First day third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw kicks off

President’s message recorded, joint committee formed, duties assigned, bills submitted

First day third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

Internally displaced persons being provided with cash assistance

The chief minister also inspected the extended construction of Basic Education High School in Sitapu ward and made cash donations. On arrival at Sukngaitaung Baptist Church in the ward, the chief minister consoled the families of IDPs who fled from conflicts, provided cash assistance and inspected dining hall, mass room and hostels.—MNA

UN human rights envoy arrives

PAGE 8

Scientists shift on brain speech centre

PAGE 5

Mayagon Township Music Association holds AGM

YANGON, 31 Jan—The Mayagon Township Music Association held its annual general meeting at Basic Education Middle School No. 5 in Mayagon Township here on 28 January. Chairman of the Township Music Association U Hlaing (Thamaing Ko Ko Hlaing) and Township Administrator U Tint Lwin made speeches on the occasion. The chairman read a message sent by the chairman of Myanmar Music Organization (central). And those responsible presented annual reports and financial matters, which brought the meeting to an end.—MNA

Espanyol sign Brazilian starlet on loan

PAGE 14

Juventus hit with another racism fine

PAGE 14
**COORD MEETING ON PRODUCTION AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT HELD**

**NAV Pyi Taw, 31 Jan**—A coordination meeting on production and trade development was held at the Ministry of Commerce here this afternoon with an address of Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

Union Minister U Win Myint in his address said that the prices of basic commodities such as rice, edible oil, salt, chili and onion is stable in the time of the new government, adding that the majority of farmers were subject to loss due to the decline in the prices of paddy. And steps are therefore being taken for the purchase of reserve paddy at reasonable prices while striving for consumers to have access to quality commodities at fair prices, he noted.

Nowadays, imported commodities for consumer protection need to carry FDA recommendation with an expired date of one year at least. Mawtaung border trade centre will soon be opened for border trade development with plans for opening of other border trade centres to handle marine products, he said. The Union minister also urged those present to make suggestions on difficulties and proper approaches in dealing with trade development.

This was followed by a general round of discussions with the participation of deputy ministers, directors-general and managing directors, those from Yangoon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay City Development Committees and region and state governments and those from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and brother associations.

**UNDERTAKINGS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NAGA REGION DISCUSSED**

**NAV Pyi Taw, 31 Jan**—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation held a coordination meeting on development of Naga region at its hall yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than explained distribution of paddy and other crop seeds to Naga Self-Administered Zone as it is not sufficient in domestic consumption and rendering assistance of quality strain perennial crops including cardamom and rubber together with cultivation methods to the region for its long-term economy.

Deputy Minister U Khin Zaw elaborated on availability of water for agricultural purpose in villages of Naga Self-Administered Zone for their long-term development of economy and effectively utilizing of vacant and virgin lands and water resources.

Officials reported on cooperation in enhancement of socio-economic life of the people in Naga-Self-Administered Zone—**MNA**

---

**BEPS HOLDS SCHOOL FAMILY DAY**

**Mudon, 31 Jan**—The school family day was held in conjunction with the prize presentation for outstanding students for 2011-2012 academic year at the hall of Basic Education Primary School on Sarsin Road in Mudon on 3 January.

Headmaster U Min Thaung Han and members of the School Board of Trustees awarded 75 prize winning students.

The headmaster presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who participated in all round development of the school and donated refreshments to students—**Township IRPD**

**DANGER OF DRUGS, CRIME REDUCTION TALKED**

**Hsenwi, 31 Jan**—A talk on drug eradication and crime reduction was given at Aungmingala town hall in Hsenwi on 25 January morning.

Police Captain Ye Naing talked about eradication of narcotic drugs. Police Captain Yin Maung Swu explained matters related to crime reduction. IP Min Naing (Lashio) disseminated prevention against drug addiction.

**AIM BAZAR 2012 TO BE HELD ON 5 FEB**

**NAV Pyi Taw, 31 Jan**—In a bid to further cement touch of peoples between Indonesia and Myanmar, Association of Indonesia in Myanmar at 7/C in Golden Valley Street in Yangon plans to hold “AIM Bazaar 2012” market festival on 5 February at the Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon—**MNA**

**CLUB HOUSE OF ROYAL MINGALADON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB OPENS**

**Yangon, 31 Jan**—Opening ceremony of Club House of Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club took place at the club in Mingaladon Garden City here this morning. Chairman of Education, Health and Culture Committee Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Khin Shwe unveiled the signboard of club house.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan and Dr Khin Shwe delivered speeches and presented gifts to designers Dr Zaw Tun and Mr David Wei. Union Minister U Tint Hsan and Yangon Region Electricity and Industry U Hlaing Tin Aung unveiled the club house.

---

**COORDINATION MEETING ON DEVELOPMENT OF NAGA REGION IN PROGRESS**—**MNA**

**NAV Pyi Taw, 31 Jan**—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation held a coordination meeting on development of Naga region at its hall yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than explained distribution of paddy and other crop seeds to Naga Self-Administered Zone as it is not sufficient in domestic consumption and rendering assistance of quality strain perennial crops including cardamom and rubber together with cultivation methods to the region for its long-term economy.

---

**OPENING CEREMONY OF CLUB HOUSE OF ROYAL MINGALADON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB IN PROGRESS**—**NLM**

Nyan Tun Oo, Vice-President of Zaygaba Co Ltd U Zay Thiha and director Daw Zay Zin Latt opened the club house.

Then, the Union Minister and guests visited Club House where Zaygaba Myanamar Open Golf Tournament will be held and played golf.

---

**MDY MAYOR’S CUP FLORECultural Contest kicks off on 12 Feb**

**NAV Pyi Taw, 31 Jan**—Tenth Mandalay Mayor’s Cup Floricultural Contest will be held at Kandawgyi Public Recreation Garden in Mandalay on 12 February.

---

**MANY ANG**
Afghan officials, Taleban may hold talks in Saudi Arabia

KABUL, 31 Jan — The Afghan government hopes to hold talks with Taleban representatives in Saudi Arabia in the coming weeks, according to a senior Afghan official, in a move that threatens to cloud already delicate and fragile steps to negotiate an end to the US-led war in Afghanistan.

The senior official, speaking anonymously as he was discussing sensitive diplomatic issues, said there were plans for a meeting between militants and Afghan officials in Saudi Arabia. Yet, he added, the plans were at such an early stage that it was not clear who — including American officials — would attend or when any talks would be held.

The US has acknowledged that it has held discussions about opening a Taleban office in Doha, Qatar, as well as the possibility of transferring some Taleban prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay as part of American support for Afghan reconciliation efforts.

“The principle is that although there is now an agreement — almost — to set up an office in Doha, that doesn’t necessarily mean that all conversations will take place in Doha,” the official said. “We will talk to the same or different individuals from the insurgency in a different location. Obviously, Saudi Arabia has been supportive of the recent agenda and has hosted talks in the past. It is likely that we are heading there in the future for meetings.” He said he had attended and participants were still being fed into the Qatar process. This is "absolutely not in opposition to the Qatar process," he added, calling the talks in that Gulf state "a very substantive step forward."

Importantly, while the Afghan official was unable to say whether the Americans would attend any talks held in Saudi Arabia, he insisted, "The US is supportive of the idea. It is far too early to discuss any specifics about this."— Internet

Indian navy to host multi-nation exercise this week

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan — The Indian Navy will host a six-day multi-nation exercise from Wednesday off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal, local media reported on Tuesday.

Warships and delegations from 14 countries of the Asia-Pacific region would be taking part in the exercise which will focus on countering maritime terrorism, piracy and poaching as well as search and rescue and operations and capacity building, the Times of India quoted officials as saying.

The participants include Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, the Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Maldives, the Seychelles and Mauritius.

"Milan basically is a biennial conglomeration of Asia-Pacific navies, hosted by the Indian Navy, to foster bonds of ‘friendship across the seas’, boost interoperability and share views on common maritime issues. From four navies in 1995, this has grown to include 14 navies now," an official said.

An important priority in the Asia-Pacific region is the protection of sea lanes around Malacca Strait since around 60,000 ships transit through every year transporting 30 per cent of the world trade in goods.

For India, the stakes are clearly high, with the strategic Andaman and Nicobar Islands dominating the approaches to Malacca Strait, the report said. — Xinhua

British navy can now intercept supersonic missiles

LONDON, 31 Jan — Britain’s Royal Navy is building a new defence system that would be able to intercept enemy missiles travelling at supersonic speeds.

The Sea Ceptor missiles fired from navy warships can reach speeds of up to Mach 3 — more than 2,300 km per hour and can protect an area of around 1,300 square km over land or sea, Sky News reported.

