True patriotism

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

Seventh day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues

Representatives attending seventh day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

Minhla retransmission station extends coverage to 3000 W

Fatal shark attacks see spike in 2011

Researchers say diabetes quadruples birth defects risk

Corals inflate to escape being buried alive in sand

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Established 1914

Volme XIX, Number 294

2nd Waning of Tabodwe 1373 ME

Thursday, 9 February, 2012

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Minhla Retransmission station in Bago Region extends its coverage to 3000 W from 300 W (VHF Channel No. J 12) for better consumption of MRTV programme. Minhla, Moenyo, Letpadan and Okpo Townships can receive MRTV programme through UHF-system outdoor antenna and Thayawady, Hinthada, Ingapu and Gyoingauk Townships, UHF-system Booster Outdoor Antenna. The programme will be broadcast through both the old and the new retransmissions till 15-2-2012. —MNA
May beautiful flowers in eternal blossom

High to the sky are the snow-capped mountains in the northern-most part of Myanmar shining like silver. Rising from these mountains, Maykha and Malikha rivers converge at Miytona to form Ayeyawady River which flows gently down to the delta at the edge of the ocean in the south. Thanks to this river, east and west, north and south, left and right is the picturesque scene of green and lush forests, basin plains, and crop plantations.

Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan nationals and so many tribes have been residing in Myanmar in amity and harmony since yore till now. Customs, beliefs, languages and traditions differ from each other and races however different cultures have a lot in common basically.

National brethren living under the same roof of the Union also share the same socio-economic life. Pleasures and pains they shared along the course of history, never letting down each other for better or worse. The strong Union Spirit had sowed the seeds of mutual understanding and magnanimity among national brethren to find a harmonious world of their own.

Not even a single distinguishing feature can be found in national brethren scattering over the nation. However, rivers and creeks, and forests and valleys pose barriers to this connectedness and poor transport has widened the short distance between national brethren. The east and west banks of Ayeyawady River are within visible distance, nevertheless day-trip was impossible and thus the regions were miles behind other parts of the nation in development.

Nowadays, national technicians are building roads on the mountains and constructing bridges across the rivers the length and breadth of the nation. There have been 11 bridges spanning Ayeyawady River inclusive of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkham) opened a few days ago. Other regions and states have also seen the river-crossing bridges one after another. New motor road networks have been under construction linking far and wide the nation, leading to short distance between nation brethren and smooth travel as well.

Yangon-Mandalay Highway linking the entire nation, Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) on India-Myanmar-Thailand Trigpartite Highway and bridges small and large across Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Thanlwin rivers will connect and develop every part of the Union, aiding to economic, education, health and social development of the entire national people.

Unity is the strength of the Union. All the national brethren are to try to maintain unity, the key characteristic of the Union. Backed by the sound foundations of the nation, efforts for eternal peace will make the flowerbed of the Union in full bloom.

Union FM receives Belarusian Ambassador

Nav Pyi Taw, 8 Feb — Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Dr. Valery Sadokho, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus at his office, here, at 3 pm today. They discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries. — MNA

Second coord meeting held for 65th Anniversary Union Day

Nav Pyi Taw, 8 Feb — The Management Committee for Organizing the 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012 held the second coordination meeting at the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Management Committee Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Councillor U Thein Nyunt. The Chairman invited the detailed reports on preparations for the celebration by the subcommittees in line with the directives of the Central Committee and urged them to coordinate tasks among them. Chairman and officials of the subcommittees reported on preparations for organizing the 65th Anniversary Union Day and tasks to be done. After giving necessary instructions, the Union Minister fulfilled their requirements. — MNA

Draft report on preparations of Myanmar in conformity with climate change clarified

YANGON, 8 Feb—A clarification on the draft report on preparations of Myanmar in conformity with climate change, jointly presented by Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of the Ministry of Transport and United Nations Environment Programme-UNEP was held at Myaing Hay Wun Café at 8th-Mile in Mayangon Township this morning. Leader of the project management group Dr San Hla Thaw (retired Director-General of DMH) extended greetings.

Project Director U Tin Ngwe (retired Director-General of DMH) explained the history of the project. Project Coordinator U Aung Win (UN Consultant) submitted detailed report on the project. Officials replied to queries raised by medial persons. It is learnt that arrangements are being made to present the draft report to the people and invite suggestions from the people. After completion of the report in April 2012, the paper will be submitted to the ministry concerned and the government. If the approval is sought, the report will be sent to the UNEP.— MNA

MoH, Nagaski University sign MoU

Nav Pyi Taw, 8 Feb — A memorandum of understanding between Ministry of Health and Nagasaki University, Japan, was signed at the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) on 6 February. The MoU includes exchange of experts and scholars between the ministry and the university, providing teaching and research aids to the ministry and cooperation between the two sides.

The MoU was signed by Professor Takechiko Koji of Nagasaki University, Director General of the Medical Science Department Dr Than Zaw Myint, Acting Director-General of the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) Dr Myo Khin, Director-General of Medical Research Department (Central Myanmar) Dr Tun Naing Oo. — MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

Nav Pyi Taw, 9 Feb—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of HE Mr Murat Yavuz Ates as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Murat Yavuz Ates was born on 27 July 1965. He graduated from Ankara University, Faculty of Political Sciences in 1986 and also obtained Master’s Degree from Ankara University, Faculty of Social Sciences in 1989. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Junior Diplomat and has served in various capacities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Turkish Embassies in Riyadh, Brussels, Tokyo and Dubai. At present, he holds an appointment as Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Director-General, in the Energy, Water and Environment Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Murat Yavuz Ates will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon. He is single. — MNA

Drive safely
WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday discussed with her Israeli counterpart Avigdor Lieberman a wide range of issues, including Iran, bilateral ties and the peace talks with the Palestinians.

In their meeting that lasted about 40 minutes, the pair discussed some seven topics, “just a little bit on each,” State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said.

“With regard to Iran, they talked extensively about the impact that the new sanctions are having in our efforts to work with countries around the world to exert pressure on Iran, to get a nuclear weapon and to increase the pressure through these sanctions,” Nuland told reporters at a regular news briefing.

