**True patriotism**

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

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**First Pyithu Hluttaw in session for second day**

Seven questions asked and answered, two new proposals submitted, one bill discussed at today’s session

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**Appointment of Chief Minister for Taninthayi Region Government**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 27 January_—The President Office issued Order No. 5/2012 today.

The translation of the order is as follows:

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**President Office**

**Order No. 5/2012**

4th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1373 ME

(27 January, 2012)

**Appointment of Chief Minister for Taninthayi Region Government**

In accord with the Section 264, Subsection (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Section 82, Subsection (a) of the Union Government Law; and Section 56, Subsection (a) of Region or State Government Law, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Myat Ko of Taninthayi Region Government, who has been approved by the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw, was assigned duty as Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region Government.

_Sd/_Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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**Pyithu Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book.—MNA**
Living alive

According to the Buddha, it is extremely rare for us to be born as human beings. Our lifespan is very short. During this short period of time, we should do good deeds and serve the interests of our own as well as of others. A person who does not serve his or her interest and other interests is like one who is living without being alive. Such kind of person is not said to be alive. “It’s a very short trip, while alive, live,” said a US world famous author and publisher Malcolm Forbers. People of different age would have to sail our life ship. Every youth has to spend their life by perusing their education. While learning different kinds of subjects, they should serve the others’ interests. But the life of middle-age people is much busier than youths. They are busy dealing with economic, prosperity, social and religious affairs. Serving the people’s interest is a milestone in the short period of lifetime. Even when we become older, we are not out of the boundary of being alive. We could run out of economic boundary. But we have to continue engaging in religious and social affairs as long as we are still alive. We all would have to stay alive by serving own interest as well as others till the end of our life.
Suicide bomber kills 31 in Baghdad attack

BAGHDAD, 27 Jan—A suicide bomber detonated his explosive-filled taxi near a Shi’ite funeral procession in Baghdad on Friday, killing 31 people and bringing the death toll from violence since an Iraqi political crisis erupted in December to more than 400. The bomber exploded his vehicle near the group of mourners passing by a small market street in the mainly Shi’ite Zaafaraniya neighborhood in the south of the Iraqi capital, police officials and hospitals said.

The Shi’ite-led government often blames Sunni Islamist insurgents for attacks targeting Shi’ites, saying they are trying to stoke the kind of sectarian slaughter which killed tens of thousands of Iraqis at the peak of the war in 2006-2007. “I was in the old Zaafaraniya market when a funeral came by and just as it passed, a car bomb exploded,” said Ali Mohsen. “I helped evacuating the dead and injured people, their blood covered the ground.”

The funeral was for a Shi’ite real estate agent who was killed by gunfire in Baghdad a day earlier, police said. The motive for his murder was not clear.

Nigeria arrests 200 after attacks

KANO, 27 Jan—Nigeria has arrested 200 people, mostly Chadian “mercenaries,” after last week’s attacks in the north, a police source said Thursday, as pressure mounts on the security forces to stem the violence.

Coordinated gun and bomb attacks in the northern city of Kano last Friday killed at least 185 people, the deadliest ever assault claimed by the shadowy Islamist sect Boko Haram.

They have been blamed for scores of other attacks across northern Nigeria. “Many arrests have been made since the attacks,” the police source said on condition of anonymity.

“We have arrested around 200 attackers and 80 percent of them are Chadians. They came as mercenaries.”

There were indications the Chadians had been paid to participate in the recent attacks attributed to Boko Haram, the source added.

Nigerian security forces have long suspected Boko Haram of smuggling arms into the country through the porous northeastern border with Chad and Niger.

Residents inspect a police patrol van outside Sheka police station in northern Nigerian City of Kano following coordinated gun and bomb attacks in the city.
**Faulty heart drugs toll nears 100 in Pakistan**

Lahore, 27 Jan—Around 100 Pakistani heart patients have died after taking faulty medicine made locally and dozens more are in a critical condition in hospital, government officials said Thursday.

"Nearly 100 patients have died due to a reaction to heart drugs," said Shahbaz Sharif, the head of the government in central Punjab Province. The victims were mostly poor patients who received free drugs from the state-run Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC), he said.

The government said another 257 people had been admitted to hospitals in Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city, after taking the drugs. Police have arrested owners of three pharmaceutical companies suspected of supplying the medicine.

"Police registered a case on Tuesday after reports of deaths of people due to reaction of drugs for cardiovascular diseases," police spokesman Haroon Rashid told AFP.

Initial investigations show that drugs supplied by local manufacturers were "sub-standard," police said.

The patients died due to a sudden drop in white blood cells, platelets and bone marrow damage. The problem was first detected in December when contaminated drugs in at least one batch of medicine caused 23 deaths.

Sharif said samples of the suspect drugs have been sent to laboratories for tests in Pakistan, London and Paris. "Action will be taken against those found guilty," he said.

**Cosmetic surgery unaffected by French implant scare**

PARIS, 27 Jan—Cosmetic surgery is booming worldwide and unaffected by the health scare prompted by a French breast implant company that used substandard silicone, a global body of plastic surgeons said Friday.

The Paris-based IMCAS which represents plastic surgeons and dermatologists, said in a new study that beauty procedures worldwide including liposuctions, breast implants, and botox injections grew 10.1 percent year-on-year in 2011 to between 3.2 to 3.8 billion euros ($4.1 to 4.9 billion).

The figure this year is set to grow 11.12 percent, said the study, "demonstrating the sector's dynamism." IMCAS or the International Master Course on Ageing Skin, is starting its annual conference in Paris on Friday.

More than 400,000 women around the world are believed to have received implants made by now-defunct French firm Poly Implant Prothese (PIP) which was found to have been using industrial-grade silicone gel that caused abnormal high rupture rates.

"One thinks that the PIP affair will have short-term impact," said Laurent Bones, one of the authors of the study.

Kia Motors 2011 earnings up 30.4 percent

SEOUL, 27 Jan—South Korea's second largest automaker, Kia Motors, said Friday it posted a record profit last year thanks to brisk overseas sales and increased returns in investment in affiliated firms.

Net profit surged 30.4 percent from the previous year to 3.5 trillion won ($3.1 billion) in 2011, the company said in a statement. Sales jumped 20.6 percent on-year to 43.2 trillion won in 2011, with operating profit up 41.6 percent to 3.5 trillion won.

It sold 2.48 million cars last year, up 18.6 percent, thanks to solid sales of new models and the company's improved brand image, the automaker said.

Overseas sales were particularly brisk despite the eurozone crisis and the global economic slowdown, it said.

Sales in the United States surged 36.3 percent to 485,000 cars last year while domestic sales dropped a mere 1.7 percent to 492,000.

Samsung 4Q profit rises 17 pct on smartphone sales

SEOUL, 27 Jan—Samsung Electronics Co reported a 17 percent jump in fourth quarter profit on the strength of smartphone sales even as the company battled claims it had copied Apple's iPhone. Samsung said Friday in a regulatory filing that its net profit reached 4 trillion won ($3.5 billion) in the three months that ended in December. The company earned 3.4 trillion won in the same quarter a year earlier.

The Suwon, South Korea-based company said its operating profit jumped 75.8 percent to 5.3 trillion won in the fourth quarter. The figure was closely in line with the company's estimate earlier this month of a 73 percent rise.