The missiles will initially be used on the navy’s Type 23 frigates. “This new weapon system will equip our frigates to deal with type of sophisticated missile threat expected in the coming decades,” said navy chief Admiral Mark Stanhope.

A contract worth 483 million pounds (USD 760 million) to develop the Sea Ceptor system has been awarded to MBDA, reportedly the world’s second-largest arms manufacturer after Raytheon.

The five-year project would also offer 500 new jobs across the country, the ministry of defence said. — Xinhua

Four militants killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 31 Jan — Four armed militants were killed during joint Afghan and coalition operations in four provinces, the Afghan Interior Ministry said Tuesday.

“Afghan National Police (ANP), Afghan National Army and NATO-led coalition forces launched five joint operations in Laghman, Khost, Pakita and Wardak provinces over the past 24 hours,” the ministry said in a statement issued here on Tuesday morning.

“As a result of these operations, four armed militants were killed and five others were arrested by the ANP,” it said. The joint forces also discovered and confiscated three AK-47 guns with five magazines besides defusing one anti-vehicle mine. Afghan forces and NATO-led coalition troops have intensified cleanup operations throughout the post-election period. Over 90 militants have been killed and 380 others detained since the beginning of this year, according to official figures released by Interior Ministry.

The Taleban militants, who launched in May 2011 an offensive against Afghan and NATO forces, have yet to make comments — Xinhua

Abducted Mexican ambassador freed in Venezuela

CARACAS, 31 Jan — The Mexican ambassador to Venezuela, Carlos Pujalte, and his wife were freed early Monday, hours after being kidnapped in the capital city, said a spokesman of the Mexican embassy.

The couple had been kidnapped Sunday night on returning home in Valle Arriba, a neighbourhood in northeastern Caracas and three kilometres from the embassy, Xinhua quoted media reports as saying.

The authorities responded with a rescue operation coordinated by officials from the Penal and Criminal Investigation Group (CICPC), the National Guard (GN) and the National Bolivarian Police (PNB), forcing the kidnappers to release the couple after several hours. Both were released in their vehicle in Chapelín, a neighbourhood in eastern Caracas. According to a Mexican embassy spokesman, Fernando Gondim, both — the ambassador and his wife — were fine and an investigation was now underway. — Xinhua

Blast kills suspected militant leader

ISLAMABAD, 31 Jan — A blast Monday in the outskirts of Peshawar, Pakistan, killed a suspected militant leader and two others, police said. Another seven people were wounded critically, police said.

The explosion took place outside the home of Haji Akhundzada, suspected leader of Ansar ul Islam, a militant group operating in northwest Pakistan, police official Qahar Ayub said.

Akhundzada was killed, Ayub said. The attack could be a result of militant infighting, and it could be the work of Harkat ul Islam, a rival militant group, Ayub said.

The explosion was launched using a car packed with multiple bombs, including five kilograms of explosives, said Hafiz Khan, leaflag of a bomb disposal squad.
**Health Tip: Healthy fats? They exist**

All fats shouldn’t be treated equal. Your body craves certain "healthy" fats, which are unsaturated fats mostly found in plant-based foods. The womenshealth.gov website says these fats mostly found in plant-based foods.

- Olive, canola and peanut oils.
- Most types of nuts.
- Avocados.
- Safflower and sunflower oils.
- Corn oil, soybean oil and cottonseed oil.
- Fatty fish, such as salmon, mackerel and trout, as well as flaxseed, all of which are good sources of omega-3 fatty acids.

---

**US approves new drug for common skin cancer**

New York, 31 Jan—US authorities approved a new drug to treat the most common form of skin cancer, ... US authorities on Monday approved a new drug to treat the most common form of skin cancer, basal cell carcinoma, which is rarely lethal but can spread if left untreated. Erivedge (vismodegib) is made by Genentech, a US subsidiary of the Swiss drug giant Roche, and was approved by the Food and Drug Administration after an expedited review for drugs that offer the potential for major advances in treatment.

The drug is the first of its kind for patients whose basal cell carcinoma has spread either locally or to other parts of the body, or metastasized. A trial of 96 patients showed that 30 percent of those who had metastatic disease saw a partial shrinkage of their cancerous lesions after taking the drug, which comes in the form of a once-a-day pill. Among those whose cancer had spread locally, 43 percent saw a complete or partial shrinkage of lesions. “The drug is intended for use in patients with locally advanced basal cell cancer who are not candidates for surgery or radiation and for patients whose cancer has spread to other parts of the body,” said the FDA.—Internet

---

**Singapore’s unemployment rate hits 14-year low in 2011**

Singapore, 31 Jan—Supported by strong employment creation, Singapore’s unemployment rate fell to a 14-year low last year. The Manpower Ministry said the unemployment rate in December was unchanged from a quarter ago at 2 percent.

**Japan’s jobless rate rises to 4.6 pct in Dec**

Tokyo, 31 Jan—Japan’s jobless rate rose to 4.6 percent in December 2011, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous month, the government said on Tuesday. The seasonally adjusted figure marked the first deterioration in two months.

For 2011, the country’s unemployment rate, excluding prefectures hit by the twin disasters in March, declined to an average 4.5 percent, down 0.5 percentage point from the previous year, according to government data. The number of unemployed stood at 2.84 million in 2011, down 330,000 from 2010. The number of the employed people stood at 59.77 million, down 30,000.—Xinhua

**S Korean banks’ net profits jump 29 pct in 2011**

Seoul, 31 Jan—South Korean bank executives saw their net profit for 2011 jump 29 percent from a year earlier due mainly to lowering loan-loss reserves and one-off gains from the sale of a stake in a local builder, the financial watchdog said on Tuesday.

Combined net income of 18 local banks reached 12 trillion won (10.65 billion US dollars) in 2011, up 29.2 percent from the previous year, according to the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS). The on-year jump came as costs against bad loans sharply declined to 11.8 trillion won last year from 15 trillion won in 2010 when local lenders set aside huge loan-loss reserves amid large firms’ restructuring and rising sour loans in the real estate project-financing field.

Seven banks reaped one-off gains last year, including Kookmin Bank and Citibank, which raked in a combined pre-tax profit of 3.2 trillion won after selling their stakes in the country’s top builder Hyundai Engineering & Construction in the second quarter.

By income sources, interest income of domestic lenders came to 39.3 trillion won in 2011, up 3.4 percent from a year before due to a rise in lending rates and growth in assets that offer interest returns, according to the FSS. Non-interest income expanded 14 percent on-year to 8.3 trillion won last year. Meanwhile, local banks’ profitability improved slightly. The average rate of return on assets (ROA) for local lenders stood at 0.68 percent in 2011, up 0.14 percentage points from the previous year, while the return on equity (ROE) reached 8.55 percent last year, up 1.33 percentage points from a year before.—Xinhua

**Tasar silk could help heal damaged hearts**

London, 31 Jan—Silk is set to make a leap from dressing Indian brides to potentially growing replacement tissue for damaged hearts, keeping them healthy and even green. Max Planck scientists in Germany have succeeded in loading cardiac muscle cells onto a 3D scaffold (framework), created using the Tasar silk produced by a tropical silkworm.

Of all the body’s organs, the human heart is probably the one most primed for performance and efficiency. Damaged heart muscle cannot be regenerated. Scar tissue grows in place of the damaged muscle cells. In their attempt to develop a treatment for the repair of cardiac tissue, scientists are pursuing the aim of growing replacement tissue in the lab, according to a Max Planck statement.

“Whether natural or artificial in origin, all of the tested fibres had serious disadvantages,” says Felix Engel, who led the research at the Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research, Germany. “They were either too brittle, were attacked by the immune system or did not enable the heart muscle cells to adhere correctly to the fibres.”

Chhimoy Patra, who works in Engel’s lab, said the fibre produced by the tasar silkworm displays several advantages over the other substances tested. “The surface of the fibre has protein structures that facilitate the adhesion of heart muscle cells. It’s 1.5 times less coarse than other silk fibres.” This is the reason why the muscle cells grow well on it and can form a 3D tissue structure.

“The communication between the cells was intact and they beat synchronously over a period of 20 days, just like real heart muscle,” says Engel. However, clinical application of the fibre is yet far away as the findings have to be extrapolated on human cardiac cells, said Engel.—Internet

---

**German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends a Press conference after EU’s informal summit in Brussels**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends a Press conference after EU’s informal summit in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 30 Jan, 2012. All EU member states except Britain and the Czech Republic would join and sign a new fiscal treaty designed to enshrine tighter discipline, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said here late on Monday.—Xinhua
Scientists shift on brain speech centre

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—
The part of the brain used in speech processing is in a different location than originally believed, according to a US neurologist who conducted research in the late 1800s, was long believed to be at the back of the brain’s cerebral cortex, behind the auditory cortex which receives sounds.

