60 to 100 feet around Britain within five years, generating enough renewable electricity to power 236,000 homes.

**Coral reefs and fish depend on each other**

**TOWNSVILLE, (Australia), 24 Jan**—The complex relationship between fish and corals is a major factor in shaping reef species from extinction, Australian researchers say. Those relationships developed relatively recently in geological terms, scientists at the ARC Centre of Excellence in Coral Reef Studies said. Early coral reefs, 300 million to 400 million years ago, were much simpler than today’s colorful and complex systems, researcher Peter Cowman said, as fish had not yet become specialized to live in or among corals. “By 200 million years ago we were starting to see fish with jaws capable of feeding on corals, but the real explosion in reef diversity doesn’t occur till about 50 million years ago when we see fishes very like today’s specialist coral feeders emerging,” he said. The ever-increasing complexity of the relationship between corals and fishes over the last 20 million or 30 million years means each has become more critical to the survival of the other as their lives have become more intertwined, he said. “The study of the past tells us that reefs are all about relationships and, like a family, for them to survive those relationships need to remain strong,” Cowman said. “In coming years it is probable reefs will be subject to relentless pressures that may cause them to change fundamentally.”

Those with the best long-term prospects of survival will be the ones where the relationships between fish and corals are healthiest. **Internet**
Ex-CIA agent John Kiriakou charged over leaks

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — An ex-CIA agent leaked the names of other covert operatives to the media, the US justice department said. John Kiriakou is accused of disclosing the names of agents who interrogated a suspected al-Qaeda financier, who was allegedly waterboarded 83 times. Prosecutors say the probe started after lawyers for suspected terrorists filed a legal brief including details not provided by the government.

Mr Kiriakou, 47, will appear in court in Alexandria, Virginia, on Monday. He is suspected of leaking classified information to reporters, who in turn provided the information to the defense teams of the suspected terrorists.

During a recent interview with the FBI, Mr Kiriakou denied releasing the identity of classified agents, according to a sworn affidavit.

In particular, Mr Kiriakou was asked whether he released to the New York Times in 2008 the name of an officer who helped interrogation of the suspected al-Qaeda financier, Abu Zubaydah.

Mr Kiriakou responded: “Heavens no,” according to the affidavit.

Teenage Mexican moms claim they were duped into giving up their children

Teenage Mexican moms claim they were duped into giving up their children

British mother, 45, dies suddenly on chairlift next to her teenage daughter while on ski holiday in the Alps

Sudden death: Cheryl Fairbrother, pictured right, with her daughter Jade. The pair had been skiing together in Serre Chevalier in the Alps when Miss Fairbrother collapsed and died.

Cheryl Fairbrother, 45, died suddenly on a chairlift while on a ski holiday in the Alps with her 17-year-old daughter Jade.

Shocking investigation

Prosecutors say the probe started after lawyers for suspected terrorists filed a new affidavit.

The affidavit was made public by Mr Kiriakou, who is accused of leaking the names of other covert operatives to the media.

British mother, 45, dies suddenly on chairlift next to her teenage daughter while on ski holiday in the Alps

Severe storms in US kill two, injure dozens

Clay, 24 Jan — Violent weather including several tornadoes roared across the state on Monday, injuring dozens of people and killing at least two, including a man who lived in an area devastated by a deadly tornado outbreak in the spring.

The storms flattened homes and pool fences in the middle of the night in the rural community of Oak Grove near Birmingham.

As dawn broke, residents surveyed the damage and began cleaning up across parts of central Alabama, an area that has a history of tornadoes going back decades.

In a sign that Alabama has become too familiar with severe weather, officials had to reschedule a meeting Monday to receive a report on their response to the spring twisters.

Alabama’s governor declared a state of emergency for the entire state. Oak Grove was hit hard in April when tornadoes killed about 240 people worldwide, though experts said none of the same neighbourhoods was struck again.
Statement at the Conclusion of the 2011 Article IV Mission to Myanmar

Myanmar's already limited external competitiveness. On the sustained, exchange rate appreciation could undermine exports, although Myanmar, as in 2008, remains largely pressurized by large foreign inflows into the country. The appreciation in effective terms since end-FY 2009/10. The appreciation of the exchange rate would require moving away from the export-first policy. In light of the appreciation pressures, certain exchange restrictions can be removed immediately, for example, by allowing the use of all foreign currency bank account balances for imports, easing import licensing requirements and access to the newly-established foreign exchange reserve account. A successful exchange rate unification would require improvements in all areas of macroeconomic management. This will help to start building a monetary policy framework to focus on price stability. The authorities' plan to grant operational autonomy and accountability to CBM is a welcome first institutional step towards this goal. While the recent reduction in interest rates is welcome, we do not see room for further interest rate cuts in the near term in light of the buoyant growth expectations and the inflation outlook. Within the current regulatory constraints on financial intermediation and impediments to productive investment, lower real interest rates would risk channeling savings to potentially speculative outlets, such as real estate. In this context of stimulating productive investment is now on structural policies to reduce barriers to private sector development and improve financial intermediary. Further reducing inflation would require stopping the financing of the fiscal budget deficits through money creation. The authorities made some progress by revising the fixed exchange rate structure to the state of greater exchange rate flexibility for bond purchases. Efforts should now be geared towards establishing treasury bond auctions to fully bond finance the deficit at market-determined interest rates. Expanding the retail sales of treasury bonds would also be useful, by allowing private banks to sell treasury bonds to their retail customers and by lifting restrictions on state banks' holdings of treasury securities.

