President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win to pay goodwill visit to Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—At the invitation of His Excellency Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Khin Khin Win will pay a goodwill visit to the Republic of Singapore in the near future.

Our Three Main National Causes

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

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Indian President

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India.

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Australian Governor-General

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26th January 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.—MNA

President U Thein Sein receives Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and party

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Jonas Gahr Store of Norway at the Credentials Hall of President Residence here, at 3 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 at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and departmental heads.

The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and party were accompanied by Norwegian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ms Katja Nordgaard. They had a cordial discussion on progress of internal politics and matters related to bilateral cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Jonas Gahr Store and party at the Credentials Hall of President Residence in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Thursday, 26 January, 2012**

**With Dawei beginning**

Dawei is a resource-rich region. Also a well-known region it was because of its enormous land and water resources. But it was like a tree that has never been in bloom.

Today, with fruits of peace and stability, development is foreseeable in Dawei region. As the government has put friendly international relations high on its agenda, economic opportunities are knocking at the door of Dawei region. I would like to say this is the beginning of new era of Dawei.

Dawei is being built to become commercial and transportation heart of the South-East Asia Region. Circumstances and conditions are ripe for Dawei to experience rapid development in near future. Special economic zone project covering an area of 204.51 square kilometers, about-160-kilometer long highway project from Dawei to Panunrun Village at Myanmar-Thailand border, and over-170-kilometer long railroad project from Dawei Port to Myanmar-Thailand border. These facilities will be the embellishments of Dawei region.

Likewise, Dawei Deep Port is being constructed to be able to cope with about-200000-ton ships as the first phase and is planned to serve about-300000-ton ships in the future. While the projects are kicking into gear, measures were taken to compensate the relocated villages with new settlements.

Meanwhile, Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law and Dawei Special Economic Zone Law were enacted for standardization of procedures of local and foreign businesses. In addition, necessary laws for Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone are in the course of formulation.

Establishment of Dawei Special Economic Zone is the turn-the-page move towards growth of Dawei region. I have strong belief that this move will attract local and foreign investments, create jobs and help develop modern technologies and knowledge, and increase number of skilled workers and investments all over the country, thereby facilitating national economic growth.

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**Road to Victory continues for second day**

**Yangon, 25 Jan**—The Road to Victory golf tournament, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation as a qualifier for Myanmar golfers in the Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012 golf tournament to be held from 2 to 5 February 2012, continued at Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club in Mingaladon Township this morning.

After the second round, Zaw Zaw Latt was leading the golf tournament with a six-under-per 138.

His followers were Myo-Win Aung with 143, Hla Myo with 144, Soe-Moe Win with 145, Min Naing with 145, Aung Win with 146, Nay Ba-la Win Myint with 146, Naing Naing Lin with 149, Soe Kyaw Naing with 149, Naing Ye Lin with 149, Myint Shwe with 150, Thein Zaw Myint with 150, Yan Myo Aye with 151, Zaw Zaw Win with 153, Bo Bo with 153, Aung Huan Win with 153, Ye Htet Aung with 154, Maung Maung Oo with 155, Yan Naing Phyoo with 156 and Yin Aung Latt with 156.

The third round will take place at the same venue tomorrow. —MNA

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**LOCAL SPORTS**

**Yangon, 25 Jan**—As a gesture of hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day, the Township Education Officer’s Shield Inter-Basic Education School U-10 and U-13 Football Tournament for 2011-2012 academic year was kicked off at the football ground of Basic Education High School No. 4 in Shwepyitha Township on 22 January afternoon.

Township Education Officer U Hla Yi made a speech.

Post-Primary School No. 35 and Basic Education Middle School No. 45 Branch met in the debut of the U-13 football event. The prizes will be awarded on the Union Day.

Myanma Alin

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**TEO’s Shield Football Tourney kicks off in Shwepyitha**

Township Education Officer U Hla Yi speaks at the opening of Township Education Officer’s Shield Inter-Basic Education School U-10 and U-13 Football Tournament.—MYANMA ALIN

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**AUSTRALIA DAY OBSERVED: Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin and wife being welcomed by Australian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ms Bronte Nadine Moulies at the reception to mark Australia Day at Australian Embassy in Yangon on 25 January.**—MNA
Isreali Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) speaks at a reception celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Israel in Tel Aviv on 24 Jan, 2012. Xinhua

Israel, China celebrates 20 years of diplomatic relations

celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. “We may be celebrating 20 years of relations, but our peoples are now celebrating a thousand years of friendship,” Netanyahu said. He mentioned China’s fair treatment towards the Jewish communities in the past, and the safe-haven given to them during the holocaust. “Like the Chinese people, the Jewish people have a long memory. We always remember our friends,” he said. The prime minister said that the friendship between the two sides can further deepen. “I think we barely scratched the surface of Israeli-Chinese relations. I have no doubt that in the coming years we’ll see a dramatic expansion of these ties,” he said.

“We’ve talked about doubling the trade (between the two countries). Well, I’d like to see a doubling of a doubling of the trade. I think Israel and China together are a winning combination,” Netanyahu said.

In addition to the prime minister, several other senior Israeli officials attended the reception, among them ministers, former ambassadors and envoys to China and key figures in the bilateral ties. Chinese ambassador Gao Yanying said that “Over the past 20 years our pragmatic cooperation has been booming. When we started our diplomatic relations in 1992, our two-way trade volume was only a little bit more than 50 million US dollars. Now the trade volume we have in two days equals that of the whole year of 1992.”

14 killed, 80 injured in spate of bomb attacks in Iraq

A second blast followed when another car bomb detonated in al-Dahili area inside the Shi'ite bastion of Sadr City, the source said, adding that the two attacks in Sadr City killed total of seven people and wounded some 35 others. Two more of Baghdad's Shi'ite bastions were also targeted by two car bombs, one of which detonated near two schools in Shula district in northern part of the capital, killing two people and wounding 18 others, the source said.

Another car bomb ripped through an al-Hurriyah district in northern Baghdad and killed a civilian and wounded 13 others, the source added. Militants on Tuesday also targeted the Iraqi police when gunmen in their car opened fire on the outer checkpoint of Talibani police station in the town of al-Khalidiyah, some 80 km west of Baghdad, killing two policemen and wounding three others, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, gunmen planted bombs in the house of a policeman and blew them up in Abu Ghrab area, some 20 km west of Baghdad, killing him and wounding his wife and three of his children, the source said.

In Baghdad, six civilians were wounded when a roadside bomb detonated in Adhamiya district in northern of the capital, the police said.

2,262 civilians killed in Afghanistan last year

KABUL, 25 Jan—A total of 2,262 Afghan civilians had been killed in militancy-hit Afghanistan last year, a local newspaper reported Wednesday. “A total of 2,262 Afghan civilians had been killed in violent incidents in the militancy-plagued Afghanistan,” citing a report of the US Congressional Research Service (CRS), the Daily Outlook reported.

According to the report, the civilian casualties had decreased in the conflict-ridden country compared with 2,777 in 2010.

According to the report of the US Congress, there was a similar decline in the casualties of Afghan army with 289 deaths in 2011 against 821 in 2010. “The death toll for Afghan police stood at 522 last year, lower than 1,292 in 2010,” the newspaper said based on the CRS report.

A total of 1,462 Afghan civilians had been killed in the first half of 2011, a 15 percent rise over the same period of 2010, according to the United Nations mid-year report released in Kabul in July, 2011.

However, against Afghan Human Rights Commission and the United Nations mission in Afghanistan said in a mid-year report that the number of civilian casualties had been soaring in the country in the first half of 2011. The report attributed 80 percent of the civilian deaths in the first six months of 2011 to the attacks of Taleban militants and other armed groups opposing the Afghan government, a claim rejected by the Taleban as baseless.