The company, however, posted an operating loss of 220 billion won in its display division in the fourth quarter despite a sales increase of 19 percent from the previous year. Sales from mobile phones continues to stream in, this year will also likely be a solid one for Samsung," said Jae Lee, an analyst at Daiwa Securities in Seoul. "The biggest threat would lie if the global economy worsens," Samsung, the world's biggest manufacturer of memory chips and liquid crystal displays, said demand for semiconductors in mobile phones and servers remained solid despite weakness in personal computers, which face stiff competition from the rising popularity of tablets.
Medical sensor is powered by music

WEST LA FAYETTE, 27 Jan—A new type of implantable medical sensor can be powered by external sounds like music—and rap music works best, its US inventors say.

Researchers at Purdue University say the miniature medical sensor is powered by acoustic waves, including those found in music such as rap, blues, jazz and rock.

The sensor contains a vibrating cantilever, a thin beam attached at one end like a miniature diving board. Music within a certain range of frequencies, from 200-500 hertz, causes the cantilever to vibrate, generating electricity and storing a charge in a capacitor, Purdue engineering professor Babak Ziaie said in a university release Thursday.

“The music reaches the correct frequency only at certain times, for example, when there is a strong bass component,” he said. “The acoustic energy from the music can pass through body tissue, causing the cantilever to vibrate.”

When the music stops or the frequency falls outside of the proper range, the cantilever stops vibrating, automatically sending the electrical charge to the sensor, which takes a pressure reading and transmits data as radio signals. “You would only need to do this for a couple of minutes every hour or so to monitor either blood pressure or pressure of urine in the bladder,” Ziaie said. “It doesn’t take long to do the measurement.” Playing simple tones within a certain frequency range also can be used. “But a plain tone is a very annoying sound,” Ziaie said. “We thought it would be novel and also more aesthetically pleasing to use music.” “Rap is the best because it contains a lot of low frequency sound, notably the bass,” Ziaie said.

Life in ocean ‘blue holes’ studied

GALVESTON, (Texas), 27 Jan—Life found in underwater caves in the Bahamas gives clues to what types of marine life might be found on distant planets and moons, researchers say. Discovered in so-called blue holes by Texas A&M University at Galveston researchers include specialized forms of bacteria life at different depths, suggesting that microbial life in such caves is continually adapting to changes in available light, water chemistry and food sources. “These bacterial forms of life may be similar to microbes that existed on early Earth and thus provide a glimpse of how life evolved on this planet,” marine biologist Tom Iliffe said in a Texas A&M release Thursday.

“These caves are natural laboratories where we can study life existing under conditions analogous to what was present many millions of years ago.” There are tens of thousands of underwater caves scattered around the world, but less than 5 percent have ever been explored scientifically, Iliffe said. We know more about the far side of the moon than underwater caves scattered around the world, but less than 5 percent have ever been explored scientifically, Iliffe said. “There is no telling what remains to be discovered in the many thousands of caves that no one has ever entered.

Google Earth 6.2 released, gives our planet a makeover

SAN FRANCISCO, 27 Jan—Google rolled out its latest version of Google Earth on Thursday. Calling it “the most beautiful Google Earth yet,” the update has managed to eliminate the “patchy” look of some of its images and now presents users with a more realistic depiction of how our planet really looks from up high.

In a post on the official Google blog, Google Earth product manager Peter Birch explained the new, smoother look: “We’re introducing a new way of rendering imagery that smooths out this quilt of images. The end result is a beautiful new Earth-viewing experience that preserves the unique textures of the world’s most defining geographic landscapes—without the quilt effect.”

Both mobile and desktop versions of the software will utilize the improved imagery, and while previous releases of Google Earth will also incorporate it, the latest version—Thursday’s 6.2 release—promises the optimum viewing experience using the new data.

It comes as little surprise to see that the new version of Google Earth now integrates Google+, with the option to, for example, share a screenshot through its social networking service.

Twitter may censor tweets in individual countries

SAN FRANCISCO, 27 Jan—Twitter has refined its censorship technology so it can censor messages on a country-by-country basis. The additional flexibility announced Thursday is likely to raise fears that Twitter’s commitment to free speech may be weakening as the short-messaging company expands into new countries in an attempt to broaden its audience and make more money.

But Twitter sees the censorship tool as a way to ensure its social network service—known as “tweets,” remain available to as many people as possible while it navigates a gauntlet of different laws around the world. Before, when Twitter erased a tweet it disappeared throughout the world. Now, a tweet containing content breaking a law in one country can be taken down there and still be seen elsewhere. Twitter will post a censorship notice whenever a tweet is removed. That’s similar to what Internet search leader Google Inc has been doing for years when a law in a country where its service operates requires a search result to be removed.

Like Google, Twitter also plans to share the removal requests it receives from governments, companies and individuals at the chillingffects.org website.

First ‘cloaking’ of a 3D object announced

AUSTIN, (Texas), 27 Jan—US researchers say they have “cloaked” a three-dimensional object, making it invisible from all angles for the first time. The process uses a shell of what are known as plasmonic materials that create a “photo negative” of the object being cloaked, effectively canceling it out.

However, the demonstration has only been achieved for waves in the microwaves range of the electromagnetic spectrum, not for visible light.

Andrea Alu and colleagues at the University of Texas at Austin have made a 7-inch-long cylinder invisible to incoming microwave light. The success with the cylinder suggests further work with different wavelengths of light is worthwhile, Alu said.

“It’s a real object standing in our lab, and it basically disappears,” he told BBC News. While the technique is unlikely to work at the visible light part of the spectrum, Alu said, the approach could be applied to the tips of scanning microscopes to yield an improved view of even smaller wavelengths of light.

Google Earth will also incorporate it, the third rock from the sun looks a little more beautiful today—that’s if you’re free to view the improved view of even the tips of scanning microscopes to yield a new version of Google Earth now integrates Google+, with the option to, for example, share a screenshot through its social networking service.

A near-field mapping of the disaturn in the electric field distribution using the testing. Google will also incorporate it, the third rock from the sun looks a little more beautiful today—that’s if you’re free to view the improved view of even the tips of scanning microscopes to yield a new version of Google Earth now integrates Google+, with the option to, for example, share a screenshot through its social networking service.

A new type of miniature pressure sensor designed to be implanted in the body is powered by acoustic waves from music.—INTERNET

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S Korean troops to join US-led drill in Thailand

SEOUL, 27 Jan—South Korean Navy and Marines Corps will take part in a US-led multinational military exercise to be held next month in Thailand, the Navy said here Thursday.

Some 320 South Korean troops, an armored amphibious vehicle and a 2,600-ton landing ship tank will join six other countries, including the United States, Thailand and Japan, for the Cobra Gold exercise slated for 5 to 17 Feb.

The troops will participate in a field training exercise, a command post exercise and a humanitarian and civic assistance action project, the Navy said in a statement.

The annual joint drill, in which South Korea served as an observer member state between 2002-2009, is designed to help improve multinational interoperability and strengthen military partnerships among the participants. Among the nine countries participating are the United States, Japan, Russia and New Zealand.