"The discussion of the 2012/13 budget in the new parliament provides a historic opportunity to redefine national spending priorities and bring fiscal transparency. We welcome the authorities' commitment to spending on health and education, while targeting a moderate fiscal deficit, which we project to be about 4.6 percent of GDP, about 1 percent lower than the last year's deficit. A prudent fiscal policy is essential to maintain macroeconomic stability, especially during the exchange rate unification process. The exchange rate unification is expected to improve fiscal revenues. However, a market-determined exchange rate will also transparently reveal the losses of state economic enterprises (SEEs), especially those that rely on imported goods. Overall, the fiscal balance is expected to improve in the medium term, but mainly due to new gas exports from Shwe and Zaribaua projects once they come on line. These additional gas revenues should help build human capital and infrastructure. These are key priorities to alleviate poverty and reduce bottlenecks to industrialization. The strengthened fiscal position of Myanmar would require additional fiscal revenues, primarily from non-resource based sources, to safeguard fiscal sustainability and prevent boom-and-bust cycles associated with fluctuations in commodity prices. There is room to increase revenues by improved tax policies that should emphasis direct taxation over indirect taxes to protect the poor. In this regard, recent efforts to simplify the structure of several taxes are welcome and should go further, while reforms to tax administration remain essential to broaden tax bases and reduce tax avoidance.

"The adoption of a market-determined exchange rate in SEEs' operations would allow better assessment of their performance and provide additional incentives to promote export-led reforms. These efforts should focus on containing their losses by gradually reducing regressive subsidies, which benefit higher income groups, to protect the most vulnerable poor. Further privatization and allowing SEEs to operate on a commercial basis are also needed to foster private sector-led growth.

"Modernization of the financial system should be expedited to facilitate broad-based growth. Improvements to financial intermediation should begin by phasing out the deposit-to-capital ratio and expanding the list of collateral, including to all crops. Expansion of bank networks, especially rural areas, is essential to increase access to finance. Nurturing a stronger commercial banking culture requires price competition. Interest rate liberalization started with some freedom in setting deposit rates, and should be extended to loan products. A level playing field between state and private banks, including in the areas of regulation and supervision, is critical to promote competition. The move towards a market- determined exchange rate calls for enhanced regulation and supervision of banks. Allowing joint ventures with foreign banks would expedite the transfer technology and prepare the sector for ASEAN financial integration in 2015. The agriculture sector needs more credit to increase productivity and improve rural livelihoods. Besides increasing lending facilities of Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank and micro finance, private banks should also be encouraged to lend to agriculture. The planned land reform provides a unique opportunity, and should ensure that land titles of farmers can be used as collateral. However, credit lines will not be adequate unless rural people are adequately insured against poverty. Investment in rural infrastructure, including through community-driven development initiatives, and spending on health and education, are also essential.

"Recent steps to improve competition in key sectors, such as gasoline and palm oil imports, have been successful to reduce informal market activity and reduce prices. These positive examples can easily be multiplied by eliminating nontransparent licensing practices. Replicating the success of FDI in the energy sector in other sectors would contribute significantly to private sector development, help diversify the economy, and open up new export opportunities. Elimination of exchange restrictions on current international payments and transfers is essential to facilitate FDI. The planned development of special economic zones would address infrastructure bottlenecks and attract FDI. However, promoting private sector development will require stronger efforts to improve the business climate. Reducing the cost of doing business would aid the emergence of viable small and medium size enterprises.

The information about world class wooden sculpture contest and sale becomking to visitors

"King Kong film. Various kinds and sizes of sculptures occupy just about every space of ground floor, first floor and outside of the plaza. So, it is no wonder that the fair was named world class sculpture contest and sale.

"The fair poses to seek arts and sculpture beyond outside of the plaza. So, it is occupy just about every space. A contest and sale was jointly organized by Central Cooperative Ltd and Kaung Kyi contest and sale. For every contest, first, second and third prizes will be presented. First prize is K one million and condolence prize is K two million, second prize is K 500,000, and third prize is K 500,000.

"Such fair was exhibited under the title of "Myanmar arts and sculpture beyond Nargis" in 2009 and "Myanmar arts and sculpture exhibition" in 2010. This time, the arts and sculpture contest and sale was organized by Central Cooperative Ltd and Kaung Kyi contest and sale. For every contest, first, second and third prizes will be presented. First prize is K one million and condolence prize is K two million.