Residents comb through debris looking for personal belongings after a severe storm and possible tornado ripped through the Georgebrook subdivision area in Trussville, Alabama. Xinhua
Chemicals linked to lower vaccine response in children

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—Chemical compounds widely used in fast-food packaging, waterproof clothing and non-stick frying pans were linked in a study out Tuesday to lower immune response by young children to routine tetanus and diphtheria immunization shots. The study, in Tuesday’s Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), is the first to show how perfluorinated compounds negatively affect the response to vaccines. PFCs can be transferred to children before birth via the mother, or after birth from exposure in the environment, according to the report.

Researchers “were surprised by the steep negative association,” which suggests that PFC-containing compounds may negatively impact childhood vaccinations from PFCs should be viewed as a potential threat to public health,” said study author Philippe Grandjean with the Harvard School of Public Health. Grandjean appeared alarmed because routine childhood immunizations are “a mainstay of modern disease prevention.”

The survey, carried out over three years, found that sunscreen use fell by half, said a study published in the journal Pediatrics, a worrying trend since there is evidence that sun damage at a young age is tied to a higher risk of developing melanoma. The number of malaria cases in the United States has been rising for the past three decades, and around 70,230 new cases will be diagnosed this year, according to the American Cancer Society. “I think especially at this age, and in general, there are a lot of forces that promote tanning,” said Stephen Dusza, an epidemiologist at New York City and lead author of the study.

More kids seek tans, may raise skin cancer risk

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—As children go from elementary to junior high school, the desire to tan grows stronger while the use of sunscreens goes out the window, according to a survey — potentially raising the risk of getting deadly skin cancer later on.

The 2.49 trillion yen ($32 billion) deficit for 2011 reflected a 2.7 percent decline in the value of Japan’s exports to 65.55 trillion yen ($843 billion). In December, the trade balance was a deficit of 205.1 billion yen, according to the Ministry of Finance figures released Wednesday. “It reflects fundamental changes in Japan’s economy, particularly among manufacturers,” said Hideki Matsumura, senior economist at Japan Research Institute. “Japan is losing its competitiveness to produce domestically.” “It’s gotten difficult for manufacturers to export, so they’re moving production abroad so that products sold outside the country are made outside the country,” he said. —INTERNET

JAPAN posts first annual trade deficit since 1980

Tokyo, 25 Jan—Japan reported its first annual trade deficit since 1980 as it imported expensive energy to offset shortfalls caused by the devastating tsunami and manufacturers shifted production overseas to avoid the damage inflicted by the strong yen.

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Asian stocks rise as Apple result lifts tech shares

Japan’s Nikkei 225 index rose 1 percent to 18,876.61. South Korea’s Kospi fell 0.1 percent to 1,947.43 and Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 added 0.9 percent to 4,263.10. Benchmarks in Singapore and New Zealand rose, while shares in Indonesia and the Philippines fell.

Markets in Hong Kong, mainland China and Taipei remained closed for the Chinese New Year. Japan’s powerhouse export sector got a lift from a moderation in the yen’s strength even as the country reported its first annual trade deficit since 1980. A strong yen, which hit multiple historic highs last year against the dollar, shrinks the value of overseas earnings when repatriated and makes Japanese products less competitive.

Honda Motor Corp surged 4.2 percent. Mitsubishi Motor Corp jumped 4.4 percent and Sony Corp added 4.4 percent. Tire-maker Bridgestone Corp added 4.1 percent. Technology stocks were elevated after Apple Inc reported earnings that sailed past analyst estimates. Apple said late Tuesday it sold 37 million iPhones in the last three months of 2011. —INTERNET

The IMF is already lending to the region’s bailout fund and has a lead role in monitoring the progress that nations such as Greece make in reducing their government deficits. Germany, meanwhile, is also a large contributor to the bailout fund.

“The IMF has a fundamental divergence in points of view,” said Eswar Prasad, a former IMF official and economics professor at Cornell University. The IMF’s emphasis on growth is “a subtle but important shift in the prioritization of the reforms.”

IMF and Germany at odds over how to rescue Europe

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—Global leaders are sharply at odds over how to rescue Europe from its escalating debt crisis: Should they focus more urgently on economic growth or on budget cuts?

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Alzheimer’s: French scientists focus on key target

PARIS, 25 Jan—French scientists said on Tuesday that lack of a key brain protein was linked to Alzheimer’s, a finding that threw up a tempting target for drugs to fight the disease.

“What we’ve found is a weapon for combating and modifying the disease,” said Emeline Baillieux of France’s National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm), referring to a culprit involved in Alzheimer’s.

Building on earlier work, researchers delved into a Paris “brain bank,” of organs donated for medical science, to compare levels of a protein called FKBP52 among brains of people who had died of dementia and those who had died of other causes.

Tiny slivers of brain were extracted and their chemicals analysed. In the frontal cortex, “levels of FKBP52 were 75 percent lower among people who had died of Alzheimer’s and other tau diseases, a dramatic fall,” Baillieux told a Press conference.

Baillieux said FKBP52 was the best target that had surfaced so far in the fight against Alzheimer’s, a disease that is as cruel as it is baffling. A rogue protein that later became named tau was first spotted in 1912 by Alois Alzheimer, the German neuropathologist who gave his name to this relentless degenerative disease of the brain.

When normal tau begins a process called hyperphosphorylation, it starts to assemble in microscopic tangles inside brain cells, killing them. —INTERNET

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IMF Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde gestures during her speech about the economic changes in 2012 in the German Council Foreign Relations in Berlin, on 23 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

In this photo taken on 19 Jan, 2012, Japanese cars are unloaded from trailer trucks before being shipped for export at a port near Tokyo. —INTERNET

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IN THE NEWS: THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 26 January, 2012

Chemical compounds widely used in fast-food packaging, waterproof clothing and non-stick frying pans were linked in a study out Tuesday to lower immune response by young children to routine tetanus and diphtheria immunization shots. —INTERNET

Rampage dance performer swings their dragon in front of the electronic board at the trading floor as part of the celebration of Chinese New Year on 24 Jan, 2012 in Jakarta’s financial district of Makkati, Philippines.—INTERNET

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Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde gestures during her speech about the economic changes in 2012 in the German Council Foreign Relations in Berlin, on 23 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET
**First patients shown to improve with embryonic stem cells**

New York, 25 Jan—Before treatment, the 51-year-old graphic artist was legally blind, unable to read a single letter on a standard eye chart. She has suffered from Stargardt’s disease, the most common form of macular degeneration in young patients, since she was a teenager, and it was getting progressively worse.

A second patient, aged 78, suffered from dry macular degeneration— the leading cause of blindness in the elderly—and could not even see well enough to go shopping.

But after being treated with stem cells from a donated human embryo, both women have improved dramatically, researchers said on Monday.

Stem cells are master cells that can differentiate into any of the 200 kinds of cells in the human body.

Their results are the first-ever report of the medical use of stem cells taken from human embryos, making them crucial barometers of whether the controversial technique will ever find widespread therapeutic use.

In a paper published online in The Lancet on Monday, physicians at the University of California, Los Angeles, and scientists at biotechnology company Advanced Cell Technology report that the first two patients in the clinical trial suffered no adverse effects from the treatment and both seem to have benefited from it.

**Tiny European wasp makes US home**

Riverside, 25 Jan— A tiny wasp found in upstate New York that had never been seen before in the United States has turned up in California, researchers say.

A University of California, Riverside, entomologist who made both discoveries says it strongly suggests the fairly rare, originally from Europe, is well established in the United States.

Called Gonatocerus acustus, the wasp lays its eggs inside the eggs of leafhoppers, and the wasp larvae that hatch consume the leafhopper eggs.

**Google to merge user data across more services**

Los Angeles, 25 Jan—Google announced a plan Tuesday to link user data across its email, video, social-networking and other services that it says will create a “beautifully simple and intuitive” user experience.

But critics raised privacy concerns like those that helped kill the search giant’s Buzz social networking service.

The changes, which take effect 1 March, will remove some of the legal hurdles Google Inc faces in trying to link information across more services from Gmail to YouTube to the Google Plus social network that replaced Buzz.