Following the European Union’s decision last month to target Iran’s oil exports for sanctions, US President Barack Obama ordered on Sunday to freeze all property of the Iranian government and the financial institutions under US jurisdiction, including that of the Central Bank of Iran, in an effort to tighten the pressure on the Iranian republic over its controversial nuclear programme.

The Obama administration prefers a diplomatic approach to Iran’s alleged attempt to acquire nuclear weapons, while rumours are growing about an imminent strike by Israel on the Islamic republic’s nuclear facilities.

Nuland noted that in her meeting with Lieberman, Clinton reaffirmed “our unshakable commitment” to the relationship with Israel, not only to Israel’s security, but to its democracy.

She said on the peace talks with the Palestinians, Lieberman reaffirmed Israel’s commitment to the two-state solution and its interest in continuing the process of “trying to get to direct talks.”

Xinhua

US to send second ship to bolster Philippines

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—The United States will soon give a second Coast Guard cutter to the Philippines as part of efforts to boost the ally’s military amid tensions with China, officials said on Tuesday. The United States last year transferred its Hamilton cutter to the Philippines, which made it the flagship of its notoriously dispensariesy and recently sent it on a mission to the disputed Spratly islands.

US President Barack Obama told reporters at a regular news briefing Wednesday that the US will this week conclude formalities to send to the former US colony another cutter, the Dallas, Representative Ed Royce and senior Pentagon official Peter Lavoy told a congressional hearing Tuesday.

“We should soon be on its way to Manila,” said Royce, a Republican from southern California whose district has a significant Filipino-American community.

“The US and the Philippines want peace and stability in this region, which is key to the global economy,” Royce said as he chaired the hearing. “It should soon be possible for a second Coast Guard cutter to get to direct talks.”

Xinhua

Two die in hand grenade attack in Pakistan’s Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 8 Feb—A hand grenade attack killed two persons in the Pakistani port City of Karachi on Tuesday night, police said.

Six more people were injured in the attack at Lyari area of the city, police officer Nair Afzal said.

He said that four people riding two motorcycles threw a hand grenade at women and children who were taking drinking water from a plant.

The motorcyclists fled after the attack.

Local residents said the grenade was thrown at people outside the office of People’s Aman Committee. The committee is considered pro the ruling Pakistan People’s Party but was banned last year after the powerful group Muttahida Qaumi Movement blamed it for violence.

The police officer said a search was launched for the attackers. No group claimed responsibility for the attack as of now. Local residents staged a demonstration against the attack and demanded the government to apprehend the culprits.

The injured, including women and children, were taken to a local hospital.

Xinhua

Russian Navy to upgrade nuclear fleet

MOSCOW, 8 Feb—The Russian Navy will receive at least 10 new Borey class strategic nuclear submarines by 2020, Kommersant Daily said Tuesday.

According to the report, the new submarine fleet is expected to become the core of Russia’s naval force in the future, in line with a revised state armament procurement programme until 2020.

10 killed in US drone strike in NW Pakistan

PUL-E-KHUMRI, 8 Feb—A suicide bomber drove a car packed with explosives into a crowd of Shi’ite worshippers outside a mosque in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, police said.

Six more people were killed and several others injured in a 13 missile-strike launched by US drones.

A suicide bomber detonated his explosive-ﬁlled car near a funeral procession in Baghdad on Friday, killing 31 people in the latest attack in a Shi’ite area of the capital city of Baghdad recently. A suicide bomber detonated his explosive-ﬁlled car near a funeral procession in Baghdad on Friday, killing 31 people in the latest attack in a Shi’ite area of the capital city of Baghdad recently.

Three militants killed, 13 arrested in Afghanistan

KHAROJ, 8 Feb—Three militants have been killed and 13 others detained during joint Afghan and NATO-led coalition operations in five provinces, the Afghan Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

Bomb blast rocks northern Afghan town

PUL-E-KHUMRI, 8 Feb—A bomb blast rocked Baghlan-e-Jadid City in northern Baghlan Province Wednesday morning with feared casualties, an official said.

Jadid City in northern Baghlan Province Wednesday morning
Researchers say diabetes quadruples birth defects risk

India aviation sector rescue plans unveiled

Theme parks and TV channels drive Disney profits
Corals inflate to escape being buried alive in sand

Dr Pim Bongaerts captured the footage and published his findings in the journal, Coral Reef. As sandy sediments shift on the seabed, corals need to move and breathe themselves from being smothered. "Sedimentation presents a major threat for corals, as they can become covered in a layer of sand from which they are unable to escape," explained Dr Bongaerts. To find out how mushroom corals are — a particularly mobile family of corals — did this, the researcher brought species into the lab and observed them in aquaria in order to film the process.

"I covered the corals in sediment and, from that moment on, started photographing them every 10 seconds for 20 hours," Dr Bongaerts said. Unlike many of the more familiar branching or tree-like corals, mushroom corals have a relatively thick layer of fleshy tissue on top of their tough calcium carbonate skeletons. In aquaria in order to film the process.

Participation in Euclid was asked by NASA in November to determine whether mission help would fulfill any of WFIRST’s science objectives. The European Space Agency (ESA) wants NASA to provide near-infrared detectors for Euclid in exchange for a spot on the 12-member Euclid science team and early access to the mission’s science data. ESA

Trendnet security cam flaw exposes video feeds on net

US-based Trendnet says it had emailed customers and it had not yet issued a revised firmware available for the moment, started photographing them every 10 seconds for 20 hours, Dr Bongaerts said. Unlike many of the more familiar branching or tree-like corals, mushroom corals have a relatively thick layer of fleshy tissue on top of their tough calcium carbonate skeletons. In aquaria in order to film the process.

Google ‘Solve for X’ events

New York, 8 Feb — The numbers are in, and 2011 continued the downward trend in shark attacks in the United States. That’s the good news. The bad news: Worldwide shark-related deaths were higher than they’ve been in nearly two decades, according to the report released today (7Feb). 2011 spike in shark-attack fatalities — all of which occurred outside of the United States — suggests tourists are venturing to more remote places, said ichthyologist George Burgess, director of the University of Florida’s International Shark Attack File, which released the shark.

Facebook launches widescreen photo viewer similar to Google

New York, 8 Feb — Rolling out gradually to users, the social network is launching a new version of the photo viewer that allows pictures to be displayed at a significantly larger resolution than previous designs.