"The fair was categorized into four sub-committees. The sub-committees were Arts and Sculpture, Architecture, Design and Craft, and Industry.

"The sizable development needs of Myanmar would require additional fiscal revenues, primarily from non-resource based sources, to safeguard fiscal sustainability and prevent boom-and-bust cycles associated with fluctuations in commodity prices. There is room to increase revenues by improved tax policies that should emphasis direct taxation over indirect taxes to protect the poor. In this regard, recent efforts to simplify the structure of several taxes are welcome and should go further, while reforms to tax administration remain essential to broaden tax bases and reduce tax avoidance.

"The adoption of a market-determined exchange rate in SEEs' operations would allow better assessment of their performance and provide additional incentives to promote export-led reforms. These efforts should focus on containing their losses by gradually reducing regressive subsidies, which benefit higher income groups, to protect the most vulnerable poor. Further privatization and allowing SEEs to operate on a commercial basis are also needed to foster private sector-led growth.

"Modernization of the financial system should be expedited to facilitate broad-based growth. Improvements to financial intermediation should begin by phasing out the deposit-to-capital ratio and expanding the list of collateral, including to all crops. Expansion of bank networks, especially rural areas, is essential to increase access to finance. Nurturing a stronger commercial banking culture requires price competition. Interest rate liberalization started with some freedom in setting deposit rates, and should be extended to loan products. A level playing field between state and private banks, including in the areas of regulation and supervision, is critical to promote competition. The move towards a market-determined exchange rate calls for enhanced regulation and supervision of banks. Allowing joint ventures with foreign banks would expedite the transfer technology and prepare the sector for ASEAN financial integration in 2015. The agriculture sector needs more credit to increase productivity and improve rural livelihoods. Besides increasing lending facilities of Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank and micro finance, private banks should also be encouraged to lend to agriculture. The planned land reform provides a unique opportunity, and should ensure that land titles of farmers can be used as collateral. However, credit lines will not be adequate unless rural people are adequately insured against poverty. Investment in rural infrastructure, including through community-driven development initiatives, and spending on health and education, are also essential.

"Recent steps to improve competition in key sectors, such as gasoline and palm oil imports, have been successful to reduce informal market activity and reduce prices. These positive examples can easily be multiplied by eliminating nontransparent licensing practices. Replicating the success of FDI in the energy sector in other sectors would contribute significantly to private sector development, help diversify the economy, and open up new export opportunities. Elimination of exchange restrictions on current international payments and transfers is essential to facilitate FDI. The planned development of special economic zones would address infrastructure bottlenecks and attract FDI. However, promoting private sector development will require stronger efforts to improve the business climate. Reducing the cost of doing business would aid the emergence of viable small and medium size enterprises.
Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo facilitates all-sector …

(from page 16)

The acting chief minister explained providing electricity in the region, communication, clearing Dawei River course and plans to bring about better road transportation.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein explained the region’s favourable geographical landscape and rich natural resources to establish mining and water-related industries, commercial production of oil-palm, rubber and pepper, and chances to utilize existing border gates and jetties for regional development.


Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo explained measures to be taken for upgrading of schools as required by the local people, providing electricity to Dawei SEZ and Dawei, Anyarpha Hydropower Project and future plans, and construction of Yebyu-Dawei River-spanning Bridge.

Then, he discussed coordination made the previous day while inspecting Dawei SEZ for participation of local entrepreneurs and regional plans in five-year communication project.

He then assessed the regional reports of the township administrator and deputy commissioners. In his remarks, he said that 0.5 million acres have so far been grown out of the targeted 0.5 million acres of oil-palm plantation in Taninthayi Region and called for continued cultivation of rubber.

He continued that upon completion of Dawei Special Economic Zone Project, Dawei will develop by leaps and bounds. With jobs opportunities created by the project, Myanmar workers working abroad will see increased chances of working back at motherland. He went on that there had been unemployment due to economic sanctions which resulted in closure of domestic industries. Owing to rare job opportunities at home, job seekers had targeted foreign countries. During the job-seeking process, they became the victims of human traffickers.

He continued that the government in cooperation with the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Labour Ministry and foreign embassy concerned handle such issue after coordinating with foreign countries concerned.

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Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental officials...

(from page 16)

He then coordinated with Union ministers concerned for provision of a fire engine, construction of bridges, upgrading of hospitals and fulfillment of requirements of the fish wholesale market for Taninthayi Township, Palaw Township, Kyunsu Township and Palauk Sub-township.

Giving instructions, the Vice-President said for Taninthay Region, it is necessary to exceed the target production of rice as the region has not enjoyed self-sufficiency in rice. Then, he called for ensuring the proportionate ratio of Myeik District primary assistance teachers and students and maintaining the good pass rate of matriculation as before.