Alex Huang

A 22-metre-high giant dragon and phenix lantern is seen in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, on 25 Jan, 2012, to celebrate the traditional Chinese Lunar Year of the Dragon. The lantern was made of 1,000 red lanterns and a pair of 15-metre-high dragon and phenix lantern. —Xinhua

India, Thailand to carry out cooperation at strategic level

NEW DELHI, 27 Jan—India and Thailand have agreed to elevate their ties to strategic partnership by signing six pacts in the fields of defence, security, trade, combating terrorism and piracy, local media reported Thursday. During talks between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Thai counterpart Yingluck Shinawatra, who began a visit to the country Wednesday, the two countries agreed to expedite their negotiations on a free trade agreement in goods, services and investment by July.

Six agreements were signed after the talks, which included transfer-of- sentenced persons, a memorandum of understanding on defence cooperation and amending the framework agreement for establishing FTA. The two countries will promote cooperation in science and technology, cultural exchange and cooperation between Thailand’s Chulalongkorn University and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) at the India Studies Centre of the Thai university.—Xinhua

📭 Hacker cracks Israeli hospital website

JERUSALEM, 27 Jan—Unknown hackers on Wednesday crashed the website of a major Israeli hospital via a Denial of Service (DNS) attack, local media reported. Officials at Sheba Hospital at the Tel Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv told Army Radio that over a million page requests hit the site between 12am and 5am, crashing its servers. As of noon, the site was still unavailable. Meanwhile, Israel’s National Cyber Command (NCC) and Counter Terror Bureau (CTB) on Wednesday launched their first combined official emergency exercise, the 10-day news site reported.

The attack and drill took place against an increasing number of so-called “DDoS” cyber attacks in recent weeks between reportedly Palestinian-supporting Arab hackers in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, and Israeli counterattacks at banking and commercial sites in Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and other Arab countries. Officials, however, said the drill had been planned prior to the attacks. The multi-day “Lights Out” drill will simulate a series of hacker attacks on national infrastructure sites, like the Israel Electric Corporation and the Water Authority, in order to test their readiness and ability to foil DNS and other attempts to damage and corrupt operating systems. —Xinhua

Iranian lawmakers to approve a plan to cut oil exports to Europe

Tehran, 27 Jan—An Iranian lawmaker said Wednesday that in a preemptive move, Iranian parliament is mulling over a plan to cut oil exports to the European Union (EU) member states, the local English-language Tehran Times daily reported.

“A Majlis (parliament) representatives are seeking to approve a plan, according to which all European countries which have imposed sanctions against Iran will not be able to buy even one drop of oil from Iran,” Nasser Soudani, a member of Iran’s Majlis Energy Commission was quoted as saying.

Foreign ministers of the EU countries on Monday decided to ban the oil and oil products from Iran. Although the embargo will be started from July 1, it will allow major EU importers like Greece, Italy and Spain to find alternative suppliers, investors were still worried about the security of global oil supply as Iranian authorities have threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping lane for the oil trade, and disrupt oil supplies in retaliation against the ban.—Xinhua

Religion gives people more self-control

LONDON, 27 Jan—People muster greater self-control when they are given unrelated tasks, especially after thinking about religion. For instance, participants, given a sentence containing five words to unscramble, with some containing religious themes and others not, exercised more restraint.

After unscrambling sentences containing religiously oriented words, participants in our studies exercised significantly more self-control,” says psychology graduate student Kevin Rounding from the Queen’s University, who led the study. Self-control involved tasks that included enduring discomfort, delaying gratification, exerting patience, and refraining from impulsive responses, adds Rounding, according to a Queen’s statement. “Our most interesting finding was that religious concepts were able to refuel self-control after it had been depleted by another unrelated task,” says Rounding.

“In other words, even when we would predict people to be unable to exert self-control, after completing the religiously themed task they defied logic and were able to muster self-control.” “Until now, I believed religion was a matter of faith; people had little ‘practical’ use for religion,” Rounding explains.

“This research actually suggests that religion can serve a very useful function in society. “People can turn to religion not just for transcendence and fears regarding death and an after-life but also for practical purposes,” Rounding concluded.—Internet

Pakistan, France must cooperate in energy, security: Gilani

ISLAMABAD, 27 Jan—Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has emphasised the need for more cooperation between Pakistan and France in the fields of energy, trade and defence. Gilani made the remark Tuesday while talking to newly appointed ambassadress of France to Pakistan Philippe Thieband here.

They exchanged views on bilateral relations with the commitment that the cooperation between the two countries should be further enhanced during the years to come, reported Associated Press of Pakistan. Gilani spoke of the support of the French government within the fold of the European Union for pro-actively pursuing the grant of waiver to Pakistani exports to the EU market.

He said that Pakistan has the will, capacity and resolve to defeat the scourges of militancy and extremism.

The French ambassador said that Pakistan’s contributions for peacekeeping were commendable.

French investors were keen to invest in Pakistan in the sector of energy, he said, adding that trade between the two countries had been showing positive trends, and both the countries should endeavour to keep up this trend.—Internet

Visitors watch a porcelain jar with dragon decoration of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 24 Jan, 2012, to celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dragon, Nanjing Museum held exhibitions with the theme of dragon during the Spring Festival holiday. —Xinhua

UN launches web portal to help young women

NEW YORK, 27 Jan—The United Nations launched a new web portal on Tuesday focusing on helping girls and women participate in a field training exercise slated for 5 to 17 Feb.

The exercise is part of the UN’s Balkan Women’s Peace Corps and is described as an effort to help young women who are ages 11 and 25 prepare for and pursue careers in technology by providing them with useful resources such as links to scholarships, internships, ICT contests and awards, tech camps and online networks where they can interact with other women working in an industry that is largely male-dominated. “It’s a little-known fact that women were the original programmers of ENIAC, the US Government’s first-ever computer. But while teenage girls now use computers and the Internet at rates similar to boys, they are five times less likely to consider a technology-related career,” the UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU) said in a news release. “Research consistently shows that girls tend to choose careers where they feel they can ‘make a difference’—healthcare, education, medicine. With this new portal, we’re trying to show them that there’s much more to ICTs than writing computer code.” said ITU Secretary-General Hamadoun Touré.—Internet

Hackers crash Israeli hospital website

A resident takes photos of ice lanterns in a park in Xining, capital of northwest China’s Qinghai Province, on 24 Jan, 2012, the second day of the Chinese lunar New Year.—Xinhua
Farmers get pre-payment for selling high-yield rice

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — A private company has made pre-payment to farmers as part of efforts for purchasing Palethwe high-yield hybrid strain rice at the rate of K400,000 for 100 baskets. The ceremony to make the pre-payment to farmers was held at the 368.80-acre rice plantation near Alyinlo Village in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township today.

It was attended by Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

An official of Ayeyahintha Co Ltd made payment to farmers in Alyinlo Village in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township at the rate of K200,000 per acre today at the presence of union ministers.

During the ceremony to make payment to farmers, Union Minister U Win Myint said the ministry would buy rice from farmers at a rate of price which can guarantee reasonable profit to farmers.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan called on businessmen and rice traders to invest in the farming sector along with the government, and urged the farmers to work hard to achieve an agricultural system which can supply rice to international market regularly. He also called for encouraging the scientific cultivation of rice across the country.

The opportunity to boost the rice production and to reach the global rice market is within the reach of the farmers as the global rice trading volume has reached over 34 million tons in a year because about half of the 7000 million population of the world has consumed rice as a staple food, he said.

