Our Three Main National Causes

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

Singaporean President extends warm welcome to President U Thein Sein and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—A ceremony to extend a welcome to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win by President of the Republic of Singapore Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife was held at the Istana Presidential House in Singapore on 30 January morning.

On arrival at the Istana Presidential House, President U Thein Sein and wife were welcomed by the Singaporean President and wife. President U Thein Sein and Singaporean counterpart took the salute of the guard of honour as the state band of Singapore played national anthem of the two countries. Afterwards, they inspected the guard of honour. After taking the salute of the

(See page 7)

President U Thein Sein, Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam hold talks

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam held talks at West Drawing Room of Istana on 30 January morning.

The Singaporean President extended greetings first. The Myanmar President elaborated on practice of legislative, executive and judicial powers separately in consistence with democratic process in Myanmar, the government’s stride on the right path to democracy despite its democracy experience is in its infancy, continued to say that measures for burgeon ing of democracy, peace negotiations with ethnic armed groups to ensure stability of the State, coordination with domestic political organizations including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, preparedness to enable political parties including the NLD run for forthcoming by-elections, progress in political stability of the State and decline in international pressure, increased interests of international investors including ASEAN fellow nations in Myanmar’s economy, standardization of investment laws and procedures agreeable to the ASEAN and international community, formation of leaner investment commission for effective and speedy functioning.

(See page 8)
PERSPECTIVES
Thursday, 2 February, 2012
Towards an era of human resources-driven economy

Most of the developed nations are now systematically developing and utilizing human resources besides natural resources in their economy drive.

Natural resources such as oil and gas and minerals could become exhausted with the passage of time. Thus, human resources have become the alternative of industrialized nations for national economic growth, which is described as human resources-driven economy.

Whatever it is, we have to make a shift from natural resources-based economy to human resources-based economy. The latter can have greater potential for growth under effective management, creating innovative and creative workforce.

Some developed nations like Japan and Singapore have struck prosperity through human resources development although they are devoid of natural resources. Some Asian countries are effectively shaping human resources economy. Nations with sluggish human resources development tend to be miles behind in technological advancement.

Human resource is an essential prerequisite for political, economic, social and defence structures. Even industrial technologies and ICT, the most effective means for growth of a nation are dependent upon human resources. If the nation is like a tree, human resource is the root and sector-wise development is the branches.

If so, actual human resources development is of great importance to our nation. In other words, the State is in dire need of educated youths who can and have to create multifaceted development.

Mainly, youths are in the driving seat to steer human resources development. Youths of today should not be content with a degree but to have practicable knowledge about IT, English and management.

One swallow does not make the summer in building a modern developed nation nor even a flock. One and only step towards human resources-driven economy is to nurture human resources by forming a continuous learning society from individual to entire nation.

Bridges opened in reign of new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Nagapauk Bridge
- Nagapauk Bridge lies on DaikU-Sittoung Road in Waw Township of Bago District in Bago Region. The fifth above-180-ft bridge was constructed as of 1 June, 2008, and opened on 27 August, 2011. The 240-ft RC bridge has 24-ft-wide two-lane motorway and three-ft-wide sidewalks. It can withstand 60 tons of loads per vehicle.
- It is situated on shortcut linking DaikU on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway and Sittoung on Yangon-Bago-Mawlamyine Road. Originally 46-mile trip is shortened to 21 miles and six furlongs, taking the shortcut the bridge lies on.
- The bridge links Bago Region with upper and lower regions in Myanmar, Mon State, Kayin State, and Taninthayi Region. Every corner of the country is accessible thanks to the bridge.

Kyahtoo Creek Bridge
- The construction of Kyahtoo Creek Bridge on Magway-Natmauk-Pyawbwe Road in Natmauk Township in Magway District of Magway Region started on 24 August, 2011. The new government opened seventh above-180-ft bridge of its reign on 22 October, 2011. The RC facility has the length of 480 ft, 24-ft two-lane motorway and three-ft-wide sidewalks. It can withstand 60 tons of loads per vehicle.
- It allows local people to travel directly from Magway to Pyawbwe crossing Yoma mountain ranges, and from Pyawbwe to Yangon and Mandalay, to Shan State (South) through Pyawbwe-Phayangahsu Road, and to Rakhine State through Magway-Minbo-An Road. The bridge joins road networks linking every part of the country.

Sittoung Cannel Bridge
- Constructed as of 4 July, 2010, Sittoung Cannel Bridge on DaikU-Sittoung Road in Waw Township of Bago Region was commissioned into service on 25 September, 2011. The RC bridge is sixth above-180-ft bridge opened in time of the new government. It has the length of 240 feet, 24-ft-wide two-lane motorway, three-ft-wide sidewalks. The facility can withstand 60 tons of loads per vehicle.
- It is situated on shortcut linking DaikU on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway and Sittoung on Yangon-Bago-Mawlamyine Road, cutting down by about 24 miles. It is an easy road for trucks.
- The bridge enables travelers to travel from Bago Region to upper and lower regions in Myanmar, Mon State, Kayin State, Taninthayi Region and any other part of the country via road networks.

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

Yenwe Creek Bridge
- Yenwe Creek Bridge on Minbla-Seinkantli-Myochoang-Kyungon-Peinzalok Road in Kyawdaga Township in Bago District in Bago Region was built as of 12 May, 2011, and was opened on 28 January, 2012. It is 10th above-18-ft bridge opened in time of the new government. The length of the RC facility is 360 ft, with 24-ft two-lane motorway and three-ft six-inch walkways. It can withstand 75 tons of loads per vehicle. The clearance area of the bridge has the width of 105 ft and the height of 10 ft. An overflow with the diameter of 20 ft is attached to the approach road to drain floodwater which rises in the heavy rain.
- Sitting on Minbla-Seinkantli-Myochoang-Kyungon-Peinzalok Road, second among seven Yoma crossing roads under construction, the bridge links eastern and western helves of Bago Region. It helps connect every corner of the country.

Translation: HKA

Maung Nyein Aye
Britain to deploy warship near disputed territory with Argentina

LONDON, 1 Feb—The British Royal Navy announced Tuesday it would send its latest high-tech destroyer to the South Atlantic, near the disputed territory of the Falkland Islands, which is called the Malvinas Islands by Argentina.

The destroyer, HMS Dauntless, will be deployed there for months. As the Royal Navy’s most powerful vessel, HMS Dauntless weighs 8,000 tons, and has a crew of 390 with the capability of carrying 60 troops and handling a large helicopter. Its Sea Viper weapons system can shoot down a aircraft within 70 miles range, and can handle multiple targets at the same time.

A spokesman of British Ministry of Defence told Xinhu Tuesday evening that “it’s a routine deployment,” adding that the Royal Navy “has had a continuous presence in the South Atlantic for many years.”

“The deployment of HMS Dauntless to

S Philippine town councilor shot dead, two others wounded

DAVAO CITY, 1 Feb—Gunmen aboard a motorcycle shot and killed a town councilor and wounded two others in southern Philippines on Monday, police said on Tuesday.

Ronald Ampe, 44, died from multiple gunshot wounds shortly after being shot by two assailants as he was talking to a group of students outside a school in Poblacion Village, Compostela Valley Province at around 8:15 am local time, according to Timoteo Pacleb, Compostela Valley provincial police chief.

Two bystanders were also hurt in the hail of gunfire and were taken to a local hospital.

City Vice Mayor Ruprino Gonzaga said the slain councilor was well-loved in their town and was a dedicated public official who had been respected by the principal staff of his high school there. —Xinhua

Man in Afghan army uniform kills NATO soldier

KABUL, 1 Feb—A man in Afghan army uniform shot dead a NATO soldier in restive southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, NATO-led forces confirmed on Wednesday. “An individual wearing an Afghan National Army uniform turned his weapon against an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service member in southern Afghanistan yesterday, killing one service member,” the NATO-led ISAF said in a press release.

However, the brief release did not identify the exact place of the incident and the nationality of the victim, only saying “it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities.”

Troops mainly from US, Britain, Australia and Canada have been stationed in the southern region within the framework of ISAF to fight Taliban militants there.

The ISAF Press release did not say whether the attacker was detained.

Such incidents had happened in the past. Four French soldiers with the ISAF were killed and 15 other service members injured when an Afghan army soldier opened fire in eastern Kapisa Province on 20 Jan this year.

The latest casualty brings to 55 the number of ISAF service members who have been killed in Afghanistan since the beginning of this year. —Xinhua

Mumbai gunman death penalty appeal adjourned

NEW DELHI, 1 Feb—India’s Supreme Court adjourned an appeal hearing on Tuesday into the death sentence handed down to the lone surviving gunman from the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Mohammed Kasab, one of 10 gunmen who laid siege to Mumbai in attacks which lasted nearly three days and killed 166 people, has appealed for his sentence to be overturned after he was convicted in May 2010.