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Obama touts plan for better math and science instruction

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—President Barack Obama announced on Tuesday an $80 million plan to improve mathematics and science instruction in US public schools as one of his initiatives to revive the economy.

“(W)e’re a nation of tinkers and drummers and believers in a better tomorrow,” Obama said at the White House Science Fair attended by more than 100 students from all over the country. “We know that innovation has helped each generation pass down that basic American promise, which is no matter who you are, no matter where you come from, you can make it if you try,” he told the students, praising them for “making sure America will win in the future”.

Obama said he will request Congress for the $80 million when he submits his 2013 budget next week.

The plan, to be administered by the Department of Education, would provide training for 10,000 science and math teachers while boosting to 1 million the number of students graduating in the sciences, technology, mathematics and engineering in the next decade.

Praising support from the private sector, the president said the Carnegie Corporation is leading a group of businesses and foundations that has created a $22-million fund to provide added support for this teacher-training programme.

The White House organized the science fair, which included innovative projects by more than 100 public-school students to highlight the benefits won by improving the teaching of science and math.

Since he came to power in 2009, Obama has emphasized the urgency of improving mathematics and science teaching in public schools as part of his plan to springboard economic recovery. —Internet

Florence Green, last WWI veteran, dies

KINGS LYNN, 8 Feb—Florence Green, a veteran of the Women’s Royal Air Force and the last living veteran of World War I, died at the age of 110 in an English nursing home. Green died in her sleep during the weekend, the Norfolk Eastern Daily Press reported.

While she became the last survivor of the millions who served in the war, Green was only identified as a veteran in 2008, the newspaper said. A gerontology researcher discovered her service records, which were under her maiden name, Patterson.

“She would never blow her own trumpet and certainly wouldn’t shout about the fact she was the last veteran,” June Evets, at 76 the youngest of her three children, said. Green enlisted at the age of 17 in 1918 and worked as a wireless officer in the mssent at RAF Marham. The base, home to wooden biplanes during World War I, now houses supersonic Tornadoes, which have seen service in Afghanistan. Green said she enjoyed her work but discovered when a pilot took her up for a spin that she was afraid of flying.

In her last years, Green lived with her older daughter in Kings Lynn until moving to the nursing home just before Christmas. RAF Squadron Leader Paul Wilmott said a delegation from Marham had been planning to visit Green this Friday with a cake for her 111th birthday.

Brazil files suits against Twitter on police traps

BRASILIA, 8 Feb—The Brazilian government has filed a lawsuit against Twitter and its users in a bid to stop publication of messages alerting drivers to police speed traps and drunk-driving checkpoints. The suit was filed in a federal court in the central-west state of Goiania. Brazil has asked for the “immediate suspension of all accounts that give information about the location of police radar,” the office of the Attorney General of the Union, who defends the state’s interest, said in a statement. The government also wants “the definitive closure of accounts revealing the date, time and place of police checkpoints,” the statement said.

Several Brazilian states have adopted strict zero-tolerance laws to tackle drunk driving. Drivers are increasingly using social media sites such as Twitter to alert others to the location of police checkpoints. The attorney general’s office said such a move constituted “a direct threat to human life and the security of Brazilian citizens.” About 55,000 people die in the country each year in road accidents.

News of the lawsuit was reported on Twitter, with some applauding the government’s move and others criticizing it, noting that driver tweets also helped others avoid accidents and traffic bottlenecks. CBN radio reported. San Francisco-based Twitter announced last month that it could block tweets on a country-by-country basis if legally required to do so.

Twitter pledged to be transparent and said it would post details of any removal of content to Chilling Effects.org, an apacib database of takedown requests. No posts relating to the Brazil case were found on Tuesday.

Five missing after Japan refinery tunnel collapse

TOKYO, 8 Feb—Five workers were missing Tuesday after an underground tunnel collapsed as it was being constructed at one of Japan’s largest oil refineries, emergency services and reports said. Local media said divers were being sent to the site in Kurashiki, where firefighters confirmed to AFP they were dealing with an incident at the site, which lies around 550 kilometres (350 miles) west of Tokyo.

“We received a report that an accident occurred at the No 2 undersea tunnel in the port of Mizushima, involving six workers,” said a spokesman for the Kurashiki City fire department. “One of the six got out but the five others are missing,” he said without disclosing further details.

Yoji Press said the accident happened at an oil refinery operated by JX Nippon Oil and Energy Corp. NHK said seawater may have poured into the tunnel and police are sending divers to the accident site. —Internet

Pakistan gets new fighter planes from US

ISLAMABAD, 8 Feb—With an eye to India, Pakistan Monday received the last of 18 F-16 fighter jets from the US. The Dawn said the primary consideration for purchasing the new aircraft was to improve the fighting capability of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) vis-a-vis the Indian Air Force.

The last F-16 Block 52 jet aircraft as well as the first two of the upgraded fighter jets have arrived in the country. The fighter aircraft is equipped with state-of-the-art avionics suite and latest weapons with night precision attack capability.

“One F-16D Block 52 and two F-16 Block 15 MLU (Mid Life Upgrade) aircraft arrived today from the US at PAF Base Shahbaz (Jacobabad),” PAF said in a statement.

“The arrival of last F-16 Block 52 aircraft marked the completion of delivery of 18 aircraft of this category. The other two F-16 Block 15 aircraft were earlier sent to USA for Mid Life Upgrade,” it further said.

The F-16 programme includes procurement of 18 new jets, upgrade of 35 older aircraft and those purchased from the US under Excess Defence Articles (EDA) programme, and procurement of F-16 aircraft. The F-16aircraft sale to Pakistan was announced in 2005.