He also stressed the need for utilization of soil and water effectively and for growing quality strains of rice as part of efforts for transition to the scientific cultivation system.

The rice trading company made payments to 203 farmers from the village of Alyinlo and sold farming machinery to the farmers at special price. After the ceremony, they visited the high-yield Palethwe hybrid plantation.

Union A & I Minister U Myint Hlaing making a speech at the payment making by Ayeyahintha Co Ltd at Alyinlo Village. — MNA

Union Ministers U Kyaw Hsan and U Myint Hlaing view farm equipment on sale near Alyinlo Village in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township. — MNA

Long, magnificent Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku)

The benefits of the bridge are enormous as it is situated on Kalaywa-Myoma-Chaungma-Myinmabin-Linkataw-Letsakan-Pakokku-Letpanchepaw-Bagan-Kyangin-Pakokku railroad. The bridge is also linked with Thithtaung Station on Bagan-Myanmar railway and Pakokku University Station on Kyangin-Pakokkual railroad.

Moreover, continuous rail travel has become available between Pathein, Kyangin, Pakokku, Kalay, Minbu, An and (See page 8)
First Pyithu Hluttaw in session for second day

(from page 1)

U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Constituency asked about “water supply to urban areas and water-scarce rural villages within Mahlaing Township” and the deputy minister replied that tube-wells were dug in three out of nine villages facing water shortage and between 2012 and 2015, tube-wells will be dug for the remaining six villages.

The water demand of Mahlaing with 15,392 people in four wards is 0.3 million gallons per day. The water supply coverage is about 80 per cent as urbanites have dug 256 tube-wells and 10 wells on self-reliance basis. A gravity flow system is used for water supply after digging of a new tube-well at the water resource in use, building 50000-gallon capacity water tank, and piping, it is expected to supply additional quantity of up to 120,000 gallons of water per day, reaching total water supply coverage of the township. Mahlaing Township Development Affairs Committee will handle the construction work in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

U Tun Aung Khiao of Pyithu Hluttaw constituency asked about “the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has plans to reconstruct anti-fiber farmers dykes in Pauktau Township as part of embankment construction project” and Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing replied that there are 394 farmers dykes in Rakheine State that need to be built and strengthened. His ministry has asked government’s subsidy to repair the 86 dykes in urgent need of repair. Of those 86, 14 are from Pauktaw Township and repair works will be started soon to complete before rainy season.

U Soe Aung of Taunggyi constituency asked to “remove the embankment dam in Inma Lake in Thaungy Township or to build more sluice gates otherwise” and the Union minister replied that his ministry has asked funds from the government to dredge Milaung Creek and Aungkon Creek. For the time being, the ministry is trying to ensure proper flow of water by dredging those two creeks earlier opening of sluice gates in Inma Diversion Weir while personnel of Irrigation Department are surveying for details. Only after the survey decision will be made whether to remove the embankment dam or build more sluice gates or take other necessary instructions.

U Thein Zaw of Myitkyina Constituency proposed “form leading committee for enhancing socioeconomic life of nationalities and preserving and promoting cultural heritages in regions and states.”

Daw Dwebu Ingyanun Constituency, U Than Oo of Myawaddy Constituency, U Zaw Khang of Htawlaw Constituency and U Sai Tun Sein of Mongpyin Constituency seconded the proposal and the Hluttaw passed the proposal.

U Tin Hlaing of Kalay Constituency proposed for “special farming of cattle of pedigree myanma, a precious commodity of Chin State, through artificial insemi-nation for poverty alleviation and development of Chin State.” The proposal will be discussed on 30 January and representatives interested in the proposal registered at the Hluttaw Office for discussion.

The Bill Committee, Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee and Hluttaw representatives discussed the amendments made to the Virgin, Vacant and Few land Management Bill by Amyotha Hluttaw and sought for approval of Hluttaw.

The third regular session of the Hluttaw continues at 10 am 30 January.

Nav Pyi Taw, 27 Jan—In the final of the 5th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament at Zabuthiri Township volleyball ground this afternoon, Minister of Industry and Union Minister for Border Affairs 3-J, Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu presented prizes to the respective winning teams.

Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tin Hsan gave championship shield and duplicate shield to Ministry of Industry. —MNA

U Phone Kyaw, NyaungU local

Translation: TKK

First special meeting 1/2012 of Taninthayi Region Hluttaw in progress. —MNA

Taninthayi Region Hluttaw holds special meeting 1/2012

Nav Pyi Taw, 27 Jan — Taninthayi Region Hluttaw held its first special meeting 1/2012 at the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw Office today.

It was attended by Acting Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko, Speaker of Taninthayi Region Hluttaw U Htin Aung Kyaw and 25 representatives of the Hluttaw.

The message sent by the President of the Union of Myanmar to the special meeting was read out by the Speaker of the Hluttaw and it was put on record.

A proposal of the President to assign Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Myat Ko as Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region Government according to the Section 261, subsection (b), para (1) and (para 2) of the Constitution was sought for the approval at the Hluttaw. The Hluttaw announced the agreement to the proposal as there was no rejection to the proposal.

The Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region took an oath before the Speaker of the Hluttaw when the meeting resumed at 1 pm.

The meeting ended with an address of the Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region.

Nav Pyi Taw, 27 Jan — Head of schools in Myitkyina and Kachin State Minister for Social Affairs held a coordination meeting today on education of displaced families due to current conflict in Myitkyina.

During the meeting at Myitkyina No.1 Basic Education High School No.1, Kachin State Education Officer U Khin Maung Htway and head of schools reported on teaching the students in Myitkyina.

Daw Bauk Jar has assisted in education of the students.

U Phone Kyaw, NyaungU local

Translation: TKK

Industry Ministry secures champion in Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament

Nav Pyi Taw, 27 Jan — In the final of the 5th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament at Zabuthiri Township volleyball ground this afternoon, Ministry of Industry beat Ministry of Border Affairs 3-J, Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu presented prizes to the respective winning teams.

Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tin Hsan gave championship shield and duplicate shield to Ministry of Industry. —MNA

U Phone Kyaw, NyaungU local

Translation: TKK

Long, magnificent Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku)...

Sitway on the western bank of Ayeyawady River and to Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Taunggyi, Yangon, Mawlamyine and Dawei across the region.

Responses

“Previously, Z-craft was the Hobson’s choice for us to go to the other bank. So, hardly ever I went to Bagan-NyaunU. Now there is the bridge and I can pay homage to pagodas in Bagan everyday.”

Ma Nyein Nyein, Pakokku local

“In the past, we, villagers in Pakokku Township, had to cross the river by boat or powered schooner or Z-craft in going to Bagan. And it took a very long time sailing across. I am happy.”

Ko Soe Min Naing, Pakokku local

“The short distance between my home town and Pakokku and surrounding towns was lengthened much by Ayeyawady River. I had witnessed tragedies-casualties and loss of properties as the crafts capsized due to terrible weather in rainy season. I believe Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) the longest bridge in Myanmar will not only contribute to economy, social affairs, education and health of people in Magway Region but also makes transportation much better.”

U Phone Kyaw, NyaungU local

Translation: TKK

Education of displaced students in Myitkyina discussed

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MNA

MNA

MNA
Ministry is effectively enforcing overloaded vehicles in coordination with these ministries.