The 24-year-old man was found guilty of a series of crimes, including waging war against India, murder and terror acts.

Cameron: NATO presence depends on Afghans

LONDON, 1 Feb—The pace at which the British government can reduce its troop strength in Afghanistan depends on how well the Afghans can lead, the prime minister said.

“Nations contributing to the international military effort in Afghanistan have pledged to pull their forces out of the country by 2014. British Prime Minister David Cameron said the Afghan government and Afghan police are growing in ranks as they get set to take charge of security operations in the country.

“The rate at which we can reduce our troops will depend on the transition to Afghan control in the different parts of Afghanistan,” he said in a statement. “And that should be the same for all of the members of NATO who are all contributing and helping toward a strong, stable, peaceful Afghanistan, which is in all our interests.”

French President Nicolas Sarkozy announced his intention to pull his troops out of Afghanistan by 2013. Wahid Mujda, an analyst at Kabul’s Research Centre for Strategy Studies, told China’s official Xinhu news agency Sarkozy’s decision was a blow to NATO’s operations.

“No doubt, the pullout of French forces before 2014 would psychologically encourage Taliban militants to increase attacks against international forces stationed in Afghanistan,” he said.

Cameron added that he supported Kabul’s efforts to reach out to certain members of the Taliban provided the former leaders of Afghanistan honor the national constitution and renounce violence. —Internet

Romney wins in Fla, Gingrich fighting on

Mitt Romney

TALLAHASSEE, 1 Feb—Mitt Romney claimed a dominating victory in the Florida Republican presidential primary Tuesday, with unofficial results giving him 46.56 percent of the vote.

CNN, USA Today and The Wall Street Journal, as well as the major TV networks, projected Romney the victor.

In his victory speech, Romney told cheering crowds of supporters that Gingrich is the one who expects the primary campaigns to result in a weakened GOP nominee, but he said that won’t happen.

“A competitive primary does not divide us, it prepares us, and we will win,” Romney said.

“Ours will be a united party with a winning ticket for America” when the GOP convention is held in Tampa, Fla, the week of 27 Aug, he said.

Second-place finisher Newt Gingrich, speaking to his supporters in Florida, assured them he will remain in the race. “It is now clear that this will be a two-person race between the conservative leader, Newt Gingrich, and the Massachusetts moderate,” he said.

“We are going to contest every place and we are going to win and we will be in Tampa as the nominee in August,” Gingrich said. —Internet

Two police officers killed in Somalia suicide bomb attack

MOGADISHU, 1 Feb—Two police officers were killed in a suicide bomb attack on Tuesday in Somalia, the military said. The assailant targeted the residence of former police commander Abdi Hassan Awale in the semi-autonomous Galgudug Region, killing two officers on guard. Awale himself was safe, local sources said.

People stand outside their destroyed house at the scene of a car bomb attack in Zafaraniyah, Baghdad, Iraq, on 27 Jan, 2012. A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-packed car near a funeral procession in southeastern Baghdad on Friday, killing and injuring dozens of Iraqis, police said. —Internet

Nations contributing to the international military effort in Afghanistan have pledged to pull their forces out of the country by 2014. British Prime Minister David Cameron said the Afghan government and Afghan police are growing in ranks as they get set to take charge of security operations in the country.
New drug for rare cystic fibrosis gets US approval

“The drug has opened exciting new doors to research and development that eventually lead to additional therapies that will benefit more people living with CF.”

A phase III trial published in November 2011 in the New England Journal of Medicine was hailed as a promising breakthrough after results showed the oral twice-daily medication could improve lung function, growth and sweat chloride levels over a span of 11 months.

The clinical trial involved 213 patients, some as young as six years old. Results showed “significant and sustained improvement in lung function,” the FDA said. It remains unclear if longer-term exposure to the drug could halt the deterioration of lung function.—Internet

Brain ‘hears’ from different location than earlier thought

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—Now hear this! The part of the brain used for speech processing is in a different location than originally believed, according to a US study on Monday that researchers said will require a rewrite of medical texts.

Wernicke’s area, named after the German neurologist who proposed it in the late 1800s, was long believed to be the back of the brain’s cerebral cortex, not 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 centimeters closer to the front of the brain, and is in front of the auditory cortex, not behind.

“Textbooks will have to be rewritten,” said neuroscience professor Josef 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 (magnetic resonance imaging) or PET (positron emission tomography). An analysis of the brain imaging coordinates in those studies pointed to the new location for Wernicke’s area, offering new insight for patients suffering from brain damage or stroke.—Internet

Glass of milk makes for smarter brain

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—Drinking a glass of milk daily not only stunts the brain but also supplies the vital nutrients it requires to be in a peak condition.

Besides the many known benefits of milk, from bone health to cardiovascular health, the potential to stave off mental decline would potentially benefit an aging population. Adults who drank more milk scored significantly better on memory and other brain function tests than those who drank little to no milk. They were five times less likely to “fail” the test, compared to non-milk drinkers, the International Dairy Journal reports.

University of Maine researchers put more than 900 men and women ages 23 to 98 through a series of tests, spatial, verbal and working memory tests and tracked their milk consumption habits. In the series of eight different measures of mental performance, regardless of age and through all tests, those who drank at least one glass of milk each day had an advantage, according to a Maine statement.

The highest scores for all eight outcomes were observed for those with the highest intakes of milk and milk products compared to those with low and infrequent milk intakes. The benefits persisted even after controlling for other factors that can affect brain health, including cardiovascular health and other lifestyle and diet factors.—Internet

OECD inflation rate falls due to slower rise in energy prices

PARIS, 1 Feb—Annual inflation rate in OECD countries slowed to 2.9 percent in December 2011, down from 3.1 percent in the previous month, mainly thanks to slower growth in energy prices, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Tuesday.

In its latest report, the OECD said that energy prices increased by 8.1 percent in December, down from 11.6 a month ago, the lowest annual rate since November 2010. Food prices rose by 4.4 percent in December compared with 4.1 percent in November.

Excluding food and energy, the annual inflation rate in the OECD’s 34 member countries was stable at 2.0 percent in December, the OECD figures indicated. Euro area annual inflation, measured by the HICP, decreased to 2.7 percent in December from 3.0 percent in November.

“Compared to the previous month, consumer prices in the OECD area rose by 0.1 percent in December,” the report figures showed.

US home prices decline for third straight month

NEW YORK, 1 Feb—US home prices continued to decline in November even as the economy was gaining steam, showing the most-battered housing market was still struggling. The Standard & Poor’s/Case-Shiller 20-city index dropped 1.3 percent in November, compared with October, said the Standard & Poor’s monthly report released on Tuesday. The index was down 7.7 percent year on year.

“Despite continued low interest rates and better real GDP growth in the fourth quarter, home prices continue to fall,” David Blitzer, chairman of the S&P index committee, said in a statement. “The trend is down and there are few, if any, signs in the numbers that a turning point is close at hand.”

The index had climbed for five consecutive months from April to August this year, but declined from September to November. Analysts said the report underscored the Federal Reserve’s view that housing is the slowest way of foreclosures threatens to keep the pressure on prices and delay recovery in the industry.—Xinhua

A pedestrian walks past an electronic panel showing the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong, south China, on 31 Jan, 2012. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng Index increased by 210.08 points, or 1.14 percent, to end at 19390.49 on Tuesday. ±Xinhua

Glass of milk makes for smarter brain

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—Drinking a glass of milk daily not only stunts the brain but also supplies the vital nutrients it requires to be in a peak condition.

Besides the many known benefits of milk, from bone health to cardiovascular health, the potential to stave off mental decline would potentially benefit an aging population. Adults who drank more milk scored significantly better on memory and other brain function tests than those who drank little to no milk. They were five times less likely to “fail” the test, compared to non-milk drinkers, the International Dairy Journal reports.

University of Maine researchers put more than 900 men and women ages 23 to 98 through a series of tests, spatial, verbal and working memory tests and tracked their milk consumption habits. In the series of eight different measures of mental performance, regardless of age and through all tests, those who drank at least one glass of milk each day had an advantage, according to a Maine statement.

The highest scores for all eight outcomes were observed for those with the highest intakes of milk and milk products compared to those with low and infrequent milk intakes. The benefits persisted even after controlling for other factors that can affect brain health, including cardiovascular health and other lifestyle and diet factors.—Internet

UK inflation rose sharply with Britain registering 4.2 percent, Canada 2.3 percent, the United States 3.0 percent and Germany 2.1 percent.

