# Our Three Main National Causes

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## President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to President of Sri Lanka

**Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Feb**—On the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

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## Fourth day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues

Union level organizations explain National Planning Bills, Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill 2012, Union Budget Bill 2012

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Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Feb—The third regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for the fourth day at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 10 am today, attended by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Maung Soe, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 566 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

Members of the Union level organizations concerned submitted the National Planning Bills, the Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill of the Union for 2012 and the Union Budget Bill 2012 to the session.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung reported on strategic transport sector development policy of the Ministry of Transport, aims of the policy for the tasks, aims of the financial policy, aims of the quality control policy, the aims of the employment, supplementary fund for 2011-2012 fiscal year, and financial statement for 2012-2013 fiscal year of departments, enterprises and the whole ministry.

Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min submitted reports on policy, aim and tasks of the ministry, incomes and approval for expenditure for 2011-2012 fiscal year, the drafted estimated incomes for 2011-2012 fiscal year, drafted expenditure, revenue expenditure and capital expenditure for 2011-2012, supplemental fund, railroad construction project and debt sector, proposal for income and expenditure for 2011-2012 fiscal year, raising of drafted income, drafted estimated income in comparison with drafted income for 2011-2012, estimated revenue expenditure, estimated expenditure in comparison with drafted expenditure for 2011-2012 fiscal year, capital expenditure, estimated capital expenditure, new projects to be implemented in 2012-2013 fiscal year, continuation of the tasks in 2012-2013 fiscal year and content of foreign exchange.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing explained aims and tasks of the agricultural sector on national project in fifth five-year short-term plan, submission of supplementary fund for 2011-2012 fiscal year, budget accounts for 2012-2013 fiscal year, allotted supplementary budget and drafted budget for 2011-2012 fiscal year, revenue expenditure, capital expenditure and debt payment for seeking supplementary budget for 2011-2012 fiscal year, revenue income, revenue expenditure, capital income and capital expenditure, debt receipts and debt payment from the budget for 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Union Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min reported on the electricity plans to be implemented in third five-year plan period from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016, potentials for generating electricity in third five-year plan period, revenue income, debt receipt, revenue expenditure, capital expenditure and debt sector from revenue and capital budget for 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe made clarification on policy of the electrical sector for five-year short-term plan, goals of the electrical sector in 2012-2013 fiscal year, tasks in electrical sector in 2012-2013 fiscal year, the projects to be implemented in 2012-2013 fiscal year, continuation of the plans in 2012-2013 fiscal year, the estimated budget for the projects of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise in 2012-2013 fiscal year, seeking of supplementary budget for 2011-2012 fiscal year, the drafted estimated budget for 2011-2012 fiscal year, original budget for 2012-2013 fiscal year, revenue expenditure, capital expenditure and debt payment from the budget for 2012-2013 fiscal year, receiving of foreign exchange for 2012-2013 fiscal year and drafted expenditure.

(See page 8)
What the most difficult thing is!

What is the most difficult thing in our life? Some people define it as glory while some, as education, economy and wealth. If one knows thoroughly what is the most difficult thing in life, one can overcome it easily.

Everybody has to face difficulties in doing any works. Putting blame on the difficulties we are facing could not achieve any success. If so, prosperity, advancement and success stay away from us.

Every success has difficulties. To achieve success, we must surmount difficulties right now. In our life, we can try to get something we want and know something new. But we can get nothing if we do nothing.

So, youths should make strenuous efforts in pursuing education and doing businesses and any work with strong determination and belief. Do anything adamantly is the start of success.

That is to say, it is the first step to overcome the most difficult one. Then, there should be no turning back.

It is importance of us to overcome difficulties in order that our desires are synonymous with our life.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) to emerge as 11th bridge in the time of new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) lies on Katha-Bhamo railroad near Sinkhan Village in Bhamo Township of Kachin State. Constructed on 7 May, 2009, the bridge is due to open in February, 2012.

The upper structure of the bridge is made of steel truss plus prestressed concrete and reinforced concrete and the footing and piers of reinforced concrete. The steel trusses used in the bridge were manufactured by Myaungdaga Steel Mill.

The bridge has 4630 feet long motor road and 5510 feet long railroad. The motor road is 28 feet wide, flanked by three feet wide pedestrian walks. The railroad is 14 feet wide. The clearance is 320 feet wide and 47 feet high. It can withstand 60 tons per vehicle.

The bridge is a rail-cum-road one, making it convenient for trips and travel. It will serve as an effective link between towns and villages in Kachin State and towns and villages in Sagaing Region. It makes rail travel possible to all highlands and main lands in connection with other railroad networks, breaking down the distance, fostering connectedness among national brethren, bolstering socio-economy.

Translation: TKK
Merkel visits China to discuss Euro debt crisis

BEIJING, 3 Feb—In Beijing, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has arrived for a two-day visit. This is the Chancellor’s fifth visit to China since she took office in 2005. Her visit marks the 40th anniversary since diplomatic ties were established between the two countries.

Premier Wen Jiabao held a welcoming ceremony on Thursday afternoon. Later, the two leaders held a meeting, established between the two countries.

Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Beijing, capital of China, on 3 Feb, 2012. — Xinhua

Second car bomb in as many days kills six in Colombia

VILLA RICA, 3 Feb—A car bomb detonated outside a police station in southwestern Colombia on Thursday, killing six people and wounding 30 in the region’s second such attack in less than 48 hours, officials said.

Three killed in the blast in the town of Villa Rica, in the department of Meta, included the police station commander and at least three civilians, said Mayor Juan Guillermo Mina.

The station was nearly destroyed along with several nearby shops, television news footage showed. “We have never had this type of incident occur here and I hope that it never happens again,” Mina said.

The bombing came one day after nine people were killed and 12 wounded when the police station was bombed in the far southwestern port town of Tumaco. It was the third bombing in Tumaco this year, local officials said.

The government blamed leftist rebels with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) for the Tumaco attack. While the Thursday attackers were unidentified, military officials say a FARC front operates in the region.

Defence Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon said the Tumaco attack was carried out by FARC guerrillas in alliance with Los Rastrajos, a criminal gang made up of former drug traffickers and ex-right-wing paramilitary fighters.

The FARC, founded in 1964, has an estimated 8,000 fighters across Colombia, according to the Ministry of Defence.

Police examine the site where three most wanted leaders of the al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group Al Shabaab were among those allegedly killed in a US-backed drone strike in Jolo.

Moscov, 3 Feb—Russia and NATO will hold joint computer-simulated missile defence exercises in Germany in March, an official said Thursday.

The decision to conduct the drills was taken at the NATO-Russia Summit in Lisbon in November 2010. The exact timetable for the drills has not been determined yet, Russian Deputy Defence Minister Anatoly Antonov said “I think we may aim for March.”

Antonov downplayed the importance of the upcoming exercises in light of the current deadlock in missile-defence talks between Russia and NATO.

Russia has proposed a joint system, while NATO favours two independent systems which exchange information.

Moscow is seeking written, legally binding guarantees that the US-backed European missile defence network will not be directed against it. Washington, however, refuses to provide the guarantees, saying the shield is directed against threats from Iran and North Korea.

“Unfortunately, there has been no progress (in missile defence talks),” Antonov said. “It is a pity that the situation is not changing as our colleagues from the United States and NATO are still not ready to understand Russia’s concerns.” — Internet

Today’s guest picture: Suicides in recent years

Baghdad, 3 Feb—A suicide car bomb attack ripped Iraq’s capital city Baghdad on Friday, killing at least 31 people and injuring 60 others, an interior ministry source said.

The interior ministry official, on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua that the attack took place near a funeral site outside a hospital in southern Baghdad’s sal-Zafaraniya district.

Many of the injured are in serious condition, which could make the death toll higher, said the official. Several vehicles and buildings near the site were damaged by the explosion, the said. No one has claimed responsibility so far, he said, adding that investigations are underway.

Violence in Iraq has been sauces since US forces completed their pullout on 18 Dec, 2011.

Xinhua

No S-400 missile exports before 2015

MOSCOW, 3 Feb—Russia has no plans to export the S-400 Triumf air-defence system before 2015, a state-controlled arms exporter said Thursday.

“Until 2015 all the S-400s will be manufactured for Russian needs only,” Rosoboronexport head Anatoly Isaikin said.

The S-400 (SA-21 Growler) air defence system is expected to form the cornerstone of Russia’s theatre air and missile defences by 2020.

The S-400 can engage targets at a range of up to 400 km and an altitude of 40,000-50,000 metres. The system uses an array of assets optimized for engaging ballistic and cruise missiles.

Internet

Internet

ATN is approaching the 40th anniversary since diplomatic ties were established between the two countries.

Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Beijing, capital of China, on 3 Feb, 2012. — Xinhua

SECOND CAR BOMB IN AS MANY DAYS KILLS SIX IN COLOMBIA

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Mass hysteria rare, but usually seen in girls

ATLANTA, 3 Feb — Fifteen teenage girls report a mysterious outbreak of spasms, tics and seizures in upscale New York. But tests find nothing physically wrong. Scores of adults in Northern California report crawling skin sensations and other bizarre symptoms. Government doctors find no physical cause after an extensive study. The conclusion by experts is that these are just the latest examples of what used to be called mass hysteria. Now known as conversion disorder, sufferers experience real, but psychologically triggered symptoms. It’s rare, but scores or even hundreds of outbreaks have been recorded throughout the decades around the world. It’s a diagnosis that’s often reached after other causes are ruled out, and is usually traced to a stress-causing trigger. Individual cases are common, even the kind involving tics and other movement-related symptoms. On average, the National Institutes of Health gets reports of two such cases each week, said Dr. Mark Hallett, who heads the branch that fields those calls. Outbreaks, however, are unusual. Most involve females, often teenagers.— Internet

Malaria toll far higher than thought

SEATTLE, 3 Feb—Malaria kills more than 1.2 million people a year, nearly 50 percent more than previously thought, and inflicts a high toll among adults and older children and not just toddlers, a new investigation says. But there is also good news: deaths from the mosquito-borne disease have in fact been falling sharply thanks to access to better drugs and insecticide-treated nets. Published in The Lancet on Friday, the study by the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, Seattle, says malaria killed at least 1.2 million people worldwide in 2010. The estimate will be a likely shock for health policymakers. Only last September the UN-backed Roll Back Malaria (RBM) calculated mortality in 2009 to be 781,000. The higher figure, says the US researchers, derives from wider and more reliable data, including use of a technique called “verbal autopsy.” Under this, investigators interview relatives of someone who has recently died in order to help pinpoint the cause of death. In many poor countries which lack medical infrastructure, mortality is often poorly probbed or misdiagnosed. The new study skewerthe belief that the overwhelming majority of malaria deaths occur among the under-fives. In 2010, more than 78 million children aged five or under, and more than 445,000 aged 15 or older, died of malaria, together accounting for 42 percent of the total. “You learn in medical school that people exposed to malaria as children develop immunity and rarely die from malaria as adults,” said lead researcher Christopher Murray.

What we have found in hospital records, death records, surveys and other sources shows that just is not the case.” From 1985, says the paper, malaria deaths grew every year, peaking at 1.8 million in 2004. But from 2004, the toll fell every year. Between 2007 and 2010, the decline has been particularly acute, more than seven percent every year—and the big beneficiary has been Africa. Among the stars are Tanzania and Zambia, which saw deaths fall by more than 30 percent between 2004 and 2010. Internet

Japanese entrepreneurs aim for Silicon Valley

TOKYO, 3 Feb—For an emerging generation of Japanese innovators, the dream isn’t a job for life at a big company. They have new ambitions, and they’re determined to go places. Especially Silicon Valley. Small but growing numbers of Japanese entrepreneurs are jumping into the startup scene in northern California, particularly since the earthquake and tsunami last March. They include Naoki Shibata, who took the plunge by giving up the sort of life many Japanese in past decades spent their lives trying to attain. Only 30, Shibata had an executive-level position at one of the retailing giant Rakuten Inc and an assistant professorship at the prestigious University of Tokyo, where he earned a PhD. Last June he launched AppGrooves, an iPhone application discovery tool. “I wanted a global company from the first moment,” he said. “If you want to reach a global market, then you have to start from Silicon Valley.” Shibata and others say they are seeing a major uptick in Japanese entrepreneurs migrating to Silicon Valley or seriously contemplating a move, as their country struggles with two decades of economic stagnation and a rapidly shrinking and aging population.

IMF urges LaAm economies to guard against crisis contagion

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb — The Latin America and Caribbean economies should be poised to take a string of steps including easing their monetary policies to guard against contagion risks triggered by the eurozone debt crisis, an official of the Washington-based International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Thursday. The Latin America and the Caribbean economies should hope for the best and prepare for the worst, Nicolas Eyzaguirre, Director of the IMF’s Western Hemisphere Department, cautioned in an article carried on the IMF blog on Thursday. These economies should “be ready to ease monetary policy, where strong institutions and low inflation would permit it,” and watch financial market items closely for signs of stress, Eyzaguirre noted. They should rebuild fiscal buffers to maintain fiscal credibility and prepare for a further deterioration in global conditions,he stressed, adding that they needed to maintain flexible exchange rates to buffer shocks stemming from commodity prices. These policies would give the region the best protection against increasing global uncertainties, he said.— Xinhua

Vitamin D deficiency may cause human infertility

VIENNA, 3 Feb—Vitamin D deficiency, which has long been a risk factor for diseases of osteoporosis and diabetes, may play a role in infertility both for men and women, according to a research by Austrian scientists. The finding was published in the recent issue of European Journal of Endocrinology. After the analysis of numerous studies, Austrian physicians Barbara Obermayer-Pietsch and Elisabet Lerchbaum found that vitamin D level was associated with the production of male hormones. More specifically, there was a link between vitamin D and the increase in testosterone levels, subsequently the semen quality. As vitamin D played an important role in hormone production also in women, low levels of vitamin D often lead to too much testosterone, which therefore could increase the risk of infertility, women, according to Obermayer-Pietsch.— Xinhua

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Science decodes ‘internal voices’

The studies focused on a part of the brain associated with sounds called the superior temporal gyrus.

Researchers have demonstrated a striking method to reconstruct words, based on the brain waves of patients thinking of those words. The technique reported in PLoS Biology relies on gathering electrical signals directly from patients’ brains.

Based on signals from listening patients, a computer model was used to reconstruct the sounds of words that patients were thinking of.

The method may in future help comatose and locked-in patients communicate. Several approaches have in recent years suggested that scientists are closing in on methods to tap into our very thoughts; the current study achieved its result by implanting electrodes directly into a part of participants’ brains.

In a 2011 study, participants with electrodes in direct brain contact were able to move a cursor on a screen by simply thinking of vowel sounds.

A technique called functional magnetic resonance imaging to track blood flow in the brain was shown promise for identifying which words or ideas someone may be thinking about.

By studying patterns of blood flow related to particular images, Jack Gallant’s group at the University of California Berkeley showed in September that patterns can be used to guess images being thought of — recreating “movies in the mind.”

Building a better light bulb: Energy efficient organic LEDs

Dresden, 3 Feb — Incandescent light bulbs are energy hogs, but many people prefer them for the cozy quality of light they emit. Scientists from Dresden University of Technology in Germany have set out to build energy efficient organic LED (OLED) lights that could rival incandescent bulbs in white-light quality and colour. OLEDs consist of many layers of organic materials with different electrical properties. Excited electrons move through the materials and when the electrons are reunited with positive charges they emit electromagnetic radiation in the form of visible light. To build their white light OLED, the researchers used four separate emitter layers: blue, green, yellow, and red. The different colors are combined to cover all of the visible spectrum.

Through a detailed study of the movement of electrons through the OLED, the scientists were able to tune the color and quality of the light by adjusting the height of the layers. The final OLED, described in the AIP’s Journal of Applied Physics, can produce any color of light very near to warm white point A, a standard measurement of the white light spectrum reached by some incandescent bulbs. The OLED also has high color stability, meaning the light can be dimmed without noticeably altering its quality.

Kinect for Windows gesture sensor launched by Microsoft

New York, 3 Feb — Microsoft has launched a version of Kinect, its voice and motion-controlled sensor, to work with Windows-based PCs. It joins a previous version which was designed for the company’s Xbox 360 games console. The new hardware features a “near mode” which allows it to track movements as close as 40cm away, compared to 50cm on the original model.

However, the updated device costs nearly twice as much as the Xbox 360 version.

The sensor’s UK price is yet to be confirmed, but is in the US the Windows-compatible hardware’s recommended price is $249 (£157). By comparison the Xbox version is sold for £157. By comparison the Xbox version is sold for £157.

Kinect holds the record for being the fastest selling consumer device in history. — Internet

Kinect for Windows’ general manager Craig Eisler told the BBC that the company also subsidised the Xbox version and recouped the money from games and other related sales. “It’s just been over a year since we launched Kinect for Xbox 360, and we’re only starting to scratch the surface of what’s possible,” said Mr Eisler.

“The sky’s the limit. We’re doing a testing and adoption programme with 300 companies around the world. They’re doing things that we would never think of — from the oil industry, to training, to manufacturing.”

Internet

TripAdvisor rebuked over ‘trust’ claims on review site

London, 3 Feb — TripAdvisor has been ordered to rewrite some of its marketing claims by the UK’s Advertising Standards Authority. The ruling follows complaints by hotels that the site had said that its holiday reservations could be “trusted.”