More than 70 different company policies are being streamlined into one main privacy policy and about a dozen others. Separate policies will continue to govern products including Google’s Chrome Web browser and its Wallet service for electronic payments.

The company said the new system will give users more relevant search results and information, while helping advertisers find customers— especially on mobile devices.

“For example, if you spend an hour on Google searching the Web for skateboards, the next time you log into YouTube, you might get recommendations for videos featuring Tony Hawk, along with ads for his own merchandise and the nearest place to buy them,” Thompson said.

“If you’re signed into Google, we can do things like suggest search queries — or tailor your search results — based on the interests you’ve expressed in Google (Plus), Gmail and YouTube,” the company says on a new overview page for its privacy policies. “We’ll better understand (what) you’re searching for and get you those results faster.”

The changes follow the shutdown of Buzz last month.

**Sumatran elephants could be extinct in 30 years**

Jakarta, 25 Jan— The Sumatran elephant could be extinct in the wild within a decade unless immediate steps are taken to slow the breakneck pace of deforestation, environmentalists warned Tuesday.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature recently listed the animals as “critically endangered” after their numbers dropped to between 2,400 and 2,800 from an estimated 5,000 in 1985.

The decline is largely because of destruction of their habitat, with forests all across the Indonesian island of Sumatra being clear-cut for timber, palm oil and pulp and paper plantations.

Sumatra has some of the most significant populations of Asian elephants outside of India and Sri Lanka and is also home to tigers, orangutans and rhinos.

“The Sumatran elephant joins a growing list of Indonesian species that are critically endangered,” Carlos Drews of the conservation group WWF said in a statement Tuesday.

“Unless urgent and effective conservation action is taken these magnificent animals are likely to go extinct within our lifetime.”

Indonesia’s endangered elephants sometimes venture into populated areas searching for food and destroy crops or attack humans, making them unpopular with villagers.

Some are shot or poisoned with cyanide-laced fruit, while others are killed by poachers for their ivory.— Internet

**Yahoo delivers another listless performance in 4Q**

San Francisco, 25 Jan—Yahoo slipped further behind in the online advertising race during the fourth quarter as the Internet company entered the fourth year of a revenue slump.

The results announced Tuesday marked the latest in a succession of disappointing performances. The persisting malaise led to the firing of Carol Bartz as CEO four months ago.

Yahoo Inc recently replaced Bartz with PayPal executive Scott Thompson, announcing him as the fourth CEO in less than five years to try to snap the firming of a flunk that has depressed its stock. Thompson, who was hired just three weeks ago, is promised to move quickly to fix the problems.

“There is no question we need to do business and do well,” Thompson assured analysts in a Tuesday conference call.

The company earned $296 million, or 24 cents per share, in the October-to-December period. That is down 5 percent from $312 million, or 24 cents per share, a year earlier. The earnings matched analysts’ estimates, but the company missed Wall Street’s revenue target.

**Yahoo Inc recently entered the fourth quarter with its stock. Thompson, who was hired just three weeks ago, is promised to move quickly to fix the problems.**

**In this photo, the Yahoo company logo is seen in Perawang, Riau Province, Indonesia. Internet**

**Near future unveiled at EU conference**

Madrid, 25 Jan—A tiny revolutionary fold-up car designed in Spain’s Basque country as the answer to urban stress and pollution was unveiled Tuesday before hitting European cities in 2013.

The “Hiriko,” the Basque word for “urban,” is an electric two-seater with no doors whose motor is located in the wheels and which folds up like a child’s collapsible buggy, or stroller, for easy parking.

Dreamt up by Boston’s MIT-MediaLab, the concept was developed by a consortium of seven small Basque firms under the name Hiriko Driving Mobility, with a prototype unveiled by European Commission president José Manuel Barroso.

Demonstrating for journalists, Barroso clambered in through the fold-up front windshield of the 1.5-metre car.

“European ideas usually are developed in the United States. This time an American idea is being made in Europe,” consortium spokesman Gorka Etxebarrietta said.

Firmakers are in talks with a number of European cities to assemble the tiny cars that can travel 120 kilometres (75 miles) on a single recharge and whose speed is electronically set to respect city limits.

“They envisage it as a city-owned vehicle, up for hire like the fleets of bicycles available in many European cities, or put up for sale privately at around 12,500 euros. Several cities have shown interest, including Berlin, Barcelona, San Francisco and Hong Kong. Talks are underway with Paris, London, Boston, Dubai and Brussels.”

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**This image shows the wasp Gonatocerus acustus.**

“Most likely got here in parasitized eggs of the leafhoppers in twigs of Lombardy poplar seedlings coming from Europe, perhaps long ago.”

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WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—President Barack Obama on Tuesday pledged new government incentives to boost clean energy, warning that the United States risked being left behind in the new industry by China and Germany.

But in a nod to political realities, he acknowledged that growth for the whole aviation sector has been sluggish due to a declining tourism market and that subsidies for airports would not be forthcoming.

Despite the strong support for green technologies, Obama said that one goal is to set a worldwide price on carbon so that countries will make the right investments.

"The differences in this chamber may be too deep right now to pass a comprehensive plan to fight climate change," Obama said.

German airports report record number of passengers in 2011

BERLIN, 25 Jan—German airports registered a record number of passengers in 2011, with passengers arriving and departing through airports across Germany totaled 198.2 million, German Airport Association (ADV) said on Tuesday.

Despite the figure was up by 5 percent over the previous year, it still fell short of the ADV’s target of 200 million.

The airports in Germany are also not immune to the generally weaker economic development of the world, and particularly vulnerable to the so-called Aviation Tax, which was initiated a year ago, as the negative impact of which become increasingly more obvious, ADV Chief Executive Ralph Beisel said.

During the strong growth for the whole aviation market, two thirds of German airports, most of which are small and medium sized, and only a few

Shooter pleads not guilty to Obama assassination bid

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—An alleged gunman accused of opening fire on the White House pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to trying to assassinate President Barack Obama.

Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez, who is said to have opened fire on the White House when Obama was not in residence, has been formally indicted with 17 charges including assaulting an officer with a deadly weapon and discharging a firearm during a crime of violence. If found guilty he risks life imprisonment. His lawyer, David Bos, pleaded "not guilty to each count of the indictment" on his client’s behalf in front of a federal judge Deborah Robinson.

Psychiatric tests have concluded that Ortega-Hernandez, 21, is mentally fit to stand trial and he appeared at the court-room wearing a blue prisoner outfit, and a thick beard, but with no handcuffs. Ortega-Hernandez of Idaho Falls, Idaho, has been in custody since November after being arrested near Pennsylvania’s border with Indiana, some 500 miles (480 kilometres) from the US capital.

EU expects G20 to help boost IMF resources in February

BRUSSELS, 25 Jan—The European Union (EU) expected G20 finance ministers to agree next month to boost the resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help countries counter the fallout of the eurozone debt crisis, a senior EU official said on Tuesday.

"We see that it is important that we can move on with this matter and discuss it among ourselves and in parallel discuss it with our international partners," Rehn added.—Xinhua

Russia, Iran agree to closer anti-drug cooperation

MOSCOW, 25 Jan—Russia and Iran would enhance cooperation in fighting drug trafficking, visiting Iranian Interior Minister said Tuesday.

Concluding his visit here, Mostafa Mohammad Najar expressed his satisfaction with the anti-drug cooperation with Russia, saying the interaction "gains an absolutely new meaning" amid the current developments in the region.

Najar and the head of Russia’s Federal Anti-drug Service, Victor Ivanov, have signed a protocol on cross-border cooperation and a plan of joint actions to prevent drug trafficking from Afghanistan and in the Caspian Sea region in 2012-2014.

The visiting minister also thanked Russia for vetoing the UN’s resolution on Syria and said Russia “has a good opportunity” to establish economic cooperation with Iran, Iraq and Syria.—Xinhua

Baku, 25 Jan—Some 4.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas have been transported via the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzum gas Pipeline (BTE) in 2011, the State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan said in a statement on Tuesday.