But a review by scientists at Georgetown University Medical Centre of more than 100 imaging studies has shown it is actually three centimetres closer to the front of the brain, and is ‘in front of the auditory cortex, not behind.’

‘The books will now have to be rewritten,’ said neuroscientist professor Joseph Rauschecker, lead author of the study which appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. ‘We gave old theories that have long hung a knockout punch.’

Rauschecker and colleagues based their research on 115 previous peer-reviewed studies that investigated speech perception and used brain imaging scans — either MRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) or PET (positron emission tomography). — Internet

Britain to be scoured for black squirrels

CAMBRIDGE, 31 Jan—
British researchers are asking the public for help in determining the extent of invasive black squirrels in the country, first seen 100 years ago.

Black and the more common gray squirrels are the same species, and scientists from Anglia Ruskin University say they want to find if the darker, less common squirrels carry the “gray squirrel poo” disease that can infect Britain’s native red squirrels. About 100 gray squirrels were introduced to more than 30 sites across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and there are currently more than 2 million of them in Britain, the BBC reported. A mutation in the gene that governs coat pigmentation is responsible for the black colouring of some of the squirrels. The first “official UK sighting” of a black squirrel was in 1912, lead researcher Helen McRobie said, and they have only been spotted in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.— Internet

Pythons apparently wiping out Everglades mammals

WEST PALM BEACH, 31 Jan—A burgeoning population of huge pythons — many of them pets that were turned loose by their owners when they got too big — appears to be wiping out large numbers of raccoons, opossums, bobcats and other mammals in the Everglades, a study says.

The study, published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that sightings of medium-size mammals are down dramatically — as much as 99 percent, in some cases — in areas where pythons and other large, non-native constrictor snakes are known to be lurking.

Scientists fear the pythons could disrupt the food chain and upset the Everglades’ environmental balance in ways difficult to predict.

“The effects of declining mammal populations on the overall Everglades’ ecosystem, which extends well beyond the national park boundaries, are likely profound,” said John Willson, a research scientist at Virginia Tech University and co-author of the study.— Internet

Twitter faces censorship charges, blackout call

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—
Twitter, championed as a tool of free expression during the Arab Spring, was facing censorship charges on Friday after announcing it would block tweets on a country-by-country basis if it can now block tweets on a country-by-country basis if faced with censorship charges, blackout call

“Indoor pollutants can come from things like asbestos, markers and new carpet, and are very harmful in just small amounts,” says geen quoted Weerasighe in a study saying.

“A room like an office or a laboratory that may have few or no windows will have higher levels of indoor air pollutants than a room that has lots of windows. Also, if the room does not have good ventilation those levels would increase,” she said. For her research, Weerasighe is testing and analysing photocatalysts and dark catalysts, materials made by chemically bonding a metal to oxygen. Photocatalysts react to light while dark catalysts react to darkness.— Internet

Chemistry research may help free environment of toxins

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—A researcher is studying materials that use light or darkness to purify air filled with toxins that are harmful to human health and the environment.

“Living conditions in ancient times were very different; there were no pollutants or modified foods, but the backlash is to believe that this disease is not necessarily only linked to industrial factors,” she said. A statement from AUC says the oldest known case came from a 2,700-year-old skeleton of a king in Russia.

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR KEN SALAZAR, right, Ron Bergeron, second from left, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service Supervisor Ranger Al Mercado, second from left, and Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla, left, hold a 13-foot python in the Everglades, Fla, on 17 Jan, 2012. — Reuters

Plastic from synthetic clothes threaten food chain

LONDON, 31 Jan—Microscopic plastic debris that are released from washing synthetic clothes are accumulating in the marine environment and could be entering the food chain, a study has warned. Researchers traced the microplastic to synthetic clothes, which released up to 1,900 tiny fibres per garment every time they were washed, BBC reported.

The findings appeared in the journal Environmental Science and Technology. “Research we had done before showed that when we looked at all the bits of plastic in the environment, about 80 percent was made up from smaller bits of plastic,” said co-author Mark Browne, an ecologist now based at the University of California.

Browne, a member of the National Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, said the tiny plastics were a concern because evidence showed they were making their way into the food chain. “Once the plastics had been eaten, it transferred from the animals’ stomachs to their circulation system and actually accumulated in their cells,” he told BBC. — Internet

Design drawing of the Sea Trees, a multi-storey structure comprising of layered green habitats by Dutch architect Koen Olthuis. This is a water-based park, which will offer favourable living areas for wild animals, providing positive green concepts to urban environments.— Internet
Raul Castro defends Cuba’s one-party system

HAVANA, 31 Jan—President Raul Castro delivered a full-throated defence of Cuba’s one-party political system on Sunday, and a sharp warning to Communist Party delegates to fight corruption he said was a greater threat to the revolution than anything the United States could dream up.

In a stern closing speech to the party’s national conference, Castro reiterated his pledge to institute term-limits for Cuban officials, a promise to implement the one-party system and to fight corruption he said were federal officials to two, 5-year terms.

The US threat to Cuba and the limits it placed on reform was a continuing theme of the speech. Cuba’s President upbraided those who were hoping to see more fundamental changes come out of the two-day meetings.

India not to cut oil imports from Iran

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan—India has said it won’t cut down its oil imports from Iran, apparently making it clear that it would not buckle to any pressure from the United States or western countries which have imposed sanctions on Tehran, local media reported Monday.

“It is not possible for India to take any decision to reduce the imports from Iran drastically, because among the countries which can provide the requirement of the emerging economies, Iran is an important country amongst them,” Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee was quoted as saying during a visit to the United States on Sunday.

“We (India) imported last year $110 million tons of crude per year. We will not decrease imports from Iran. Iran is an important country for India despite US and European sanctions on Iran,” said Mukherjee.

Indian teacher chosen for US space programme

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—A teacher from Maharashtra in India has been chosen for the US Space Foundation’s elite 2012 Flight of Teacher Liaisons programme.

Vandana Suryawanshi of Vidya Valley School in Maharashtra is a middle school educator who has been teaching biology, earth science and general science for 20 years. He joins 19 other outstanding educators selected for their active promotion of space and science education.

The new flight of Teacher Liaisons will serve as advocates for space-themed education across the curriculum and will use Space Foundation-provided training and resources to further integrate space principles into the classroom, the Colorado Springs-based non-profit leader in space awareness programmes announced.

The highly regarded Space Foundation Teacher Liaison programme has more than 270 active participants. The teachers are selected by a panel comprising experienced Teacher Liaisons and representatives from the space industry and the military.

The 2012 Teacher Liaisons will be publicly recognized at the Space Foundation’s 28th National Space Symposium, which is being held on 16 to 19 April at The Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In addition to the recognition activities, the 2012 Teacher Liaisons will participate in workshops and education programmes at the 28th National Space Symposium.

Following the symposium, Teacher Liaisons can take advantage of specialized training and instruction at Space Foundation and NASA workshops with optional graduate-level credit; exclusive science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professional development experiences with optional continuing education credit; and special space-education student programmes created just for Teacher Liaisons.

Gunmen attack police station in northern Nigeria

KANO, 31 Jan—Gunmen attacked a police station in Nigeria’s flashpoint city of Kano on Sunday, setting off a gun battle with police, residents said.

It is the second time in three days that the Mandawa police station has come under attack in Kano, the country’s second biggest city and the scene of one of the deadliest attacks blamed on the Islamist sect Boko Haram.

“It was crazy. These guys came on motorcycles and opened fire on the police station but they met tough resistance from the police, and it lasted around 20 minutes.” Jamal Muham-mad, who lives across the police station, told AFP. Witnesses said it was not yet clear if there were any casualties, and police were not immediately available for comment.

“From my house I heard gunfire at exactly 5:50 am (0450 GMT) coming from around the police station,” said a local journalist who lives in the neighbourhood.

He said motorcycles were racing up and down his street as the sound of gunfire rang around the police station.

The attack took place in the Mandawa neighbourhood, not far from the palace of the emir of Kano, the most important traditional leader in the city. Boko Haram was blamed for a series of bombings and shootings in Kano on January 20, that mainly targeted police stations and killed at least 185 people.
SINGAPORE, 31 Jan—
Police investigating a possible robbery at a Birmingham home early Sunday instead found five people dead, authorities said.