With leaks of leaked US diplomatic cables show that the deal was meant to assuage Pakistan’s fears of an “existential threat it perceived from India”. The diplomatic cables suggest that the purpose of the sale was to divert Pakistan’s attention from “the nuclear option”, and give it “time and space to employ a conventional reaction” in the event of a conflict with India.
**Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section, secondly-opened section in the time of the new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

- Construction of Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section of Dawei-Myeik railroad construction project started on 12 December 2008. Its opening was held at Dawei railway station in Dawei, Taninthayi Region on 4 June 2011.
- The 19.31 mile-long Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section of 132.5-mile-long Dawei-Myeik railroad construction project was put into service. Dawei railway station is far about three miles and two furlongs from Dawei. Dawei Port railway station was built near Dawei.
- Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section is 19.31 miles long.
- There are two over-180ft bridges and 63 under-180 ft bridges along the railroad section. Along the railroad section, Port station, Nyaungzin station and Thayetchaung station are block stations and Shinmokehtee station and Thayethnagwa station. It is a first-ever section of Dawei-Myeik railroad construction project.
- The train will run from Dawei port station to Thayetchaung station on Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section. Dawei-Ye train will leaves from Yay station instead of Dawei Port station.
- Thanks to the opening of Yangon-Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei-Myeik road in Taninthayi Region, regions and states along the road are easily reachable by car. There exists a railroad that links Mawlamyine of Mon State to Dawei of Taninthayi Region. People can easily go to Myeik from Dawei by train.
- Upon completion of Dawei-Myeik railroad, people can easily get to the four corners of the country from Myeik to Mawlamyine of Mon State, Bago Region and Yangon by train.

**Translation: MT**

YANGON, 8 Feb—A 115-member delegation from 70 companies led by Chairman Mr Tony Chew of International Enterprise (IE) and Singapore Business Federation (SBF) of Singapore will meet Myanmar entrepreneurs at the UMFCCI, here, on 13 February to discuss promotion of investment and business between the two countries.

They will discuss advertisement, banking services, steel and electronic equipment, agricultural produce, oil palm and rubber cultivation, garment, foodstuff, mining, construction materials, engineering, tobacco, accounts and revenue, personal goods, cosmetics and fashion, oil and gas, chemical products, transport, communication, wood and tyre, education and hotels and tourism industries. Those wishing to join the talks are to take out registration forms from the federation in person or representative and submit them to the federation, not later than 11 February. —MNA

MALAYSIAN MILITARY DELEGATION WRAPS UP VISIT

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb — The goodwill visit of the Malaysian delegation led by General Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Zukifeli bin Mohd Zin, Chief of Malaysian Defence Force ended today.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Commander of Yangon Command Brig. Gen Hsan Oo and Military Attaché of the Malaysian Embassy in Yangon Col Gan Seng Lock.

During the visit, the delegation visited the Gems Museum, the Safari and white elephants in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. —MNA
I recently visited Gaw Wein Jetty while I was in Mandalay in those previous summer days. I am no stranger to Gaw Wein’s evening, but its scenery could still be etched on my heart, let alone tourists’. Bamboo rafts along the river are in orderly queue, like the yellow spots on an artist’s canvas. Alongside stretching sands, those who fetch water and swim, vegetable patches on the sand banks, ferry boats, motor boats and vessels, the rafts form a painting of Ayeawady’s evening. Among them, some run helter-skelter as ropes that tie up with smooth the way. We can demonstrate and vote freely. All these are available, and all were not before 2003. But why don’t you ask us about the other side of the story of the U.S. presence in Iraq? Why don’t you ask about their crimes, atrocities, the pain and anguish that we suffered because of their military presence here?” Hussain Ali, a student in Baghdad said.

“What democracy are you asking me about, when my basic rights as a human being are stolen?” Wael al-Khafaji, a shopkeeper who has to deal with roadside attacks and bomb blasts daily. First, they had no worry about their future. If they protested, if they attacked or if foreign troops entered as they thought they would eventually establish democracy. These are consequences of democracy which is not fundamental and suited them. Apart from imported democracies, outcomes of Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Bahrain which build democracy through violent protests by brute force do not have many differences. Despite poetic title, Arab Spring is the spring painted in blood and is supposed to end with troubles and poverty. What resulted from it are only splits between ethnic groups.

In light of these significant examples, genuine goodwill of the former government, which help the country walk on the road to democracy in stable and peaceful manner, and of the new government, which assume the power of the country well, on the State and people is tangible. The Union is in democracy without suffering grievances as in abovementioned countries thanks to this generosity. It is a practical model of firm Union Spirit.

As our country is now building a new and developed democracy, it is bounden duty for all national races to keep prevailing national unity stronger than ever and help the Union develop. In so doing, the government is bringing about equitable development of the Union and three pillars are picking up strengths. In developing the Union, making peace and democratic processes should be carried out in accordance with national objectives. As said by the President in his address to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30 March, 2011, negotiations with armed groups, both under and beyond law, for long-lasting peace are made in carrying out peace processes. Peace-making groups comprised of Hluttaw representatives elected by the people, Region/State ministers, Union ministers were in peace talks with respective national races.

Since the government took office, five groups out of remaining national races armed groups which had yet to reach peace agreement in these days inked peace deals in Union level as they understood strides and moral progress as proofs of the government for making peace with national races armed groups. It is heartily learnt that four other groups have reached state-level peace agreement and are in dialogue in Union level and peace negotiation with another group. The government put the people at the fore and has never been hesitant to step back from any case regardless of its potential profits if it violates the wishes of the people. And Myitsone Dam Hydropower Project in Kachin State has been the firm evidence of the government’s attitude.
Still tied to smooth…

(from page 8)

The harmonious moves of the Union have brought about important phenomena, winning the trust of ASEAN fellow countries. ASEAN Summit held in Bali of Indonesia in November, 2011 had unanimously declared Myanmar’s chairmanship of the ASEAN for 2014. Furthermore, the prolonged icy relations between Myanmar and the US and other western countries have got warmer and warmer, proven by US Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton’s visit to Myanmar, the first-ever visit of a US Secretary of State to Myanmar in more than 50 years. Her visit was followed by foreign ministers of Singapore, Britain and Japan and high-ranking officials including ministers from the western countries.

Driving the Union on the path to democracy in stability and tranquillity, the President had goodwill visits to the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of India and the Republic of Singapore. He also paid goodwill visit to Indonesia while attending ASEAN Summit. Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Ms Sheikh Hasina and Prime Minister of Belarus Mr Mikhail Myasnikovich paid goodwill visit to Myanmar. The strength of the Union serves as a feather in the cap of the nation and its people, attracting guests from the western countries.