According to the statistics, this figure is 400 million cubic meters less as compared with that of 2010. During 2010, the pipeline exported 4.9 billion cubic meters of gas, which, in its turn, is 300 million cubic metres less than in 2009.

The 692-km-long BTE pipeline has been designed to transport gas from the Shah Deniz gas field in the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea,through Georgia's Tbilisi to Turkey's Erzum. The BTE pipeline is capable of carrying up to 7 billion cubic meters of gas per year. It came into service last year, and is planned to reach to Turkey commenced reportedly in Sept. 2006.—Xinhua

BTE pipeline transports 4.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas in 2011

Russia, Iran agree to closer anti-drug cooperation

The New Light of Myanmar
UNION FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCES

Union Foreign Affairs Minister
felicitates Indian counterpart

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 Jan.—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January 2012, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr S M Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

Union Foreign Affairs Minister
felicitates Australian counterpart

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 Jan.—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26 January 2012, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Kevin Michael Rudd, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Commonwealth of Australia.

3rd Meeting for Asian Programme for Regional Capacity Enhancement for Landslide Impact Mitigation commences

Nav Pyi Taw, 25 Jan.—The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of the Ministry of Transport and Thailand-based Asian Disaster Preparedness Center-ADPC jointly organized the 3rd Meeting for Asian Programme for Regional Capacity Enhancement for Landslide Impact Mitigation (RECLAIM) in Asia at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon this morning.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung delivered an address. Deputy Executive Director Mr NMSI Arambepola of ADPC extended greetings. Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway Dr Oddvar Kjekstad gave an introductory speech. Altogether 10 representatives from Geological Survey and Exploration Department, Relief and Resettlement Department and departments of Yangon Technological University, 27 representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Pakistan, Thailand and Norway totalling 37 in addition to experts from ADPC took part in the meeting.

By order (Win Ko)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung gives a speech at 3rd Meeting for Asian Programme (RECLAIM).—MNA

MPs arrive Nay Pyi Taw to attend third regular sessions of Hluttaws

Nav Pyi Taw, 25 Jan.—Representatives of respective Hluttaws, to attend the third regular sessions of First Pyithu Hluttaw and First Amyotha Hluttaw to be commenced tomorrow, reported to the Hluttaw Office here today.

A total of 597 Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives reported to the Hluttaw Office today and personnel of the office have arranged accommodation, catering and transportation facilities for them in advance.—MNA

By order
(BC 2275 Li-Col Aung Kyaw Oo (Substitution) BC 20771 Li-Col Khin Maung Thant (Substitution) Air 2692 Major Win Phyo Hlut Air 2485 Major Yan Naing Hoo)

Kayin State Chief Minister meets gold mining entrepreneurs

Kayin, 25 Jan.—The Kayin State Chief Minister inspected gold mining companies in Kayin State.

The Chief Minister inspected one gold mining company in the Kayin State. Senior Engineer U Win Thway of Mining Department reported on matters related to gold mining and production.

In the evening, the State Chief Minister inspected cultivation of 25 acres of hybrid paddy strain with the use of water from Shwewk Dam near Htilon Village of Haingbwye Township.

By order (Win Ko)
Director
Department of Mines

UMFCCI officials meet Japanese guests

Yangon, 25 Jan.—General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Dr Myo Thein and CEC members met a three-member delegation led by Senior Consultant Mr Makoto Fuse of Japan Telecommunications Engineering & Consulting Service (JTEC) at the federation, here, on 20 January.

They discussed promotion of cooperation in human resources development between the two countries and holding of TT workshop.

By order
Director
International Department

BEMS Branch inspected in Pobabthiri Township

Pobabthiri, 25 Jan.—BEMS Branch of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MEFCCI) inspected Pobabthiri Township.

By order
Director
International Department

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 26 January, 2012

7
Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo gives a speech in meeting with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsmen of Kyunsu Township. — MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo looks into regional development...

(from page 16)

education, health, agriculture and transportation requirements of the region. He then elaborated on exercising of legislative, executive and judicial powers in compliance with the constitution, stability of the constitution, compliance with the judicial powers in legislative, executive and elaborated on exercising of the region. He then gave a detailed account of current political, economic, social conditions and international relations of the country. The Vice-President then went to Bokpyin Township where he inspected the land plot for extension of the school and gave necessary instructions. The Vice-President and party then flew to Bokpyin from there and met departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsmen at Thabyay Hall of Bokpyin Township. Bokpyin Township

Vice-President of the Republic of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo at raw oil mill of South Dagon Oil-Palm Cultivation Project. — MNA

State and rule of law, bringing armed conflicts to an end and building lasting peace, improvement in international relations and economic cooperation, rural development and poverty alleviation, and promotion of education and health standards. He then enquired about the regional conditions with cordiality. The Vice-President and party then went to Kyunsu Township Hospital where he inspected the land plot for extension of the hospital and operation theatre of the hospital. Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint donated K 2 million to the school. The Vice-President and party then went back to Myeik by craft and proceeded to Myeik University. At the conference room of the university, the Vice-President met rectors, professors and lecturers of Myeik Technological University, Myeik University of Computer Studies and Myeik University. He explained

Deputy Education Minister U Aye Kyu presented K 2 million to the school. The Vice-President then coordinated with the ministries concerned to fulfill the education, health, agriculture and transportation requirements of the region. He then gave a detailed account of current political, economic, social conditions and international relations of the country. The Vice-President then went to Bokpyin Township where he inspected the land plot for extension of the school.

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Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo looks into regional development...

(from page 8)
trees are bearing fruits on 6,907 acres of plantation. One acre of oil-palm yields 6.7 tons of fruits and the average weight of a bunch of fruits is 6.65 viss. The raw oil mill with capacity of 7.5 tons of oil per hour was built in 2002, followed by another mill in 2006 which can produce 30 tons per hour. The oil-palm trees started to bear fruits in 2003-2004 and 186066.73 tons of fruits have yielded and 38896 tons of oil were produced till December last year. The project has workforce of 1608 and 1072 in 2023 in total including the families of workers who were properly accommodated with access to electricity and water.

For the workers families and the locals as well, the management of the project has constructed hospital, school and low-priced commodity shops and sports grounds in addition to roads and bridges for regional development. There is also a jetty open to the locals apart from works of the project. The Vice-President and party then went back to Myeik in the evening.

Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, meets WAO, MMCWA of Taninthayi Region

Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, donates cash to Taninthayi Region, District and Township Women’s Affairs Organizations and Maternal and Child Welfare Association—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, met members of Region, District and Township Women’s Affairs Organizations and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Taninthayi Region in Dawei on 23 January. She extended greetings. Chairpersons of the Region WAO and MMCWA explained about functioning and strength of members. Daw Khin Saw Hnin presented cash donations to the organizations through officials.—MNA

Despite cold weather, Chaungtha Beach remains a unique destination

Although temperature in Chaungtha Beach dipped since second week of January, it is still receiving more and more visitors at weekends.

Night temperatures in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions went down and are not expected to rise till the end of February. An official of Meteorology and Hydrology Department forecasted that especially delta will continue to endure the extreme temperatures till the end of February.

Despite concerns of the local people over cold temperature, squalls in coastal region, there is no possibility of storm. According to hotels in Chaungtha Beach, many holidaymakers are flooding into the beach resort. Many visitors flock the mostly visited site by local visitors on weekends and public holidays. Some make a day trip from Yangon.

"Visitors are very much interested why the weather is so cold and breezy. The number of visitors does not decline and even soars on holidays. Most of them could not touch the sea as it is chilly and windy. On their vacation at the beach, they rest and taste local foods as always," a staff of Max Hotel said.

Chaungtha Beach is a holiday destination for local visitors due to its easy and cheap accommodation while Ngwehsaung Beach is receiving tourists. Current extreme temperature is usual once two weeks. Cold wind from India enters Myanmar as its sea immediate to India is losing temperature, chilling the delta. The area came under the spell of cold weather from 13 to 18 January. The temperature increased later. It is forecasted to repeat on 27 and 28 January. Lower Myanmar and many other regions also endured the fall in night temperature, following entrance of cold squalls from India.