“Compared to the previous month, consumer prices in the OECD area rose by 0.1 percent in December,” the report figures showed.

US home prices decline for third straight month

NEW YORK, 1 Feb—US home prices continued to decline in November even as the economy was gaining steam, showing the most-battered housing market was still struggling. The Standard & Poor’s/Case-Shiller 20-city index dropped 1.3 percent in November, compared with October, said the Standard & Poor’s monthly report released on Tuesday. The index was down 7.7 percent year on year.

“Despite continued low interest rates and better real GDP growth in the fourth quarter, home prices continue to fall,” David Blitzer, chairman of the S&P index committee, said in a statement. “The trend is down and there are few, if any, signs in the numbers that a turning point is close at hand.”

The index had climbed for five consecutive months from April to August this year, but declined from September to November. Analysts said the report underscored the Federal Reserve’s view that housing is the slowest way of foreclosures threatens to keep the pressure on prices and delay recovery in the industry.—Xinhua

German Chancellor Angela Merkel (C) speaks with Slovenian PM Borut Pahor (L) at an EU summit in Brussels. as European leaders meet to come up with ways to boost growth despite steep budget cuts across the continent.—INTERNET

Hang Seng index in Hong Kong, south China, on 31 Jan, 2012. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng Index increased by 210.08 points, or 1.14 percent, to end at 19390.49 on Tuesday. ±Xinhua

A pedestrian walks past an electronic panel showing the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong, south China, on 31 Jan, 2012. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng Index increased by 210.08 points, or 1.14 percent, to end at 19390.49 on Tuesday. ±Xinhua

OECD inflation rate falls due to slower rise in energy prices

PARIS, 1 Feb—Annual inflation rate in OECD countries slowed to 2.9 percent in December 2011, down from 3.1 percent in the previous month, mainly thanks to slower growth in energy prices, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Tuesday.

In its latest report, the OECD said that energy prices increased by 8.1 percent in December, down from 11.6 a month ago, the lowest annual rate since November 2010. Food prices rose by 4.4 percent in December compared with 4.1 percent in November.

Excluding food and energy, the annual inflation rate in the OECD’s 34 member countries was stable at 2.0 percent in December, the OECD figures indicated. Euro area annual inflation, measured by the HICP, decelerated to 2.7 percent in December 2011 from 3.0 percent in November.

“Compared to the previous month, consumer prices in the OECD area rose by 0.1 percent in December.”

They rose by 0.7 percent in Germany, 0.4 percent in France, Italy and the United Kingdom. They were stable in Japan and decreased by 0.2 percent in the United States and by 0.6 percent in Canada, the report figures showed. ±Xinhua

US home prices decline for third straight month

NEW YORK, 1 Feb—US home prices continued to decline in November even as the economy was gaining steam, showing the most-battered housing market was still struggling. The Standard & Poor’s/Case-Shiller 20-city index dropped 1.3 percent in November, compared with October, said the Standard & Poor’s monthly report released on Tuesday. The index was down 7.7 percent year on year.

“Despite continued low interest rates and better real GDP growth in the fourth quarter, home prices continue to fall,” David Blitzer, chairman of the S&P index committee, said in a statement. “The trend is down and there are few, if any, signs in the numbers that a turning point is close at hand.”

The index had climbed for five consecutive months from April to August this year, but declined from September to November. Analysts said the report underscored the Federal Reserve’s view that housing is the slowest way of foreclosures threatens to keep the pressure on prices and delay recovery in the industry.—Xinhua
**Scientists puzzled by region outside solar system**

The discovery came from NASA’s Interstellar Boundary Explorer spacecraft, which launched in 2008 to study the chaotic region where the solar wind from the sun clashes with cold gases from interstellar space. Receding 200,000 miles above Earth, the IBEX spacecraft spots particles streaming into the solar system. A protective bubble surrounding the sun and planets prevents dangerous cosmic radiation from seeping through, but neutral particles can pass freely, allowing IBEX to map their distribution. The presence of less oxygen outside the solar system should not have any bearing on the search for Earth-like planets, scientists involved in the exoplanet hunt said.—Internet

**Brain region bigger in popular people**

LONDON, 1 Feb — Area of the brain associated with understanding the minds of others is larger in people who have bigger social networks, a new study finds. The study is one of several that have linked specific brain regions to an active social life. In research published last year, scientists found that some brain regions that process social signals, facial expressions and names and faces are larger in people with more Facebook friends. Research has also shown that monkeys that live in larger groups grow bigger brains. The “social brain hypothesis” holds that the reason primates, including humans, have relatively large brains is that they need the processing space to cope with their complex social networks. But humans range from loners to life of the party, and University of Oxford anthropologist Robin Dunbar and his colleagues wanted to know if there is a brain basis for these differences. To find out, they took anatomical scans of the brains of 40 volunteers using magnetic resonance imaging. The participants also completed some tests to determine how good they were at “mentalizing,” or understanding another person’s mental state. This process is similar to empathy but goes beyond understanding emotions to understanding another person’s goals, needs and reasoning. Finally, each person in the study reported how many people they’d had social contact with during the last seven days. This measurement excluded professional interactions and focused on truly social ones, Dunbar told LiveScience.—Internet

**Powerful sun storms may sweep away space junk**

HOUSTON, 1 Feb — Violent sun storms that shoot bursts of energy in Earth’s direction have the potential to damage satellites and power infrastructures, but they can also be a warning sign of the dangers of space debris. “When the sun is more active, it sends more energy in the direction of Earth,” Nick Johnson, chief scientist for NASA’s Orbital Debris Programme in Houston, told SPACE.com. “It’s just a question of what rate.” Space trash interacts with Earth’s atmosphere, resistance slows them down. But during periods of elevated solar activity, such as increases in sunspots, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections, the sun pumps more energy into Earth’s atmosphere. When the sun is more active, it sends more energy in the direction of Earth.” Johnson said. “That energy is absorbed by the thermosphere, the upper part of the atmosphere.”—Internet

**Can Yahoo be trusted with Flickr?**

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — Flickr is Yahoo’s saving grace. Amidst the site’s myriad of problems and ill-defined purpose, the photo-sharing platform has been a beacon of hope, with its dedicated users and razor-sharp focus. Which is why Flickr subscribers are concerned about Yahoo’s direction for the site, says Caudill. “Flickr is something near and dear to our hearts,” says Caudill, who says the site will be cutting a crucial portion of its customer support. “For reasons I don’t know, Yahoo laid off the highest level of Flickr customer support, the people trying to unfog bugs against the developers and helping the trickier cases get solved for the members,” he wrote via blog. “The door is falling down as it is.”

“Having people on your team aware of everything the site does it huge,” he laments. “You literally can’t buy that or replace it or outsource it, though it appears that Yahoo thinks it can.” Flickr’s committed users and continued strength have defied everything that’s been thrown at the site, Caudill says. “For reasons I don’t know, Yahoo laid off the highest level of Flickr customer support, the people trying to unfog bugs against the developers and helping the trickier cases get solved for the members,” he wrote via blog. “The door is falling down as it is.”

“Their complex social relationships play a key role in their mental development, which is a reason why it matters,” says Dunbar. “The people who don’t have these big social networks are more likely to be loners.”—Internet

**Amazon 4Q results, outlook sends stock lower**

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — Shoppers spent more money online this holiday season than ever before, and yet, Amazon—the world’s largest Internet retailer—failed to meet Wall Street’s sales expectations with its latest financial results. In a surprise, the company’s revenue fell short of Wall Street’s expectations, even as a green 35 percent from a year earlier. The quarter included Amazon’s headliner—grabbing November launch of the Kindle Fire, its answer to Apple’s iPad. Amazon also saw a slight drop in its net income, from $7.2 billion in the third quarter to $7.1 billion in the fourth quarter. Amazon reported earnings of $8.57 per share, a 19 percent increase over the year-ago period. In the fourth quarter, Amazon spent $3.4 billion to acquire Pinterest. This quarter, Amazon spent $2.7 billion on marketing and promotions. In the fourth quarter, Amazon had net sales of $17.7 billion, a 14 percent increase from the third quarter. Amazon had a net income of $497 million, a 42 percent decrease from the third quarter. Amazon’s expenses are increasing. —Internet