The ASA said it was concerned that consumers might be fooled by fraudulent posts since the entries could be made “without any form of verification”. TripAdvisor described the ruling as a “highly technical view” of “copy that was used in a limited capacity”. However, the watchdog said that the ruling served as a warning to all UK-focused sites with user-generated material.

Internet

Ofcom reports lopsided gains in UK broadband speeds

London, 3 Feb — The UK’s average home download speed is on the rise, but it could be even faster if more users upgraded at minimal cost, according to Ofcom. New advertising rules will limit how fast ISPs can market their “up to” speeds after April. Internet

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Scientists say dragons & elephants may solve Australia’s environmental problems

Canberra, 3 Feb — Between outback fires and destructive invasive species, Australia is facing major environmental problems. Now, an Australian scientist says he has a radical solution to these issues: import large animals, such as elephants, to consume flammable grasses and combat the feral animals that are reconstructing the ecosystem.

“A lot of people are saying that we need to look to geotechnology to solve some of these problems,” said David Bowman, a professor of environmental change biology at the University of Tasmania, Australia. “We are saying that is what we need a new nature — we need to try ecosystems engineering.”

On 7 Feb, 2009, an unusually massive firestorm raged around 490,000 acres (400,000 hectares) in southern Australia. The incident, known as Black Saturday, was indeed a unique case, but fires are a constant problem for the continent because of flammable grasses, most notably the African gamba grass, which is considered an alien species.

In addition to the exotic grasses, numerous non-native animal species — pigs, goats, cattle, hares, donkeys, camels, buffalo and deer — are competing against native species for resources, destroying habitats and spreading diseases to domestic animals, Bowman said.

Internet

The travel site’s UK homepage no longer makes the claims that provoked the complaints. — Internet

It also recognised that it had no incentive or competitive interest with the places commented on.

The travel site said that it used automated systems to identify and remove fake reviews. It acknowledged that re-substantiated. The ad-

vertiser said it acknowledged that re-
Mine explosion kills eight in NW Cambodia

PAOLINO PESI, 3 Feb—An anti-tank mine explosion on Friday morning killed eight Cambodians and injured another in Banteay Meanchey Province, some 400 kilometers northwest of Phnom Penh, an official said.

“The explosion happened at 9:30 am when a home-made tractor ran on the anti-tank mine on a forest path to their cassava farm,” Tep Khannal, governor of Banteay Meanchey’s Malai District, told Xinhua by telephone. “Nine people were on the tractor at that time. Seven were killed on spot and one died shortly after being admitted to hospital,” he said, adding the injured one is also in critical condition.

The accident occurred in Sampov Village, Banteay’s commune, Malai District of Banteay Meanchey. Landmines killed 43 Cambodians and injured another 108 in 2011, according to the report of the Cambodian Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Victim Information System.

According to the record, since 1979 to the end of 2011, there were a total of 64,017 landmine casualties. Of the casualties, 19,619 people were killed, 35,522 were injured and 8,876 were amputated.

Cambodia is one of the countries that suffered most from mines as a result of the nearly three decades of war and internal conflicts from the mid 1960s until the end of 1991. —Xinhua

15 killed in train-vehicle collision in NE India

NEW DELHI, 3 Feb—At least 15 people were killed and 50 injured when a passenger train hit a road construction vehicle at an unmanned crossing near the capital of the northeastern Indian state Guwahati on Friday morning, said witnesses and officials.

The passenger train was coming from New Bongaigaon station in lower Assam to Guwahati when it hit a JCB vehicle at Mirza, 15 kilometers from Guwahati at around 09:45 am, some witnesses said.

At least five coaches behind the engine were reported to have derailed after the accident, a witness told Xinhua by phone. The driver of the JCB was killed on the spot.

MNA/Xinhua

US defence chief sees Israel could attack Iran this spring

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb—US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said that Israel could attack Iran this spring, the Washington Post reported here on Thursday.

The Washington Post story said: “Panetta believes there is a strong likelihood that Israel will strike Iran in April, May or June before Iran enters what Israelis described as a ‘zone of immunity’ to commence building a nuclear bomb.”

The newspaper’s columnist David Ignatius wrote in the article that US President Barack Obama and Panetta “are said to have cautioned the Israelis that the United States opposes an attack, believing that it would derail an increasingly successful international economic sanctions pro-gramme and other non-military efforts to stop Iran from crossing the threshold.”

However, the White House hasn’t yet decided how the United States would respond if the Israelis do attack, the story added.

The story continued: “US officials see two possible ways to dissuade the Israelis from such an attack: Tehran could finally open serious negotiations for a formula to verifiably guarantee that its nuclear programme will remain a civilian one; or the United States could step up its covert actions to degrade the programme so much that Israelis would decide that military action wasn’t necessary.”

The story said that US officials don’t think that the Israelis will attack, but the senior US officials underlines China does not support calls for new sanctions against Iran, but through China to “use its influence” to emphasize to Iran that the world should have another nuclear power.

The European Union imposed an oil embargo on Iran last week.

The Voice of America said Merkel had sought China’s help in persuading Iran to abandon any plans it may have for nuclear weapons. The VOA said Merkel had told reporters she understands China does not support calls for new sanctions against Iran, but through China to “use its influence” to emphasize to Iran that the world should have another nuclear power.

The European Union imposed an oil embargo on Iran last week.

The Israeli raids came a day after Palestinian militants in Gaza fired rockets on southern Israeli territories. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, apparently to avoid friction with Gaza’s Hamas rulers who always seem to keep calm. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon visited Gaza on Thursday and called for maintaining the fragile ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian extremists.

Xinhua

China stresses need to resolve debt crisis

BEIJING, 3 Feb—China may engage more deeply in resolving the European debt crisis, Premier Wen Jiabao said at a media briefing with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Wen said it was “very urgent and important” to resolve the debt crisis and his country is considering “involving itself more deeply into the efforts to address the issue through channels like the European Financial Stability Facility and the European Stability Mechanism.”

Merkel arrived in Beijing on Thursday for a three-day visit.

Wen said China attaches great importance to the European debt crisis from a strategic perspective, as the European Union is its largest trading partner, the China’s official Xinhua news agency reported.

Wen said the EU’s financial stability mechanism faces growth and integration not only affect the continent but also that of China and the world.

“The Chinese side supports efforts to maintain the stability of the euro zone,” Wen said.

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb—US Congress should pass laws to boost cyber defense, as the country is in “a type of cyber Cold War,” Director of National Intelligence James Clapper told a congressional panel on Thursday.

Clapper claimed the US is losing some $300 billion US dollars annually to cyber-based corporate espionage, and sustaining daily intrusions against public systems and controlling everything from major defense weapons systems and public air traffic to electricity and banking.

Speaking at a hearing of the House Select Intelligence Committee on worldwide threats, the intelligence boss urged lawmakers to pass bills that force intelligence sharing between the government and the private sector, following the model of the Defense Industrial Base pilot programme launched by then-Deputy Defence Secretary William Lynn last year.

Also appearing at the hearing were Central Intelligence Agency Director David Petraeus, Defense Intelligence Agency Director Ronald Burgess and Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Robert Mueller.

Mueller also said it is important to deal with the growing cyber threat, which he believes “will equal or surpass the threat from terrorism in the near future.” —Xinhua

US intelligence boss urges new legislation to boost cyber security

 protective eyewear is displayed at the Marine West Military Expo Camp Pendleton, California on 1 Feb, 2012. The expo is one of the year’s largest annual display of new military equipment. Internet

Venezuela supports Argentina in claim to disputed islands

CARACAS, 3 Feb—Venezuela Thursday voiced support for Argentina in the territorial dispute with Britain over the Malvinas Islands (called the Falkland Islands by Britain).

“The government of Great Britain should know that 179 years after its invasion of the Malvinas Islands, Argentina does not stand alone in its legitimate claim of its sovereign right over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime spaces,” the Venezuelan foreign ministry said in a statement.

Today, Argentina is “part of a solid regional bloc” which won’t yield to threats or aggressions, it said. Venezuela considers Britain’s recent actions, like sending a warship to the Malvinas and the “aggressive” remarks by

Internet

Israeli airplanes strike Gaza

GAZA, 3 Feb—Israeli airplanes fired a series of strikes in the Gaza Strip early Friday, wounding at least two civilians, witnesses and medical sources said.

The targets included a smuggling tunnel beneath Gaza’s southern border with Egypt, an empty house in the nearby Rafah city, an open land and a house in northern Gaza Strip, the witnesses said.

A four-year-old girl and a man suffered minor injuries in the airstrike near the house in northern town of Beit Lahiy, Adham Abu Selma, an emergency spokesperson, told reporters. F-16 jets and helicopters participated in carrying out at least four raids.