Translation: HKA

Holidaymakers enjoy themselves at Chaungtha Beach in Ayeyawady Region.

Pakistani President-led delegation concludes visit to Myanmar

YANGON, 25 Jan—A Pakistani delegation led by Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistani President, arrived in Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw by special flight at 12: 45 pm today. They were welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, regional ministers and officials concerned at Yangon International Airport. The Pakistani delegation paid respects to King Zafar Shah’s Tomb situated on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township.

In the evening, on their departure at Yangon International Airport, the delegation was seen off by the Chief Minister, the regional ministers, Pakistani Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Qazi M. Khalilullah and officials concerned.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee Chairman receives Executive Director of Geneva-based ILO Office

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo received Executive Director Mr. Guy Ryder and party of Geneva-based ILO Office at the Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Hall No. 1 of Hluttaw Building, here, this morning.

They discussed endeavours of Hluttaws for the State and the people, realization of the people’s wishes by the government, the Hluttaw and political parties, emphasizing the provisions of ILO by Myanmar being its member, and undertakings of the Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee. Also present at the call were Secretary of the Committee U Tin Maung Win and committee members.—MNA
**Iran: EU oil sanctions ‘unfair’ and ‘doomed to fail’**

**TEHRAN, 25 Jan** — Iran has said an oil embargo adopted by European Union foreign ministers over the country’s nuclear programme is “unfair” and “doomed to fail”. The measures would not prevent Iran’s “progress for achieving its basic rights”, foreign ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said. The sanctions ban all new oil contracts with Iran and freeze the assets of Iran’s central bank in the EU.

The EU currently buys about 20% of Iran’s oil exports. “European officials and other countries which are under America’s political pressure... should consider their national interests and not deprive themselves of Iran’s oil to help US officials achieve their secret aims,” Mr Mehmanparast added.

He accused the US of trying to create “problems with energy supply requirements in countries which are America’s economic rivals”. US President Barack Obama has welcomed the EU sanctions, saying they show international unity against the “serious threat” posed by Iran’s nuclear programme.

51 fires that took place during the New Year’s weekend in the Los Angeles area, officials said. Investigators said they connected the suspect to the fires through DNA evidence, which includes 75 counts of arson, 19 counts of 80 years in prison if found guilty of the charges.

President Sarkozy was informed of the shoot-out during a visit to a police station where he was shown a presentation on illegal gold extraction.

**French Guiana gold diggers killed in gun battle**

**DOUROUX, 25 Jan** — Nine gold diggers have been killed in a gunfight between rival gangs at a remote site in French Guiana, say police in the territory. The clash happened early on Saturday in the Dorlin area, which is well-known for illegal gold mining. It coincided with a visit by President Nicolas Sarkozy to French Guiana, which is an overseas department of France in South America.

**New Zealand whale stranding kills 36, threatens 40**

**WELLINGTON, 25 Jan** — A mass-stranding of whales on a New Zealand beach has left 36 of the creatures dead and threatens 40 more. Department of Conservation area manager John Mason said 99 pilot whales stranded themselves Monday on Farewell Spit on the South Island. By Tuesday, 36 whales had died and another 40 remained stranded and were still in danger.

Mason said conservation staff and volunteers had successfully refloated 17 whales, which had swum out to deeper water. Another six whales remained unaccounted for. The 40 beached whales were briefly swimming in shallow water early Tuesday afternoon but became stranded again by the evening as the tide went out. Mason said volunteers would try to keep the whales cool and wet until dark. He said after that, all they could hope for was that the whales would swim away on the next high tide during the night.

Pilot whales grow to about 20 feet (6 metres) and regularly strand themselves in large numbers during the New Zealand summer months. Experts describe Farewell Spit as a whale trap due to the way its shallow waters seem to confuse whales and diminish their ability to navigate.

**6-year-old girl missing in frigid Oregon river**

**STACASDA, 25 Jan** — An Oregon man raced along the Fain-swollen Clackamas River but couldn’t keep up with his 6-year-old daughter who had fallen into the stream and was swept downstream, authorities said.

Rescue workers searched without success Monday for Vinesa Snegur, who fell into the river Sunday afternoon. The waterway is running fast and cold from a recent winter storm.

About 50 ground searchers and divers suspended their search at the nightfall Monday. A helicopter with thermal imaging equipment also was used to scan the river. The Clackamas County sheriff’s office said the search would resume on Tuesday. “It was just a second of inattention,” sheriff’s Sgt James Rhodes said of the little girl’s fall, explaining that her father turned away, “then splash, and she fell in.”

He ran and tried to keep up with her, but he was unable to. “Rhodes said the girl and her parents, Igor and Marina Snegur, are from southeast Portland and drove Sunday to play in the snow.

They parked near Austin Hot Springs in the Mount Hood National Forest where a road is close to the stream. The spot is about 60 miles southeast of Portland. There’s no cell service, and the family couldn’t call for help until they got to a phone at a ranger station an hour later, Rhodes said.

President Sarkozy was visiting French Guiana, which was shown equipment seized from gold diggers.

**HMS Victory ‘set to be recovered’ from seabed**

**LONDON, 25 Jan** — The remains of a 300-year-old warship are to be raised from the seabed, according to reports. The wreck of HMS Victory, a predecessor of Nelson’s famous flagship, was found near the Channel Islands in 2008.

The British warship, which went down in storm in 1744 killing more than 1,000 sailors, could contain gold coins worth an estimated £500m. The Sunday Times says the Maritime Heritage Foundation is set to manage the wreck’s raising. It also reports that the charity will employ Odyssey Marine Exploration to carry out the recovery. The American company found the ship four years ago, with the ship’s identity confirmed by a bronze cannon.

The newspaper says the guns and other reclaimed artefacts will be displayed in British museums, but under the laws of salvage Odyssey is likely to receive the bulk of any treasure found. A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: “Efforts to protect key parts of British Naval history such as the wreck of HMS Victory 1744 are very welcome and we hope to make an announcement shortly.”

**Dualit has over twenty years experience in the production of coffee machines**

**LONDON, 25 Jan** — Dualit has been manufacturing for the British Market for 65 years and has always been in touch with what British people want. Dualit has over twenty years experience in the production of coffee machines. They’ve honed their skills in the field and combined them with their manufacturing and design expertise. Dualit make quality product and their coffee machines are durable and designed. It’s tricky to know which coffee machine would best suit you, especially if this is your first purchase. You know the coffee machine you choose has to fit seamlessly into your lifestyle, but how do you know which one that is? Dualit have devised coffee machines to match every kind of coffee drinking personality. Their coffee makers are a reflection of your needs. When the match is right, it’s perfect.
Flights rerouted as massive solar storm slams Earth

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—Solar radiation from a massive sunstorm—the largest in nearly a decade—collided with Earth’s atmosphere on Tuesday, prompting an airline to reroute flights and skywatchers to seek out spectacular light displays.

US carrier Delta Air Lines said it had adjusted flight routes for transpolar journeys between Asia and the United States to avoid problems caused by the radiation storm, a spokesman said.

NASA confirmed the coronal mass ejection (CME) began colliding with Earth’s magnetic field around 10:00 AM (1500 GMT) Tuesday, adding that the storm was now being considered the largest since October 2003.

Solar storms are not harmful to humans, on Earth at least, according to the US space agency. They can, however, affect satellite operations and short wave radio.

The storm’s radiation, likely to continue bombarding Earth’s atmosphere through Wednesday, and its possible disruption to satellite communications in the polar regions prompted the flight rerouting, airline officials said, and Atlanta-based Delta, the world’s second largest airline, said “a handful” of routes had their journey adjusted “based on potential impact” of the solar storm on communications equipment, spokesman Anthony Black told AFP.