Birmingham Police Sgt John Wells said officers were called to the house at around 3:30 a.m. on Sunday after receiving a report of a robbery. Officers arrived at the house around 4 a.m. but found four people dead inside the house. When police left the area, a woman walked into the house and found a fifth person dead.

Police said they have not determined the cause of death, but said there was evidence of violence.

**Blizzard disrupts traffic in NE China**

SHENYANG, 31 Jan—A blizzard swept across parts of northeast China’s Liaoning Province on Tuesday morning, forcing authorities to impose traffic restrictions on major expressways.

The blizzard mainly hit southeast Liaoning’s Dandong area, leading to a widespread fall in those areas on Tuesday, the observatory predicted.

From 3 am to 9 am in Dandong, the Shenyang Central Meteorological Bureau said the city could see a fall of over 30 per cent.

**Australia’s NSW floods force road closures, isolate residents**

SYDNEY, 31 Jan—Heavy rain and localized flooding have forced the closure of the Pacific Highway at the town of Grafton in northern New South Wales (NSW) of Australia, authorities said on Monday.

The NSW Department of Transport said they were unsure when the road would reopen but that diversions were in place.

More heavy rain is expected on Monday, increasing the likelihood of minor flooding in Nambucca and Murrambidgee valleys, according to the Bureau of Meteorology.

About 2000 residents in Macleay, Bellinger, Brunswick, Tweed and areas along the Clarence River on the north coast of NSW are already isolated by floodwaters, the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) said. Residents in some northern communities have been told to prepare for further flooding, as water rises downstream from Queensland over the next two weeks.

A major flood warning has been issued for residents around the Paroo River, in northwest NSW, after heavy rain fell in the Upper Paroo River valley.

**Philippines arrests foreign trio in big drugs bust**

MANILA, 31 Jan—Philippine police arrested three men on Sunday in a sting operation that netted illegal drugs worth over two million dollars, officials said.

The three were caught selling more than two kilos (4.4 pounds) of the banned stimulant crystal methamphetamine hydrochloride, more commonly known as “ice” or “shabu”, to an undercover agent, police said.

Agents also found drugs in the suspects’ vehicle.

“We believe they are selling two kinds of ‘shabu’, one priced lower and one with a higher price imported from another country,” task force head Superintendent Ismael Fajardo said on national radio.

He said the bogus transaction took place at a car park of a hospital in Manila and agents pounced on the trio after marked money changed hands.

The Philippines has been stepping up its fight against drug traffickers after concerns the archipelago country’s vast shoreline made it a favourite shipment point for illegal drugs.

**Sudan frees ships held in S Sudan oil row**

KHARTOUM, 31 Jan—
South Sudan freed three oil tankers held in a dispute with breakaway South Sudan, which has accused Khartoum of theft, the foreign ministry said.

South Sudan has repeatedly complained that Khartoum is taking crude oil from South Sudan without compensation.

It said this approach is in recognition that Singapore has to move beyond widening drains and building flood barriers to resolve the country’s flood problem. One reason is that with land being a premium, there is limited space how much can be set aside for drains. The panel also recommended better data. The PUB said it will be piloting a system over the next two years to better forecast where and when floods will occur.

They will be getting information on rainfall from the Meteorological Service and data from their own canal sensors. PUB is not, at this point, able to say how much advance warning it can give but it said that even a few minutes will be helpful to the public.

As for Stamford Canal, in the immediate term, PUB will be coating its walls with a polymer lining to reduce friction and increase the water speed. It will also remove the sewer and Newater pipes that are placed inside the canal to allow the canal to hold more water.

**PUB to spend S$750m to improve drainage capacity**

Unidentified Birmingham police officers stop Ravena Carlson, second from right, whose husband’s body was found inside the house, and her cousin Naija Carlson, far right, from getting close to the scene where five people were found dead inside a house at 313 Avenue S in Birmingham, Ala., on 29 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

**Officers checking robbery find five dead in Ala home**

BIRMINGHAM, 31 Jan—
Police investigating a possible robbery at a Birmingham home early Sunday instead found five people dead, authorities said.

Birmingham Police Sgt John Wells said officers were called to the house at around 3:30 a.m. on Sunday after receiving a call that a robbery was in progress and soon discovered the five victims. He told reporters that investigators were interviewing potential witnesses but so far have made no arrests. “Someone out there knows more information,” said Williams. “We know someone is going to do the right thing.”

The victims’ identities and the causes of death were not immediately released. Birmingham authorities launched a homicide investigation and police believe more than one person was involved.

“It obviously appears to us this horrific crime was not a random act of violence,” said Birmingham Police Chief AC Roper. The two-bedroom house, which is made partly of cinderblocks, was built along a busy street in west Birmingham. Vacant homes sit beside houses where some residents have lived for years.

One is Beatrice Houston, who lives across the street from the home where the bodies were found.

Houston, who is 64, said she believes a woman, her son and her brother had lived in the house for the last year or so. She said she didn’t know the neighbours’ names, but started worrying when she saw groups of young men hanging around the house at odd hours.

Still, she said her neighbours didn’t cause many disturbances. “I never had any problem with them,” she said. “They were cordial. Just kept to myself.”

Doreatha Moss lived in the house, a white building with green trim now surrounded by police tape, until late 2010. She doesn’t know who moved in to take her place.

**South Sudanese soldiers overlook the shutting down of the Petrodar oil concession during a shutdown on oil production by South Sudan.**

Sudan on Sunday released three oil tankers held in a dispute with breakaway South Sudan, which has accused Khartoum of theft, the foreign ministry said.

Today the three ships left. The last one departed at three o’clock (1200 GMT), foreign ministry spokesman Al-Obied Merih told AFP.

He added that President Omar al-Bashir had ordered the tankers’ release even though they had not paid fees for using the Red Sea port. The vessels contained 2.2 million barrels of South Sudanese oil. A Sudanese official announced on Saturday in Addis Ababa, where the two sides failed to resolve a dispute over oil fees, that the ships were free to go as a goodwill gesture.

Quickly had hoped the South would reverse a protest shutdown of its oil facilities as a result, but Juba’s petroleum and mining minister, Stephen Dhieu Dau, said freeing the ships would not be enough.

“The stolen crude must be paid back to South Sudan,” Dau said. South Sudan President Salva Kiir last week accused Khartoum of stealing $815 million worth of crude oil since December, largely by blocking four ships in Port Sudan and preventing four others from collecting their purchases.

In November, Sudanese officials announced the country would take 23 percent of the south’s vital oil exports as payment in kind during the fee dispute.

Landlocked South Sudan split from Sudan in July after decades of war. It took with it three quarters of the country’s oil, but all pipeline and export facilities are controlled by Sudan.

The two countries disagree over how much Juba should pay for using the north’s pipeline, port and other infrastructure.

With talks stalled, the South said on Sunday it had nearly completed a shutdown of its oil production — the fledging nation’s top revenue source.
The joint bill committee approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw includes U Mya Nyunt of Yangon Region Constituency No.7 as chairman, U Saw Hla Tun of Chaung U Constituency as secretary; U TKH Muty of Kutkai Constituency, Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency, U Thaung of Mawlauk Constituency, U Ba Sein of Kyaukpyu Constituency, U Nguyen Moun of Hakai Constituency, U Soe Soe of Htigyaing Constituency, U Khin Maung Myint of Zeegon Constituency, U Khin Maung Nyo of Puak Constituency, U Khin Maung Shwe of Taungu Constituency, U Soe Yal of Dimaenaw Constituency, U Steven of Kengtung Constituency, U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency, Dr Soe Moe Aung of Bilin Constituency, U Aung Mya Than of Nyaungdon Constituency, Daw Nai Ni Ay of Kayin State Constituency No.6, U Swa Doke Chin of Chin State Constituency No.6, U Thein Win of Sagaing Region Constituency No.9, U Than Mynyit of Taninthayi Region Constituency No.10, U Myint Tun of Bago Region Constituency No.10, U Soe Myint of Magway Region Constituency No.6, U Zaw Myint Pe of Mandalay Region Constituency No.5, U Hlat Gyi of Mandalay Region Constituency No.9, U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State Constituency No.2, Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No.4, U Tin Yu of Yangon Region Constituency No.11, U Hsi Paung Nut of Shan State Constituency No.12, Defence Services personnel Amyotha Hluttaw representative Col Hla Tun and U San Tun of Kachin State Constituency No.11 as members.