According to the highway laws, the Ministry of Construction is the most responsible ministry for preservation of Union highways.

The toll has changed from 60 pyas per m² per year up to 2 kyahts per mile now and BOT toll rate from 4 kyahts 13 pyas to five kyahts per mile following the changes in basic prices of 16 kinds of commodities. The meeting 18/2011 of the Union government on 18 August, 2011 agreed re-fix the weights of loads allowed in compliance with ASEAN Standardization, which came into effect on 1 January, 2011. The meeting 24/2011 of the Union government on 29 December, 2011 passed the new toll rates of private companies undertaking with BOT system, which came into effect on 1 October, 2011. Thanks to the fine for breaching regulations system, 95 percent of trucks follow the rules. The more money they pay, the more profits the BOT entrepreneurs make, the more taxes have to be paid to the State.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 28 January, 2012

Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development

U Tin Naing Thein

submits proposal.

Representative Dr Win Myint Aung of Sagaing Region Constituency No (4) asking question. MNA

Representative U Thein Hling of Sagaing Region Constituency No (8) asking question. MNA

Representative U Tun Lwin of Kachin State Constituency No (9) asking question. MNA

Ministry of Transportation, and the Construction Ministry is the most responsible ministry for preservation of Union highways.

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Ministry of Transportation, and the Construction Ministry is the most responsible ministry for preservation of Union highways.
Icy trip for tourists as HK cable car stalls

Hong Kong suspended its popular cable car on Thursday after a malfunction with a window caused by the extreme cold weather the Chinese New Year holiday. Around 800 passengers were left hanging in the air in temperatures below three degrees Celsius (37 degrees Fahrenheit) after the cable car broke down Wednesday for the second time in six days, an official said.

A woman from the state of North Korea, aged 30, said a decision was made to stop the 5.7-kilometre (3.5-mile) system because the blizzard was "not operating smoothly," passengers were stranded in the gondolas for more than 30 minutes. "It was freezing cold up there, and the wind was blowing hard. We did not know what happened and there was no announcement or anything," one furious passenger was quoted as saying by The Standard newspaper.

The company spokes-woman said operations would be suspended for 10 days from Thursday while checks were performed to remedy the recurring problem.—Internet

First Amyotha Hluttaw in session for second day

(From page 9)

the convenience of carrying commodities.

Answering the question raised by U Saw Ohn of Mon State Constituency-9 ‘whether there is any plan to build bypass in Thaton, Mon State, the responder said that Sitamong-Mawlamyine road section in Mon State is 102 miles long. The Ministry of Construction permitted Shwe Thanlwin Co to build it with BOT system and construction is supervised by Public Works and the Mon State government. This road section passes through Thaton about four miles and measures are being taken to make bypass in Thaton as it is in the busy downtown area. There can be two routes if a road is to be built bypass Thatan. The first is 24-mile if a road is to be built to bypass Thaton. The second is 5-mile Thaton bypass starting from Yangon-Myik Road Mile Post No. 153 to the fields to the western part of the two. Permission to construct Thaton bypass, said the respondent, submitted to departments concerned and the Ministry of Construction needs to coordinate with Shwe Thanlwin Co.

Then, Union Minister for Labour U Nung Kyi tabled a motion to Amyotha Hluttaw to decide the social security bill of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the Hluttaw approved it. Then, it was decided that the new name list can be submitted to discuss the bill.

Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission of Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Theyin a tabled a motion to change into metric system. With respect to the proposal, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo replied that parallel units system being used in Myanmar is Myanmar traditional unit system which have been used since Myanmar kings, English unit system which have been used since English colonial rule and metric system for packed goods.

In using the parallel units systems together, Myanmar traditional unit system has no fixed multiples. So that face difficulties such as not being easy to make calculation, regional variance in counting, differences in weight of different goods having same masses and differences in weight of same goods having same masses. St and a d a t i o n department under Central Research Department formed research team since the 1970s and studied the change to metric system and compiled Standard of Myanmar Science and Technology Research Department. Nowadays, the government is making strenuous efforts in all aspects to keep pace with modern technology and economy are changed into metric system. The Standardization Department is giving educational talks on changing the use of metric system in trading, manufacturing and production, at brokerage, merchants associations and industrial zones. Metric system is to be used instantly at a time when law is passed. According to ASEAN standard, label put on packaged goods must be in SI Unit. Giving educational talks, compilation of papers, writing articles on change in use of metric system have been made since 2007. The aim of change to metric system is to boost the country’s export sector and to make integration with the world’s economy. Although most of the country worldwide is now using metric system, some countries are still in use of parallel unit. Traditional unit, traditional units are still in use as parallel unit. It can be seen that change to metric system becomes in the form of evolution rather than revolution. The majority of people in the world today is long time to make change to the metric system. System used is accustomed to it, metric system will be used. Only after the law is passed, emphasis would be placed on supervision and spreading knowledge on measurement tools. After that, supervision will be made whether it meets the set standards or not. Prescriptions regarding manufacturers and users of measurement tools will be issued. People would not be able to pass as a law because it includes detailed technologies and has to do with so many departments. According to that law, international System Units (SI) would be put as official unit.

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Smoking, hypertension the biggest killers in Japan

Tokyo, 27 Jan—Even though the Japanese have the world’s highest life expectancy, smoking and high blood pressure are still the biggest health hazards, reveals a study. An analytical study, led by Namy Ikeda from the University of Tokyo, found that in 2007, tobacco smoking and high BP among adults aged 30 years and above were 12.9 and 104.000, respectively in Japan. Physical inactivity took 52,000 lives, high blood glucose and high dietary salt intake accounted for 34,000 lives, and alcohol use reported 31,000 deaths, the journal Public Library of Science-Medicine reported.

Another study from China Morning Post said that in 2007, tobacco smoking and high BP among adults aged 30 years and above were 12.9 and 104.000, respectively in Japan. Physical inactivity took 52,000 lives, high blood glucose and high dietary salt intake accounted for 34,000 lives, and alcohol use reported 31,000 deaths, the journal Public Library of Science-Medicine reported.

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Prisoner at hospital freed at gunpoint

BURY ST EDMUNDS, 27 Jan—A prison inmate was freed at gunpoint Wednesday during a visit to a hospital in eastern England, police said. Andrew Farndon, 26, was being escorted by two police officers on the trip to West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds, the Norfolk Eastern Daily Press reported. Farndon needed treatment after being stabbed at Highpoint Prison. Staff at the hospital and the police officers said they were approached by a man with a gun in the emergency department just before 7pm.

Iran pilot were killed in Thursday’s crash. The Province in southern Iran. The Ukrainian plane that crashed Wednesday was on a flight from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates to Kazan, a city in central Russia. The plane was carrying 82 passengers and crew. The Ukrainian government said it had not received any information about the fate of the missing people.

Two buildings collapse in Rio, injuring at least four

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 Jan—At least four people were injured when two buildings collapsed in Rio on Wednesday evening after office hours. The two buildings, one with 17 stories, the other with 11, were located in Rio’s downtown area, a commercial district full of pedestrians. According to the local Civil Defence, 60 firefighters are now working on the scene, trying to find more victims.