Iraq and Afghanistan are good examples. Debris piling around the whole country, trembling neighbourhoods and horrible casualties shown even by incomplete figures throw a light on errors of strategy. While those who introduce the strategy prepare their backpacks and wave goodbye to the countries in ashes and burnt rubbles, disintegrated peoples of the hardly recognized democracies are left in cycle of tears and grieves. It will take years to remedy the situations. The proverb, “It is never too late to mend”, is not for them. It takes them forever to mend.
NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb — A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun participated in the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from 2 to 4 February in New Delhi.

The summit was opened with an address by Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi on 2 February.

The summit was taken part by forest ministers and representatives from 29 countries, representatives from international organizations and experts.

The participants discussed environmental impacts including biodiversity loss, the climate change and degradation of land and water resources.

During the summit, Union Minister U Win Tun said that Myanmar has laid down 21st century programmes, the climate change convention, biodiversity convention and the Rio declaration as part of efforts for the boosting the economy to be in harmony with environment.

During the 20-year post-Rio period, Myanmar has been participating in the UNClimate Change Convention, the biodiversity convention, prevention of desertification convention, Vienna convention, Montreal treaty and Stockholm convention focusing control of organic pesticides, he added.


As part of the UN environmental conservation programmes, Myanmar, joining hands with the NGOs, is drawing the national level report and the tasks which would be in harmony with environment.

According the statistic in 2000, Myanmar released 74 tons of carbon every year while its forests absorb about 142 tons of carbon.

The Union Minister also expressed the country’s hope for participation in regional and global environmental conservation programmes as the country is still facing the over population, poverty, deforestation and wrong land utilization.

During their stay in India, the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Win Tun held talks with Dr R K Pachauri, Director General of the energy and resources department of India, over jointly conducting energy and environmental conservation courses.

During their stay in India, the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Win Tun held talks with Dr R K Pachauri, Director General of the energy and resources department of India, over jointly conducting energy and environmental conservation courses. — MNA

Union Commerce Minister receives delegation of Itochu Corporation

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb — Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received a 10-member delegation led by Executive Vice President Mr Yoichi Kobayashi of Itochu Corporation today.

He also invited the Itochu Corporation to invest in the groundnut oil, sesame oil, and rice sector in Myanmar as the government has already removed restrictions on trading rice and edible crops and called for running joint-venture businesses which would also benefit Myanmar businesses, entrepreneurs and the Itochu Corporation as well.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsao, the director-general of the Directorate of Trade, the managing director of the Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading and officials. — MNA

Union Education Minister receives Belarusian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb —Belarusian Ambassador to Vietnam Mr Valery Sadokho from Hanoi called on Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, at the Minister’s office this morning. The discussion focused on cooperation in research, and sending delegation and trainees for Master Degree and Ph.D courses.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Ba Shwe, Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department, Director-General U Zaw Htay of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), Director-General Dr Soe Win of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) and officials. — MNA

Unity in diversity

* We were a sovereign State for centuries, Unified by monarchs, living in unity.
  * Myanmar deprived of her sovereignty, After three wars with imperialist enemy.
  * Though remained under the colonial yoke, Rising whenever there was a chance of hope.
  * With whatever weapons they could lay, Expecting the independence on the way.
  * To demonstrate the unity of the brethren, It was on the 12th February, 1947. Hills and plains held a conference, Emerged as the historic Panglong Agreement.
  * Voice of unity reverberated wide and far, Sparked the Union Spirit that shall endure.
  * Forced to haul down the Union Jack, Saw the replacement with the Union flag.
  * Times have changed, so have priorities, But what has not changed is Unity.
  * Today sees the peace and tranquility, National solidarity chimes in with eternity, What we’ve seen is Unity in Diversity.

Maung Soe Ngwe

Biogas of septic tanks...

The sewage tank killing is very frequent but it continues to happen repeatedly out of negligence. Bio gas from the sewage tank is toxic to humans and the authorities concerned have warned to take great care in going to smelly and closed places especially into sewage tanks.
Cuban makes statues using tobacco leaves

HAVANA, 8 Feb—A Cuban sculptor uses tobacco leaves to create wonderful pieces of art, and has made life-size as well as miniature sculptures of Winston Churchill, Che Guevara, John F Kennedy, Charles Chaplin, Luciano Pavarotti and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

With his unique work, Janio Nunez Leal has pieces in many private collections around the work, the Prensa Latina news agency reported.

Nunez, who worked as a “torcedor” or cigar twister in many cigar factories, first took up the idea of becoming a tobacco sculptor in 1994.

His work will be on display at the 14th Habano Cigar Festival to be held 27 Feb-2 March.

Tourists wanting to know more about Cuban culture and tobacco are flocking to his recently opened studio-workshop in Boca Ciega beach in Havana.

In 2000, Nunez met Celia S Sandy, granddaughter of former British prime minister Winston Churchill, who was known for his love for Cuban cigars.

Nunez then created a life-size sculpture of Churchill. He says his sculptures are made only of tobacco leaves, using only an idea without any tools or frame.

His pieces, however, must be well preserved at 18-24 degrees Celsius and a relative humidity of 60-70 percent.

George Clooney gets challenged for wrestling match

LONDON, 8 Feb—Actor George Clooney has been challenged for a wrestling match by Muppet character Miss Piggy at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2012.

The outspoken puppet star of the movie “The Muppets” is the official red carpet host of the film awards, and is looking forward to the possibility of meeting “The Descendants” star, who is dating former WWE wrestler Stacy Keibler.

“I don’t wrestle girlfriends. However, if George wants to wrestle, bring it on! Best two out of three falls? Winner gets a dinner?” contactmusic.com quoted Miss Piggy as saying.

The BAFTA Awards will take place at the Royal Opera House on 12 February.

Learning many languages ‘no problem for infants’

SINGAPORE, 8 Feb—A child’s language learning ability is not hindered even if he or she is taught multiple languages, according to a landmark study.

The study of 100 infants, aged between 18 and 36 months, found they could coordinate different sets of rules when learning different languages.

The infants were taught a new word using a video display, and then an element, for example, the tone, would be changed. Researchers would track the children’s eye movements to see if they thought the meaning of the word had changed.