In order to take over financial affairs from Pyithu Hluttaw, Joint Public Accounts Committee comprising the same numbers of members of Public Accounts Committees both from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw was formed and duties assigned for detailed scrutinizing bills to be discussed and passed only at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw before discussing it at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Union Health Minister receives Chairman of General Electric Corporate-Asia Pacific and ASEAN Headquarters

NAV P’I TAW, 31 Jan—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Chairman Mr Stuart Dean and party of General Electric Corporate-Asia Pacific and ASEAN Headquarters at 4:30 pm yesterday and Managing Director Mr Stanislaus Ting and party of Friends without A Border at 5:30 pm at the ministry, here.

The Union Minister and General Electric Corporate-Asia Pacific and ASEAN Headquarters discussed upgrading of hospitals and enhancement of services, provision of modern hospital equipment for diagnosis and medical treatment. The Union Minister and Friends without A Border focused on assistance for teaching aid at universities of medicine and exchange of technology.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Director-General Dr Tun Naing Oo of Health Department, Director-General Dr Than Zaw Myat of Medical Science Department and officials.—MNA

UN human rights envoy arrives

YANGON, 31 Jan—The Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana arrived here today.

He was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Deputy Director-General of the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs U Khin Maung Thein and departmental officials, Mr. Axxok Nigam, UN Resident Coordinator in Myanmar, and responsible personnel.

AFTERHEARING

The Union Minister stressed the need to install machinery at 230/33/11KV (2x100) MVA Myaukpyin power station as it is the first station to be installed with 100-MVA transformer in Myanmar. The facility will supply electricity to Manda- lay and its surrounding areas with the use of eleven 33 KV feeders, he said.

Later, the Union minister visited the control building and installation of machinery and connection works.—MNA

YANGON, 31 Jan—Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe heard reports on progress of 230/33/11KV (2x100) MVA Myaukpyin power station of Patheingyi Township, installation of 20 master shunt reactor at Nyaungbinpyi and Chaungka power stations, construction of 132 KV Taungawdawkin main power station and expansion of 132 KV feeder at Ingomain power station, building of 66/11KV, 2MVA power stations in Kyaw and Gangaw, installation of transformers at Myaukpyin power station and installation of power lines presented by Project Manager U Kyaw Khang Tun at Myaukpyin power station in Patheingyi Township yesterday.

Project Director U Tin Aung of Power Supply (North) Projects Branch and Mandalay Region Engineer Daw Aye Aye Min gave supplementary reports.

Union EP-2 Minister visits Myaukpyin power station in Patheingyi

Specialists’ team provides healthcare to local people in Thandaunggyi

Specialists’ team provides healthcare to local people in Thandaunggyi

NAY P’I TAW, 31 Jan—Under the aegis of Kayin State government, head of State Health Department Dr Khin Maung Lin led a team of specialists, doctors and nurses which provided to local people of Thandaunggyi and surrounding villagers at Thandaunggyi Station Hospital on 27 January.

State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, state ministers and officials encouraged the healthcare of team and provided sweaters, blankets, traditional wears and iodine salt packages and donated glasses to eye patients.

Ten groups formed with specialists from Hpa-an People’s Hospital and doctors and nurses from Thandaunggyi Station Hospital reached out to local people and provided healthcare.—MNA
Auknat Creek Bridge

- The new government opened Auknat Creek Bridge on 25 June, 2011. The third above-180-ft bridge opened by the new government is of combined RC and bailey type, with wooden floor. It has the length of 466 ft and 13.5-ft-wide motorway and can withstand 13 tons of loads.
- Thanks to the bridge, marine products and rice produced by Ayeyawady Region can be transported to the whole country through the roads linking every corners of the country. It facilitates social, health and economic development of local people.

Progress of communications in Myitkyina inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Kachin State Minister for Transport U Karman Du Naw yesterday inspected construction of GSM mechanical buildings and foundation of the tower in the compound of the staff quarters of telegraphic office in Sitapu Ward in Myitkyina, installation of WCDMA and CDMA-800 MHz at GSM radio station No. 3 in Industrial Zone Ward, installation of Cellular/GSM/CDMA-450 MHz/CDMA-800 MHz/WCDMA and BSC at the microwave station in Kachin State Manager Office in Myitkyina and auto-exchange.

At the guesthouse of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, the state minister heard reports on posts, telegraphic and telephone works of the state and extended installation of 106000 GSM mobile system lines in the first year presented by the Kachin State Manager. —MNA

ICTSI Business Group calls on Dy Transport Minister

YANGON, 31 Jan — Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein received Mr Enrique K Razon Jr, Chairman and President of ICTSI Business Group in the Philippines, and party at his office here this afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters on investment for development of Yangon Port. —MNA

ICTSI Business Group in the Philippines, and party at his office here this afternoon.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to ask!
India, China rise makes Asia important: US

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—With the rise of China and India as world powers, Asia is becoming more important to America as Asian markets and suppliers drive the US economy, according to a senior US official.

“With the end of the war in Iraq, we have more ‘bandwidth’ to focus on the future,” said Michele Flournoy, the undersecretary of defence for policy, who is leaving at the end of this week, according to the defence department website.

“Obviously we will do what we need to prevail in Afghanistan, but as we think more and more about the future we see both the challenges and opportunities arising out of Asia,” she said.

The rise of China and India as world powers reinforces the trend, but US must cultivate other nations in Southeast Asia, Flournoy said. Also important, she noted, was the continued and deep alliances with Japan and South Korea.

Flournoy said that with so much competition and periods of great tension and even conflict, “It is something that even countries that are not our allies - like China and other countries in the region - all tend to acknowledge that the United States plays a stabilising influence and they don’t want us to leave.”

The Middle East and Central Asia remain areas of turmoil, but Flournoy felt good about the responsible conclusion in Iraq. “And I think we’ve turned around a strategy in the Afghanistan,” she said.

Ill nuke plant loses partial power

BYRON, 31 Jan—A low-level emergency was declared Monday at the Byron nuclear generating station near Rockford, Ill, because of a partial power loss. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region III spokeswoman Viktoria Mitlyng said two diesel generators are running at the facility, which lost power to its 1,136-megawatt unit, one of two at the site. The second unit, a 1,164-megawatt unit, was operating at full power, the Chicago Tribune reported.

Mitlyng said workers at the Exelon Corp plant about two hours northwest of Chicago reported seeing smoke from a transformer following the outage. No fire was found. Steam was released from the plant and was being monitored for tritium levels, fire officials said.

Three Canadians jailed for “honor killings”

Kingston, 31 Jan—Three members of an Afghan Canadian family were found guilty of the “honor killing” of three siblings and a fourth relative on Sunday after a high-profile trial that has fascinated Canadians.

A jury in Kingston, Ontario, found the three - husband and wife Mohammad Shafia and Tooba Mohammad Yahya, and their eldest son Hamed Mohammad Shafia - guilty of four counts of first-degree murder.

Their victims were three of Hamed’s sisters and the woman introduced to outsiders as a cousin, who turned out to be Mohammad Shafia’s first wife in a polygamous marriage.

On many issues.

Three sisters were found drowned in a canal lock, along with the fourth family member. - Reuters

Africa’s economy remains robust in 2011 despite difficult situation

ADDIS ABABA, 31 Jan—In spite of the difficult international situation, Africa’s economic growth remained robust in 2011, reaching an average of five to six percent, said Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 18th Summit of AU head of states and governments at the new AU Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Ping said several countries have registered average economic growth exceeding five and six percents even reaching double figure growth.

The chairperson, who assumed the position four year ago, said Africa has made progress in reduction of deficits and inflation, increasing productivity, and increasing productive investment, a requirement for job and wealth creation. “We owe this change of fortune to the export of our raw materials. We also, and more importantly, own to the initiatives that we have taken to promote political and economic, good governance, the reduction in number of conflicts, the increase in democratic demands and improvements in business climate,” said Ping.

Ping also said Africa should invest in infrastructure and the 18th AU Assembly is expected to adopt the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) which was launched in Kampala, Uganda. The Chairperson also emphasized on the need to speed up the economic integration of the continent. - Xinhua

100 firefighters battle bushfire in Western Australia’s south west

SYDNEY, 31 Jan—About 100 firefighters are battling a bushfire near Wannanum, north of Perth, in Western Australia’s south west, authorities said on Monday.

Residents in the town of Wannanum have been told to leave or be ready to defend their properties as the bushfire is moving towards the town, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA) said. The FESA said firefighters had saved 30 homes in the area and no homes had been lost.

The fire which started on Sunday afternoon, has burnt 1,650 hectares of bushland.

A total of 100 firefighters are strengthening containment lines, using 29 appliances, with water-bombing planes on stand-by, the FESA said.

Residents in the town of Wannanum have been told to leave or be ready to defend their properties as the bushfire is moving towards the town, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA) said. The FESA said firefighters had saved 30 homes in the area and no homes had been lost.