**TouchPal Keyboard Tablet offers another great input alternative**

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — There are already a wealth of alternatives to the smartphone keyboard which comes with your Android tablet, so how does TouchPal Keyboard Tablet stack up? Well, with a little more development and work, this is sure to be a contender. Even as a free beta right now, it’s still a decent job, and some of you may be lucky enough to have a pre-installed version of SwiftKey too (though admittedly, the long tracing required on a tab can make it a bit burdensome). In the US, Apple’s iPad is the most popular tablet, so how does TouchPal Keyboard Tablet offer a reasonable, easy to use experience? As of yet, TouchPal Keyboard Tablet lets you type ‘normally’ or ‘predictive’, both options available keeps things nice and flexible. Using TouchPal features word prediction, which I found to be reasonably effective. It’s perhaps not as good as that in SwiftKey which cleverly learns common words you use from your email and social networking apps.—Internet

**Amazon’s share price**

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — Amazon’s shares dropped $17.44, or 9 percent, to $177 in after-hours trading on Tuesday following the earnings announcement. Though revenue grew 35 percent to $17.4 billion, analysts expected the holiday season to lift sales to $18.3 billion, according to FactSet. J.P. Morgan Financial analyst Colin Gillis said the company “didn’t really give enough” as to why its revenue fell short of expectations. And while its earnings were stronger than expected, he said the company has been “more revenue driven than earnings driven.” That explains why investors focused on the company’s sales growth. With a stock valued anhgas Amazon’s, they are looking for any sign of a slowdown as an excuse to sell. Meanwhile, Amazon’s expenses are increasing.—Internet

**Flickr users**

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — Flickr lost their major advocates today,” says Caudill. “Flickr’s committed users and continued strength have defied everything that’s been thrown at the site, Caudill says. “For reasons I don’t know, Yahoo laid off the highest level of Flickr customer support, the people trying to unfog bugs against the developers and helping the trickier cases get solved for the members,” he wrote via blog. “The door is falling down as it is.”

“This is unfortunatly true,” says Caudill, who says the site will be cutting a crucial portion of its customer support. “For reasons I don’t know, Yahoo laid off the highest level of Flickr customer support, the people trying to unfog bugs against the developers and helping the trickier cases get solved for the members,” he wrote via blog. “The door is falling down as it is.”

“Having people on your team aware of everything the site does it huge,” he laments. “You literally can’t buy that or replace it or outsource it, though it appears that Yahoo thinks it can.” Flickr’s committed users and continued strength have defied everything that’s been thrown at the site, Caudill says. “For reasons I don’t know, Yahoo laid off the highest level of Flickr customer support, the people trying to unfog bugs against the developers and helping the trickier cases get solved for the members,” he wrote via blog. “The door is falling down as it is.”

**The discovery came from NASA’s Interstellar Boundary Explorer spacecraft, which launched in 2008 to study the chaotic region where the solar wind from the sun clashes with cold gases from interstellar space.**

**Scientists involved in the exoplanet hunt said**

**The “social brain hypothesis” holds that the reason primates, including humans, have relatively large brains is that they need the processing space to cope with their complex social networks.**

**Humans range from loners to life of the party, and University of Oxford anthropologist Robin Dunbar and his colleagues wanted to know if there is a brain basis for these differences.**

**To find out, they took anatomical scans of the brains of 40 volunteers using magnetic resonance imaging.**

**The participants also completed some tests to determine how good they were at “mentalizing,” or understanding another person’s mental state.**

**This process is similar to empathy but goes beyond understanding emotions to understanding another person’s goals, needs and reasoning.**

**Finally, each person in the study reported how many people they’d had social contact with during the last seven days.**

**This measurement excluded professional interactions and focused on truly social ones, Dunbar told LiveScience.**
Appointee of Ambassador agreed on

**Union Health Minister receives public health guests**

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Feb—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party at the ministry, here, yesterday afternoon.

The rapporteur and his colleagues, who were discussing the health situation of Myanmar, included Dr Pe Thet Khin, Dr Myo Myint Kyi, and Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyi.

**Summer sports training courses to be launched**

YANGON, 1 Feb—Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik addressed coordination meeting for opening basic and advanced sports courses in 2012 summer jointly by the department and Myanmar Sports Federation.

At the meeting, the development of human rights situation in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations were discussed.

**Union Election Commission issues announcement**

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Feb—Union Election Commission issued Announcement No 9/2012 today.

**Kayin Democratic Party granted to register as political party**

Kayin Democratic Party is hereby announced that Kayin Democratic Party, headquartered at No. 254 on Bogoke Street, Ward (9), Hpa-an Township, Kayin State is granted to register in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, as of 1st February, 2012. Its registration number is 51.

**Ayeayawady Region Chief Minister meets locals of Pathein**

Ayeayawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung together with region ministers and departmental personnel met townswelders, locals and members of social organizations at Education College in Pathein yesterday and coordinated for regional development.

Next, wellwishers donated cash assistance to the schools, followed by remarks of the region chief minister on regional development. The region chief minister visited No. 217 Basic Education Primary School and No. 216 BEHS in No. 15 Ward and inspected school buildings in need of repair and land plot for construction of new school buildings.

**Mr Quintana calls on Dy Foreign Minister**

During the meeting, the development of human rights situation in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations were discussed.

**Brazilian, Cuban leaders meet to boost cooperation**

HAVANA, 1 Feb—Visiting Brazilian President Dilma Roussef met her Cuban counterpart Raul Castro on Tuesday to promote cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

During the meeting, both leaders expressed their appreciation over the excellent state of bilateral relations, and stressed their will to further boost them. They also discussed regional and international issues of common interests and signed several agreements to increase cooperation in agriculture and health sectors, among others.

“Cooperation between the two countries should be considered ‘strategic,’” said Roussef, adding Cuba has “an outstanding development in biotechnology field, while her country may guarantee a high technological capacity.”

Roussef also stressed Brazil’s continuing participation in the enlargement and modernization of Mariel Port, 50 km west of Havana, a project which she said was a necessary logistic system for Cuban exportations.

Brazil in Cuba’s second trade partner in Latin America, with bilateral trade reached 570 million US dollars in 2011. Roussef will end her visit to Cuba on Wednesday, and fly to Haiti for a visit.

**Netanyahu declares victory in Likud party primary**

JERUSALEM, 1 Feb—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared victory in the Likud party primary on early Wednesday, shortly after polls closed.

“Today the real Likud won. We proved that our strength is in our unity. We will continue to lead responsibly for better education, economy, and security for all the citizens of the State of Israel,” Netanyahu said at an assembly of supporters in Jerusalem, adding that “Likud turns Israel into one of the most developed nations in the world, in education, culture, and environmental protection.”

“We are facing great challenges that no other country faces, and I believe that together we shall overcome them, through the Likud,” the prime minister concluded.

According to initial results, Netanyahu won 73 percent of the vote over his sole rival, Moshe Feiglin, in Tuesday’s Likud primary.

**Appointment of Ambassador agreed on**

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Feb—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aye Khaing as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal—MNA

**Union Election Commission issues announcement**

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Feb—Union Election Commission issued Announcement No 9/2012 today.

**Kayin Democratic Party granted to register as political party**

Kayin Democratic Party is hereby announced that Kayin Democratic Party, headquartered at No. 254 on Bogoke Street, Ward (9), Hpa-an Township, Kayin State is granted to register in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, as of 1st February, 2012. Its registration number is 51.

**Ayeayawady Region Chief Minister meets locals of Pathein**

Ayeayawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung together with region ministers and departmental personnel met townswelders, locals and members of social organizations at Education College in Pathein yesterday and coordinated for regional development.

Next, wellwishers donated cash assistance to the schools, followed by remarks of the region chief minister on regional development. The region chief minister visited No. 217 Basic Education Primary School and No. 216 BEHS in No. 15 Ward and inspected school buildings in need of repair and land plot for construction of new school buildings.

**Mr Quintana calls on Dy Foreign Minister**

During the meeting, the development of human rights situation in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations were discussed.

**Brazilian, Cuban leaders meet to boost cooperation**

HAVANA, 1 Feb—Visiting Brazilian President Dilma Roussef met her Cuban counterpart Raul Castro on Tuesday to promote cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

During the meeting, both leaders expressed their appreciation over the excellent state of bilateral relations, and stressed their will to further boost them. They also discussed regional and international issues of common interests and signed several agreements to increase cooperation in agriculture and health sectors, among others.

“Cooperation between the two countries should be considered ‘strategic,’” said Roussef, adding Cuba has “an outstanding development in biotechnology field, while her country may guarantee a high technological capacity.”

Roussef also stressed Brazil’s continuing participation in the enlargement and modernization of Mariel Port, 50 km west of Havana, a project which she said was a necessary logistic system for Cuban exportations.