The Israeli raids came a day after Palestinian militants in Gaza fired rockets on southern Israeli territories. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, apparently to avoid friction with Gaza’s Hamas rulers who always seem to keep calm. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon visited Gaza on Thursday and called for maintaining the fragile ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian extremists.

Xinhua

China stresses need to resolve debt crisis

BEIJING, 3 Feb—China may engage more deeply in resolving the European debt crisis, Premier Wen Jiabao said at a media briefing with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Wen said it was “very urgent and important” to resolve the debt crisis and his country is considering “involving itself more deeply into the efforts to address the issue through channels like the European Financial Stability Facility and the European Stability Mechanism.”

Merkel arrived in Beijing on Thursday for a three-day visit.

Wen said China attaches great importance to the European debt crisis from a strategic perspective, as the European Union is its largest trading partner, the China’s official Xinhua news agency reported.

Wen said the EU’s financial stability mechanism faces growth and integration not only affect the continent but also that of China and the world.

“The Chinese side supports efforts to maintain the stability of the euro zone,” Wen said.

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb—US Congress should pass laws to boost cyber defense, as the country is in “a type of cyber Cold War,” Director of National Intelligence James Clapper told a congressional panel on Thursday.

Clapper claimed the US is losing some $300 billion US dollars annually to cyber-based corporate espionage, and sustaining daily intrusions against public systems and controlling everything from major defense weapons systems and public air traffic to electricity and banking.

Speaking at a hearing of the House Select Intelligence Committee on worldwide threats, the intelligence boss urged lawmakers to pass bills that force intelligence sharing between the government and the private sector, following the model of the Defense Industrial Base pilot programme launched by then-Deputy Defence Secretary William Lynn last year.

Also appearing at the hearing were Central Intelligence Agency Director David Petraeus, Defense Intelligence Agency Director Ronald Burgess and Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Robert Mueller.

Mueller also said it is important to deal with the growing cyber threat, which he believes “will equal or surpass the threat from terrorism in the near future.” —Xinhua

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ASEAN-Australia Asialink Conversations held

YANGON, 3 Feb—The Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Asialink University of Melbourne, Australia jointly conducted the ASEAN-Australia Asialink Conversations—Myanmar 2012 at Sedona Hotel, here on 3 and 4 February. The Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, on behalf of the ASEAN-Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) hosted this gathering for the year 2012. Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wuna Maung Lwin delivered the keynote address on the opening day.

Ambassadors and responsible officials from ASEAN countries, Australia and Japan attended the opening session of the Asialink Conversations.

Myanmar, Thai students exchange language and cultural fine arts

YANGON, 3 Feb—Under the cultural exchange programme between National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Bansomdejchaopraya & Rajabhat University (BSRU), 21-member Thai delegation comprising lecturers and students of the BSRU exchanged language and cultural fine arts at the NCFAU (Yangon) from 23 January to 2 February.

The Thai delegation on their sightseeing tour of Yangon on 28 January visited famous pagodas and National Museum. At the lawn of Kumadra Hall of the NCFAU (Yangon) on 2 February, the Thai youths participated in wearing thanaka, making mon-lone-ye-baw (small glutinous rice dumplings) and hta-ma-ne (delicacy made of glutinous rice, oil, sesame, groundnut, etc). In the afternoon, students of the two countries entertained with respective arts, followed by greetings of the rectors of the BSRU and NCFAU. The NCFAU rector presented the lecturers and students of the BSRU with gifts and so did the BSRU rector to Myanmar lecturers.

Why English?

The morning sun had begun to scorch the compound when the school bell rang and the children gathered to the assembly to sing the National Anthem. Just then, a loud voice, “Tun Tun Kyaw and Win Maung Lay are hiding back in the classroom” came out. These words made their two boys’ classmate furious and she was seen rushing to her classroom. However, an experienced teacher whose name was Daw Mya Thi, held the raging teacher saying, “No, no, let me see them, please. They are mischievous. They are dour and standoffish a lot. Sure, they have high IQs. I’m teaching them Shakespeare’s Plays. Daw Mya Thi was called as one of the most sensitive instruments in school. Her feelings for the students are deep, rich and insightful. Her impact on the pupils has a beginning a middle and absolutely no end.

It’s virtually impossible to honour Daw Mya Thi with few words. She used to say, “All the students represent the next generation of scientists who will shape the future of our country.” When something makes you laugh, you have to ask yourself, why? In the case of a night study class, the roar of laughter is always heard, however, no question is needed to ask for the study belongs to Sayamagyi Daw Mya Thi who always speaks English.

Why English? Why such enthusiasm? In a word, jobs. Elites like diplomats and CEOs need English for work a generation ago. Time has changed now the ante on what’s needed is going up year after year. In China, the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympics pushed English among staff, guides, taxi drivers and ordinary citizens. To get a prized call centre job in India, speaking English is a ticket. English is the working language of the Japanese, French and Czech staff at Toyota plants in the Czech Republic. In 2004, Malaysia started teaching school-level math and science in English.

In Myanmar, mathematics and sciences subjects are taught in English. “Are the teachers strict that the students should practice and use English till they are near-perfect?” One old timer asked me.

I replied him a long answer. “English is the language of business, technology and, increasingly, empowerment. People the world over have found a new land which is an English-speaking one. In our country what we need are teachers like Daw Mya Thi who doesn’t teach to live but who lives to teach.”
Fourth day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw…

In doing so, the Ministry of Information is drafting a media law in accord with international standards. In doing so, the ministry will cooperate with UNESCO to cooperate in drafting media law and with the constitutional drafting committee. Moreover, a discussion on the media role that can guarantee press freedom, responsibility and accountability in promoting democracy will be held under the cooperation between the ministry and UNESCO. Similarly, a workshop on printing and television laws and procedures will be held under the collaboration between the personnel of the ministry of ICT experts from UNESCO.

Press conference on Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012 held

The get-together and press conference of the Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012 was held at Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club in Mingalardon Township on 1 February.

General Secretary U Chan Han of Myanmar PGA explained the purpose of the tournament. The international professionals expressed their opinions for the tournament.

Tournament Director Mr Jiltisek Tampraserk spoke on the occasion. US$ 300,000 will be shared to the winners. The first prize winner will fetch US$ 47550, the second US$ 32550 and the third US$ 18300. The 65th position winner can win US$ 810.

Altogether 144 international golf professionals and 17 Myanmar professionals will participate in the Open. The first round of the Open commenced at the club yesterday. Scott Hend (Aus), Ben Fox (USA) and Wade Ormsby (Aus) tied at the first position by firing eight-under-par 64.

The Open is jointly sponsored by Zaykabar Co Ltd, CEO (Cost Effectiveness Oriented Group Co. Ltd) and Aung Hein Min Co Ltd (Santhosco).

Inter-Station Football Tournament held in Kangyidaunt Township

KANGYIDAUNT, 3 Feb—The Kangyidaunt Township Administration’s Cup Inter-Station Men’s Football Tournament took place at the township sports ground in Kangyidaunt Township.

On 30 January, Kangyidaunt Station beat Begaret Station 8-7 in the final match. Local authorities and departmental officials presented prizes and cash awards to the respective winners.

Altogether 10 football teams from nine stations in the township participated in the tournament from 7 to 30 January.

Special rapporateur visits Insein Jail, meets NLD chairman

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Feb—Under the arrangements of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the specialists team from Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (200-bed) provided health care services to local people from three wards and 13 villages the clinic in Shwekyabin Ward of Zabuthiri Township today.

Their health care services were supervised by members of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Paing U Myo Nyunt. Ten specialist teams gave medical treatment to the local people, performed free surgical operations at patients with eye complaints and provided optical glasses in Zabuthiri Township and referred the emergency patients to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) and Jivitadana Hospital (1000-bed).

The specialist teams plan to make field trips of medical treatments to remaining seven township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

UNESCO to cooperate in drafting media law

NAV PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Ministry of Information is drafting a media law in accord with the constitutional provisions and based on international and regional norms and standards. In doing so, the ministry will cooperate with UNESCO so as to make sure that the law is in conformity with international standards and procedures. Moreover, a discussion on the media role that can guarantee press freedom, responsibility and accountability in promoting democracy will be held under the cooperation between the ministry and UNESCO.

As part of fire preventative measures under the instructions of Aungmye Thazan Township Fire Prevention Supervisory Committee of Mandalay, auxiliary fire brigade members together with local authorities inspected fire preventive activities at residential houses and restaurants and gave advice to ward dwellers on 17 January.
**Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services**

General Min Aung Hlaing receives Bangladeshi Chief of the Naval Staff  

NAV PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing received Bangladeshi Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Zahid Uddin Ahmed (ND), ndc, psc at Zeyathiri Beikman here this morning.