Four subway stations have been closed due to the area. The area has been cordoned off, and electricity has been cut off to prevent fires. Technicians are trying to close the underground pipe network which supply gas to the buildings. Rio’s Mayor Eduardo Paes and Health Secretary Sergio Cortes are both at the site, and the mayor is expected to make a statement in the next hours.

The cause of the collapse remains unknown. Neighbours reported that three floors of one of the collapsed buildings were undergoing renovation. Witnesses said there was an explosion, and the larger building came down as if it had imploded. There may also have been a gas leak, which was the cause of a major explosion which hit another building in downtown Rio last year, killing three people.

Bill Gates pledges $750 million to troubled AIDS fund

DAVOS, 27 Jan—Microsoft chairman and philanthropist Bill Gates pledged a further $750 million to the troubled global AIDS fund Thursday on urgent governments to continue their support. “These are tough economic times, but that is no excuse for cutting aid to the world’s poorest,” he said in Davos at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria announced two days ago that its executive director, Michel Kazatchkin, was stepping down early following criticism over misuse of funds and cuts in funding.

The public-private organization, based in Geneva, accounts for around a quarter of international financing to fight HIV and AIDS, as well as the majority of funds to fight TB and malaria. But it has been forced to cut back and said last year it would make no new grants or funding until 2014. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is giving $750 million through a promissory note—a fresh injection in addition to the $650 million that the Gates charity has already paid.

Britain’s debt reaches one trillion pounds

LONDON, 27 Jan—Britain’s debt mountain has risen to one trillion pounds (over USD 1.5 trillion) for the first time, The Sun reported Wednesday. Ministers have confirmed the long-expected milestone is equivalent to 16,400 pounds per citizen of the country. Government debt now stands at 1,009.9 billion pounds—64 percent of Britain’s GDP. It is up from 883 billion pounds a year ago and the highest since records began in 1993.

Search underway for missing Indian troops in avalanche in Indian-controlled Kashmir

SNAGAR, 27 Jan—The search for missing six Indian soldiers hit by a snow avalanche near line-of-control (LoC) in Indian-controlled Kashmir continued for the second day, officials said Wednesday. The avalanche hit the troopers and swept them Tuesday morning at Farkiyan Gali of Machil sector in frontier Kupwara District, 140 km northwest of Srinagar City, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir. Body of an officer of India’s border guards, Border Security Force (BSF), retrieved from the sound bound area, was brought to Srinagar for wreath laying ceremony. Top officials of BSF were present on the occasion. “The body of the officer was retrieved after hectic efforts,” said a spokesperson of BSF. “Search for other missing personnel is underway.”

Five Indian army soldiers and two Border Security Force personnel were hit by the snow avalanche while they were clearing the track for movement. Massive rescue operation involving helicopters and sniffer dogs were launched to the missing troopers, who by now are feared to be killed. Indian-controlled Kashmir experienced heavy snowfall in the past two weeks.

Cuban Communist Party to hold National Conference

HAVANA, 27 Jan—The Cuban Communist Party (CCP) is to hold a national conference in Havana to promote reforms that will “update” the country’s socialist model.

According to top CCP officials, the national conference will be held under the watchword of former leader Fidel Castro that “Revolution is to change all mentality of inertia, in order to preserve the socialist future of Cuba.” Top on the meeting’s agenda are changing the working method and style of the CCP and updating its structures and leadership policy, including expanding and revamping the CCP Central Committee.

“We have to transform the mentality of our government and party officials. The psychological barrier created for decades is the hardest obstacle to overcome,” Raul Castro said at the opening of a CCP congress last April. The run-up to the congress, Cubans held discussions over some 300 reforms designed to shape the future political and economic model of the island country.

New York ranks 13th in nation for teacher quality

New York, 27 Jan—The National Council on Teacher Quality released a report on Wednesday that ranked New York State 13th out of all US 50 states. It gave New York teachers’ “A”, “B” or “C” each year. Florida was ranked highest with A while Montana was lowest with an F state got an A in the report for 2011.

The study ranks states by criteria including how well prepared teachers are, what measures are in place to retain good teachers and how easy it is to dismissing bad teachers. “Rethinking how teacher performance is evaluated and tying teacher evaluations to student achievement mark a significant advance in teacher effectiveness policy,” said Kate Walsh, president of the council, a non-partisan group supported by Microsoft founder Bill Gates. The report came as the state and New York City are wrangling with the issue of teacher evaluations. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo told school districts early January that they must settle on a new teacher evaluation system or lose their share of a proposed 4 percent increase in education spending.

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**INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**

**TENDER NO.(1) (ADM:) AMD (2011-2012)**

1. Open Tenders are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following stores (in Myanmar Kyats.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Tyre, Tube &amp; Flap</td>
<td>4 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Battery</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Hino 4D, TE 11/11 Spare Parts</td>
<td>82 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Nissan Condor Spare Parts</td>
<td>23 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

**INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**

**TENDER NO.(2) (ADM:) AMD (2011-2012)**

1. Open Tenders are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following vehicle (in Myanmar Kyats.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Tractor Tyre &amp; Tube</td>
<td>1 Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Battery</td>
<td>1 Item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (292)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (292) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (107)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (107) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**IED attacks up in Afghanistan**

**KABUL, 27 Jan—** The number of improvised bombs used in Afghanistan last year increased 9 percent with civilians increasingly likely targets, the military says. The International Security Assistance Force, the NATO operation in Afghanistan, said 16,554 improvised explosive devices detonated or were cleared in 2011, up from 15,225 in 2010 and 9,304 in 2009. USA Today reported.

The number of Afghans who were wounded or killed by IED explosions was up 15 percent, from 10,502 in 2010 to 11,658 in 2011. USA Today reported.

The number of human death from bird flu this year. —INTERNET

**Cyber threats looming high over Australian spy agencies**

**SYDNEY, 27 Jan—**The Independent Review of the Intelligence Community (IRIC) has revealed that a riding wave of information on the internet has been observed. This was first of such review in Australia over seven years and the unclassified report was released on Wednesday by the government.

It has said that six key agencies have entered a new epoch with cyber communications stretched to all corners of the globe.

“Of all these changes are taking place in what has now become an age of information abundance. There is a rising ocean of open source information and yet, at the same time, covert intelligence is increasingly difficult to obtain,” the report stated. The review specifically stressed on the need to counter the growing threat of cyber world, *The Age* reports.

“While recognizing that terrorism, espionage, proliferation and people smuggling remain clear and present dangers, we need to build a stronger national capability to meet the challenges of the multi-polar and cyber worlds,” report added. The recommendations are confidential but mostly circle around geo-political and technological change, and the necessity to uphold the performance of the agencies.

The six agencies, which are mentioned in the report, are Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO), Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS), Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organization (DIGO), Defence Intelligence Organization (DIO), the Defence Signals Directorate (DSSD), and the Office of National Assessments (ONA).—Internet

**A government veterinarian worker sprays anti-bird flu disinfectant over birds and fowls at Medan City market in North Sumatra Province on 26 January, 2012, Indonesia on 20 January, 2012 reported its second human death from bird flu this year. —INTERNET**
Snakes, gator seized from apartment

Authorities in Florida said they seized five snakes and a small alligator from the apartment of a man who did not have permits for the reptiles. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said officers seized a red-spitting cobra, a puff adder, a uracoan rattlesnake, two false cobras and the alligator from the Boca Raton apartment of Tyler Nolan, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reported Wednesday.