Thailand’s major dam discharges more water ahead of rainy season

BANGKOK, 31 Jan—Sirikit Dam, one of the biggest dams in the country, in northern Uthai Thani Province released more water with the main purpose to cut retention capacity to less than 50 percent in preparation for the next rainy season, state-run MCOT reported Sunday.

The Royal Irrigation Department’s water management committee has earlier directed the Sirikit Dam’s director to increase water discharge from the dam, conforming to the government’s policy to raise daily discharge volume between 27 Jan and April.

The targeted retention capacity was less than 50 percent as an increase in rainfall during the upcoming rainy season was expected.

The dam on Sunday released 46 million cubic metres of water and will raise the volume of discharged water to 50 million cubic metres per day on 31 Jan.

The plan of discharging water retention in major dams at the earliest stage came after the country faced the most severe flood crisis last year. - Xinhua

Male giant Panda Yang Guang (Sunshine) relaxes with some bamboo in hand in his enclosure at Edinburgh Zoo on 12 Dec, Yang Guang and female panda Tian Tian have been removed from public view this weekend after falling ill with colic, a zoo spokeswoman said. - Reuters

Three members of an Afghan Canadian family were found guilty of the “honor killing” of three siblings and a fourth relative on Sunday after a high-profile trial that has fascinated Canadians.

A jury in Kingston, Ontario, found the three - husband and wife Mohammad Shafia and Tooba Mohammad Yahya, and their eldest son Hamed Mohammad Shafia - guilty of four counts of first-degree murder.

Their victims were three of Hamed’s sisters and the woman introduced to outsiders as a cousin, who turned out to be Mohammad Shafia’s first wife in a polygamous marriage.

Three members of an Afghan Canadian family were found guilty of the “honor killing” of three siblings and a fourth relative on Sunday after a high-profile trial that has fascinated Canadians.

A jury in Kingston, Ontario, found the three - husband and wife Mohammad Shafia and Tooba Mohammad Yahya, and their eldest son Hamed Mohammad Shafia - guilty of four counts of first-degree murder.

Their victims were three of Hamed’s sisters and the woman introduced to outsiders as a cousin, who turned out to be Mohammad Shafia’s first wife in a polygamous marriage.

Three members of an Afghan Canadian family were found guilty of the “honor killing” of three siblings and a fourth relative on Sunday after a high-profile trial that has fascinated Canadians.

A jury in Kingston, Ontario, found the three - husband and wife Mohammad Shafia and Tooba Mohammad Yahya, and their eldest son Hamed Mohammad Shafia - guilty of four counts of first-degree murder.

Their victims were three of Hamed’s sisters and the woman introduced to outsiders as a cousin, who turned out to be Mohammad Shafia’s first wife in a polygamous marriage.

Three members of an Afghan Canadian family were found guilty of the “honor killing” of three siblings and a fourth relative on Sunday after a high-profile trial that has fascinated Canadians.

A jury in Kingston, Ontario, found the three - husband and wife Mohammad Shafia and Tooba Mohammad Yahya, and their eldest son Hamed Mohammad Shafia - guilty of four counts of first-degree murder.

Their victims were three of Hamed’s sisters and the woman introduced to outsiders as a cousin, who turned out to be Mohammad Shafia’s first wife in a polygamous marriage.

Three members of an Afghan Canadian family were found guilty of the “honor killing” of three siblings and a fourth relative on Sunday after a high-profile trial that has fascinated Canadians.

A jury in Kingston, Ontario, found the three - husband and wife Mohammad Shafia and Tooba Mohammad Yahya, and their eldest son Hamed Mohammad Shafia - guilty of four counts of first-degree murder.

Their victims were three of Hamed’s sisters and the woman introduced to outsiders as a cousin, who turned out to be Mohammad Shafia’s first wife in a polygamous marriage.
Obama’s old car listed on eBay for HOW much?!

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—Passengers on a Delta Air Lines flight experienced an unexpected bump on Sunday when the plane rolled off the runway after landing in Detroit.

Flight 753 from Las Vegas was trying to turn onto a taxiway when it slipped off the pavement, according to the Wayne County Airport Authority. It’s not clear yet what caused the plane to slide off course, spokesman Scott Wintner said.

“It was like a toboggan ride down the runway, and we just couldn’t make the turn at the end, and we slid off the runway into the grass,” passenger Steve Maranowski told CNN.

The aircraft, carrying 153 passengers and six crew members, was pulled back onto the taxiway and towed to the gate, according to Delta spokesman Anthony Black. The plane was not damaged, and no one was injured, Black said.

Passengers spent about two and a half hours on the taxiway, Maranowski told WDIV.

“Don’t worry, the plane was not damaged, and no one was injured...” Black said. The airport authority will investigate to determine operating conditions at the time of the incident.—Internet

DELTA FLIGHT SLIDES OFF RUNWAY IN DETROIT

More than 100 injured after earthquake hits coastal Peru

LIMA, 31 Jan—More than 100 people were injured when a strong earthquake shook coastal Peru on early Monday, civil defence officials said.

The magnitude 6.3 quake hit about 85 kilometres (53 miles) southeast of Ica, at a depth of 9.2 kilometres (5.7 miles), according to the US Geological Survey. Civil defence officials reported that 119 people were injured and 40 homes were either damaged or destroyed.

Power was temporarily down in parts of Ica, they said. State-run TV Perusurported that police fired tear gas to disperse a crowd of hundreds of people who had gathered to search for survivors.

A 6.9-magnitude earthquake struck the same region in October, leveling dozens of buildings and leaving some homes homeless. In 2007, an 8.0-magnitude quake struck southwestern Peru, killing more than 500 people and injuring more than 1,000. The most serious damage from that quake occurred in towns and cities along the country’s Pacific coast south of Lima, including Chinchca, Canete, Pisco and Ica.

In addition, Saturday’s earthquake was the latest in a series of quakes to hit Peru’s southern coast since October, causing severe damage to infrastructure, crops and homes.

A band parades on 28 Jan, 2012 in downtown of Los Angeles, at the traditional Chinese New Year festivities in the California’s metropolis.—INTERNET

Internet

RUSIAN COMPANY SUES US FIRM OVER LADY GAGA CONCERT

MOSCOW, 31 Jan—Russian media holding company UTU, which owns Muz-TV channel, has filed a USD 1.8 million lawsuit with a Miami court, claiming losses from US-based New Wave Entertainment over a cancelled Moscow concert by popular singer Lady Gaga.

New Wave Entertainment has so far refused to return the funds.—INTERNET

Internet

Man hit in head by airplane propeller dies

El CAJON, 31 Jan—A man was fatally injured on Monday when he was hit in the head by an airplane’s propeller at a Southern California airport, authorities said. Ian Gregor, spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, told the Los Angeles Times the accident occurred about 8:30 a.m. at Gillespie Field in El Cajon, San Diego County. Gregor said the man apparently was trying to hand-crack the Piper Cherokee plane when he was struck. He was taken to a hospital where he died a short time later.—INTERNET

Internet

Russian company sues US firm over Lady Gaga concert

Moscow, 31 Jan—Russian media holding company UTU, which owns Muz-TV channel, has filed a USD 1.8 million lawsuit with a Miami court, claiming losses from US-based New Wave Entertainment over a cancelled Moscow concert by popular singer Lady Gaga.

New Wave Entertainment has so far refused to return the funds.—INTERNET

Internet

Man orders chicken, eats wire

BROOKLYN, 31 Jan—A New York bus driver says he is suing a fast food chicken outlet, claiming he nearly choked on a two-inch coil of wire that was cooked into his food. Lajer Grynsztajn, 50, has filed suit seeking unspecified damages against JFK Fried Chicken in the Sunnyside Park area of Brooklyn claiming he needed emergency surgery to remove the wire that had lodged in his throat.

“The more I think about it, I get angry,” he told the New York Daily News. “I almost died for something stupid like that!”

The 11-year Metropolitan Transportation Authority veteran said he stopped by the chicken place on 9 Jan, sat down and ate a meal of two chicken breasts and fries, the New York Daily News reported on Monday. “I felt a sharp pain, like I was choking,” Grynsztajn said. “I thought I was choking on a bone.”

He left the restaurant, started coughing up blood and wound up at Lutheran Medical Centre where a doctor discovered a wire so deeply down his throat, he had to be anesthetized before the doctor could take the wire out, court documents say.

The newspaper said a man who answered the phone at JFK Fried Chicken denied the bus driver’s charges saying, “I think this guy is (expletive) us,” before hanging up.