During the meeting, the Commander-in-Chief said Myanmar and Bangladesh are good neighbours, maintaining friendly relationship. The exchange of goodwill visits between the two nations since the democratization of Myanmar indicates the amity between the two countries, fostering the ties. Myanmar is trying to open its door wider to the neighbours and global countries and is practicing discipline-flourishing multiparty democracy step by step prescribed in the constitution. The government is exerting efforts for stability and development of the State and so is the Tatmadaw. He then expressed his pride in Bangladesh’s chairmanship of the United Nations Peace Building Commission. He then proposed to promote cooperation between the two armed forces.

The Bangladeshi Chief of the Naval Staff expressed thanks to the Myanmar Tatmadaw for its hospitality, adding that he witnessed warmth of Myanmar citizens and development of Myanmar and Nay Pyi Taw.

**Worrying problem of today’s mode of dress**

*Ko Shwe Maung*

We have already heard some Myanmar sayings that go by ‘The beauty of a woman lies in her hair;’ ‘The ability of a man is decided by his own physical strength;’ ‘The modesty of a woman cannot be exchanged for gold’.

We have seen the dress styles of ancient Myanmar people in movies, books and documentaries. As most of Myanmar people are Buddhist, they follow the Buddha’s teachings. Ancient Myanmar women usually wore a traditional Myanmar jacket with an overlapping flap in front together with a vest and avoided wearing revealing clothes. They had long hair. Some had a style of hairdo with a top knot and a circular fringe whilst some had their hair curled round a comb. Myanmar women of ancient times wore htamein (sarong) reaching down to their insteps. Those fine traditions of Myanmar women reflect the true Myanmar culture.

As times go by, the world has seen many changes and developments. With globalization process alongside alien cultures, we can now witness that Myanmar culture has been coloured. Although political, economic and social changes can be accepted, every Myanmar who values his or her own linage cannot accept the fact that the Myanmar culture is turned upside down due to alien cultures.

In today’s world, the role of women has been on an equal terms with that of men. At a time when the role of Myanmar women is getting important, Myanmar women of all ages have the duty to try to make the Myanmar culture attractive to the global community and respected around the world.

Nonetheless, the dress style of some Myanmar women today has been disturbed by alien cultures. Copying the Western and Eastern cultures from movies and videos and on the net, young Myanmar women have come to wear revealing clothes. After 1988, young women had their hair curled and were in the habit of wearing long skirts. Later, they wore mini skirts and short skirts. Then, trousers came into fashion and women started wearing dresses and clothes with narrow, thin strips. Afterwards, short hairstyle, shorts and straight hairstyle came into vogue. At last, women have been obsessed with wearing very revealing clothes and very short skirts. Those fashions are usually copied from celebrities. Women do so not only on occasions like weddings and birthday parties but also when going round in town.

Elderly people understand current fashion and modernization but cannot accept young women wearing indecent dress totally contrary to the Myanmar culture. So, we should all oppose the bad habit of wearing an indecent dress. There are some parents who even encourage such an improper habit rather than stopping it. Today, some young parents encourage their kindergarten- or primary school-age daughters to dress in a traditional style when they find them in their environs. But they do not when they find suspicious men and things and have alerted the people to inform them.

**Blast in Tamu kills boy, wounds girl**

NAV PYI TAW, 3 Feb—A blast killed a 3-year old boy and wounded a 7-year old girl in Tamu, Sagaing Region, on 31 January.

Maung Win Kyaw threw a pack he picked up from outside to his sister sitting on a cradle while they were playing under their house in Sandakha-2 Ward about 3 pm on 31 January as their mother had gone outside.

The pack landed about two and a half feet distance from his sister and blasted, wounded Maung Win Kyaw at his head and parts of his body. He was taken to receiving treatment at the hospital and his sister is undergoing treatment at the hospital for injuries on her abdominal part, arms and legs.

Authorities inspected the blast and raised the public awareness of how to avoid such kind of blasts.

**Advanced Communicative English Course concludes**

NAV PYI TAW, 3 Feb—The Advanced Communicative English Course, organized by Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Nay Pyi Taw Zone), concluded at Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Hotel and Tourism U Htay Aung made a speech and presented prizes to the outstanding trainees and gifts to Ms Linda Doeden and Ms Aleta Loftis of USA English Language Institute, Fort Collins, Colorado. General Manager U Han Tun gave completion certificates to the trainees. Later, the trainees demonstrated their skills in spoken English.

**16th SSMNC Plenary Meeting on 24-25 Feb, 6th SCWCASG Meeting 27-29 Feb**

YANGON, 3 Feb—The coordination meeting for the 16th Plenary Meeting of the 6th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee will be held from 21 to 23 February and the plenary meeting on 24 and 25 February.

Members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee are invited to arrive on Kaba Aye Hill, here, on 20 February.

If they cannot accept the invitation in time, the Abbots are invited to arrive on Kaba Aye Hill, here, in time, according to the Department of Religious Affairs.

He said the Bangladesh Navy would like to cooperate further with Myanmar, which would bring mutual understanding of navigation matters. He said on his tour, he discussed coordination and cooperation between Myanmar with officials concerned.

He added that he believed the relationship of the two countries would go strength from strength as Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh leaders were working to deepen the relationship with Myanmar.

Also present at the call together with the Commander-in-Chief Defence Services were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of Commander-in-Chief’s Office, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and senior military officials.

The Bangladesh Chief of the Naval Staff was accompanied by Commodore Commanding Chittagong Commodore Nizamuddin Ahmed, (TAS), ndc, psc and the Bangladesh military attaché to Myanmar and personnel.
California nuclear station shuts down unit for possible leak

LOS ANGELES, 3 Feb—The San Onofre nuclear station in southern California Tuesday evening shut down one of its units as sensors detected a possible leak.

The Southern California Edison (SCE) operator of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station south of San Clemente, announced that it has begun a precautionary shutdown of the Unit 3 because sensors detected a possible leak in one of the unit’s steam generator tubes. An SCE statement said “The potential leak poses no imminent danger to the public or plant workers. There has been no release to the atmosphere.”

The cause of the leak is under investigation and the repair will follow before it resumes operation, the company said. (The SCE has reported the incident to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Carbon monoxide kills man in WVa hotel

SOUTH CHARLESTON, 3 Feb—A Holiday Inn Express in South Charleston, WVa, was evacuated Tuesday after a man died of carbon monoxide poisoning, fire officials said.

At least three other guests were hospitalized, one in critical condition, the Charleston Daily Mail reported.

Two construction workers staying in the same room on the fifth floor of the hotel were overcome by carbon monoxide overnight, fire officials said.

One man was found dead and the other was unconscious when co-workers went to find them about 10 am on Tuesday.

The unconscious man was in very critical condition at Charleston Area Medical Centre’s General Hospital, officials said.

High levels of carbon monoxide, as much as 500 to 600 parts per million, were detected on the hotel’s third, fourth and fifth floors.

Anything over 35 parts per million is too high, fire officials told The Charleston Gazette.

South Charleston Fire Chief Greg Petry said the hotel would remain closed until the cause of the carbon monoxide was determined.

Four Swedes, one Thai killed in southern Thailand road accident

BANGKOK, 3 Feb—Two young Swedish couples and their Thai driver were killed Wednesday morning when their rented car collided head-on with a six-wheel truck in south Thailand’s Phang Nga Province, local media reported Thursday. The Swedes were on their way to a popular diving destination in Chumphon Province to the north of Phang Nga.

The police are hunting the truck driver who fled the scene, Phuket Gazette reported.

The killed Swedes are identified by their ID cards as Elin Larsson, 22 and Johan Olof Nikolas Svensson, 22, the report said. The accident is the most fatal incident involving Swedes in Thailand since the 2004 tsunami disaster, it added.
British student to launch bamboo smart phone

**London, 3 Feb**—A 23-year-old British student will launch a mobile phone made largely from bamboo, The Telegraph reported on Thursday.

The smartphone, called ‘ADzero’, is expected to launch later this year. Made from four-year-old organically grown bamboo that has been treated to improve its durability, the phone runs Google’s Android operating system. Kieron Scott-Woodhouse, from Shepherds Bush in London, designed the phone because he was frustrated that so many existing models looked similar to each other.

He is a student of Middlesex University. A technology entrepreneur had contacted him after he posted designs online.

The phone was initially intended for the Chinese market but an enthusiastic reception in Britain means it will go on sale in design retailers later this year, the newspaper said.

The new ADzero phone is made largely from bamboo and runs Google Android.

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Flesh-eating bug spreads in Britain

**London, 3 Feb**—A flesh-eating form of pneumonia that is easily passed between healthy people on public transport is spreading across Britain, the Daily Mail reported. The deadly strain of MRSA called USA300 passes easily through skin-to-skin contact. It can survive on surfaces and so has the potential to be picked up on buses and tubes. It was first seen in the US but cases are now being reported in the community and not just hospitals in Britain, the newspaper said Thursday.