Associate Professor Leher Singh from the National University of Singapore’s Department of Psychology found that children aged 18 months could differentiate words using vowels and tones in the languages that they are learning, and it did not matter if they were monolingual English learners or English-Mandarin bilinguals.

When children aged the age of 24 months, English learners were able to identify that a vowel change means a change in meaning for English words.

English-Mandarin learners, meanwhile, were able to consider both vowel and tone changes when identifying that there was a change to the meaning of Mandarin words.

She also found that children aged 30 months were able to translate between English and Mandarin but could only do so from the language that they were dominant into the non-dominant language.

For example, if an infant learns 60 percent English and 40 percent Mandarin, the child can translate rapidly from English to Mandarin but not vice versa.

The landmark study did not come without its own challenges. “When working with children … you are not sure if you caught the child in a bad or uncooperative mood,” said Assoc Prof Singh.

Her team is looking to study this area further and are recruiting about 200 children between the ages of two to four. Parents can contact Ms Calista Chan at psychc@nus.edu.sg.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (96)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (96) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MI.P where it will lies at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MINDORO VOY NO (120)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MINDORO VOY NO (120) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MI.P where it will lies at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

The Exchange of Notes with the Government of Japan on December 04, 2009 and the Grant Agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency on December 23, 2009 concerning the Japan’s Grant Aid for the Project for Construction of Primary School-cum-Cyclone Shelter. Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) acts as the procurement agent for and on behalf of the Department of Basic Education No. 1, the Ministry of Education for procuring products and services under this grant. JICS now invites the Bids from eligible and qualified bidders.

1. Duplex (32”x40”) 180 Gsm - 2000 packets
2. Duplex (32”x46”) 180 Gsm - 2000 packets

3. The open tenders are to be submitted to Office No.7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, in the presence of the members of the tender committee from 13:00 hr to 14:00hr on (15-2-2012). The tenders, later than the designated date, will not be considered.

4. For the application forms of open tender and detailed information, may contact the following address.

Procurement Committee Ministry of Information Office No. (7), Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 412327, 412323

xxx

Bankruptcies soar in Spain

Mexcom, 8 Feb —The number of Spanish firms and individuals declaring bankruptcy rose 13.3 percent last year to 6,755, the highest total since the country’s bankruptcy law took effect in 2004, officials said Tuesday.

One in every three companies that went bankrupt in 2011 was in the construction or property business, according to a report from the National Statistics Institute.

Bankruptcies in Spain declined by 7.2 percent in 2010 after skyrocketing 80 percent the previous year as the economic crisis deepened.

More than 5,000 firms filed for bankruptcy last year, an increase of 16.7 percent over 2010, while individual bankruptcies dipped 3.9 percent to 934.

2008 global financial meltdown came as Spain was struggling to contain the damage from the bursting of a decade-long real estate bubble. The ensuing slump has led to numerous business failures and pushed the country’s jobless rate to nearly 23 percent, representing 5.2 million people out of work.

Caroline Bittencourt participates in the general rehearsal of the samba school prior to the 2012 Carnival at the Anhembi Sambodromo in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 5 Feb, 2012.—Xinhua

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http://www.jics.or.jp/jics_html-e/index.html

Students take cover under their desks during an earthquake drill at the Buchanan Elementary School Unit-I in Paramaribo, city, metro Manaus on 7 Feb, 2012. The drill aims to help students and school staff learn how to react properly during high-intensity earthquakes. A magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck the central Philipine island of Negros on Monday, triggering landslides that toppled houses.—AFP

British teachers want toilet-trained pupils

LONDON, 8 Feb — Many teachers in Britain are fretting and frowning to notice how parents are sending their kids to schools even without toilet-training.

Teachers have reported a huge rise in primary pupils being enrolled in class as they are unable to use the loo, the Sun reported.

A whopping 62 percent of the staff noticed more toilet “accidents” in junior classes in the last five years, according to a survey.

This statistics rose to 71 percent among those working with three to five-year-olds. One disgruntled teacher said: “Parents do not spend the time toilet-training their children – they feel it is the school’s job.”

LA mom left baby with homeless couple

LOS ANGELES, 8 Feb — A Los Angeles woman was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly leaving her 6-month-old baby with a homeless couple, police said.

The woman, whose name was not reported, left the baby with the couple Monday night, a woman who identified herself as Kass told KTLA-TV, Los Angeles.

“I was just sleeping in my tent with my boyfriend, you know, and then we got woken up by a lady just shaking our tent and trying to unzip it,” Kass said.

She said the woman came into the tent, “sat down and started yelling. ‘They’re after me! They’re after me!’ The cops are after me!”

The woman allegedly asked the couple to watch her child while she went to find a bottle, according to a report from the staff.

One disgruntled teacher said: “Parents do not spend the time toilet-training their children – they feel it is the school’s job.”

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Cedraic Kass, a 7-year-old girl, was found safe with a woman and her boyfriend when they returned to the tent for the baby — the woman was charged with child endangerment.

Kass told KTLA-TV she believes the woman and her boyfriend live on the streets with the baby. The baby was placed in custody of Child Protective Services.
**Cute cats and dogs do yoga postures**

This series of cute cats and dogs yoga photo were shot by Dan Borris. These pictures not only look cute, but also express the real yoga passion of yoga enthusiasts. You must be very curious about where these cats and dogs come from? They are borrowed from the Animal Defence League, Dan Borris said: want to become a yoga master, must take time and perseverance for many years to gain experience, but the miracle is that these cats and dogs in just sixteen weeks!

**Toilet-loving boy, 4, gets free commode**

A Wisconsin 4-year-old fascinated by toilets is the star of a video produced by fixture-maker Kohler that has more than 100,000 hits on YouTube. Danin Kruse of New Berlin, who first started showing an interest in toilets when he was only 18-months-old, came to the attention of Kohler when he visited the company’s Design Centre in the city of the same name with parents Jim and Michelle Kruse and his mother later sent the company a letter asking about a possible demo model of the boy’s favourite toilet, a $380 dual-flush toilet, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported on Monday.

The company decided instead to send the family a free toilet with a company plumber to ensure it was properly installed. The company filmed Danin during a recent return to the Design Center, where dozens of different toilets are on display, and created a YouTube video that has gained more than 100,000 views.