The snakes were turned over to a licensed facility and the alligator was returned to the wild, the commission said. Officials said Nolan told officers he was in the process of obtaining licenses for the animals. He was cited on violations including possession of venomous reptiles without a permit.

Purse snatched from back of toilet

Police in Florida said a woman reported her purse was stolen from the back of a restaurant toilet when another woman reached over from a neighbouring stall.

The woman told Boynton Beach police she was using the restroom at Two Georges Restaurant just before 8 p.m. Tuesday and a woman reached over from the next stall and grabbed her purse from the back of the toilet, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reported Wednesday.

Police said the purse contained a cellphone, $500 cash, a $2,000 check, checks and book cards.

Investigators said a man and a dog were previously seen in the area on bicycles and a man was later apprehended when he was found to be in possession of the stolen purse.

Police did not reveal the suspect’s name or whether the contents of the purse were intact.

Adkins plans ‘Songs & Stories’ stage tour

NASHVILLE, 27 Jan—Country music star Trace Adkins says he plans to bring his “Songs & Stories” concert tour to theaters across the United States this spring.

The series of stage shows is to kick off 8 October in Des Moines, Iowa, and wrap up 17 May in Atlanta. So far, 21 shows have been scheduled, but more dates are expected to be added.

“I’ve had many narrow escapes and blessings in my life,” Adkins said in a statement. “The right song at the right time has been my saving grace and that’s something I have in common with the audience. Sharing meaningful songs, stories and some laughs ‘around the campfire’ is the country music tradition and I’m looking forward to it.”

Adkins released his 10th studio album, “ Proud to Be Here,” last summer.

Ne-Yo to handle A&R at Motown

NEW YORK, 27 Jan—Grammy Award-winning recording star Ne-Yo has been made executive of Motown Records, the US label said. Ne-Yo is to serve as senior vice president of Motown’s Artists and Repertoire division, serving as a producer and mentor to the company’s artists, and seeking out and signing new talent to the label, said Berry Weiss, chairman and chief executive officer of Universal Republic and Island Def Jam Motown, and Ethiopia Habtemariam, senior vice president of Motown Records.

“Ne-Yo is an incredibly talented artist, songwriter, and producer,” Weiss said in a statement. “In fact, he’s one of the greatest songwriters of our time. His track record of success at Def Jam will always be benchmark. But his move to Motown will provide new and inspiring challenges for Ne-Yo, as both an artist and a key member of the new senior management team that is taking form at the label in 2012.”

“We are honored and humbled to have Ne-Yo as a part of the Motown family, as both a recording artist and an A&R role,” said Habtemariam. “We are committed to discovering, developing and nurturing R&B/soul superstars here at Motown and Ne-Yo has both a global superstar and arguably one of the best songwriters in music. His presence on the executive team only strengthens our commitment to the very best in R&B.”

“Ne-Yo is well on his way to becoming a multi-platinum artist, producing a string of hits and achieving success as a performer, a songwriter, and as a music executive,” said Barry Weiss, chairman and chief executive officer of Universal Republic and Island Def Jam Motown. “We’ve been working with Ne-Yo for several years and we are confident that he will bring great things to our Artists and Repertoire department at Motown.”

Streep to narrate Arctic IMAX movie

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan—Actress Meryl Streep, who received her 17th Oscar nomination this week, is to narrate “To the Arctic 3D,” the documentary’s producers said.

The film is to open exclusively in IMAX theaters starting 20 April, IMAX Corp, MacGillivray Freeman Films and Warner Bros Pictures announced. The documentary follows the lives of a mother polar bear and her two 7-month-old cubs as they navigate the changing Arctic wilderness they call home, a synopsis said.

“The most enduring relationship is that between a mother and child, which is powerfully portrayed through the polar bear family in ‘To the Arctic,’” said Greg Foster, chairman and president of IMAX Filmed Entertainment, in a statement. “‘To the Arctic’ was filmed in 55/70mm with spectacular shots designed to take full advantage of the IMAX 3D format, and the story and setting will be made even more powerful by Meryl Streep’s unmatched delivery,” said Greg MacGillivray, president of MacGillivray Freeman Films and Sony Pictures Classics.

Streep most recently earned a Golden Globe Award and Oscar nod for her leading role as Margaret Thatcher in Phyllida Lloyd’s film “The Iron Lady.” Meryl Streep has won Oscars for her work in “Sophie’s Choice” and “Kramer vs Kramer.”

Cannabis turned Pitt into ‘doughnut’

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan—Actor Brad Pitt admits that addiction to cannabis had turned him into a recluse. “I got really sick of myself by the end of the 1990s. I was hiding out from the celebrity thing, I was smoking too much dope, I was sitting on the couch and just turning into a doughnut and I really got to know myself,” he said in HollywoodReporter.com.

The actor said he quit cannabis after being spotted with his pregnant partner Angelina Jolie, who is reportedly pregnant with another of their children—“I’m quite proud of the doughnut,” he said.

Police officer totals car on test drive

Police in a British city said they are considering new driving rules after an officer totaled an unmarked car during a test drive.

A spokesman for the Greater Manchester Police declined to give specifics on how the officer crashed the Volkswagen Golf R in December but said the department’s “reviewing its policy on officers test driving cars,” the BBC reported Wednesday.

The spokesman said no other vehicles were involved in the crash and the incident is under investigation.
Levin, Stanley opens with 62s to lead at Torrey

SAN DIEGO, 27 Jan—Stanley Levin and Kyle Stanley knew they had to post low scores on the easier North Course at Torrey Pines to get off to a good start Thursday in the Farmers Insurance Open. It went even better than they expected. Stanley made eagle on his final hole for a 1-under 69, while Kyle had a 6-under 66. Their 12-under par total of 134 is seven strokes better than the field at the start of play.

Mickelson dummofounded after woeful Torrey Pines start

SAN DIEGO, 27 Jan—Phil Mickelson, an unabashed fan of Torrey Pines after he apparently won the 2005 title, was totally perplexed after battling to a five-over-par 77 in the opening round of the Farmers Insurance Open Thursday. In near-perfect scoring conditions on the South Course picturesque layout on bluffs above the Pacific coastline, Mickelson mixed seven bogeys with two birdies to end a glorious day of sunshine a distant 15 strokes off the lead.

Spencer Levin leads the green on his last hole of the first round in the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament on 26 Jun, 2012, San Diego, Internet

Rafael Nadal: Happy with his progress in the 2012 Season

World No 2 Rafael Nadal is happy with his progress in the 2012 season, so far. The Spaniard meets Novak Djokovic in the 2012 Australian Open final on Sunday. Spaniard Rafael Nadal once again proved that he saves the best for the Grand Slam, as he beat his greatest rival Roger Federer at the Australian Open on Thursday and made it to his fifteenth Grand Slam championship final.

Nadal looked quite satisfied and happy after the win, as he quoted “To start the season with the final here is a fantastic start and that gives me a lot of confidence.” He further added that “At the same time, it gives me confidence about how I am working. I don’t know if it’s going to be enough against Novak or against Andy. I’m going to try my best to play a fantastic final, and hopefully I will have my chances.”