Brazil in Cuba’s second trade partner in Latin America, with bilateral trade reached 570 million US dollars in 2011. Roussef will end her visit to Cuba on Wednesday, and fly to Haiti for a visit.

**Netanyahu declares victory in Likud party primary**

JERUSALEM, 1 Feb—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared victory in the Likud party primary on early Wednesday, shortly after polls closed.

“Today the real Likud won. We proved that our strength is in our unity. We will continue to lead responsibly for better education, economy, and security for all the citizens of the State of Israel,” Netanyahu said at an assembly of supporters in Jerusalem, adding that “Likud turns Israel into one of the most developed nations in the world, in education, culture, and environmental protection.”

“We are facing great challenges that no other country faces, and I believe that together we shall overcome them, through the Likud,” the prime minister concluded.

According to initial results, Netanyahu won 73 percent of the vote over his sole rival, Moshe Feiglin, in Tuesday’s Likud primary.
President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam take salute of the Guard of Honour.

MNA

President U Thein Sein introduces Myanmar delegation members to Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam.—MNA

MNA

President U Thein Sein attends breakfast hosted by Singaporean Honourable Senior Minister

NAV PYI TAW, 1 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended a breakfast hosted by Honourable Senior Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong, at State Room of Valley Wing in Shangrila Hotel in Singapore on 30 January morning. Present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister at President’s Office U Thein Nyunt and Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint. Mr Goh Chok Tong was accompanied by Singaporean Minister for National Development Mr Khaw Boon Wan and Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua.—MNA

Myanmar’s progress in developing its economic infrastructure and legal framework will further encourage investments into the country

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein at the breakfast hosted by Honourable Senior Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong in Shangrila Hotel.—MNA

Singaporean President extends warm welcome to ... (from page 1) guard of honour, President U Thein Sein signed in the visitors book.

Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam introduced President U Thein Sein with Singaporean ministers, ambassadors, high-ranking officials who attended the welcoming ceremony.

Similarly, President U Thein Sein introduced Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam with members of the goodwill delegation of Myanmar.

MNA

President U Thein Sein introduces Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam.—MNA
President U Thein Sein, Singaporean President…

(from page 1)

He asked the Singaporean President to urge Singaporean businessmen to invest in Myanmar, saying that it would benefit both nations as Myanmar had rich natural resources. He also asked Singapore’s help for human resources development of Myanmar.

The Singaporean President expressed his pride and pleasure for democratic endeavours of Myanmar government led by the Myanmar president. He added that he believed the Myanmar government would successfully handle the forthcoming by-elections in peaceful and tranquil environment. He mentioned that the constructive political and economic developments would attract investments and Singaporean investors would make investments in Myanmar, promising to cooperate in economic and human resources development, fundamental for development of Myanmar.

President U Thein Sein, Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, wife Daw Khin Khin Win pose for documentary photo at Istana.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and wife attend…

(from page 16)

and look forward to deepening our ties at all levels.

In his speech, President U Thein Sein said: We were able to exchange views on various issues, particularly on enhancing our bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in various areas. I was deeply touched by your remarks. Singapore is encouraged and supportive of the process of democratic transformation in Myanmar.

I believed this is crucial time for us. Therefore, the international community should render its support and encouragement to our effort to meet our objectives because a young democratic nation has emerged on this planet.

On 30th March last year, we have turned a new page in our country in order to create better conditions in Myanmar. As a result for our effort to build a democratic society over last two decades, a government based on democracy has emerged in Myanmar.

Today, a government elected by the people has come into being in Myanmar. The three branches of the State, namely, legislative, administrative and judiciary bodies are functioning in harmony in accord with the constitution.

There have been significant developments in our domestic and foreign relations. We want to give a brighter future for our people; we want our people to take part in the democratic reform process; and we want democracy to thrive in Myanmar, he added.

We all know that democracy has many challenges. However, since we are on the right track to democracy, we shall overcome these challenges with great care and proceed ahead till we reach our goals. I wish to assure you that I shall endeavour to establish a healthy democracy in Myanmar during my tenure as president with power vested in me by the constitution.—MNA

Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam extends greetings at dinner at Banquet Hall in Istana.—MNA

Ayeyawady Region CM receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung received Country Director Mr James Daniel Taylor and party of IDE-Proximity Designs which is a international non-governmental organization, at his office yesterday afternoon.

They discussed progress in carrying out the tasks in the region.

Also present at the call were Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Ko Ko, Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Hla Khaing, Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing and Region Minister for Social Affairs U San Maung.—MNA

UMFCCI officials receives Telenor Group of Norway

YANGON, 1 Feb—Vice-Presidents U Thaung Tin and U Mya Han, and Joint General Secretaries of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry met Executive Vice President of Telenor Group of Norway Head of Region Asia Mr Sigve Brekke and party at the federation on 26 January afternoon.

They discussed investment and cooperation in information and technology industry, and exporting of technological products by Telenor Group to Myanmar.—MNA
Myanmar President, Singaporean PM hold talks, agree technical cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong held a discussion at West Drawing Room of Istana in Singapore on 30 January.

During the discussion, they held cordial talks on granting scholarships to outstanding Myanmar students by Singapore for human resources development of Myanmar. Singapore also agreed to share its experiences by organizing courses and study visits on adoption of policies and laws that contribute to attraction of investments, smooth trading, and development of banking and tourism industries.

After the talks, the President and the Singaporean Prime Minister attended the MoU signing ceremony between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Singapore on technical cooperation.

Before the President and the Prime Minister, Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and Singaporean Foreign Affairs and Law Minister Mr K Shanmugam signed the agreement.

The Singaporean Prime Minister hosted a luncheon to the Myanmar President and party at Banquet Hall of the Istana.

Myanmar delegation headed by President U Thein Sein, wife arrive Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, at the invitation of President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, accompanied by delegation members, left here at 9 am on 29 January to pay a goodwill visit to Singapore.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife Daw Lin Lin Tin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint, Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint and departmental heads accompanied the president on his tour.

On arrival at Changi International Airport in Singapore at 1.40 pm local time, the Myanmar delegation was welcomed by Singaporean National Development Minister Mr Khaw Boon Wan and wife, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin and wife, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua and wife and Head of Protocol Department of Singapore Mr Lim Cheng Hoe and Myanmar embassy staff and families.

The President, wife and party proceeded to Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore.—MNA
Two innocent people injured in mine blast in Phakant Township of Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb.—Motorbike driver Lek Kho Mahn, 34, of Zebyugon Ward of Hkamti rolled on the bamboo mine on Kaikse Uphill Road in Phakant Township of Kachin State on 30 January morning and met a Tatmadaw column in route. Lek Kho Mahn and Maung Paing left Laikse Hill on motorbike. Lek Kho Mahn, 34, of Zeebyugon Ward of Hkamti rolled on the bamboo mine on Kaikse Uphill Road in Phakant Township of Kachin State on 30 January morning and met a Tatmadaw column in route. Lek Kho Mahn and Maung Paing left Laikse Hill on motorbike. Lek Kho Mahn and Maung Paing left Laikse Hill on motorbike.

Regarding the communication sector, Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Htaik reported on mining sectors in the 2012-2013 fiscal year and allocation expenditure for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, supplementary allocation for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, supplementary allocation for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and expenditure for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and the budgets for the year.

Regarding the industry sector, Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung reported on implementation of 10 projects which are to be continued in the 2012-2013 fiscal year and Ministry’s Budget. Union Minister for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay reported on efforts of the Ministry of Myanmar Industry Development for creating a national industrial development with the participation of private sector, joint-venture sector and foreign investment sector in accordance with the market oriented system to be able to fulfill the needs for technical development, investment, energy and raw materials and plans of the ministry to establish the three industrial development sectors: industry, electronic and aviation and aerospace sectors and the ministry’s budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Regarding the monetary sector, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun reported on the ministry’s supplementary allocation for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, services for the financial sector, objectives, previous estimate budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, supplementary allocation, earning exceeding the target, the estimate budget, reforms in the financial and monetary sector, ordinary income and expenditure for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, ordinary allocation and expenditure for departments and allocation and expenditure.