**Horror film ‘Excision’ to get 2012 release**

**Beverly Hills, 8 Feb—** Anchor Bay Films says it has acquired the North American distribution rights to “Excision,” a horror movie starring Annalynne McCord. The feature of director-writer Richard Bates Jr also starred Robert Duvall, James Caan, Actors Robert Duvall and James Caan (right) who starred in the first Godfather movie appear at a 210/05 promotional event in New York for EA Games which is producing “The Godfather” video game for release in mid 2005.— Internet

**Angelina Jolie’s still a bad girl, says beau Brad Pitt**

**London, 8 Feb—** Brad Pitt has revealed that partner Angelina Jolie still possesses a naughty side, which is reserved only for him.

The 36-year-old actress once lived with what she described as a ‘dangerous’ life and was well-known for her dark and provocative nature.

But eventually the heavily tattooed star changed her wild image into that of a doting mother and humanitarian.

“She’s still a bad girl,” the Daily Mail quoted Pitt as telling on CBS ‘This Morning.’

“Delightfully so. It’s not for public consumption,” he added. Jolie had once famously wore then-husband Billy Bob Thornton’s blood in a vial around her neck.

The Oscar winning actress also gave brother James Haven a passionate kiss on the lips at the 2006 Academy Awards and has spoken publicly about bisexuality.

However, the “Lara Croft” actress had earlier revealed in an interview with 60 Minutes that her inner bad girl now ‘belongs to Brad.’

**Man, firefighter trapped in elevator**

Authorities in Chicago said a man trapped in an elevator was rescued by a firefighter, but the pair soon became stuck in a second elevator.

Fire officials said firefighters responded to the Park Monroe Condominiums around 9:15 pm on Sunday on a report of a man stuck in an elevator between the 21st and 22nd floors, the Chicago Tribune reported on Monday.

The officials said a firefighter went up an elevator in an adjoining shaft and used the ceiling hatches to bring the trapped man to the second elevator. However, that elevator then became stuck and the men were rescued by firefighters in a third elevator.

The cause of the malfunction was not immediately determined, fire officials said. No injuries were reported.

**Friends say Pippa’s unattached**

**London, 8 Feb—** Friends of Pippa Middleton say the British socialite is not dating longtime friend George Percy as media reports claimed last week.

Middleton, 28, became a celebrity after her sister Kate married England’s Prince William last April. Percy, 27, is the future duke of Northumberland.

The pair have known each other since both were students at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Although some British tabloids said last week they started dating this month, two of their friends and a source close to Percy’s family are shooting down the romance reports.

“They have always just been friends,” a source told Us Weekly. “I don’t know how this particular rumor got so out of control! ... Both of them say they are friends and I’ve not heard or seen anything to suggest otherwise.”

“I couldn’t imagine them together,” a second insider said. “Their friendship is even closer than Robin and me.”

Kate Middleton is escorted into Westminster Abbey for her wedding to Prince William by her father Michael, as her maid of honor Philippa Middleton holds her gown, in London on 29 April, 2011.— Internet

**Bidding for ‘Godfather’ script tops $7K**

**Las Vegas, 8 Feb—** Bidding is up to $7,500 for the charity auction of a screenplay of “The Godfather” autographed by one of the classic Hollywood film’s producers.

The Las Vegas Sun said the price is being driven up by the fact Diane Hutton turned down a $500 offer to sell it on TV’s “Pawn Stars” because she felt it was worth more. The proceeds from the sale are to go to Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, the organization for which Hurton worked.

The script will be sold after the bidding ends on Thursday during the charity’s Hope Award luncheon at the Mirage hotel in Las Vegas, the newspaper said.

“Who would have thought that teaching a warehouse worker about what to look for in discarded books would have led to a $7,500 auction bid?” Hurton told the Sun. “I’m grateful that ‘Pawn Stars’ got the ball rolling on this — and for our supporters who have really stepped up.”

**Germany hunts out deer calling champion**

Hunting enthusiasts grunted, bawled and bellowed in the battle to be named Germany’s champion deer caller.

The 18 men and one woman used sea shells, or horns and hollow plant stems to impress their deer calls on Friday.

This year’s winner, Tasso Wolzogen, said he was impressed with the competition.

“Even if I were a real deer, I’d still have been amazed at today,” he said.

Competitors were scored on their ability to imitate red deer calls during the breeding season in three different categories: a young deer, a dominant rutting buck, and an older deer.

The skill is part of a centuries-old tradition in Germany, and is used by hunters to lure the deer out of the forest and away from any rival hunters’ guns.

The top three finalists in the German championship automatically secure their place to compete in the European championship.
Fernboch, 8 Feb — Roger Federer hopes to recapture the emotion of Switzerland’s 2001 Davis Cup win against the United States when they meet again in the first round this weekend. Federer recalled the Swiss win on Tuesday, when a 19-year-old he won three matches for a 3-2 victory in his home city of Basel. “It’s one of my first emotional outbursts on a tennis court because I was so exhausted on Sunday after winning singles, doubles and singles,” Federer said.

Federer said that performance, against a US team led by Todd Martin, “definitely got me in winning ways.” Months later at Wimbledon, he beat four-time defending champion Pete Sampras in the fourth round. “It was a great start of great things for me and I’m happy playing America again,” said the 30-year-old Federer, who will line up in singles on Friday with Stanislas Wawrinka against Mardy Fish and John Isner. Federer and Wawrinka each have 16 Grand Slam singles titles, but he hasn’t won the Davis Cup trophy.

Federer skipped the first round of the Davis Cup since 2004, and changed his preparations to play Davis Cup this year. He hasn’t played on clay so early in the year since 2004 in Romania, and it’s been seven years since he played in Europe in February.

London, 8 Feb — Former world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis thinks unfancied Brit Dereck Chisora has the power to shock Vitali Klitschko. “Vitali has the power to shock Vitali Klitschko but Chisora has nine years ago by Lewis. "Vitali has the power to shock Vitali Klitschko," he said.
**District News**

**Village electricity supply discussed**

PINLAUNG, 8 Feb—The meeting on supply of electricity was held in Lohnhin, Leinnya and Nantok village-tracts of Pinlaung Township on 18 January.