Grynsztajn says he has given up on settling the case.—INTERNET

Web

Indian Sikh devotees take a dip in the sarover (water tank) at the Sikh Shrine Gurdwara Chheharta Sahib on Basant Panchmi, the Festival of Spring, celebrated mainly in Haryana and Punjab.—INTERNET

Web

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, campaigns for President at the Eastern Ship Building in Pascagoula, Florida.—INTERNET

Web

Washington, 31 Jan—Passengers on a Delta Air Lines flight experienced an unexpected bump on Sunday when the plane rolled off the runway after landing in Detroit.

Flight 753 from Las Vegas was trying to turn onto a taxiway when it slipped off the pavement, according to the Wayne County Airport Authority. It’s not clear yet what caused the plane to slide off course, spokesman Scott Wintner said.

“It was like a toboggan ride down the runway, and we just couldn’t make the turn at the end, and we slid off the runway into the grass,” passenger Steve Maranowski told CNN.

The aircraft, carrying 153 passengers and six crew members, was pulled back onto the taxiway and towed to the gate, according to Delta spokesman Anthony Black. The plane was not damaged, and no one was injured, Black said.

Passengers spent about two and a half hours on the taxiway, Maranowski told WDIV.

“The problem was they had to wait for the salt trucks, wait for the towing company, and wait for the operations to get it out,” he said. Black said Delta and the airport will investigate to determine operating conditions at the time of the incident.—INTERNET

A Delta Air Lines flight slid off a taxiway Sunday in Detroit.—INTERNET

Washington, 31 Jan—In a 2005 Chrysler sedan purported to once belong to President Obama is up for auction on eBay for... wait for it... $1 million. The vehicle is for sale in Illinois, Obama’s home before he won the White House. The seller, cubfanatic23, says on the site that the car — bought from a dealership — has 20,800 miles on it: “I’m sure many of them were highway miles back & forth from Chicago to Springfield since Barack was an Illinois State Senator during 2004.”

According to a Q & A in the listing, the owner is a Republican. “But I’m not out and out mean or stupid to Democrats... sure I don’t agree with 99% of what Obama does, but as a Capitalist, if I can make money off Obama then I’ll be happy.”

According to CNNMoney, the woman selling the vehicle is Lisa Cribor, a self-described “life-long Ronald Reagan old-school conservative.” She said that while she’s received some flak about the hefty price tag, she’s determined to sell it.

The bluebook value is $16,500. Of course, that’s not counting the regal elegance of it having once been driven by the leader of the free world. “It’s all about the money for me,” Cribor told CNNMoney.

There were no bids as of around noon on Monday.—INTERNET

Man hit in head by airplane propeller dies

El CAJON, 31 Jan—A man was fatally injured on Monday when he was hit in the head by an airplane’s propeller at a Southern California airport, authorities said. Ian Gregor, spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, told the Los Angeles Times the accident occurred about 8:30 a.m. at Gillespie Field in El Cajon, San Diego County. Gregor said the man apparently was trying to hand-crack the Piper Cherokee plane when he was struck. He was taken to a hospital where he died a short time later.—INTERNET

Web

Internet
A fake ancient jade collateral found in Chinese auction market

Beijing, 31 Jan—Recent years have seen a real boom in business for auction houses in China. But even as prices climb, so too is the number of fakes.

In one recent case, a businessman was found to have defrauded banks out of millions of yuan by using a fake ancient jade burial suit as collateral. But the suit, appraised by five antiquities experts at 2.4 billion yuan, or about 380 million U.S. dollars, was later discovered to be a modern fake. With a slew of fraud allegations about Chinese buyers, sellers, auction houses, and experts, many are now arguing for auction law reform in China.—Xinhua

A fake ancient jade collateral found in Chinese auction market

India, Japan conclude Coast Guard Meeting and Combined Exercises

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan—The Xi High Level Meeting and Combined Exercises between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) were recently held at Chennai.

Both sides discussed maritime issues of mutual concern while formulating a late a cooperative approach to address them. The visit also provided renewed impetus to strong ties that exist between the two Coast Guards as the Japan Coast Guard Ship has visited India, after a gap of six years, for the combined exercises with the ICG off Chennai.

The visit was in pursuance of the Memorandum of Cooperation (CoM), signed between the two Coast Guards in November 2006, which stipulates that heads of the two organizations meet alternately in India and Japan, to discuss maritime issues of mutual concern and formu- late a cooperative approach to address them.

The MoC encompasses issues of maritime search and rescue, combating marine pollution, technical assist- ance for responding to natural disasters and exchange of information regarding crime at sea, including smuggling and illicit trafficking.

The ICG-JCG combined exercises were carried out in November 2000 off Chennai, which the ICG ship had participated and led a close interaction between the two organizations that included regular visits and exercises, sharing of information and expertise and training visits, the ministry added.—Internet
Teen broke into officer’s home

Authorities in Florida said a teenager who broke into a home found himself swifly being detained by the homeowner, a police officer.

The Clay County Sheriff’s Office said deputies responded to a report of a home invasion Sunday in Orange Park and found Jacksonville Police Officer Garrett Osilka restraining the suspect, Jarvis Guthrie, 18, WJXT-TV, Jacksonville, reported on Wednesday.

Osilka, who said he did not know the teenager, told deputies he and his wife awoke around 3 am on Sunday to loud noises outside their home, and he soon he heard the suspect’s voice through the front door. Osilka said he restrained Guthrie after a physical struggle and called deputies.

Guthrie was charged with burglary of an occupied dwelling with intent to commit battery.

Loose cat in cockpit grounds flight

An Air Canada flight’s takeoff was delayed by 4 hours Wednesday when a cat escaped from its carrier and hid in the cockpit wiring, airline officials said.

The plane was about to taxi for takeoff at 5:30 am from Halifax, Nova Scotia, bound for Toronto when a cat named Ripbles escaped its carrier under its unidentified female owner’s seat, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported.

Passenger Kyle Warkentin told the broadcaster flight attendants announced a brief delay because of a missing cat.

“Then the engine turned off and the whole power on the plane turned off, and they said they were doing this to calm the cat,” Warkentin said. Airport spokesman Peter Spurway said the cat was spotted in the cockpit, cowering in a dense bundle of wires.

“The way the Air Canada folks described it to me is they had to disassemble part of the cockpit to get to the poor little cat, which was terrified, as you can imagine,” he said.

The airline re-booked some passengers, while others waited and sympathized with the cat’s owner, whom Warkentin said appeared as traumatized as the cat. “She was shaking, the poor thing,” he said.

Shirley MacLaine joins ‘Downton’ cast

New York, 31 Jan— Oscar-winning American actress Shirley MacLaine is to join the cast of “Downton Abbey” next season, the British period drama’s producers said on Monday.

Season 2 of the ITV series is airing in the United States Sundays on PBS under the network’s Masterpiece programming banner.

Just known for her work in “Steel Magnolias,” “Terms of Endearment” and “The Apartment,” MacLaine will play the mother of Elizabeth McGovern’s character Lady Grantham when Season 3 begins production this spring.

“Shirley MacLaine is a great actress and she’s as American as the day is long,” Carnival Films’ Masterpiece Executive Producer Rebecca Eaton said in a statement. “I can’t wait to see her go toe-to-toe with Maggie Smith’s Lady Violet. Carnival Films’ Managing Director Julian [Fellowes] has written another brilliant character in Martha Levinson.”

DeVito to star in ‘Sunshine Boys’ in UK


DeVito and British actor Richard Griffiths will play an estranged comedy team who reunite for one last performance, the BBC reported.

“Lovelace” after the latter was shot in the film in which she was to appear. Performance of the show are scheduled at the Savoy Theatre from 27 April to 28 July. Griffiths won numerous awards for his work in the stage production of “The History Boys.” He played a supporting role in the Harry Potter film franchise, as well.

DeVito, perhaps best known for his work on the classic 1970s sitcom “Taxi,” also appeared in the films “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” “Romancing the Stone,” “Ruthless People,” “Murphy’s Law,” “Get Shorty,” “Hoffa” and “Twins.” His producing credits include “Spanglish” and “Erin Brockovich.”

Parker likely to replace Demi in ‘Love&Lace’

London, 31 Jan— Actress Sarah Jessica Parker will reportedly replace Demi Moore in the biopic “Love&Lace” after the latter was rushed to hospital this week.

Demi is taking time to recover and has dropped out of the film in which she was to play feminist Gloria Steinem.

According to contactmusic.com, “Sex and the City” star Sarah Jessica Parker is tipped as the favourite to replace her in the movie, which also stars Amanda Seyfried in the lead role.