Ruth Massey, from the department of pathology and biochemistry at the University of Bath, said extra vigilance was required around this and similar MRSA bugs known as PVL-positive community acquired strains.

The USA300 is resistant to treatment by several antibiotics and can cause large boils on the skin. In severe cases, it can lead to fatal blood poisoning or a form of pneumonia that can eat away at lung tissue.

Massey said there were 1,000 cases of PVL-positive community acquired MRSA in England in the last year, of which 200 were USA300 strains.

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Baby lost toe aboard plane

**Wellington, 3 Feb**—New Zealand aviation authorities say the list of “serious or critical events” aboard aircraft in 2011 included the accidental amputation of a baby’s toe.

The tip of the toe was sliced off as the child’s parents attempted to stow an onboard sliced off as the child’s parents attempted to stow an onboard slices of strawberries from an overhead storage bin.

The airline did not identify the family. Air New Zealand confirmed the incident occurred on one of its flights.

More than half the events reported involved impacts or near-misses with birds, the records show.

There were three onboard deaths, 15 incidents of people smoking and 20 cases of drunk, drugged or unruly passengers. One woman was hospitalized after duty-free liquor bottles fell from an overhead storage bin, striking her on the head, and another passenger was allowed to travel with two replica machine guns that had not been detected before he boarded a plane.

Irene King, chief executive of the Aviation Industry Association, pointed out regular reporting of incidents, no matter the severity, was important in helping airlines highlight areas of service and safety that required improvement.

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Gold stolen from historical collection

**Yaiza, 3 Feb**—Historic gold pieces valued at $3 million have been stolen from a northern California courthouse where they had been on display, authorities said.

Thieves broke into the Siskiyou County Courthouse in Yreka Wednesday and took an assortment of gold nuggets and other artifacts from a display of historical items highlighting the area’s involvement in the Gold Rush of the 19th century.

The loss is being itemized, but Siskiyou County Treasurer Wayne Hammer told the Redding (Calif) Record Searchlight the entire gold display is valued at $1.5 million. “They basically stole apart of our history and heritage,” said Siskiyou County Sheriff Jon Lopey. After an attempted robbery in 1979, the display was rebuilt and reinforced, with an alarm connected to law enforcement officials. Allison Giannini, spokeswoman for the Sheriff’s Office, said it was unclear why the alarm did not go off during the burglary on Wednesday.

Claudia East, vice president of the Siskiyou County Historical Society, said the items are “absolutely irreplaceable.”

“It’s such a unique collection,” East said. “I think it was the only one like it in the continental United States.” The gold display has been a tourist attraction, especially for Californians eager to learn more about the state’s Gold Rush history.

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World’s biggest ‘prawn’ discovered

**London, 3 Feb**—A British expedition has discovered an enormous species of crustacean that looks like a prawn and is 11 inches long. Daily Mail reported on Thursday.

The so-called ‘supergiant’—a type of amphipod—was discovered more than four miles below the surface in waters north of New Zealand.

Most amphipods are usually 0.8in-1.2in long. But the new specimen, found by a team from the University of Aberdeen, was 10 times the size, the newspaper said.

Using submarine cameras and a large trap designed by the university’s Oceanlab, the crew was able to explore to depths of six miles. They were hoping to find specimens of deep-sea snailfish, which have been photographed before but have not been seen since the 1950s.

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Man arrested for stealing glacial ice

**Santiago, 3 Feb**—A man was arrested in Chile for allegedly stealing more than 5 tons of ice from the Jorge Montt Glacier to sell for use in cocktails, police say.

Police intercepted a refrigerated truck Friday with more than $16,000 worth of ice. The driver was arrested and charged with theft, and police are considering charging him with violation of a national monument.

The Guardian reported the ice was to be sold as designer ice cubes to be used in bars and restaurants in Santiago.

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Two women decorate a steamed bun at Houtouzhuang Village in Wenzhou town, China's Zhejiang Province, on 1 Feb, 2012. A contest of four products will be held to celebrate the upcoming Lantern Festival which falls on 6 Feb this year.

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The new ADzero phone is made largely from bamboo and runs Google Android.
**Heilongjiang sees least snowfall in 45 years**

**HARBIN, 3 Feb**—Northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, which borders Russia and is renowned for ice and snow, has nevertheless been experiencing a winter with the least snowfall in 45 years, a local meteorologist said Friday.

The province has seen continuous low snowfall since November, and the precipitation was 70 percent less than that of normal years, said Song Lihua, deputy director of the Heilongjiang Provincial Climate Centre.

In January alone, the average snowfall stood at only 0.8mm, or 76 percent less than average snowfall stood at only 0.8mm, or 76 percent less than that of normal years, said Song Lihua, deputy director of the Heilongjiang Provincial Climate Centre.

The province has seen continuous low snowfall since November, and the province has seen continuous low snowfall since November, and the precipitation was 70 percent less than that of normal years, said Song Lihua, deputy director of the Heilongjiang Provincial Climate Centre.

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

**Shanghai Shipping Agency Department**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: Binh Minh Int’l Sunrise Shipping JSC**

**Phone No: 256924/256914**

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**Heavy snow continues to hit wide areas of Japan after peak**

**Tokyo, 3 Feb**—Snow is expected to continue falling on the coastal prefectures alongside the Sea of Japan in the country on Friday after it peaked on Thursday, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

The agency said the winter pressure pattern had abated, ending weeks of heavy snowfall that led to more than 56 deaths across the country as of Thursday.

At 11am, up to 3.51 meters of snow had accumulated at Okura Village in northern Yamanashi Prefecture. At Tsunam Town in Niigata Prefecture, 3.48 meters of snow was on the ground, according to the public broadcaster NHK. The JMA forecast that snow will fall in mountainous areas of central and northern Japan through Saturday.

Heavy snowfalls covered a wide swathe of region including the northern prefectures like Niigata, the northernmost island of Hokkaido, and the western part.

A latest snow slide at a popular mountain hot-spring resort in the northern Akita prefecture killed three people Wednesday evening. The heavy snowfall has caused disruptions in train services and cancellation of flights in the country.

On Thursday, several main motorways connecting major cities in western Japan were partly closed and domestic operation of the air traffic over the affected areas was suspended due to the severe weather condition.

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**Wife indicted in Argentine governor’s death**

**BUENOS AIRES, 3 Feb**—The widow of Gov Carlos Soria, who was shot in the face after a New Year’s Eve party, has been indicted on aggravated manslaughter and arms charges.

Susana Freydoz is under observation in the psychiatric unit of the provincial hospital in the city of Cipolletti. She was hospitalized at the request of her attorney, Alberto Richieri, who said his client’s life was in danger because she might commit suicide, judicial officials said.

The 6-year-old Soria died “from a single shot” to the left side of his face in the bedroom of his ranch in a rural area outside General Roca, a city located about 1,350 km from Buenos Aires. Police found the governor’s .38-caliber revolver, which was used to fire the fatal shot. The governor was buried 1 Jan in a private cemetery in General Roca in a service attended only by relatives and a few Peronist Party officials.

Soria, a leader of President Cristina Fernandez’s governing Peronist Party, took office 10 Dec after winning 50 percent of the vote in the September elections.

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**US judge delays trial for Fort Hood Army base shooting suspect**

**HOUSTON, 3 Feb**—A US military judge ruled on Thursday that the trial for a military psychiatrist accused of killing 13 in a 2009 shooting spree at the US Fort Hood Army base will be delayed until June.

Major Nidal Hasan’s trial was scheduled to begin in March, but defense lawyers asked military judge Gregory Gross to delay the trial until July to allow more time to go through documents related to the case for key evidence needed for the trial.

Prosecutors argued that defense lawyers did not need more time, but Gross agreed to move the start date for the trial to 12 June.

Hasan allegedly opened fire with two handguns on unarmed soldiers who were preparing for deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan at a crowded medical building at Fort Hood, Texas, on 5 Nov, 2009. The shooting rampage left 13 people dead and more than 30 others injured.

Hasan, 41, who was paralysed from the waist down after being shot by police the day of the rampage, has been in custody since the shooting. He has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder. If convicted, he faces the death penalty.

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**Australian towns brace for record floods**

**SYDNEY, 3 Feb**—Residents in Australia’s northern New South Wales (NSW) and southern inland Queensland are bracing for historic flooding as thousands are forced to leave their homes, local media reported on Friday.

The rural NSW town of Moree is preparing for its worst flood since 1976, with around 2,000 residents ordered to evacuate their homes or businesses, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) News reported.

The Mahi River which runs through Moree passed its forecast flood peak level of 10.6 metres, reaching a similar level to that recorded in 1976. In Moree, the town’s 9,000 residents have been separated by floodwaters since a main bridge was closed Thursday night due to floods. Authorities said floodwaters had isolated more than 10,000 people across New South Wales, including 9,000 residents of Moree. In Queensland, more than 200 residents in the southern inland town of Mitchell have left their homes and stayed at evacuation centres.