Local authorities explained supply of electricity to the villages and assistance of the departments concerned and replied to queries. The meeting formed the village power supply committee for 17 villages of three village-tracts.

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**Fire fighting practised**

YANGON, 8 Feb—No. 1 Saw Mill of Mawna Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry held fire drill at its fire drill at Kyinyindine Township on 24 January.

Head of Kyinyindine Township Fire Services Department U Than Htet Aung explained fire fighting.

Members of Township Fire Brigade and Factory Fire Brigade practised fire drill.—Myanma Alin

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**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

9-2-12 (Thursday) 09:30 am ~ 10-2-12 09:30 am MST


**MYANMAR TV**

9-2-12 (Thursday) 09:30 am ~ 10-2-12 09:30 am MST

1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw - Uppahandhi Paritta 7:30 am
2. Morning News 7:50 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song 8:00 am
4. Health programme 8:10 am
5. Documentary 8:30 am
6. 65th Anniversary Union Day Programme 4:00 pm
7. Martial Song 4:10 pm
8. Musical Programme 4:20 pm
9. 65th Anniversary Union Day Programme 4:30 pm
10. 2012 University Entrance Examination (Myanmar) 5:20 pm
11. Science and Environment 5:40 pm
12. Teleplay 7:40 pm
13. Union Day Programme 8:00 pm
14. News
15. Documentary 16. TV Drama Series

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**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

**Weather forecast for 9th February, 2012**

- **Regions/States**
  - Mandalay: 33/91 15/59 Generally fair weather
  - Yangon: 36/97 18/64 Generally fair weather
  - Bago: 34/93 20/68 Generally fair weather
  - Upper Sagaing: 28/82 14/57 Generally fair weather
  - Chin: 22/72 06/43 Generally fair weather
  - Kayah: 32/90 10/50 Generally fair weather
  - Eastern Shan: 30/86 13/55 Generally fair weather
  - Southern Shan: 28/82 09/48 Generally fair weather
  - Northern Shan: 29/84 05/41 Generally fair weather
  - Ayeyawady: 35/95 19/66 Generally fair weather
  - Taninthayi: 36/97 15/59 Generally fair weather

- **Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers**
- **Forecast Percent**
  - Kayin: (60%)
  - Magway: (50%)
  - Sagaing: (50%)
  - Shan: (70%)
  - Bago: (60%)

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**‘Oldest living twins’ aged 102 in Aberdeenshire**

LONDON, 8 Feb—Two 102-year-old sisters who live in Aberdeenshire have been recognised as the world’s oldest living twins by the Guinness World Records.

Edith Ritchie and Evelyn “Evie” Middleton were born in 1909 and reached their latest milestone in November last year.

The twins, whose maiden name is Rennie, live together in Bonnyton House care home in Ellon.

Neither of them has ever travelled outside of the UK.

Although not identical, their mother would dress the girls in the same clothes.

After leaving school the pair worked on farms before starting their own families.

Evelyn married William Middleton and had four children, 12 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Edith married Nathaniel Ritchie and had four children, nine grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

When asked her secret to a long life, Edith said: “Simple living, hard work and a good husband.”

Guinness World Records editor-in-chief Craig Glenday said: “Edith and Evelyn are a remarkable pair.”

When they were born the likes of Mark Twain and Florence Nightingale were still alive and we had yet to conquer the South Pole.”

They’re not just the oldest in the UK, they hold the world title. They’ve clearly benefited from good genes and a solid lifelong friendship that only twins can truly understand.”

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R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
**PL won’t scrap handshakes**

**Pre-match ritual set to go ahead at Old Trafford**

London, 8 Feb—The Premier League has no plans to cancel the pre-match handshakes ahead of Manchester United’s clash with Liverpool on Saturday, when Patrice Evra and Luis Suarez are likely to come face to face again.

**Murray - I will win a Slam**

**World number four looking forward to the rest of the season**

LONDON, 8 Feb—Andy Murray is adamant that he will win a Grand Slam despite his history of near-misses.

The Scot lost in the semi-finals at the Australian Open - his fourth three finals. Despite the defeat, the British number one is looking forward to the rest of the season. Murray, who is ranked number four in the world, was speaking during an event at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

He said: “It was a long, long match. One of the longest I have ever played on the tour and probably one of the highest standards as well.”

**Suriname forest reveals 46 new species**

**Paramaribo, 8 Feb—**A “cowboy frog” and a “cayuela katydidd” are among 46 new species that have been discovered in the dense forests of the tiny South American nation of Suriname, scientists said Wednesday.

The caramel-coloured frog displays white fringes along its back legs and a spur on its heels, while the unusual katydidd earned its nickname from the striking hues on its body and wings. Other discoveries included a two-inch (five-centimetre) catfish, and larger catfish covered with a spiny armour to protect it against predators in the piranha-filled river.

The findings were made by an expedition of international scientists, indigenous people and university students as part of a three-week river expedition organized by Conservation International. The trip took them along the Koeptari and Sipaliwini rivers, where they also found intriguing new rock carvings, or petroglyphs, along the border with southern neighbour Brazil.

“As a scientist it’s exciting to do research in such remote areas where countless new discoveries await you,” said Trond Larsen, director of the Rapid Assessment Programme survey for Conservation International. The petroglyphs were found on caves near the Trio village of Kwamalasamutu, a site that Conservation International is helping local communities preserve as an ecotourism destination.

**Biogas of septic tanks toxic to humans**

**Four killed by septic tank gas in Pwintbyu Township**

Iraq and Afghanistan are good examples. Debris piling around the whole country, trembling neighbourhoods and horrible casualties shown even by incomplete figures throw a light on errors of strategy. While those who introduce the strategy prepare their backpacks and wave goodbye to the countries in ashes and burnt rubbles, disintegrated peoples of the hardly recognized democracies are left in cycle of tears and grievances. It will take years to remedy the situations.

The proverb, “It is never too late to mend,” is not for them. “It takes them forever to mend.”

**Bonds of amity**

* Mon, Rakhine, Shan, Kachin
  Bamar, Chin, Kayin, Kayah
  A unified force they are

Nationalities of Myanmar

Thaung Ko Ko (Trs)