Routes from Hong Kong, Shanghai and Seoul took a more southerly route after the solar flare erupted on Sunday. The airline said it would continue to monitor solar activity before return flights to their normal routes.

Iraqi authorities hang 34 people in a single day

BAGHDAD, 25 Jan—More than 30 people were executed by Iraqi authorities on Thursday following their conviction for various crimes, the United Nations reported on Tuesday. It is the largest number of confirmed executions with a single day in years.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navid Pillay said she was shocked to learn that 34 people, including two women, were executed in Iraq on Thursday. “Even if the most scrupulous fair trial standards were observed, this would be a terrifying number of executions to take place in a single day,” she said.

The United Nations believes at least 1,200 people have been sentenced to death in Iraq since 2004, but the government is reluctant to release official figures. The UN said at least 63 people are thought to have been executed since mid-November of last year.

“Given the lack of transparency in court proceedings, major concerns about due process and fairness of trials, and the very wide range of offences for which the death penalty can be imposed in Iraq, it is a truly shocking figure,” Pillay said about Thursday’s executions. Iraq lists 48 crimes for which the death penalty can be imposed, including non-fatal crimes such as damage to property.

“Most disturbingly,” said Pillay, “we do not have a single report of anyone on death row being pardoned, despite the fact there are well documented cases of confessions being extracted under duress. I call on the Government of Iraq to implement an immediate moratorium on the institution of death penalty.”

Tuesday’s report comes just two days after Human Rights Watch warned that Iraq risks falling back towards authoritarian rule amid allegations that security forces have tortured detainees at a secret prison, cracked down on freedom of expression and attacked peaceful protesters as well as journalists. Executions were commonly used by the government of Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi authorities hang 34 people in a single day

Fireworks accident kills three in central Thailand

BANGKOK, 25 Jan—At least three people were killed Tuesday night in a fireworks accident in central Thailand’s Suphan Buri Province, Thai media reported.

Another 30 people were injured after sparks from a fireworks display for the Chinese New Year set about 50 wooden houses on fire in a nearby residential area, the Bangkok Post reported on its website.

Firefighters were still trying to contain the blaze, it added.

Bangkok

Iraq lists 48 crimes for which the death penalty can be imposed, including a pregnant woman, provincial officials said on Tuesday. It comes just a week after a series of avalanches killed more than 40 in northeastern Afghanistan.

One of the two latest avalanches occurred on Sunday in the Barikab Pass in Badakhshan, a remote and mountainous province which faces severe snow every December between October and April. The second avalanche happened in the Yafizabala area on the outskirts of Yafizabad.

In the Barikab Pass, a group was buried when they were transporting two pregnant women to the Badakhshan Civil Hospital. A governor’s spokesman said the avalanche killed three men, two children and a pregnant woman. The second pregnant woman was rescued by locals.

In the second avalanche, in the Yafizabala area, two more people were killed while a third person was injured.

Earlier this month, on 16 January, at least 41 people were killed and more than 60 others were injured when a series of avalanches devastated villages in the province. More than 500 houses are believed to have been buried under the snow, including up to 80 houses in Zeel village alone.

In this photo, Afghan villagers search for avalanche victims in Baghlan, Badakhshan Province, north of Kabul, Afghanistan.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to host TV show

LONDON, 25 Jan—Julian Assange, the founder of the controversial whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks, on Tuesday announced he will be hosting a series of TV specials to interview political figures about “the world tomorrow.”

WikiLeaks said in a statement that the series, produced by Quick Roll Productions, will begin airing in mid-March in ten weekly half-hour episodes. It said “initial licensing commitments” cover more than 600 million viewers across cable, satellite and terrestrial broadcast networks but gave no other details. It also asked broadcasters to contact them to license the series.

“Through this series I will explore the possibilities for our future in conversations with those who are shaping it,” Assange said in the statement. “Are we heading towards utopia, or dystopia and how can we set our paths? This is an exciting opportunity to discuss the vision of guests in a new style of show that examines their philosophies and struggles in a deeper and clearer way than has been done before.” WikiLeaks said Assange will draw together “controversial voices” from across the political spectrum to hear their views on the world tomorrow and their ideas on how to secure a brighter future. The website did not say which guests Assange plans to interview on his TV show.

Assange is currently fighting extradition from Britain to Sweden where he faces allegations of sexual molestation, unlawful coercion and rape. A London court dismissed Assange’s appeal in November 2011 and he is expected to appeal the ruling in the United Kingdom’s highest court next month.

The accusations are unrelated to Assange’s work for the whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks which brought diplomatic earth-shocks to the United States when it began releasing classified documents it had obtained. Assange has claimed the cases have been politically-linked, arguing that the sexual encounters with the two women in Sweden were consensual.

Latest avalanches in northeastern Afghanistan kill eight

FAYZABAD, (Afghanistan), 25 Jan—Two new avalanches in northeastern Afghanistan have killed at least eight more people, including a pregnant woman, provincial officials said on Tuesday. It comes just a week after a series of avalanches killed more than 40 in northeastern Afghanistan.

In the second avalanche, in the Yafizabala area, two more people were killed while a third person was injured.

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Earlier this month, on 16 January, at least 41 people were killed and more than 60 others were injured when a series of avalanches devastated villages in the province. More than 500 houses are believed to have been buried under the snow, including up to 80 houses in Zeel village alone.

In this photo, Afghan villagers search for avalanche victims in Baghlan, Badakhshan Province, north of Kabul, Afghanistan.
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV DIANA BOLTEN VOY NO ( )**

Consignes of cargo carried on **MV DIANA BOLTEN VOY NO ( )** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignees’ risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR:** M/S MARTRADE SHIPPING & TRANSPORT GMBH

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

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**Deadly landslide strikes Papua New Guinea**

**PORT Moresby, 25 Jan** — A deadly landslide dumped tons of rock and dirt on two villages in a mountainous region of Papua New Guinea, burying dozens of people, authorities said. China’s official Xinhua news agency, quoting local media reports, said Wednesday at least 40 people were killed and another 20 were reported missing in the disaster that struck Tuesday morning while people slept in the island state’s Southern Highlands.

Australian Broadcasting Corp quoted witnesses as saying the landslide spread destruction across more than a half mile down a mountainside near Tari. Estimates of the number of people buried in the rubble varied from a few dozen to more than 100. It was not clear what caused the disaster.

Radio New Zealand reported the landslide struck in an area of liquefied natural gas fields.

Pacific Scoop reported rescuers had recovered several bodies. It said initial reports indicated an entire side of nearby mountain had collapsed, cutting off some of the roads.

Prime Minister Peter O’Neill was reported to have arrived at the scene and other Papua New Guinea officials were expected Wednesday to inspect the damage and start relief operations. Petroleum and Energy Minister Francis Potape was quoted as telling Radio Australia he feared there could be more landslides as the region remained unstable.

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**Businessman jailed for asbestos exposure**

**Vancouver, 25 Jan** — A Vancouver, British Columbia, businessman was sent to jail for 60 days Tuesday for repeatedly exposing his demolition workers to asbestos.

The sentence meted out to Arthur Moore in British Columbia Supreme Court was considered light but still welcome by Jim Sinclair, president of the British Columbia Federation of Labour.

“The small van ran into the building which housed Ethiopian troops and some Somali government and big blast followed which partly destroyed the building,” Ali Yare, a resident, told Xinhua by phone.

The town of Beledweyne was retaken by allied Ethiopian and Somali government forces from the Islamist fighters in December after two years under Al-Shabaab’s control.

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**Al-Shabaab claims suicide truck bomb attack in central Somalia**

**MOGADISHU, 25 Jan** — Al-Shabaab militants in Somalia on Tuesday claimed responsibility for a suicide truck bomb attack on an Ethiopian military base used as a transit point for Al-Shabaab fighters, said a truck laden with explosives speeded to the entrance of the base in the Somali Capital Mogadishu, 300 km north of the capital. The attack was independently verified.