“Love&Lace” is the story of the late Linda Lovelace. The 1970s porn icon known for her role in the adult film “Deep Throat.”

After making several porn films, Linda later became a prominent supporter of the anti-pornography movement, claiming that she had been forced into pornography by her then husband Chuck Traynor.

Mom arrested for ejecting sons, 9 and 13

Authorities in New York City said they arrested a woman accused of kicking her sons, ages 9 and 13, out of her home. The St Lucie County Sheriff’s Office said deputies responded to a report of a home invasion Sunday in Orange Park and found Jacksonville Police Officer Garrett Osilka restraining the suspect, Jarvis Guthrie, 18, WJXT-TV, Jacksonville, reported on Wednesday.

Deputies said the boys were eventually found at their great-grandmother’s house in Boynton Beach, more than 70 miles away. Investigators did not say how the boys made the trip to Boynton Beach. Beall was arrested on a felony child abuse charge and taken to the St Lucie County Jail.

Painting reported stolen 12 years later

The painting believed to have been created in 1824, is thought to have gone missing in 1999 when the 65,000 works possessed by the museum were temporarily relocated for renovations.

The artwork has now been reported stolen and listed on the International Art Loss Register.
Juventus hit with another racist fine

Gelson Fernandes were the victims of racist chanting during both the first and second half. Juve have been hit with a 10,000-euro fine, the same amount they were docked in October after racist chanting during their win at Inter Milan.

The Old Lady of Turin’s fans have a sorry record when it comes to racist chants as they regularly abused Manchester City striker Mario Balotelli — an Italian of Ghanaian origin — during his Inter days.

In 2008/09 Juve had to play behind closed doors after their fans racially abused Balotelli following a controversial incident during the team’s clash with Inter. That seemed to anger and galvanise certain sections of Juve support who proceeded to regularly target Balotelli, even when not playing against his team.

The next season the club was punished four times, including a partial stand closure once, for fans anti-Balotelli chants.

Sudan pip Angola to Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals

Tunisia marching to the tune of the revolution

NZ teen eyes US major debut after record golf win
Americans’ approval to switch nationalities. The 29-year-old has signed a three-and-a-half year deal worth around two million euros a season. PSG officials had travelled to Milan late on Monday to try to tie up a deal for a player who won the treble of league, cup and Champions League with the nerazzurri only 18 months ago. Motta began his professional career with Barcelona, having moved to Spain while still a 17-year-old. He went on to play for Atletico Madrid and Genoa before joining Inter in 2009. Motta qualified to play for Italy through Italian grandparents and made his Italy debut in February 2011, despite having already represented Brazil at the 2003 CONCACAF Gold Cup competition.

**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2-12 09:30 am</td>
<td>Overseas Transmission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Health Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 am</td>
<td>International News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:20 am</td>
<td>Martial Song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 am</td>
<td>Song of National Races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:10 pm</td>
<td>8. “ASEAN” Programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Evening News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:35 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Music Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:25 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:10 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:40 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 pm</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

**Weather for 31st January, 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Forecast Percent</th>
<th>Temperature (°C/°F)</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rakhine</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>30/86</td>
<td>12/54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayah</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>12/54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chin</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>19/66</td>
<td>01/34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Sagaing</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>09/48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Sagaing</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>04/39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>30/86</td>
<td>12/54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>24/75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bago</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>19/66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Shan</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>09/48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>19/66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbour Yangon</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>19/66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>04/39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayeyawady</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>04/39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rakhine</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>30/86</td>
<td>12/54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayah</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>12/54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chin</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>19/66</td>
<td>01/34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Sagaing</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>09/48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Sagaing</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>04/39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>30/86</td>
<td>12/54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>24/75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bago</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>19/66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Shan</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>09/48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>19/66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbour Yangon</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33/91</td>
<td>19/66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>04/39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayeyawady</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28/82</td>
<td>04/39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cultivation of Palethwe paddy strain demonstrated**

**Bogale, 31 January**—A demonstration on cultivation of high yield Palethwe hybrid paddy was held on one-acre farmland in Thakanwa Village of Bogale Township on 21 January.

Officials of Myanmar Agriculture Service explained 14-point good agriculture pattern. The local farmers are interested in Palethwe paddy strain that can produce 200 baskets per acre.—Myanmar Alin

**Integrated farm secures achievement**

Maubin, 31 January—For ensuring agricultural production to achieve rural development and poverty alleviation, Ayeayawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and local authorities looked into thriving of integrated farms in Maubin Village of Maubin Township on 21 January. The integrated farm is covered with fish pond, summer paddy, green gram, sunflower, chilli, eggplant and vegetables plantations, poultry, goat and cow breeding.—District IPPRD

** Audrey Hepburn’s birthday**

**Dist. News**

**Shwebo Township**

Cultivation of Palethwe paddy strain demonstrated.

Bogale. 31 Jan.—A demonstration on cultivation of high yield Palethwe hybrid paddy was held on one-acre farmland in Thakanwa Village of Bogale Township on 21 January.

Officials of Myanmar Agriculture Service explained 14-point good agriculture pattern. The local farmers are interested in Palethwe paddy strain that can produce 200 baskets per acre.—Myanmar Alin

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
Eihad Stadium.

Milan were reported to have reopened talks with City in one last ditch attempt to push an agreement through before deadline day, but slow progress is being made.—internet

Harvard study warns of injury through tablet use

HARVARD, 31 Jan—Of course, tablet computers can cause injuries in a variety of ways. Dropped from a great height onto someone’s head will likely have the same damaging effect as being on the receiving end of one hurled Frisbee-like across a room. Thankfully, there are up to now no recorded cases of such incidents, though researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) are warning of other injury possibilities.

The researchers found that when using tablets, participants’ necks were bent more compared to when using a desktop or laptop computer, especially when the tablet was placed on the user’s lap. Understandably, such a position is going to cause extra strain on neck and shoulder muscles, which could cause short-term as well as long-term problems for the user.

Dennerlein suggests a number of things to reduce neck and shoulder strain, including changing position every 15 minutes, or at least moving your neck around to give it a break from its previously fixed position. Using a case can also help, as it enables the device to be propped up at what he describes as an ideal angle of 30 degrees.

With Apple reporting sales of more than 15 million iPads in its latest quarter—bringing total sales of the device to over 50 million—there may well be a fair few necks out there already feeling the strain. How’s yours doing?—internet

Sky Sports agrees a new four-year deal to show live cricket

LONDON, 31 Jan—Sky Sports has been awarded exclusive live coverage of:

• TEST MATCHES - all One-Day Internationals and T20 matches, plus selected fixtures including England Lions and women's matches.
• COUNTY MATCHES - at least 60 days of domestic cricket each summer covering each of the major competitions and including every county.

The new deal will take Sky’s partnership with the ECB for exclusive live cricket in England and Wales into its 12th year and ensures Sky viewers continue to enjoy an extensive year-round schedule of live cricket from home and abroad. There is also an option for Sky to extend the deal for an additional two years to cover tours by India in 2018 and Australia in 2019. Barney Francis, managing director of Sky Sports, said: “This is good news for cricket and good news for viewers. Our viewers will enjoy a breadth of live coverage, at domestic and international level, and the ECB extends a partnership that has proved good for the game.”

Philippines arrests foreign trio in big drugs bust

 Shirley Maclaine joins ‘Downton’ cast

Myo Creek Bridge commissioned into service in time of new government

Britain to be scoured for black squirrels

The Union minister, Dr Khin Shwe, the director-general of Sports and Physical Education Department and officials teed off the golf balls in commemoration of the opening ceremony.

The Union minister viewed snapshot photos on activities of gold medalists in the XXVI SEA Games at Asia Plaza Hotel on Bogyoke Aung San Street.—MV

The Union minister, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo, U Zay Thida, Daw Zay Zin Latt and officials of the club formally opened the club house.

The union minister, Yangon Region Minister for Sports and Physical Education Organization of Myanmar National Sports Committee and Japanese Anti-Doping Agency-JADA, was opened at Hotel in Thwackunna of Thingyan Township this morning.

In his speech, Union Minister for Sports U Tin Hsan urged the trainees to become qualified doping control officers in undertaking anti-doping activities for uplifting the sports standards.

CEO Mr Shin Asakawa of JADA spoke words of thanks.

Altogether 52 trainees are attending the course.

The Union minister attended the opening of Club House of Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club that comprises one international standard 18-hole course and three training ranges in Mingalardon Garden City.

Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Education, Health and Culture Committee Dr Khin Shwe unveiled the Club House of Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club.

The Union minister spoke on the occasion. Dr Khin Shwe presented gifts to club house designers.