Nadal is gunning for his eleventh Grand Slam title. When asked about whom does he want to face in the Aussie Open final, The Spaniard chuckled, “I would prefer the player who is going to play the final. But if my opponent plays better than me and he beats me, I’m going to go home very happy about my tournament. I’m going to go home knowing that the way I am working is working very well... and it will give me good success in the months to come.”

Chelsea ready to snap up Man United starlet

LONDON, 27 Jan—Chelsea are planning a deadline raid on Manchester United for midfield rebel Paul Pogba. Andra Villas-Boas sent a two-man delegation to watch the star in action on Thursday night ahead of making an offer of around £30 million. Pogba is refusing to sign a new deal with the champions, who may cash in on him now rather than see him quit for less when his contract expires.

United boss Alex Ferguson is fuming at the Pogba camp’s decision to reject new terms and has left the young Frenchman out of sides, despite ongoing injury problems in midfield. Chelsea rate Pogba highly and think they can tempts him to stay in England despite big interest from Inter Milan. An added attraction with Pogba is that he would be free to play for the Stamford Bridge side in the Champions League this season.

Tottenhnam are holding talks with Sao Paulo over Brazil Under-20 defender Bruno Uvini.

West Brom want Russia striker Pavel Pogrebnyak, 28, on loan from Stuttgart with a view to a permanent move.

Fullham manager Martin Jol is looking to bolster his midfield with a move for the 25-year-old Colombian Carlos Sanchez from French side Valenciennes.

Chelsea have not given up in their attempts to sign Ajax’s 23-year-old defender Gregory van der Wiel.

Fullham striker Andy Johnson, 30, has attracted attention from Russian club Rubin Kazan and Turkish side Galatasaray.

Sunderland are considering offering Belton Wanderers’ 34-year-old striker Kevin Davies a permanent deal in order to clinch his move to the Stadium of Light.

David Moyes’s search for a striker to revive Everton’s season has led to an inquiry about taking 27-year-old Guillaume Hoarau on loan from Paris St-Germain.

Swiss international Guillaume Hoarau is closing in on a move from Young Boys of Bern to Blackburn Rovers.

Levin, Stanley opens with 62s to lead at Torrey

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He had a golden opportunity to finish his round with two consecutive birdies but missed a three-
**Djokovic edges Murray, sets up final vs Nadal**

**MELBOURNE, 27 Jan—**Defending champion Novak Djokovic has moved into an Australian Open final against Rafael Nadal after edging Andy Murray in a five-set, almost five-hour semifinal late Friday night.

Despite appearing tired and sore from the second set, Djokovic rallied to beat Murray 6-3, 3-6, 6-7(4), 6-1, 7-5 in an arm-wrestle of the 2011 final at Melbourne Park to reach his third consecutive Grand Slam final.

The 24-year-old Serb finished last year at No. 1 after winning three of the four majors, with his only loss at a Grand Slam coming against Roger Federer in the French Open semifinals.

He beat Nadal in six tournament finals last year.

Nadal, the 2009 Australian Open winner, beat fourth-time champion Federer to advance.

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**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(28-1-12 09:30 am ~ 29-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Overseas Transmission

- News
- Sport
- Culture
- Science
- Drama
- Documentaries
- Art & Culture
- Specials

**MYANMAR TV**

(28-1-2012) (Saturday)

7:00 am
1. Pratita By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
7:30 am
2. Morning News
7:40 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song
8:40 am
4. International News
11:00 am
5. Martial Song
1:00 pm
6. Delicious Dishes
1:15 pm
7. TV Drama Series
2:05 pm
8. Song Of National Races
2:40 pm
9. One Village & One Product
4:25 pm
10. Cultural Dances
5:05 pm
11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
5:15 pm
12. Beautiful “ASEAN”
6:45 pm
13. Teleplay (Health)
7:00 pm
14. TV Drama Series
8:05 pm
15. News
8:40 am
16. Cartoon Series
17. TV Drama Series

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**Weather for 28th January, 2012**

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

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**Sowing of Palethwe paddy strain demonstrated**

**KYAUKME, 27 Jan—**A demonstration on sowing of Palethwe strain summer paddy was held in Webu Village of Kyaukme Township on 24 January.

Additional Manager of Shan State Myanmar Agriculture Service U Myint Thein explained matters related to good agriculture pattern.

Township Manager Daw Nan Lwin Lwin Sein of MAS demonstrated transplanting of Palethwe paddy strain.

Kyaukme Township set a plan to put 892 acres of farmlands under Palethwe strain summer paddy.

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**Health care for mother and children explained**

**YANGON, 27 Jan—**The family organizing and disciplinary committee of Swayyitha Township Police Force held an educative talk on health knowledge at its office on 22 January.

Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Soe Moe made a speech. Head of Township Health Department Dr Mi Mi Khing talked about health care for mothers and children.

Altogether 150 family members of Township Police Force attended the talk and participated in the discussions.
bridges on Chaungma, Hsimeegan and Kaing creeks on Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Highway between Kyaukpadaung and Taungtha Townships.

70 feet wide Chaungma Creek, 300 feet wide Hsimeegan Creek (Taungtha Township), Hsimeegan Creek (Taungtha Township) and 70 feet wide Kaing Creek (Taungtha Township), Hsimeegan Creek (Taungtha Township) and Kaing Creek (Taungtha Township), the Union Minister replied that 70 feet wide Chaungma Creek, 300 feet wide Welaung Creek, 450 feet wide Hsimeegan Creek and 600 feet wide Kaing Creek on Yangon-Pya-Mandalay Highway between Kyaukpadaung and Taungtha Townships. The 300 feet long reinforced concrete bridge was built in the place of former bridge over Welaung Creek and it was opened on 20-3-2011. Due to yearly flow of water and speedy current rate in the rainy season, the bridge was built across Welaung Creek in the past.

Vehicles could pass through the remaining three creeks at lowest level of water, but they waited for passing it at a time when the water level was high. As there was heavy rainfall and effectiveness of dams upstream of the creek, the vehicles waited for the chances to pass through the creek from 1 day to 5 days in heavy rains. The Ministry of Construction gives priority to build bridges on Chaungma, Hsimeegan and Kaing creeks on the rainy season. Thus, the road is repaired by roller in open season.

In 2012-2013 fiscal year, the 20 miles long earth road from Taungchay to Nantmon-Nyaungbin through BOT system. A plan was adopted to complete these tasks in coming March. Moreover, the tasks of smooth transport will be carried out on YeU-Taze asphalt section and the gravel section from Taze to Kanhtuma Village in open season. In 2012-2013 fiscal year, the 20 miles long earth road section from Taungchay to Nantmon-Nyaungbin through BOT system. The maintenance funds allotted in 2011-2012 fiscal year is being spent on maintenance of roads, construction of concrete culverts and retaining walls, and building of wooden bridges. A plan was adopted to complete these tasks in coming March. Moreover, the tasks of smooth transport will be carried out on YeU-Taze asphalt section and the gravel section from Taze to Kanhtuma Village in open season.

Although YeU-Taze-Kalewa section is in a good condition, from mile post No. 130 (Taze) to mile post No. 83/0 (Theikkyekkyn) was degraded to the earth section due to use of timber tracks. The road section becomes worse in the rainy season. Thus, the road is repaired by roller in open season for smooth transport of vehicles as much as possible.