The water level of Maranoa River at Mitchell sat at 9.3 metres and is still rising, topping the previous record peak of 9.26 metres set in 1956.

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**A zoo official prepares to tie the mouth of Oni, an African Jurug in Solo, Indonesia’s central Java Province, on 31 Jan. 2012. Oni escaped from his cage and then attacked and killed a camel before he was subdued and anesthetized on Tuesday, local media reported.**

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**A view of a frozen Naviglio canal in Milan, Italy, as Europe’s death toll from a week of frigid weather rises.**

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**A 200-foot-wide Tolai Wetlands in Lhasa, capital of Southwest China’s Tibet autonomous region, on 1 Feb. 2012. The total area of wetlands in Tibet is 6 million square hectares, 10 percent of all the wetlands in the country.**

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**INTERNET**
**Young croc found in Sydney backyard**

An 18-inch-long freshwater crocodile found in a suburban Sydney back yard has a new home at the Australian Reptile Park, wildlife officials said.

Joanne Wenban, a rescue driver for the Wildlife Information and Rescue Service, said the juvenile was "very dehydrated" when a teenager discovered it under a trash can Tuesday night, The Sydney Morning Herald reported. The crocodile, found hundreds of miles from the habitat of Australia's crocodiles, is believed to be an escaped pet kept illegally, Wenban said.

"He wouldn't have traveled that far given his small size," Wenban said. "It would have been somewhere reasonably locally that he would have escaped from." LiziVella, senior curator at the reptile center, said the crocodile, nicknamed Chainaw, is now living in a tub of water with a lamp for warmth. It is being fed scraps of food suitable to his size, including crickets and bits of fish.

She said Chainsaw will probably be transferred to a zoo or another centre.

**Women fought attacker with hot sauce**

Police in Iowa said a woman who was attacked by one of three robbers in her home used a bottle of hot sauce to fight off her attacker.

Malsia Gutierrez told Des Moines Register she and her boyfriend, Carlos Estrada, were sleeping shortly after 6 a.m. Tuesday when they heard a loud noise, the Des Moines Register reported Wednesday.

Gutierrez said she saw three robbers, two tall men and a woman. She said the woman attacked her with a flashlight and she fought back, eventually ending up in another part of the home.

Gutierrez said she grabbed a bottle of hot sauce and used it to fend the woman off until police arrived.

The two male suspects escaped, but Lisa Floyd, 41, was arrested on a first-degree burglary charge and jailed in lieu of $125,000 bond.

**FBI breaks in door of wrong apartment**

The FBI apologized to a Massachusetts woman after agents mistakenly broke down her door and ordered her to stay on the floor.

Judy Sanchez said the FBI agents busted down her Fitzburg door and forced her to remain on the floor for about 45 minutes while her 3-year-old daughter cried in the next room, the Boston Herald reported Wednesday.

FBI spokesman Greg Comcowich said the agents soon realized they had gone into the wrong apartment.

"The mistake was quickly apparent to the FBI agents who entered the apartment," Comcowich said. "The assistant special agent in charge spoke with the resident to reassure and calm the resident and repeatedly apologized for the mistake."

"The bottom line is, we made a mistake and we apologized," he said.

The spokesman said the agents later raided the correct address and arrested Luis R Vasquez on charges including conspiracy to distribute cocaine base.

**Suit seeks retirement of Mass seal state**

A Massachusetts man is suing to stop the state from using the official seal because it depicts an American Indian with a sword hanging over his head.

Daniel DeGuglielmo of Cambridge said he wants a judge to force the retirement of the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from official state flags, buildings and papers, the Boston Herald reported Wednesday.

"It’s unfair to the Native peoples, eventually he said, "and the real reason is a legal reason," said DeGuglielmo.

"When I was in a relationship previously where I had a close relationship with his family,"—

**Wasted my life on ex-boyfriend**

"I had to hide everything and it wasn’t my choice," showbizspy.com quoted Gomez as saying. "I had to go through different exits and take separate cars and do the craziest things, and it just really wasn’t worth it."

It was like a year of my life completely wasted," she added.

**Kelly Osbourne dating Matthew Mosshart**

**Jennifer Lawrence’s spleen injury**

**Kate Winslet says family always comes first**

**Television personality Kelly Osborne poses on arrival at the 18th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles, California on 29 January, 2012**
**Premier League clubs sign Sports Charter**

**All 20 League clubs are committed to tackling homophobia in sport**

**London, 3 Feb —** All 20 Premier League clubs have signed the Sports Charter that includes homophobia and transphobia in sport. The Sports Charter was launched in June 2011 at 10 Downing Street when Chief Executive Richard Scudamore spoke on behalf of the Premier League. On Thursday, all 20 Premier League clubs signed the Charter individually.

“The Premier League and our member clubs believe that everyone should be able to participate in, watch and enjoy sport, whoever they are and whatever their background,” said Scudamore. “When the Sports Charter is put into practice, homophobia and transphobia in sport will be launched in June 2011 the Premier League clubs have added their signature to the Sports Charter. By signing up to the Charter, clubs promise to do their utmost to tackle homophobia and transphobia in sport and make sport a place of welcome for everyone. The Charter is made up of five bullet points, which read:

1. **We believe that everyone should be able to participate in, watch and enjoy sport, whoever they are and whatever their background.**

2. **We believe that sport is about fairness and equality, and respect and dignity. Sport teaches individuals how to thrive and succeed, how to cope with success and disappointment, and brings people together with a common goal.**

3. **We are committed to making these values a reality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. We will work together, and individually, to rid sport of homophobia and transphobia.**

4. **We will make football a welcome place for everyone — for those participating in the sport, those attending matches and for those working or volunteering in it. We will work with all these groups to ensure they have a voice, and to challenge unacceptable behaviour.**

5. **We believe that sport can be a voice, and to challenge unacceptable behaviour.**

**Bent delighted to join 100 goals club**

**Aston Villa striker Darren Bent scores his 100th Barclays Premier League goal.**

**London, 3 Feb —** Aston Villa striker Darren Bent has revealed his delight at scoring his 100th Barclays Premier League goal. The 27-year-old struck his century on Wednesday with a typical strike from close range as Villa fought back from 2-0 down to earn a 2-2 draw at home to Queens Park Rangers. Bent became the 21st player to reach 100 goals since the Premier League began in 1992, a milestone he had been eyeing up for some time. He said: “I was getting close to it and obviously I’m absolutely delighted to be in that 100-goal club,” said Bent. “It’s one of the best rounds I’ve ever played in a wind like that.”

Darren Bent became the 21st player to reach 100 goals since the Premier League began in 1992, a milestone he had been eyeing up for some time. He said: “I was getting close to it and obviously I’m absolutely delighted to be in that 100-goal club,” said Bent. “It’s one of the best rounds I’ve ever played in a wind like that.”

**Ryan Palmer leads Phoenix Open**

**Scottsdale, 3 Feb**

Ryan Palmer parred his final hole at dusk for a 7-under 65 and the lead Thursday in the suspended first round of the Phoenix Open.

The start of the round was delayed an hour because of frost, and play was suspended because of darkness at 6:05 pm with 42 players unable to finish. Last year, frost and frozen greens delayed play nine hours during the week, forcing a Monday finish.

“Never was I going to be here in the morning for the second round, so I wasn’t worried about it if we had to come back and restart,” Palmer said. — Internet

**Real defend lead, Barca try to catch up at Primera Liga**

**Madrid, 3 Feb — Both Real Madrid and FC Barcelona play their BBVA Primera Liga matches this Saturday night on another fascinating weekend of football in the country. Real Madrid don’t have to leave the capital to play a league match for the entire month of February, make the short trip south to Getafe. Jose Mourinho’s side defend their seventh point lead at the top of the table and welcome back Sergio Ramos from suspension and Angel Di Maria following a hip injury.**

Getafe have recovered from a poor start of the season and are currently in mid-table. They are also the only side to have defeated FC Barcelona this campaign. Barcelona meanwhile have no option but to stretch their tired legs following Wednesday’s Copa del Rey semifinal in Valencia and prepare to receive Real Sociedad in the Camp Nou Stadium. — Vinhau

**Dortmund aim to put heat on Bayern despite freeze**

**Neu-Isenburg, 3 Feb —** Defending champions Borussia Dortmund are looking to turn up the heat on German league leaders Bayern Munich when they take on Neu-Isenburg on Friday even though arctic temperatures are forecast. Dortmund are second in the Bundesliga, but heat on 40 points with both second-round, so I wasn’t worried about it if we had to come back and restart,” Palmer said. — Internet