Witnesses in Beledweyne said the small van ran into the building which housed Ethiopian troops and some Somali government and big blast followed which partly destroyed the building. Ali Yare, a resident, told Xinhua by phone.

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The town of Beledweyne was retaken by allied Ethiopian and Somali government forces from the Islamist fighters in December after two years under Al-Shabaab’s control.
Sumo brings confidence to 448-pound woman
A 448-pound British woman training with the Japanese national women’s sumo wrestling team said the sport taught her to love her body.

Sharron Alexander, 46, of London, said she took up sumo six years ago and used to train with a women’s team in Derby, but the team has now shrunk so far that she is its sole member. The Sun reported Monday.

“There’s not many sports women my size can do, so when I found sumo six years ago it changed my life,” the member, Derby, but the team has now shrank so far that she is its sole said, she is training with the Japanese team this month.

Hash found in Israeli prison-bound bread
Israeli authorities said the driver of a truck delivering bread to a prison was arrested after 6 ounces of hashish was found stitched inside a loaf.

Investigators said the 56-year-old driver, whose name was not released, was arrested Thursday by Kfar Saba Police when the drug was found stuffed into a loaf. Investigators said the driver told police he was not responsible for loading the truck and did not know anything about the hashish.

“We always come across different smuggling methods of drugs, weapons and cellular devices — some are carried out through civilian drivers who bring supplies to the prison,” said Lt Col Nathan Paz, an Israeli Prison Service commander.

“We must not generalize, but some drivers have been involved in such acts. It’s usually those drivers who have been persuaded by the prisoners to do the smuggling. We always need to be on the lookout.”

Dolly announces Nashville park plan
Dolly Parton, a cast member in the motion picture musical comedy “Joyful Noise”, attends the premiere of the film at Grauman’s Chinese Theatre in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles on 9 January, 2012. Internet

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan—Singer Peter Andre is hoping to get his black belt and kung-fu within a year.

The 38-year-old and his six-year-old son, Junior, are taking lessons in the martial arts sport, reports contactmusic.com.

“Now the kids are back at school, they’re back into having Greek lessons, and me and Junior have been having some more kung-fu lessons. We’ve got a private tutor who comes round to the house - it’s brilliant,” said Andre.

“I’m hoping to get a black belt by this time next year and Junior wants to reach the child’s equivalent. We are not to be messed with,” he added. — Internet

Parker says she’s still going to get the tattoo
Actress Angelina Jolie says she’s still going to get the tattoo. "I don’t, it’s nice to be able to shine the spotlight on another actress your think is extremely talented and give her the spotlight," showbizpy.com quoted Jolie as saying.

The 36-year-old made her directorial debut with the movie “In the Land of Blood and Honey”. Internet

Lovato on Twitter break
Demi Lovato says she is taking time off from micro-blogging site Twitter to avoid getting herself into “trouble”.

The 19-year-old has 5,635,222 followers with whom she shares many issues related to her personal life, including her treatment for an eating disorder, reports contactmusic.com.

In a series of tweets, she wrote: “Can’t please everyone...Twitter break. It’s for the best actually. Who allows me to have this thing anyways?! I just get myself in trouble! Haha. Anyway...BYE!Macy.” Internet

Bonnie and Clyde’s guns auctioned in Mo
A Missouri auction house said an online bidder won a .45-caliber Thompson submachine gun and a 12-gauge shotgun believed to have belonged to Bonnie and Clyde.

Robert Mayo of Mayo Auction & Realty in Kansas City said the anonymous buyer bid $130,000 for the Tommy gun and $80,000 for the 1897 12-gauge Winchester shotgun said to have belonged to the 1930s gangster couple, the Kansas City (Mo) Star reported Monday.

Mayo said the guns were believed to have been left behind when the bank robbing duo of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow had a shoot-out with police at their Joplin, Mo, hideout.

“This is a piece of history,” Mayo said of the guns.

Expert: Ballet, yoga good for bull riding
A champion bull rider told children attending a rodeo camp in Texas that ballet and yoga can be helpful training methods of bull riding, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Monday.

“I do yoga; it’s calming and helps with balance .. . . We always need to be on the lookout.”

Cheryl Cole planning to get rid of ‘Mrs C’ tattoo
Cheryl Cole, 25 Jan—Singer-actress Whitney Houston is reportedly facing financial crisis.

The 48-year-old, who recently underwent medical treatment for her cocaine addiction, has allegedly spent all of her fortune and is being financially supported by her record label Arista, reports RadarOnline.com.

“Whitney’s fortune is gone. Music industry heavy hitters are supporting her and her label is financing her cash against her next album, but no one knows when that will be released...She might be homeless if not for people saving her. She is broke as a joke,” said a source. — Internet

Jolie plans full-time direction
LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan—Actress Angelina Jolie says she’s still going to get the tattoo. "I don’t, it’s nice to be able to shine the spotlight on another actress your think is extremely talented and give her the spotlight," showbizpy.com quoted Jolie as saying.

The 36-year-old made her directorial debut with the movie “In the Land of Blood and Honey”. Internet
Mali edge past Guinea in west African derby

why I’m disappointed,” said
guainz coach Michel
Dussuyer.

“ar we played better in the
second half, but we failed to
score. We needed to be more
precise, more accurate in front
of goal.

But still believe we can
do something against
Botswana and Ghana in our
next two games,”
Malcoach Alain Giens
said it was important to win
the opening game of the
competition.

“It was important to start
well and so three points was
the best thing for us. We are
satisfied,”
said the Frenchman.

“We controlled the first
half, but there were some
mistakes and Guinea were
good and had some possibilities to equalise,”

Guinea’s forward Drahima Traore (L) vies with Mali’s Adama Tamboura during the African Cup of Nations (CAN) football match Mali vs Guinea at the Stade de Franceville. Mali won the match 1-0.

FINALE

Barcelona will play natural game, says
Guardiola

Mourinho ‘wants to leave Real
Madrid’

MADRID, 25 Jan—Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho is
feud with bad relations in the dressing room
and repeated losses to Barcelona and wants to leave at the end of
the season, the sporting press
cited on Tuesday.

“Mourinho has let it be known to the people around him
that he would like to leave before 30 June,” said the front-page
headline of Madrid-based sports daily AS.

On the same page, splashed alongside a photo of
grumpy looking Mourinho in black tracksuit, the paper added:

“Mr Indispensable becomes Mr Mysterious.”

Barcelona-based daily Mundo Deportivo said the
story that emerged of Mourinho’s possible exit at the end of
the season would not be the first such threat.

Mourinho used the same tactic to convince the club
to give him an extra striker last season, Mundo Deportivo said.

According to AS, Mourinho met after Real Madrid’s
victory over Athletic Bilbao on Sunday with Real Madrid
president Florentino Perez and managing director Jose Angel
Sanchez.

“The Portuguese told those close to him that at the end
of the season he is going, whatever happens,” the paper said.

Sharapova, Kvitova set up
Aussie Open semifinal

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan—Former and reigning Wimbledon
winners Maria Sharapova and Petra Kvitova will meet in the
Australian Open semifinals after both won in straight sets on
Wednesday.

Sharapova won 6-2, 6-3 against fellow Russian Ekaterina
Makarova, who knocked out five-time champion Serena
Williams in the previous round.

Kvitova reached the semifinals at Melbourne Park
for the first time with a 6-4, 6-4 win over unseeded Italian Sara
Errani.

Kvitova beat Sharapova in last year’s Wimbledon final
to claim her first Grand Slam title.

“Obviously it was a tough one against Wimbledon,” Sharapova
said. “She’s full of confidence and playing the best tennis
right now. I look forward to it.”

Sharapova and Kvitova also kept alive their chances of
claiming the top ranking, which Caroline Wozniacki will vacate
on Monday after her quarterfinal loss to Kim Clijsters.

The fourth-seeded Sharapova must repeat her 2008
Austalian Open win. Kvitova only has to match or better the
run of Victoria Azarenka, the only other player still in the
running this week for the No 1 spot.