He also called for the region’s efforts for more development of the fishery sector. The Vice-President went on to say that in order to ensure State peace and stability, talks and negotiations have been held with national race armed groups after forming peace-making groups. As a result, ceasefire agreement has been reached and the nation has reached a certain degree of unification. Continued efforts are being made for ensuring lasting peace.

Today, under the President’s leadership, 8-point rural development and poverty alleviation plan is being implemented. As the government is working hard to reduce poverty rate to 16 percent in 2015, public cooperation is necessary.

Moreover, necessary measures such as amending laws and relaxing taxes and procedures in order to facilitate business and investment cooperation with the international community.

The government is also providing student grants and scholarships in order to enable every citizen to have access to free primary education and every school-age child to go to school and pursue constant learning. In this context, cooperation between teachers, parents and students is needed to promote national education, added the Vice-President.

In conclusion, the Vice-President said all executive bodies and the people are to cooperate and coordinate in the government’s endeavours for State peace and stability, national development and rural development and poverty alleviation programme.

Afterwards, Hi Fi entrepreneur U Soe Win presented MPT satellite terminals donated by Shwe Than Lwin Co to Myeik Technological University Principal Dr Tint Hsan.

After the meeting, the Vice-President cordially greeted those present. Then, the Vice-President and party spent the night in Myeik.
Meeting on successful holding of Myanmar Motion Picture Outstanding Award ceremony takes place

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—A coordination meeting on successful holding of Myanmar Motion Picture Outstanding Award ceremony for 2010 took place at the Ministry of Information here this morning with an address by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandra Khin, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, departmental heads, Myanmar Motion Picture Association chairman and officials.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union Minister said systematic arrangements will be made to hold a grander ceremony of Myanmar Motion Picture Outstanding Award this year. In doing so, it is necessary to have fun and joy on one hand and to ensure discipline on the other. Systematic measures must be taken in order not to affect others’ fun due to one’s weakening discipline, added the Union Minister. He continued that admission tickets will be distributed in advance not only for those from the film world but for departmental personnel in Nay Pyi Taw, regional authorities, NGOs and movie fans. So, departments concerned are to take responsibility to distribute the tickets systematically. As such a ceremony appeals to the public audience from across the country, cooperation is needed to ensure a systematic, beautiful occasion as well as security. This year, the ceremony will be held as a novelty programme with the use advanced information technology, said the Union Minister.

Then, he called for discussions and suggestions to expose strengths and weaknesses. Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint reported on preparations for the ceremony. Forever Co Ltd Chairman U Win Myint on the use of IT at the ceremony.

MPF Chief Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun on security matters and officials on their respective sectors.

In response to the reports, the Union Minister coordinated and fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Union Energy Minister, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister oversee regional development tasks in Myanmar Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—A ceremony to handover fire engine to Township Fire Brigade in Myanaung of Ayeyawady Region was held at Aungzeya Hall of the town on 22 January.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe, Region Planning and Economy Minister U Hla Htay, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Departmental Heads, Mandalay Region Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, departmental heads, Myanmar Motion Picture Association chairman and officials.

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Fourth session on Myanmar-Philippines Policy Consultation held

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Fourth session on Myanmar-Philippines Policy Consultation Meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday morning. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Philippine Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Mdy bank blood honours blood donors

Mandalay General Hospital Dr U Win explained procedures for donating blood. In-charge of the blood bank pathologist Dr Daw Khin Sein Win and the Shwehtihsaung Sayadaw expressed thanks.

Honorary medals and certificates were conferred on blood donor monks, nuns and laypersons.

The ceremony was also attended by Region Finance and Revenue Minister U Aung Maung and Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Hlaing.

Kidney, liver and heart can be successfully transplanted in today’s advancing medical world. For such surgical operations, the blood, which could not be invented, is a deciding factor. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—National Blood Bank of Mandalay General Hospital praised blood donors for 35th time at Myanmar Medical Association (Mandauy) in Chanayethazan Township on 21 January, with an address by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.

Medical Superintendent of Mandalay General Hospital Dr U Win Hlaing.

Ms Erlinda F Basilio, Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Helen B De La Vega and departmental heads. The deputy ministers exchanged views on developments of Myanmar, bilateral ties, trade and investment, mutual cooperation in agriculture, forestry, culture, tourism, aviation, and human resources development and regional issues.—MNA

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Justice Secretary Kenneth
in a silver Mercedes, with the
punched the driver.

They then smashed the
prison in Redditch in central

Workers at Disney's theme
park workers since

Disney parks relax staff beard ban

The army says Sarabia is know as “The Architect,” and

The bird eggs thefts took

The nominations for this
years’ Oscars are announced

But a commission
spokesperson said there was

Arson attack destroy 12 police

The 12 cars were parked
in a well-

The House of Commons
commission, which is
responsible for the upkeep of
the 19th century neo-Gothic
parliamentary estate popular
with tourist photographs,
due to meet on Monday.
Media reports said it would
discuss a surveyor’s report
which could recommend
lawmakers move out for
repairs costing up to £1bn, but
the Daily Telegraph
said another proposal might be
to sell to Russian or
Chinese developers for about
£500m.