Regarding the hiring and services sector, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Hsan reported on efforts of the ministry to become the major source of national income for the country, arrangements for attracting 1.4 million tourists in the 2011-2012 fiscal year which the end of the fifth five-year plan and for increasing the income of the ministry reaching 1.19 times of the that of the 2010-2011 fiscal year. He also reported on four basic tasks of the ministry to develop the hotel and tourism businesses and organizing the committee for providing services for convenience of tourists. He also reported on incomes of the ministry and other related ministries, claiming supplementary allocation, the budget and extra income for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Union minister for Cooperatives U Ohn Myint reported on policy, objectives and tasks of the planning (draft) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, tasks laid down by the ministry with the aim of boosting the implementation of cooperative societies by 6.1%, boosting the production sector by 5.7%, services sector by 2.8% and trading by 9.7% of the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Supplementary allocation and the budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Regarding the forestry sector, on behalf of the Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint reported policies, objectives and tasks of the national planning for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 fiscal years and the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The meeting ended 4.35 pm and it will continue at 10 am tomorrow. —MNA

Local Sports

Winners awarded in Township Administrator’s Cup

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb.—The final match of the Township Administrator’s Cup U-21 Football Tournament was held at Township Sports Ground on 27 January afternoon.

In the final, Bo Min Yaung team emerged champion with a 2-1 win over Nyaungbintha team. Head of Township Planning Department U Win Naing presented the second prize to Nyaungbintha team, and Township Administrator U Aye Lu, first prize trophy and K 300,000 to Bo Min Yaung team. —Myanmar Alin

Township Administrator’s Cup Football Tourney commences

WAW, 1 Feb.—The Waw Township Administrator’s Cup Football Tournament kicked off at the People’s Sports Ground on 24 January afternoon.

After delivering an address, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Htwe opened the tournament. In the debut, Township Administrator’s Cup Football Tourney commences.

Myanmar Traditional Chess Singles Open Tournament 15-23 Feb

YANGON, 1 Feb.—The Myanmar Traditional Chess Singles Open Tournament, jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation, will take place at Theinbyu Gymnasium at the corner of Theinbyu and Kayneikha Streets, here, from 15 to 23 February.

Those wishing to take part in the tournament may enlist at the federation, not later than 14 February. Those qualified in the tournament will be allowed to take part in the Myanmar Traditional Chess Championship 2012 and the outstanding players from the latter will be chosen as selected players.

Myanmar traditional chess event will be included in the XVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar in 2013. —MCP

Waw Myoma team trounced Tanaykyun Station team 5-0.

Waw Myoma, Kyakhtla, Phapyau, Nyeungyoosheay, Tanakyun, Abyabote, Myitkyo and Thayebohamen station teams are taking part in the tournament. —Myanmar Alin

Township IPRD

Third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb.—The third regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for the second day at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building here today.

It was attended by Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 586 representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

During the meeting, Union Ministers concerned reported on bills of national planning, bill of allocation of supplementary budget for 2012 and the budget for the 2012.

Regarding the livestock breeding and fishery sector, Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint reported on the ministry’s planning (draft), objectives and tasks for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the planning (draft), objectives and tasks for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, income and expenditure, allocation for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and expenditure, allocation (ordinary) and expenditure, allocation expenditure and debt.

Regarding the communication sector, Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Htaik reported on objectives of the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the ministry is making efforts for boosting the net value of services of the ministry can increase to 118%, to increase the telephone subscribers 610243 and telephone density 11.7% and the number of internet users 100,000, said the union minister. He also reported on supplementary allocation for the ordinary and allocation for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and income, expenditure, allocation and expenditure for 2012-2013.

Regarding the energy sector, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay reported on clarification on claiming supplementary allocation for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, supplementary allocation for the ordinary expenditure and allocation expenditure, estimate account, estimate account for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, income and expenditure for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and allocation and expenditure for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Regarding the mining sector, Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htuk reported on mining sectors in the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the 2012-2013 fiscal year and the budgets for the year.

Regarding the industry sector, Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung reported on implementation of 10 projects which are to be continued in the 2012-2013 fiscal year and Ministry’s Budget. Union Minister for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay reported on efforts of the Ministry of Myanmar Industry Development for creating a national industrial development with the objectives of the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the ministry is making efforts for boosting the net value of services of the ministry can increase to 118%, to increase the telephone subscribers 610243 and telephone density 11.7% and the number of internet users 100,000, said the union minister. He also reported on supplementary allocation for the ordinary and allocation for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and income, expenditure, allocation and expenditure for 2012-2013.

Regarding the energy sector, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay reported on clarification on claiming supplementary allocation for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, supplementary allocation for the ordinary expenditure and allocation expenditure, estimate account, estimate account for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, income and expenditure for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and allocation and expenditure for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Regarding the mining sector, Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htuk reported on mining sectors in the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the 2012-2013 fiscal year and the budgets for the year.

Regarding the industry sector, Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung reported on implementation of 10 projects which are to be continued in the 2012-2013 fiscal year and Ministry’s Budget. Union Minister for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay reported on efforts of the Ministry of Myanmar Industry Development for creating a national industrial development with the objectives of the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the ministry is making efforts for boosting the net value of services of the ministry can increase to 118%, to increase the telephone subscribers 610243 and telephone density 11.7% and the number of internet users 100,000, said the union minister. He also reported on supplementary allocation for the ordinary and allocation for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and income, expenditure, allocation and expenditure for 2012-2013.
Beijing to cover major tourist attractions with free wireless broadband services

Beijing, 1 Feb—Tourists to Beijing will soon be able to enjoy free Internet access in the city’s numerous tourist attractions thanks to a plan to boost the city’s tourism services. Beijing will this year cover all its 211 A-class tourist attractions with free wireless broadband network,” Lu Yong, director of the Beijing Travel Committee, told a meeting here on Tuesday. At the meeting, the committee announced a guideline on improving Beijing’s tourism environment and public service over the next three years.” According to the guideline, a modern tourism and public service system will be established by the end of 2014. Beijing has already installed free wireless broadband services in six of its central business districts. Lu said Beijing will also expand its tourism services to cover more areas. Beijing has witnessed a brisk tourism market over the past three years.” According to the guideline, a modern tourism and public service system will be established by the end of 2014. Beijing has already installed free wireless broadband services in six of its central business districts. Lu said Beijing will also expand its tourism services to cover more areas.

More green roofs installed in buildings

The green structures also help to reduce temperatures within buildings and in heavily built-up areas. Some buildings in Singapore already have such green roofs as part of their design. This is an example of what Singapore’s water agency PUB has recommended to mitigate floods.

FAKE COLLEGES IN SWEDEN

The universities mostly have English sounding names, Swedish newspaper Sydsvenskan reports. The National Agency for Higher Education has checked the addresses of such universities, claiming to offer courses in business administration or hospitality management, only to find disconnected phone numbers and addresses pointing to post office boxes, no campuses to be found.

More than 3,000 T3 electric vehicles have been deployed in over 30 countries worldwide.

The company says the vehicles will be used for Changi Airport patrol initiatives. T3 Motion, a producer of clean and green technology, said a law enforcement patrol vehicle is known for its quick response time and iconic look that is designed to decrease operating costs, reduce crime and increase patrol capabilities.

More than 3,000 T3 Series vehicles have been deployed in over 30 countries worldwide.

The six-day inspection that ended Saturday was a joint inspection of foreign research stations, installations and facilities in Antarctica. The six-day inspection that ended Saturday was conducted as part of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and its Environmental Protocol, the US State Department said on Monday.

US, Russia conclude Antarctica inspection

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—The US and Russia have concluded a joint inspection of foreign research stations, installations and equipment in Antarctica. The six-day inspection that ended Saturday was conducted as part of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and its Environmental Protocol, the US State Department said on Monday.

A report in this regard will be jointly presented to other signatories of the treaty at their consultative meeting in June in Australia, reports Rus Media. The treaty was signed in Washington, and is to ensure Antarctica’s status as a continent reserved for peace and science. Currently, 49 nations are signatories of the treaty. Internet

US, Russia conclude Antarctica inspection

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—The US and Russia have concluded a joint inspection of foreign research stations, installations and equipment in Antarctica. The six-day inspection that ended Saturday was conducted as part of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and its Environmental Protocol, the US State Department said on Monday.

A report in this regard will be jointly presented to other signatories of the treaty at their consultative meeting in June in Australia, reports Rus Media. The treaty was signed in Washington, and is to ensure Antarctica’s status as a continent reserved for peace and science. Currently, 49 nations are signatories of the treaty. Internet
Seven held in China for polluting river

BEIJING, 1 Feb—Seven people were detained in southern China on charges of polluting a river that threatened people’s health.

The chemical plant executives were accused of releasing Cadmium, an industrial waste, into the Longjiang River. The pollutants were first detected 15 Jan.

Cadmium concentration near the Lalong reservoir was 30 times higher than the official limit of 0.005 milligrams per liter, China Daily quoted Feng Zhenhuan, an official with the regional environment department, as saying Tuesday.

Environmental protection workers have been deployed neutralizers, made from dissolved aluminum chloride, at six locations along the river to dissolve the contaminants.