**Ryan Palmer watches his approach shot into the 1st green during the first round of the Phoenix Open golf tournament on 2 Feb, 2012, in Scottsdale, Ariz. — Internet**

**Villa striker Darren Bent scores his 100th Barclays Premier League goal.**

**Dortmund’s players celebrate after Shinji Kagawa (2nd L) scored during their German first division Bundesliga match vs 1899 Hoffenheim, in Dortmund, western Germany, on 28 January. Defending champions Dortmund are looking to turn up the heat on league leaders Bayern Munich when they take on Neu-Isenburg on Friday even though arctic temperatures are forecast. Dortmund are second in the Bundesliga, but heat on 40 points with both second- and third-placed Schalke and Borussia have the chance to steal a march on their rivals. A win at Neu-Isenburg would see Dortmund go top and put the pressure on Bayern to win at Hamburg, whose coach Thorsten Fink has said his team will have to “scratch, bite and fight” if they want to beat Munich. A cold front is sweeping across northern Europe and the thermometer dipped to -13 in Dortmund’s 1-0 winner Freiburg in December 2009, but Borussia’s brand of attacking football is running hot and has caught the eye recently. — Internet

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**Qatar Masters: Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano leads John Daly**

**Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano overcame a desert storm to snatch the lead from John Daly on the opening day of the Qatar Masters in Doha.**

**Internet**

**London, 3 Feb —** Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano overcame a desert storm to snatch the lead from John Daly on the opening day of the Qatar Masters in Doha. The Spaniard, who is on course for Ryder Cup debut, birdied four of the last five holes in a shockling bright 66. American Daly, who is 54th in the world, earlier returned to form with a five-under-par 67. He said: “It’s one of the best rounds I’ve ever played in a wind like that.”

Three months after walking out of the Australian Open, saying he had run out of balls - several of them had just been hit into a lake - 45-year-old Daly surprised even himself with five birdies and no dropped shots. He added: “You feel like you are eating a lot of sand - it was brutal. I’m pretty shocked myself. I had five and a half weeks off and really didn’t touch a club much.”

But Daly won the 1995 Open at St Andrews in similarly windy conditions, but his last victory was eight years ago and he no longer has a PGA Tour card in his home country.

**Internet**

**Tottenham confirm Nelsen signing**

**Defender Ryan Nelsen in Barclays Premier League action for Blackburn Rovers in August Insamz:**

Sebastien Bassong to join Wolves on loan on deadline day. New Zealand international Nelsen, who captained his country at the 2010 World Cup, has ended a seven-year association with Blackburn by leaving Ewood Park. He joined Rovers in 2005 from DC United and went on to make 172 Barclays Premier League appearances, scoring eight goals in the process as well as being the club captain.

Nelsen has played only once for Blackburn this season, but he is expected to go straight into the Spurs squad for their vital match at Liverpool on Monday.

**Internet**
**NLM-ner Joke**

Try to get some rest

A man had been driving all night and by morning was still far from his destination. He decided to stop at the next city he came to, and park somewhere quiet so he could get an hour or two of sleep. As luck would have it, the quiet place he chose happened to be on one of the city’s major jogging routes. No sooner had he settled back to snooze when there came a knocking on his window. He looked out and saw a jogger running in place.

“Excuse me, sir, do you have the time?”

“8:45!”

The jogger said thanks and left. Now the man could see other joggers passing by and he knew it was only a matter of time before another one disturbed him. To avoid the problem, he got out a pen and paper and put a sign in his window saying, “I do not know the time!” Once again he settled back to sleep. He was just dozing off when there was another knock on the window.

“Sir, sir? It’s 8:45!”

**Run over the rooster**

A man was driving down a quiet country lane when out into the road strayed a rooster. Whack! The rooster disappeared under the car. A cloud of feathers. Run over the rooster, the man said, “I think I killed your rooster, please allow me to replace him.”

“Suit yourself,” the farmer replied, “you can go join the other chickens that are around the back.”

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**Crossword Puzzle**

**Across**
1. Handle the party food
2. At hand
3. ___ line (major axis of an elliptical orbit)
4. ___ Grove Village, Ill.
5. ___ oftime
6. Auditorium’s sound facility
7. Unit of luminous intensity
8. City government statute
9. A Swiss army knife has lots of them
10. Portuguese Mr.
11. Little bird
12. ___ arter
13. Copy
14. Transmission
15. ____ Alloy” (2 wds)
16. Port city in SE France
17. Merry old times
18. Space between margin and line of text
19. Cork out
20. Hutzpah, e.g.
22. Amazon, e.g.
23. Smeltery refuse
24. “___ bitten, twice shy”
25. Freshman, probably
26. “..._ ,_ _ ,_ _ _”
28. Bathroom partitions
30. Mrs. Bush
32. Black
33. Put up, as a picture
34. Ball field covering
38. “So soon?”
40. “The Canterbury Tales” author
42. Makeup, e.g.
43. ___ line (major axis of an elliptical orbit)
45. Brunch serving
46. Expiry
48. Moors
49. Clip
51. Acclivity
53. Harp’s cousin
54. Gloomy
55. Unhurried walkers
58. ___ pankup (acroynm)
59. Branch that connects with capillaries
61. Cast out
63. One who drools
64. ___ rooster
65. Those who bodily state an opinion
66. Ornamental embroidery

**Down**
1. Physical reaction to fear (2 wds)
2. At hand
3. __________ (60%)
4. Government city
5. Bike racing
6. Organic compound containing CNO and Z radical
7. Unit of luminous intensity
8. City government statute
9. A Swiss army knife has lots of them
10. Portuguese Mr.
11. Little bird
12. ___ arter
13. Copy
14. Transmission
15. “..._ ,_ _ ,_ _ _” (2 wds)
16. Port city in SE France
17. Merry old times
18. Space between margin and line of text
19. Cork out
20. Hutzpah, e.g.
22. Amazon, e.g.
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24. “___ bitten, twice shy”
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**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

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**New asphalt road inaugurated**

**District News**

**Namkham BEHS gets new building**

Namkham, 3 Feb—A ceremony to open the two-storey four-classroom building was held at Basic Education High School in Namkham Township on 3 January.

Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw Sue and Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn, Township Education Officer Daw Than Hla and Patrol of School Board of Trustees U Sai Than Nyan cut the ribbon to open the building.

The chairman of the construction committee handed over documents related to the township education officer.

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**Weather forecast for 4th February, 2012**

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

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**New asphalt road inaugurated**

A man was driving down a quiet country lane when out into the road strayed a rooster. Whack! The rooster disappeared under the car. A cloud of feathers. Shaken, the man pulled over at the farmhouse, rang the doorbell. A farmer appeared. The man, somewhat nervously said, “I think I killed your rooster, please allow me to replace him.”

“Suit yourself,” the farmer replied, “you can go join the other chickens that are around the back.”
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Senate President of Kingdom of Thailand and party

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Thailand Gen Teeradej Meepien at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 9.30 am today.

Also present at the call together with Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, the secretary and members.

The President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Thailand was accompanied by Charge d’Affaires ai of the Thai Embassy Mr Kallayana Vipattipumiprates.

At the call, they focused on actual progress of political and economic sectors of Myanmar, drawing and promulgation of the bills at the Hluttaw, process of national solidarity, cooperation with international parliaments and bringing essence of democratization to the people though Myanmar has little experience in democratization process.

Afterwards, the Senate President of Kingdom of Thailand viewed the convening of the Pyidauungsu Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Senate President of Kingdom of Thailand and party

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Thailand Gen Teeradej Meepien at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 8.30 am today.

Also present at the call together with Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint were Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, chairmen and secretaries of the Amyotha Hluttaw Committees and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

The Thai delegation was accompanied by Charge d’Affaires ai of the Thai Embassy Mr Kallayana Vipattipumiprates.

At the call, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint explained matters related to Hluttaw affairs and they discussed promotion of bilateral ties between the two countries and cooperation in tasks of Hluttaws between the two countries.—MNA

Cash donated for renovation of Pakhangyi Archaeological Museum

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Cash donation ceremony for renovation of Pakhangyi Archaeological Museum in Pakhangyi Ancient Region in Yesagyo Township of Magway Region and of walkways in the compound of Shwesandaw Pagoda in Bagan Region, took place at Pakhangyi Archaeological Museum. At the ceremony, Chief Manager U Myo Min of Bagan Myanmar Manufacturing Company donated k 2.5 million through Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin. And the deputy minister spoke words of thank.—MNA

Self-reliant natal ward opens in Thaton Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Opening of self-reliant natal ward took place at the rural health centre in Naungkala Village-tract in Thaton Township, Thaton District today, in the presence of District Health Officer Dr Tin Maung Nyunt and Township Administrator U Aye Naing.

Specialist Dr Maung Maung Yi and village assistant health officer explained health issues and future tasks.—MNA