Although the police
spokesperson said there was
no sign of a link to a 45-year-old resident
who was killed on Friday night, authorities
remain concerned the incident
is part of an ongoing crime pattern.

The flight, which was
taking off from a Dubai airport,
was Redirected to Pakistan
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It was also revealed that 332 additional flights have
flown in from China, the
during the Chinese New Year as additional flights continue
to fly in from China, the

Airport management have
taken steps to ensure the safety of
all passengers, including increased
security checks at all checkpoints.

The airport also reported that
the number of passengers arriving
during the Chinese New Year holiday
is expected to be higher than
previous years.

AOT president.

Airports

AOT President Flying Officer Anirut Thanom-kulbutra
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Cryosat-2: Esa’s newest

ARCHIVE

A satellite launched by the European Space Agency (Esa) has begun to gather data on the Arctic ice, using microwave radar to map the sea surface height. The information will help scientists understand how the ice is changing and how it is of value to the climate system.

A. W. P. T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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The buyer, who
drived by a permanent anti-

Arctic, the Beaufort Gyre is

Beaufort Gyre. This would force the

the centre of the gyre and

or leads, that frequently

appear in the frozen frozen. The
data (1995-2010) indicates a

significant swelling of water

in the Beaufort Gyre, particularly since the early

part of the 2000s. The rising
trend has been running at 2cm per year. Internet

Ridley Park, 24 Jan—Police said a

carjacke shot and wounded a Philadelphia-
snake woman in her 20s. The victim, who
drove a small car, was approached by two men who
told her to hand over her money. She resisted and was

hit by the police, who were called to the scene by a

witness who heard the gunshots.

The man, aged 35, was taken to hospital with

serious injuries and is expected to recover. The

woman, aged 24, was not seriously injured.

The police are appealing for information about the

incident and ask anyone who may have seen

what happened to come forward.

**Kirkby**

A major incident involving police, coastguard

and fire crews has been declared in Kirkby

after a boat crashed into a jetty.

The boat, carrying six people, is

said to have been hit by a large wave

and capsized. The rescue teams

are currently working to
clear the debris and recover

the injured people.

There are reports that some of the

passengers have been injured

and are receiving medical assistance on board the

boat. Emergency services are

at the scene and are working to

ensure the safety of all those

involved.
An international team of scientists has demonstrated the first soap that responds to magnets. This means the soap and the materials that it dissolves can be removed easily by applying a magnetic field. Experts say that with further development, it could find applications in cleaning up oil spills and waste water.

Details of the new soap, which contains iron atoms, are reported in the chemistry journal Angewandte Chemie. It is similar to ordinary soap, but the atoms of iron help form tiny particles that are easily removed magnetically. “If you’d have said about 10 years ago to a chemist: ‘Let’s have some soap that responds to magnets’, they’d have looked at you with a very blank face,” said co-author Julian Eastoe of the University of Bristol. He told The BBC News: “We were interested to see, if you went back to the chemical drawing board with the tool-kit of modern synthetic chemistry, if you could... design one.”

Soap is made of long molecules with ends that behave differently. One end of the molecule is attracted to water and the other is repelled by it.

The number of fines for illegal dumping in New York City increased by 46 percent in 2011.

NYC Illegal-dumping fines up
46 percent

New York City records revealed the number of fines for illegally dumping residential trash in street bins increased by 46 percent in 2011. The city Sanitation Department said the number of $100 fines increased from 2,512 in 2010 to 3,681 in 2011 partly due to an increase in complaints from residents and elected officials, the New York Daily News reported Monday. City Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. of Queens said someone crammed a plastic garbage bag into the narrow opening of a street bin near his office last week. He said he wants to see the city increase the fine from $100 to $200 to discourage potential offenders.

“Clearly, more can be done when it comes to the abuses of our city garbage cans,” Vallone said.

Robbie Williams plans art show
and is now planning to showcase his best paintings.

“His stuff has been getting better. I don’t know if he plans to sell them, but I am sure they would fetch a good price. It would be something to talk about when people ask who’d done the painting on your lounge wall.” contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying.

Williams, who married to actress Ayda Field, previously revealed he had taken up painting during preparations for Take That’s “Progress Live” tour last year.

Julia Roberts to star in ‘The Normal Heart’

LONDON, 24 Jan—Hollywood actress Julia Roberts has been roped in to star in Ryan Murphy’s new film “The Normal Heart.”

The Oscar-winning actress is being joined by Alec Baldwin, Matt Bornier and Jan Parsons in the movie, which chronicles the rise of the HIV/AIDS crisis in New York in the 1980s. In the film, Roberts will play the role of wheelchair-bound doctor Emma Brookner, reported contactmusic.com.

Larry Kramer has written the script for the movie, which is being adapted from the theme show of the same name. Mark Ruffalo has already been signed up for the role of Ned Weeks in the movie. Alec Baldwin will portray Mark’s brother, a lawyer who is struggling to deal with his son’s sexuality. It will be the second time Ryan and Julia have worked together following the success of “Eat Pray Love.”

Magnetic soap could help in oil spill clean-ups

A rare cast of Stalin’s death mask goes for auction

A rare cast of the death mask of the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin will be auctioned in Shropshire later. The cast was taken in bronze from the original plaster death mask by an art dealer who was visiting Moscow in 1990.

Richard Westwood-Brookes, from the Church Street based auction house Mullock’s, said: “There are we believe the only two of these in the West.” The auction also includes casts of Stalin’s right hand and his withered left hand. Mr Westwood-Brookes said that if official portraits the Soviet dictator always hid this physical deformity. He said: “The casts that we have here show that his hand was a little withered thing, so you are seeing Stalin as he really was.”

The guide price for the death mask is between £3,000 and £5,000.— Internet

George Lucas: “I’m retiring”

“Indiana Jones” movie’s heroine, Saoirse Ronan, has been roped in to play the lead in director Nicolas Winding Refn’s rumoured ‘Wonder Woman’ movie.

The mixed martial arts star-turned-actress plays a badass character in Steven Soderbergh’s ‘Haywire’ which wowed Blake Lively, Debra Winger, Debbie Harry, Calvin Klein and Grace Coddington at a Cinema Society screening, the New York Post reported.

‘Haywire’ also stars Channing Tatum, Michael Fassbender, Ewan McGregor, Michael Angarano, Antonio Banderas, Michael Douglas, and Bill Paxton. Talking about the Wonder Woman role in an interview, Carano had said that she would be interested in such a project. She would definitely be into working with [Refn],” she told Vulture.

“One of my favourite superhero movies is Hancock—did you see it? If they could do a superhero movie in a more realistic fashion where you could actually believe in it, I would be up for that. It could still be playful, but that’s what I’m representing — the fighting would be real. More than anything, I would want Wonder Woman to be believable, you know?” she said.— Internet
Sneijder rules out Premier League move

MANCHESTER, 24 Jan—Wesley Sneijder has ruled out a move to the Premier League during the January transfer window. The Dutchman has been linked with both Manchester City and Manchester United in recent months, with the Old Trafford club particularly keen to land him as they seek a long-term replacement for Paul Scholes.

But Sneijder has made it clear he intends to stay at Inter Milan. "I am in good shape and I feel well," Sneijder said to Gazzetta dello Sport. "The future? I stay at Inter, I feel good here."

"How much is left until the end of this transfer window? A week, no? I’m staying here."—Internet

QPR thwarted in bid to sign Brazilian striker

Henrique

LONDON, 24 Kan—QPR have failed in their bid to sign Brazilian striker Henrique after a work permit application was turned down. Henrique had spoken to new QPR manager Mark Hughes about joining from Sao Paulo on a reported 18-month loan deal, with a permanent transfer option.

The 20-year-old, the player of the tournament at the Under-20 World Cup last summer, claimed the move was "a fantastic opportunity". However, the BBC understands that the club will not appeal at the decision. A QPR spokesman said: "He didn’t get a work permit for various reasons." It was determined at a hearing on Monday that Henrique did not satisfy the required criteria for a permit. Reasons for the refusal would have included his limited experience in football, and the absence of senior international caps. Henrique had told the Sun: "I know a lot of clubs are interested in me but, when I spoke to Mark Hughes and QPR, they made me feel very excited about their plans."

Internet

Mario Balotelli charged with violent conduct by FA

LONDON, 24 Jan—Manchester City’s Mario Balotelli has been charged with violent conduct by the Football Association after appearing to stamp on Scott Parker. The incident occurred in City’s 3-2 win over Tottenham, with Balotelli scoring a late penalty to win the game.

Sunday’s match. Following a dismissal earlier this season Balotelli, 21, faces a four-match ban, but any unsuccessful appeal could result in a longer suspension. Joleon Lescott will not be punished after a clash with Younès Kaboul. Manchester City defender Lescott caught Kaboul in the face with his forearm in a separate incident at Etihad Stadium. Italy striker Balotelli, who has until 1100 GMT on Wednesday to respond to the charge, came on as a 65th-minute substitute against Spurs. He was booked for a foul on Benoit Assou-Ekotto but, after escaping punishment from referee Howard Webb following his clash with Parker, the striker was foiled by Ledley King in the final minute of added time and converted the resulting penalty. If he pleads guilty, Balotelli will miss Wednesday’s Carling Cup semi-final second leg against Liverpool at Anfield. However, should the Italian international decide to appeal he will be available for that tie, with a hearing likely to take place later this week.

The normal punishment for violent conduct is a three-match suspension but Balotelli was sent-off in the league match at Liverpool in November so would incur an additional one-game ban.

Internet

Zlatan Ibrahimovic wins Serie A player of 2011

MILAN, 24 Jan—AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been voted the Serie A player of 2011 by his fellow players, and the Rossoneri won another award with Thiago Silva being named Allegri winning best coach. The trophies were handed out Monday at a ceremony and were voted on by more than 5,000 people, made up of footballers, coaches, referees and journalists.

Alongside Ibrahimovic in the team of the year were: Antonio Di Natale, Edin Džeko, Stephan El Shaarawy, Thiago Silva of Brazil, Kevin Prince Boateng of Ghana, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic of Sweden, pose at the “Gran Gala del calcio” show, where the best Serie A players are selected, in Milan, Italy, on 23 Jan, 2012. Internet

From left, AC Milan players Stephan El Shaarawy, Thiago Silva of Brazil, Kevin Prince Boateng of Ghana, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic of Sweden pose at the “Gran Gala del calcio” show, where the best Serie A players are selected, in Milan, Italy, on 23 Jan, 2012. Internet

Tiger Woods to make debut in Abu Dhabi Championship

LONDON, 24 Jan—Former world number one Tiger Woods has opted to play in Abu Dhabi this week, and he could be back in the world top 10 if he were to win the tournament.

The 14-time major champion dropped out of the top 50 last month but rose to 21st after ending a two-year wait for a title at the Chevron World Challenge. In his first event since, he will now make his Abu Dhabi Championships debut. The world’s top four, Luke Donald, Lee Westwood, Rory McIlroy and Martin Kaymer, are also in action this week.

In rankings terms, it is the second best field for a European Tour event outside the four majors and World Championship events since the list began in 1986. Woods normally chooses to begin his season in America at the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines, near San Diego.

The 36-year-old has won five times at the course, which was also the venue for the last of his 14 majors, the 2008 US Open.

Internet

Clijsters beats Wozniacki to move into semifinals

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan—Kim Clijsters is moving on to the Australian Open semifinals, and Caroline Wozniacki is moving out of the top spot.

Two days after saving four match points and spraining her left ankle in a fourth-round win over French Open champion Li Na, Clijsters showed no signs of weakness as she continued her return from a long injury absence. The four-time major winner next plays third-seeded Victoria Azarenka, who beat No. 8 Agnieszka Radwanska 6-7 (0), 6-0, 6-2, earlier Tuesday to move into the semis of a Grand Slam for the second time.

Internet

Kim Clijsters of Belgium reacts after winning a point against Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark during their quarterfinal at the Australian Open tennis championships, in Melbourne, Australia, on 24 Jan, 2012. Internet

Wozniacki needed to reach the semifinals to retain the top ranking she has held at the end of the last two seasons. Her place in the rankings has attracted some criticism because the 21-year-old Dane has never won a major. But even after another major setback, Wozniacki remained confident: “I’ll not only reclaim the top ranking but will get her Grand Slam breakthrough.”

Internet

Henrique helped Brazil win the Under-20 World Cup last year.—Internet

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Alongside Ibrahimovic in the team of the year were: Antonio Di Natale, Edin Džeko, Stephan El Shaarawy, Thiago Silva of Brazil, Kevin Prince Boateng of Ghana, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic of Sweden, pose at the “Gran Gala del calcio” show, where the best Serie A players are selected, in Milan, Italy, on 23 Jan, 2012. Internet

From left, AC Milan players Stephan El Shaarawy, Thiago Silva of Brazil, Kevin Prince Boateng of Ghana, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic of Sweden pose at the “Gran Gala del calcio” show, where the best Serie A players are selected, in Milan, Italy, on 23 Jan, 2012. Internet

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Cash donated for construction of highway bus terminal

WAKAMA, 24 Jan—A cash donation for construction of highway bus terminal was held at Manaw Thukha Chairman of Wakema Township Association (Yangon) Lt-Col Arnt Kyaw (Rtd) explained purpose of donation and Township Administrator U Soe Tun, construction of highway bus terminal.

The chairman donates K 10 million to Chairman of the Bad Line Control Committee U Than Aung.

Anushka Sharma and Chitrangda Singh

MUMBAI, 24 Jan—Another page of my mom’s diary speaks about the new best friends in town. And they are not a boy and girl.

Turns out that it’s Anushka Sharma and Chitrangda Singh. The heroines, both from Delhi, have been extremely thick buddies and hang around quite a bit, although their repertoire of work is as alike as chalk and cheese. Recently, they caught up back stage for the Colors’ Screen Awards.

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-1-2012) (Wednesday)

7:00 am  1. Parrita By Venerable Mingun Sayawd
12:30 am  2. NICE & SWEET SONG
12:45 am  3. Health Programme
12:45 pm  4. Documentary
1:00 pm  5. 1st Anniversary of Charity Event (Save the Aged)
2:00 pm  6. Dance of National Races
2:30 pm  7. Health Programme
2:30 pm  8. Dance of National Races
4:00 pm  9. Dance of National Races
5:00 pm  10. Martial Song
5:15 pm  11. TV Quiz

Weather for 25th January, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions/States</th>
<th>Weather Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Kachin</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Kayah</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Kayin</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Chin</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Upper Sagaing</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Lower Sagaing</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Magway</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Neighbour Yangon</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Neighbour Magway</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Mandalay</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Mon</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Yangon</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Rakhine</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Southern Shan</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Northern Shan</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Eastern Shan</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Neighbour Nay Pyi Taw</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Neighbour Yangon</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Neighbour Mandalay</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Taunggyi</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Magway</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Inle Lake</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Neighbour Shan</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Inle Lake</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Neighbour Shan</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nadal beats Berdych at Australian Open, sets up

Semifinal clash with Federer

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan—World No.2 Rafael Nadal defeated Czech Tomas Berdych in four grueling sets to set up a much anticipated clash with arch rival Roger Federer in the semifinal of the 2012 Australian Open.

2009 champion Rafael Nadal posted a come-from-behind victory over Czech Tomas Berdych and advanced to the semifinals of the 2012 Australian Open, season’s first Grand Slam being played here in Melbourne, Australia.

Nadal opened the match on a “not-so-perfect” note and struggled to hold all his service games before the set went into a tie-break, favouring Tomas Berdych. As the match did not get off to a great start for the Spaniard, he decided to take things into his own hands this time and clinched an early break of serve. The break was soon traded by Berdych and as a result, the second set also went into a tie-break, luckily favouring the persistent Nadal.

The third set kick started for Berdych who grabbed hold of a break, only to lose the lead and eventually the set as well, giving Nadal a formidable two sets lead. The fourth set turned out to be an easy affair for the Spaniard who broke Berdych’s serve repeatedly to seal the 6-7(5), 7-6(6), 6-4, 6-3 win in four hours and 16 minutes of play.

Nadal hit 57 winners to a surprising 66 winners and 17 aces from Berdych but also capitalised on the 56 unforced errors committed by the Czech in sealing the deal. Nadal now faces arch rival and third seed Roger Federer in the semifinal. Earlier today, Federer scored a comprehensive 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 win over Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro to advance to the last four of the event.—Internet
Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo facilitates all-sector development of Taninthayi Region

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Arriving in Dawei of Taninthayi Region, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo met officials, departmental staff and townsmen of the Region at Town Hall yesterday morning. He was accompanied by Union ministers, Acting Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko, the Region Hluttaw speaker, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win from Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

Dawei Township Administrator U Chan Nyein Aung and Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Swe reported land utilization, rainfall, targeted yield and production of 10 major crops, net production and service till the end of December of 2011-2012 fiscal year, per capita income, education, healthcare, implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation tasks and requirements of the Region.

Local entrepreneur U Khin Maung Aye, U Kyaw Thaung and U Kyaw Kyaw Oo discussed matters related to participation in Dawei Special Economic Zone and Deep Sea Port project, opening of Dawei River course, construction of Dawei River-crossing Bridge in Yebyu Township, and providing assistance for education, communication and electricity.

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo views the learning of students at Language Lab of BEHS-1 in Dawei.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental officials and townsmen of Myeik

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, accompanied by Union ministers, Acting Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win from Commander-in-Chief’s Office (Army), Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay, deputy ministers and departmental heads visited Myeik yesterday.

On arrival at Myeik Airport from Dawei, the Vice-President and party were welcomed by Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Trade Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Investment and Industrial Development Committee U Htay Myint and personnel. The Vice-President met region, district and township departmental personnel and townsmen at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik.

Myeik Township Administrator U Thein Win and deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo reported to the Vice-President on education, health, social affairs, economy, agriculture and livestock farming, production and exportation of marine products, net production and service till the end of December of 2011-2012 fiscal year, per capita income, progress in implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation scheme and requirements of the region.

Next, two locals reported on requirements of new Myeik town and fish wholesale market of Myeik and needs for further development of fish production industry.

Acting Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko explained measures for sector-wise development of the region and follow-up plans.

Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe explained measures for increased power supply to the region, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan grounds for development of smoke-loss industry and production of national athletes from the region, Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Tint Lwin measures for further development of communication sector of the region and the country, Deputy Construction Minister U Soe Tint current transport facilities of the region and follow-up tasks and Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Trade Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein Pyithu Hluttaw affairs.

The Vice-President said that he was there today to learn about the current conditions of Taninthayi Region and fulfill its requirements, on behalf of the President. He made discussion regarding the request for upgrading of schools and power supply made by Myeik District.

(See page 8)