The source of the pollution was reportedly contained Saturday, as cadmium concentration at Lalong reservoir, where the pollution was first detected, had returned to normal.

The pollution belt was now near the downstream Luodong hydropower station where cadmium concentration levels were still 25 times higher than the official limit.

He said the pollutants were flowing downstream and were close to a major drinking water source for Liujiang city, home to 1.3 million people.—Internet

Skin transformed into brain cells

SCIENCE, skipped the middle “stem cell” stage in the process. The researchers said they were “thrilled” at the finding.

In a potential medical uses. Further tests are needed to ensure the technique could be used on human skin. Stem cells, which can become any other type of cell from brain to bone, are thought to have huge promise in a range of treatments. Many trials are

Skin cells have been converted directly into cells which develop into the main components of the brain, by researchers studying mice in California.—INTERNET

Police find four floors of pot plants

NEW YORK, 1 Feb—New York police said they found a vertical marijuana farm, taking up four floors of a five-story building in the Bronx.

Police broke down the door of the building Monday and discovered 600 potted marijuana plants filling the top four floors of the building in the Morris Park neighbourhood, the New York Post reported, as well as sodium vapor growing lights casting a yellow glow, and modifications to the ventilation system.

They were using enough electricity, grow lights and such to power an entire city block,” a law enforcement source was quoted as saying.

The newspaper said the 1,500 pounds of pot removed from the building had a street value estimated at $7.5 million.

Three men were arrested on drug dealing and possession charges.—INTERNET

Germans, Moroccos face death in Malaysia drug case

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 Feb—Two Germans and a Moroccan man are facing the death penalty on charges of smuggling more than 10 kilogrammes (22 pounds) of methamphetamine into Malaysia, known for its strict anti-drug laws.

A district court near the Kuala Lumpur International Airport charged the three men on 31 January with drug trafficking, a said a customs official who declined to be named.

Airport officials arrested the men arriving from Istanbul on 1 January after finding 10.2 kilogrammes of methamphetamine hidden in the bags they were carrying, the official said Wednesday.

He said no plea had been recorded from the three pending the case’s transfer to a high court once a chemist report on the drugs is ready.

The two Germans have parents from Afghanistan but were born in Germany, while the Moroccan has lived in Germany for 15 years, the official said.

Authorities in the Southeast Asian country went on “red alert” late last year following a surge in arrests and drug seizures, tightening passenger and luggage screening.

Despite Malaysia’s strict laws — death by hanging is the mandatory penalty for drug trafficking convictions — Kuala Lumpur airport authorities last year seized some 195 kilogrammes (430 pounds) of drugs and held more than 30 people.

Smugglers have traditionally arrived from Africa and the Middle East but are increasingly coming from countries such as Turkey and the Philippines, according to officials.

A high court sentenced a 23-year-old Iranian mechanic to death Monday for trafficking 1.4 kilogrammes of methamphetamine two years ago, according to the official Bernama news agency.

Several other Europeans, including two from Britain, one from the Netherlands and one from France, were arrested in drug raids in Malaysia and charged with trafficking in November.

In October, a Malaysian court sentenced a Japanese woman to death for smuggling methamphetamine into the country in what officials said was the first such case involving a citizen of Japan.—INTERNET

Aerial surveillance for Pakistani capital

ISLAMABAD, 1 Feb—Temporary aerial surveillance has been ordered over the already heavily-protected Pakistani capital in view of fresh terror threats, the police said Tuesday. The aerial surveillance by helicopters, which began Tuesday, will continue till 5 Feb, Dawn reported.

Islamabad witnessed one of its worst terror attacks 20 Sep, 2008 when a suicide bomber rammed a truck containing 600 kg of explosives into the outer wall of the luxury Marriott hotel, killing 60 people.—INTERNET

Pakistani beheaded for heroin trafficking in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, 1 Feb—A Pakistani man convicted of trafficking in heroin was beheaded Monday in eastern Saudi Arabia, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.

Salman Khan Taj Mohammad was executed in the City of Denver, bringing to five the number of people put to death in Saudi Arabia since the beginning of the year. Saudi Arabia, China, Iran, the US and Yemen are the countries that execute the highest number of people, according to human rights group Amnesty International.—INTERNET
**Survey: 36 percent in US prefer football**

A New York pollster said the gap between football and baseball fandom is widening, with 36 percent of respondents preferring the former to the latter.

Harris Interactive said its online poll of 2,237 adults, conducted 5 to 12 December, found 36 percent of respondents cited football as their favourite sport while 13 percent said it was baseball.

The pollster said last year’s poll found 31 percent of participants considered football their favourite, with 17 percent choosing baseball. Additionally, 13 percent of those polled in this year’s survey picked college football as their favourite, with 8 percent picking auto racing and 5 percent each choosing professional basketball, college basketball and hockey. Harris said no margin of error could be calculated for the survey due to the participants being only those who have previously agreed to fill out the company’s online surveys.

---

**Reba denies online death rumour**

**Nashville, 1 Feb—** Country music star Reba McEntire went online Tuesday to ice a rumour claiming she had fallen off a mountain in Austria and died.

“There is a rumor going around that I died after falling off a mountain in Austria yesterday while shooting a movie,” the Grammy Award winner said via Twitter. “While I would love to be shooting a movie in Austria, I definitely did not fall off a mountain! Nor am I dead! I am alive and kicking!”

McEntire and Blake Shelton are to serve as co-hosts of the ACM Award show in Las Vegas on 4 April.

---

**Woman climbs cliffs with toddler on back**

A Welsh mother famous for climbing cliff faces with her toddler strapped to her back says safety is always on her mind.

Menna Pritchard, 26, of Llanwrda, whose blog about climbing has courted questions about the safety of her 2-year-old daughter, Ffion, during the climbs, said she has been scaling cliffs with the girl in tow since she was 4 months old, the Western Mail, Cardiff, Wales, reported Tuesday. “I bought my first baby carrier when I was six months pregnant and Ffion’s first summit was Penty Fan in the Brecon Beacons when she was 4 months old.

She slept through the whole thing. She was in a front carrier at that time and it really was incredibly safe. Safety is always paramount,” Pritchard said.

The thing that provoked the most controversy was a picture I had posted online of me rock climbing with Ffion on my back.

---

**Sofia Vergara named Most Desirable Woman of 2012**

**Los Angeles, 1 Feb—** Sofia Vergara, one of the stars of the US sitcom “Modern Family,” topped AskMen’s 11th annual Most Desirable Woman poll.

More than 11 million votes were cast internationally for the 2012 poll, the Web site said.

“I am so honored to be AskMen’s most desired woman this year. A thank you to all the men who desire me,” Vergara said in a statement on Tuesday.

“With more than a third of the women on this year’s list being first-time honourees, it’s clear that men are intrigued by women who are new on the scene,” said James Bassil, editor-in-chief of AskMen.

“The 2012 Top 99 Most Desirable Women are an eclectic group which explains the wide range in what today’s man finds appealing,” Vergara said in a statement on Tuesday.

---

**Birds swarm Kentucky neighbourhood**

Residents of a Kentucky neighbourhood said thousands of birds have been descending on the area twice a day for several weeks.

The La Grange neighbours said the birds have taken up residence in some woods and they swarm around their homes twice a day, WAVE-TV, Louisville, reported Thursday. “It’s like a cloud of birds, but a giant cloud,” one neighbour said on Tuesday.

“The whole sky will fill up with black birds.”

The residents said they have brought in “sound cannons,” which make a shotgun-like noise, and they are hoping the noise will drive away the birds.

---

**Adele to perform at Grammy Awards show**

**SANTA MONICA, 1 Feb—** British singer Adele will make her return to the live stage at the 54th annual Grammy Awards show in Los Angeles, the Recording Academy said on Tuesday.

This will be her first time performing live in nearly five months. She was forced to cancel a sold-out US concert tour to undergo surgery on her vocal cords last year.

“I’m immensely proud to have been asked to perform at this year’s Grammy Awards,” Adele said in a statement. “It’s an absolute honour to be included in such a night, and for it to be my first performance in months is very exciting and of course nerve-racking, but what a way to get back into it all.”

The 23-year-old recording artist has previously won two Grammy Awards. She is up for six this year.