Second string Juve outclass full strength Roma

ROME, 25 Jan—Juventus
maintained their unbeaten
record in all competitions
this season as despite
fielding a second string side
they overwhelmed a full
strength AS Roma 3-0 in
their Italian Cup quarter-
final on Tuesday.

Emanuel Giaccherini
set them on their way in the
sixth minute as the vertically
challenged Italian
international forward broke
the offside trap to score his
second goal in as many
matches, having hit the back
of the net against Atalanta on
Saturday.

Veteran Juventus icon
Alberto Del Piero doubled their lead in the 30th
minute, the 37-year-old unleashing an unstoppable
shot into the left hand corner of Maarten Stekelenburg’s
goal. Roma didn’t improve their chances of a comeback
when they were reduced to
10 men in the 68th minute,
Argentinian Erik Lamela
being sent from the pitch after fouling Giaccherini right
in front of the linesman.

Fabio Quagliarella set up
Alessandro Matri for
Juventus’ third in the final
minute of the match and set
up a semi-final against
the winners of Thursday’s
tie between AC Milan and Lazio.

Spain’s Rafael Nadal
reacts during a break in
his quarterfinal against
Tomas Berdych of the
Czech Republic at the
Australian Open tennis
championship, in
Melbourne, Australia, on
24 Jan, 2012.

International Sports

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**DISTRICT NEWS**

**Bhamo Township gets rural health centre**

BHAMO, 24 Jan—A new building of rural health centre was opened in Maubin Village-tract of Bhamo Township on 3 January morning.

Medical Superintendent Dr Win Aung of Bhamo General Hospital and officials formally opened the centre.

The village administrator handed over documents related to the rural health centre comprising a delivery room and laboratory to officials of the Health Department.

The rural health centre provides health care services to local people of 15 villages.—**District IPRD**

**Talks on drug disadvantages given**

YANGON, 24 Jan—Yangon Region Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Dagon Myothit (East) Township Police Force jointly organized an educative talk on Drug Abuse Control and Dagon Myothit (East) Township Police Force.

A specialist team led by Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Tin Tin Wai of Pathein General Hospital comprising an orthopaedic specialist, ear, a nose and throat specialist, eye specialist, a dental specialist and two physicians provided medical check-up to local people of 15 villages.—**District IPRD**

**Health care given to the aged**

PATHETHEIN, 24 Jan—A specialist team led by Medical Superintendent Dr Din Din Tin Tin Wai of Pathethein General Hospital comprising an orthopaedic specialist, ear, a nose and throat specialist, eye specialist, a dental specialist and two physicians provided medical check-up to 40 older persons of Settawya Home for the Aged in Pathethein on 14 January and gave medical treatments to the aged.

Moreover, they donated pharmaceuticals and clothes to the aged. **Myanna Alyn**

**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(26-1-12 09:30 am - 27-1-12 09:30 am) MST</th>
<th>Overseas Transmission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* News</td>
<td>* A Village Where Old Traditions Prevail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Let’s Go and Enjoy Nature's Beauty</td>
<td>* Ayeyawady ... not a Divder Ayeyawady Bridge(Sinkan) (Part - I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* News</td>
<td>* Ayeyawady ... not a Divder Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkan) (Part - II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Music Gallery</td>
<td>* 2nd Solo Show of Artist Shwe Kyaw Lin</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Youth Of The Future (Graffiti)</td>
<td>* Against All Odds</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Record Album</td>
<td>* MI People’s Celebrities “Chit Thu Wai”</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Daw Sein Poe D and Her Journey of Arts</td>
<td>* Visitation to Mawlamyine” (Part - II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Movie Time</td>
<td>* Myanmar Movies “Twin Brothers In Different Lives”</td>
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**MYANMAR TV**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(26-1-12) (Thursday)</th>
<th>4:00 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Martial Song</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Musical Programme</td>
<td>4:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. One Little Dancers</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. One Village &amp; One Product</td>
<td>4:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions</td>
<td>4:55 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)</td>
<td>5:10 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Year (Botany)</td>
<td>5:25 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit</td>
<td>5:40 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Science and Environment</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Approaching Science Discovery World</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. TV Drama Series</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. News</td>
<td>8:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Documentary</td>
<td>9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. TV Drama Series</td>
<td>9:30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Weather for 26th January, 2012**

**INTERNET**

**USA’s Heather O’Reilly (9) celebrates her goal against Mexico during the first half of CONCACAF Women’s Olympic Qualifying soccer at BC Place in Vancouver, British Columbia Tuesday, 24 Jan 2012.**

“We haven’t done anything yet.” Wambach and her teammates remember all too well the sting from a 2-1 defeat against Mexico in Cancun in a World Cup qualifier 14 months ago, the only time in 28 tries the Mexicans have beaten the Americans. That loss forced the U.S. into a backdoor playoff just to qualify for the World Cup — and served as a wakeup call that the top-ranked team in the world can’t take important games for granted any more.

“I made sure that we didn’t celebrate too much today.”

**Andy Murray joins Nadal, Federer in Aussie semis**

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan—Andy Murray did his part to enforce the status quo in men’s tennis, as have Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. Now it’s up to Novak Djokovic to ensure that the top four players get through to the Australian Open semifinals.

The fourth-ranked Murray joined Nadal and Federer in the Australian Open final four on Wednesday when the British hope beat Kei Nishikori of Japan 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.

Next up Wednesday on Rod Laver Arena, No 1-ranked Djokovic will attempt to join the players ranked Nos 2-4 with a quarterfinal win over fifth-seeded David Ferrer.

No 2-ranked Nadal and third-seeded Federer won their quarterfinal matches on Tuesday to set up their first Grand Slam semifinal meeting since the 2005 French Open.

It has been rarely possible since because the pair held the top two spots for most of the time between 2005 and 2010, meaning they could only meet in the finals.

Until now.

Murray, for his part, is also surprised to be not facing Nadal in the semifinals.

“It has been amazing, I pretty much drew to be in Nadal’s half... almost every Slam,” Murray said. “I can’t remember the last time I was in his half of the draw. It’s been a long time.”

“IT doesn’t make a huge difference. Not like the match on Friday’s going to be easy, because Novak’s obviously playing great tennis and David’s excellent, as well. It doesn’t change too much.” He said the scoreline against Nishikori didn’t reflect the challenge in the first two sets, which included a 42-shot rally in the second game.

“That was a long point. ... Right after the point I thought I’m going to quit this match,” Nishikori said, smiling. “After a couple games, I was OK.”
President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Indian Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Australian Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26th January 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo felicitates Indian Vice President

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2012, Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham sends message of felicitations to Indian Vice President

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2012, Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo looks into regional development in Kyunsu, Bokpyin townships

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and party visited Kyunsu and Bokpyin townships in Taninthayi Region yesterday.

On arrival at Kyunsu wharf from Myeik by watercraft, the Vice-President and party were welcomed by departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsmen.

The Vice-President met departmental officials, members of social organizations and senior citizens at Kyun Yadana Hall of Kyunsu Township.

Kyunsu Township administrator U Aung Moe reported to the Vice-President on facts about the region and regional development undertakings. Region Acting Chief Minister U Myat Ko made a supplementary report.

Next, some senior citizens reported on requirements of health, transportation and regional development of the region. Union ministers and deputy ministers explained duties and affordable assistance of ministries concerned for regional development.

The Vice-President then coordinated with the ministries concerned to fulfill the

(See page 8)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo views learning of students at Basic Education Primary School for children of oil palm workers from South Dagon Oil Palm Cultivation Project in Bokpyin.—MNA

Significant night temperatures (25-1-2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haka</td>
<td>(-1°C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loilem</td>
<td>(0°C)</td>
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<td>Pinlaung</td>
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<td>Namhsam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heho</td>
<td>(1°C)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and party

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Sumatran elephants could be extinct in 30 years

Page 5

Chemicals linked to lower vaccine response in children

PAGE 5

Mali edge past Guinea in west African derby

PAGE 14