LL Cool J will serve as host of the Grammy Awards show 12 February at the Staples Centre. It is to air on CBS. —Internet
London, 1 Feb — Queens Park Rangers have completed the signing of France striker Djibril Cisse for an undisclosed fee. The 30-year-old has moved to Loftus Road on a two-and-a-half-year deal from Lazio and he becomes the club’s fourth signing of the January transfer window for new manager Mark Hughes. Cisse is well used to the Barclays Premier League having played in England for Liverpool from 2004-07 and Sunderland in the 2008-09 season. “QPR have a hugely ambitious project,” Cisse told the club’s official website. “When I talked to the manager, he spoke highly of the club and where he wants to take it over the next few years. “He wants to achieve big things here — that was all I needed to hear from him. “The English League is the best in the world. “It is the league that suits me the most. “I’m really happy to be here and I can’t wait to repay the confidence in me, to get back to where I want to be as a player. “I will always give 100% and I can’t wait to start playing games. I have unfinished business here in England.” Hughes, who could hand Cisse a debut in the Barclays Premier League match at Aston Villa on Wednesday, could not hide his delight at adding to fellow new signings Takeo Narumi, Nedum Onuoha and Samba Diakite, “I rate Djibril very, very highly,” said Hughes. “I’ve watched him for many years and always been impressed by what he brings to the table.”

MAN UTD 2 - 0 STOKE

London, 1 Feb — Javier Hernandez and Dimitar Berbatov both scored from the penalty spot as Manchester United went to the top on points with Manchester City.

Perfect Gabon top table after beating Tunisia

Francoise, 1 Feb — Co-hosts Gabon defeated Tunisia 1-0 here on Tuesday to finish top of Africa Cup of Nations Group A with a perfect nine points from three matches. The Panthers will play the runners-up in Group D in Libreville on Sunday, while Tunisia, who finished second in the group will face the winners of Group D. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang gave Gabon the lead after 62 minutes when he collected a loose ball before wrong footing Tunisian goalkeeper Rami Jeridi for his third goal of the tournament. "This was our most difficult game so far against a very good Tunisia team, who dominated the game from start to finish," admitted Gabon coach Genot Rohr after the match. "It was not easy because we were already qualified for the quarter-finals. But thanks to the professional attitude and fighting spirit of the players, we won to finish on top of the group." Tunisia coach Sami Trabelsi said he rested several players — goalkeeper Aymen Mathlouthi, skipper Karim Haggui, Khaled Korbi and Mejdi Traoui — because they would have been suspended for the quarter-finals had they been booked.
Andres Iniesta has a thigh problem. Mali midfielder Seydou Keita is one of the goalscorers from the second half of the final win over Real last week as one of the injured duo David Villa and Ibrahim Afellay.

Barca turn to youth for Spanish Cup trip

BARCELONA, 1 Feb — Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola will turn to four graduates from the club’s youth academy to make up for a mini-injury crisis in Wednesday’s Spanish Cup semi-final first-leg trip to Valencia. Guardiola, whose side reached this stage at the expense of bitter rivals and holders Real Madrid, was already without long-term injured duo David Villa and Ibrahim Afellay.

But his problems have mounted since the two-legged quarter-final over Real last week as one of the goalscorers from the second leg, Pedro Rodriguez, has suffered a groin injury and midfielder Andres Iniesta has a thigh problem. Midfielder Seydou Keita is another absentee as he is away on Africa Cup of Nations duty.

Guardiola will therefore turn to the quartet of Spanish midfielder Sergi Roberto, Mexican midfielder Jonathan Dos Santos, forward Cristian Tello and winger Isaac Cuena, who earlier on Tuesday extended his contract with the club until June 2015.

Saha heads for Spurs as Everton sign Jelavic

LONDON, 1 Feb — Everton injury-prone Louis Saha join Tottenham Hotspur on loan and signed Croatia forward Nikica Jelavic from Scottish champions Rangers on transfer deadline day on Tuesday. The Liverpool-based side also took former midfielder Steven Pienaar back on loan from Spurs for the rest of the season, David Moyes’ side said on their website (www.evertonfc.com) after the window had officially shut.

The South African has suffered a series of injury problems at Tottenham since joining from Everton in January last year.

Kyle Stanley keen to put Torrey collapse in past

TORREY PINES, 1 Feb — Kyle Stanley is keen to move on after a triple-bogey at the final hole of regulation cost him a three-shot lead at Torrey Pines and, eventually, a first US PGA Tour title. “It’s just going to continue to work hard and do what I can do each day to get better,” said the 29-year-old after Sunday’s round. “As long as I continue to do that, I’ll be back,” Stanley added when Tuesday in Phoenix, Arizona, where he was to be seen practicing. “I have a lot of things to work on. There are just things that I know I have to work on and improve on.”

“Nothing has changed and nothing is changing,” he said. “I’m just going to continue to work hard and do what I can do each day to get better, as long as I continue to do that, I’ll be back,” Stanley said on Tuesday in Phoenix, adding that he never seriously considered pulling out of this week’s Phoenix Open to nurse his psychic wounds.

“Nothing is changing,” he said. “I’m just going to continue to work hard and do what I can do each day to get better, as long as I continue to do that, I’ll be back,” Stanley added when Tuesday in Phoenix, Arizona, where he was to be seen practicing. “I have a lot of things to work on. There are just things that I know I have to work on and improve on.”

“My game is definitely not going to change,” he said. “I’m just going to continue to work hard and do what I can do each day to get better, as long as I continue to do that, I’ll be back,” Stanley added when Tuesday in Phoenix, Arizona, where he was to be seen practicing. “I have a lot of things to work on. There are just things that I know I have to work on and improve on.”

“I can love you, it can hate you,” said Stanley, who had been “overwhelmed” by the outpouring of support he had received from fellow pros and fans. — Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2-12 | Overseas Transmision  
| 3-12 | Overseas Transmision  
| 3-12 | Overseas Transmision  
| 3-12 | Overseas Transmision  
| 3-12 | Overseas Transmision  |
| 3:45 | News  
| 4:00 | News  
| 4:15 | Music Programme  
| 4:30 | News  
| 5:00 | News  
| 5:15 | Youth & Volunteer Service  
| 5:30 | News  
| 6:00 | News  
| 6:15 | Music Programme  
| 6:30 | News  
| 6:45 | Music Programme  
| 7:00 | News  
| 7:15 | Music Programme  
| 7:30 | Music Programme  |
President U Thein Sein and wife attend dinner hosted by Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Myanmar goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win attended a dinner hosted by President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife Mary Tan at Istana President’s Residence on 30 January evening. On arrival at Istana at 7:15 pm, the President and wife were cordially greeted by the Singaporean President and wife. At the reception room, the Singaporean President introduced President U Thein Sein and wife to ministers and high-ranking officials from Singapore and the Myanmar President, to Union Ministers and high-ranking officials. After that, the Dinner was held at Banquet Hall. During the dinner, Singaporean Military band entertained the guest with songs.

Singaporean President said: Singapore and Myanmar established diplomatic ties back in 1966. Since then, our friendship has grown for strength to strength. Our countries have close and growing links in many areas and our governments enjoy good cooperation. Over the years, our people-to-people interactions have also intensified, with an increasing presence of Myanmar professionals, students and tourists in Singapore.

Visit of Myanmar President marks a new chapter in our bilateral relationship. Our Foreign Ministers signed a MoU on the “Singapore-Myanmar Technological Cooperation Programme.” Since the inception of the Singapore Cooperation Programme in 1992, Singapore has provided technical assistance to over 7500 Myanmar officials in various fields. With this MoU, both countries pledged to assist Myanmar in its capacity building efforts, and to continue supporting Myanmar in its transition to democracy.

As Myanmar integrates with the international community, we hope that our economic cooperation and business-to-business links will strengthen. The close cooperation between governments has provided a strong framework for our private sector exchanges to intensify. Singaporean business and companies have invested in Myanmar since the 1990s. Myanmar’s progress in developing its economic infrastructure and legal framework will further encourage investments into the country, he said.

Like many countries in Southeast Asia, Singapore and Myanmar share a common vision of achieving an ASEAN Community in 2015. Myanmar will assume the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014.

Singapore will continue to work closely with Myanmar in its ASEAN Chairmanship, and towards advancing our common regional interests for the betterment of our peoples. I am confident that our relationship will continue to grow in the coming years. As old friends and neighbours in ASEAN, Singapore wishes Myanmar well. We hope to see Myanmar develop and prosper,

(See page 8)

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win arrives back from Republic of Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win arrived back here by special flight of Myanmar Airways International at 3.30 pm after paying a goodwill visit to Singapore at the invitation of President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam.

The delegation led by President U Thein Sein and wife were welcomed back by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife, Union ministers and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and departmental heads, Chargé d’Affaires ai of Singaporean Embassy in Myanmar Mr William Chit and officials at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

Members of delegation Union ministers, deputy minister, the Yangon mayor and departmental high-ranking officials, who accompanied the President and wife, boarded off the same flight.

President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice-Presidents Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA