President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win host reception and dinner in commemoration of 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb — A reception and dinner hosted by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win to mark the 65th Anniversary Union Day for 2012 was held at the City Hall here this evening.

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win cordially greeted dignitaries who were present at the dinner.

The dinner was also attended by Vice-President Thida Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hnin, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun U, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutinal Tribunal U Thein Soe, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and their wives, union ministers, the chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, senior military officers, chairmen and secretaries of committees of the hluttaws, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and their wives, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental heads, members of the central committee for organizing the 65th Anniversary Union Day, chairman of the sub-committees and invited guests.

Before and during the dinner, the music band of Myanma Radio and Television entertained the dignitaries with songs and national races dancers and vocalists performed to the accompaniment of the music band.

After the dinner, artists from the Fine Arts Department and students from the cultural universities of the Ministry of Culture performed dances at open-air theatre outside the City Hall.

Anawrahta Bridge brought about easy access between Chauk and Seikpyu in Magway Region

PAGE 7
President Office Union Minister inspects development undertakings in Yesagyo, Pakokku townships

Union Minister U Soe Maung speaks in meeting with local people at No. 111 Basic Education Primary School in Htangetaw Village-tract, Yesagyo Township—MNA

The Union minister met villagers of Ma-uaukseik Village-tract and gave talks on rural development and poverty alleviation scheme and explained health, education and economic matters.

The Union minister attended opening ceremony of Kyakyupya Village Basic Education High School in Pakokku Township on 8 February. He then local people at Balaba Village BEHS and Koyin Village BEPS and called for opening of a library in each village-tract.

The Union minister then presented gifts and foodstuffs for village-tracts and cordially greeted the locals.—MNA

National scrutiny card issued in Pobbathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi viewed staff of Immigration and National Registration Department and members of the township national scrutiny cards issuance supervisory committee issuing national scrutiny cards to locals at Thiri Township here this morning.

The Union minister called for cooperation of ward village administrators, community elders and social organizations in taking national census in 2014. He coordinated with personnel to fulfill work requirements of the locals.—MNA

Myanmar eyes cooperation with Vietnam on audit field

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General of the Social Republic of Vietnam Mr Dinh Tien Dung, paid a goodwill visit to Vietnam from 6 to 10 February.

Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Sinh Hung received the Auditor-General and party on 7 February. During the meeting, they agreed to mutually cooperate in audit sector.

The Myanmar delegation visited Auditor-General’s Office, No. 1 and No. 6 Region Audit Offices and held discussions with the Vietnamese Auditor-General, Deputy Auditor-General Mr Cao Tan Khong and personnel for cooperation prospects.

—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 13 February, 2012

Educational opportunities in Sagaing Region

Sagaing Region in the central and northern part of Myanmar with a population of nearly five million still has many things to do for education and job opportunities.

In this regard, President U Thein Sein, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party visited Sagaing on 11 February and helped improve educational opportunities for local students there. They made arrangements to open the Arts and Science University (Sagaing) and to upgrade Cooperative College (Sagaing) and Technological College (Sagaing) to university level.

There were a chorus of voices wishing the President good health which reflects the amicable cooperation between the people and the government. From the Yadanabon Ayeyawady River bridge to Sagaing town a large number of local people and students were warmly welcoming the President and his entourage. It actually is a significant day for Sagaing Region.

Beginning next academic year, local students will get the opportunity to pursue higher arts and science in their own region. Arrangements are under way to build Arts and Science University (Sagaing) in a shortest possible period.

Cooperative College (Sagaing) will become a university in the coming academic year. Moreover, Technological College (Sagaing) will also become a university. All these development programs will surely increase educational opportunities for students of Sagaing Region.

Local youths taking these opportunities without fail will become intellectuals and intelligentsia serving the interest of the region and country.

DISTRICT NEWS

Fire drill exercised at Central Sanpya Fish Market

YANGON, 6 Feb—A fire drill was exercised at Central Sanpya Fish Market of Yangon City Development Committee in West Magyidan Ward in Kyimyindine Township on 3 February. Departmental officials explained fire preventive measures to families of the market.

Later, they viewed demonstrations of fire brigade members in the fire drill.

Water supply launched

THAHBYUZAYAT, 6 Feb—A ceremony to launch supply of water, undertaken by Thabyuzayat Township Development Affairs Committee, was held in Kayinthaung Village of Thabyuzayat Township on 1 February. Local authorities and departmental officials formally launched the water supply works and inspected arrangements for sufficiently supply of water to the village.—Township IPRD

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Mitt Romney wins Maine caucuses

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb— The Republican Party in US state of Maine announced on Saturday that former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney had won the state’s caucuses, giving his campaign a much needed bounce after embarrassing losses earlier this week.

According to state Republican Chairman Charlie Webster, Romney won 2,190 votes, 39 percent in the state’s non-binding caucuses, while Texas Congressman Ron Paul, whose campaign has a strong presence in the state, got 1,996 votes, about 36 percent.

Only 194 votes separate the two candidates. Behind the two frontrunners, Rick Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator, got 18 percent. Newt Gingrich, the former House speaker, got 6 percent.

Maine’s caucuses began 4 February and runs throughout the week. But the results announced on Saturday accounted for just 83 percent of all precincts in the state. Webster said any caucus results that come in after Saturday wouldn’t be counted no matter how close the vote turned out to be.

Although the Maine caucuses were non-binding and being described as a “beauty contest,” both Romney and Paul badly need a win here. Romney lost Colorado, Missouri and Minnesota earlier this week, to Santorum, handing over the political momentum and risks being seen as a fragile frontrunner.

Romney, who originally hadn’t scheduled any event, made appearances in Maine earlier in the day, that might have helped him.

Iran adds two news subs to navy fleet

TEHRAN, 12 Feb— Iran said it has added two light submarines to its navy at a time when the country is threatening to block the Strait of Hormuz.

Rear Adm. Habibollah Sayyari said the two Ghadir-class submarines were designed and manufactured by Iranian experts, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The 120-ton submarines are extremely maneuverable, well-suited for missions in shallow waters and equipped with at least two torpedo tubes, IRNA reported.

The Iranian navy now has 16 of the subs, first commissioned in 2007. Iran has threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping route for oil, in response to a Western embargo on Iranian oil exports.

Roadside bomb kills five Afghan police, wounds another

TRINKOT, 12 Feb— Five policemen were killed and another sustained injuries as a roadside bomb struck a police van in Uruzgan Province, 370 km south of Kabul on Friday evening, a police official confirmed on Saturday.

“A mine planted by anti-government militants struck a police vehicle outside provincial capital Trinkot yesterday evening, leaving five policemen dead on the spot,” deputy to the provincial police chief Gulab khan told Xinhua.

Another police was injured in the incident, he said.

He also blamed the enemies of peace, a term used by Afghan officials against Taliban militants for organizing the attack; but the outfit has yet to make comment.

Xinhua

US soldiers and Afghan security forces secure an area near a car bomb blast attack in the city of Kundahar recently. The car bomb in the south Afghan city of Kundahar killed at least seven people and wounded 19, the province’s media office said.

Xinhua

Seven militants killed, 18 arrested in Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 Feb— Afghan forces, backed by NATO-led coalition troops, have killed seven armed militants and detained 18 other suspects over the past 24 hours, the Afghan Interior Ministry said on Sunday. “Afghan police, army and coalition forces launched nine joint operations in Kabul, Helmand, Uruzgan, Ghazni, Khost, Paktia and Herat provinces over the past 24 hours,” the ministry said in a statement. “As a result of these operations, seven armed militants were killed, two wounded and 18 others were arrested,” it said.

The joint forces also seized a handful of weapons in the operations, it said.

Xinhua

Car bomb seriously wounds Iraqi police chief

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb— Iraqi officials say a car bomb south of Baghdad has seriously wounded a local police chief.

Police officials say Lt. Col. Salman Kadhim was badly hurt when the bomb that was hidden in a parked car in the town of Jbala detonated on Saturday. Jbala is about 60 miles (95 kilometres) south of Baghdad.

Two of Kadhim’s guards were also wounded in the explosion. A local health official confirmed the injuries.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to the media.

Iraqi security forces have long been targeted by insurgents seeking to highlight instability in the Shiite-dominated government and its efforts to protect people from violence without US help.

Xinhua

Afghan children carry their goods in Torkham border between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan on 10 Feb, 2012. Hundreds of Afghan children work in Torkham to make money and support their families.—Xinhua
Japan’s Fanuc to build machine tools factory

**TOPICS:**

**Tokyo, 12 Feb —**  Japan industrial robot maker Fanuc Ltd plans to build a new factory near Tokyo to double its domestic output capacity of machine tools to produce parts of smart phones by the end of the year, the Nikkei financial daily reported on Sunday. Fanuc will boost domestic output aimed at meeting rising global demand for smartphones, the Nikkei said.

The company hopes to increase its production capacity by 10% this fiscal year, and said it would open a new factory in Tokyo to boost its capacity even further. The Nikkei also reported that the company is working on a new machine tool that can make frames for smart phones to 5,000 units per day.

**British Airways and Virgin Atlantic escape Nigeria fine**

**London, 12 Feb —** Nigerian authorities have thrown out fines totalling $235m (£149m) against British Airways and Virgin Atlantic. Nigeria’s Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) accused the two airlines of overcharging for flights to Britain to Nigeria. The CAA said the fines were the result of a findings order of overcharging for flights to that country.

The airlines have denied the allegations. In a statement British Airways said: “We are pleased that the appeal has been allowed.”

**Valentine’s Day savings: 20 ideas to spend less**

**New York, 12 Feb —** While the origins of Valentine’s Day show it as a day to celebrate love and romance, today, centuries later, it’s a day as much about spending money on your loved ones as it is about showing them your love. Last year, couples spent $7.5 billion on flowers, $3.4 billion on dining out and $3.5 billion on jewelry, according to a survey released by CouponCabin.com. Men spent about $160 on their valentine, while women spent nearly $75 on theirs, the survey found.

And this year, total spending will hit $17.6 billion, according to the National Retail Federation. Despite the statistics, showing your love doesn’t mean you have to blow your budget. Try these 20 low-cost ideas for turning your 14 Feb back into a celebration full of love, not an empty bank account. Take a hike or a walk on the beach, or just get outside to enjoy whatever environment in which you live. Treat your loved one to breakfast in bed. Make paper flowers full of heartfelt messages your loved one can keep instead of spending money on real flowers that will wither. Make a CD of your and your loved one’s favorite love songs.

**Kindergartners who can pay attention may reap benefits later**

**Montreal, 12 Feb —** Children who are attentive in kindergarten are likely to have “work-oriented” skills in higher grades, which can lead to lifelong benefits, according to a new study.

It included more than 1,000 children whose attention skills were assessed in kindergarten. As they moved from first to sixth grade, the children were rated on how well they worked alone and with others, their levels of self-control and self-confidence, and their ability to follow directions and rules. Over time, the children were categorized into three groups: high, medium or low classroom engagement. Boys, aggressive children and children with lower cognitive skills in kindergarten were much more likely to be in the low group, according to the University of Montreal researchers.

There are important life risks associated with attention deficits in childhood, which include high-school dropout, unemployment and problematic substance abuse, study author Linda Pagani said in a university news release.

“Our findings make a compelling case for early identification and treatment of attention problems, as early remediation represents one of the least costly form of intervention.” The study was published online recently in the Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology.

In children, the classroom is the workplace, and this is why productive, task-oriented behavior in that context later translates to the labor market,” Pagani said.

**US-style alcohol tests to be used for problem drinkers**

**London, 12 Feb —** Problem drinkers in London are to be given American-style sobriety tests aimed at keeping them dry. The pilot scheme has been given the go-ahead by the Ministry of Justice to use a concept copied from South Dakota, US. Those convicted of serious drink-related offences, like assault or criminal damage, will be offered the 24/7 Sobriety Programme as a sentencing option instead of prison. Electronic tags will be used to monitor alcohol in the blood.

It involves technology that has never been used before in the UK. Those behind the scheme say if offenders do not curb their drinking they will receive a short prison sentence. The idea has been criticised both in the UK and the US as being draconian and an ineffective way of treating genuine alcohol issues.

The plan has been supported by the Deputy Mayor of London, Kit Malthouse, who heard about the programme and has been looking at how to adapt it for UK use.

**Men can inherit a form of heart disease from father via Y chromosome**

**London, 12 Feb —** Men can inherit heart disease from their father say scientists who have tracked the condition to the Y chromosome that dads pass to sons. By studying the DNA of over 3,000 men they found a particular version of the sex chromosome increases the risk of coronary artery disease by 50%. As many as one in five British men carry this version of Y. And the risk it confers is in addition to other heart risk factors like cholesterol, The Lancet reports.

Experts already know men develop heart disease at a decade earlier than women on average. By the age of 40, the lifetime risk of heart disease is one in two for men and one in three for women. Lifestyle factors like smoking and blood pressure are important contributors. This latest work suggests the male Y chromosome can also play a role in coronary artery disease — a common form of heart disease that kills thousands each year in the UK. Dr Maciej Tomaszewski, from the University of Leicester, and colleagues studied 3,233 biologically unrelated British men who were already enrolled in other medical studies investigating heart disease risk. When they genotyped tests on the men they found that 90% possessed one of two common versions of Y chromosome—named haplogroup I and haplogroup R1b1b2. And the risk of coronary artery disease among the men carrying the haplogroup I version was 50% higher than in other men. The scientists say they now need to pinpoint precisely which gene(s) on the Y chromosome are responsible. But they believe they already know how they exert their effect — by upsetting a man’s immune system.

**The Y chromosome determines a baby will be a boy.**

**The tags will measure the alcohol in the wearer’s blood every half hour.**

**A new factory near Tokyo to double output of machine tools to produce parts of smart phones.**

**The company hopes to raise price competitiveness by concentrating its production operation in Japan, the newspaper said, doubling production of a machine tool that can make frames for smart phones to 5,000 units per month by December. The Nikkei reported without citing sources.**

**It’s all about the colour of tissue paper you use for this hearts window display.**

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**The airline’s have denied the allegations. In a statement British Airways said: “We are pleased that the appeal has been allowed.” “We are looking forward to the hearing finally, it is expected to be held at a judicial panel set up to review the case. The airlines have denied the allegations. In statement British Airways said: “We are pleased that the appeal has been allowed.”**
Watery alien planets might be stripped dry by gravity

NEW YORK, 12 Feb — Alien planets might experience tidal forces powerful enough to remove all their water, leaving behind hot, dry worlds like Venus, researchers said. These findings might significantly affect searches for habitable exoplanets, scientists explained. Although some planets might dwell in regions around their star friendly enough for life as we know it, they could actually be lifelessly dry worlds. The tides that we experience on Earth are caused by the gravitational pull of the moon and sun. Our tides are nothing compared to what we see elsewhere in the solar system — the gravitational pull Europa experiences from Jupiter leads to tidal forces roughly 1,000 times stronger than what Earth feels from our moon, flexing and heating Europa. Heat is a major factor in how capable a planet might be of supporting life as we know it. What scientists call the habitable zone of a star is defined by whether liquid water can survive on its surface, given that life exists virtually wherever there is liquid water on Earth. Internet

NASA eyes plan for deep-space outpost near the moon

HOUSTON, 12 Feb — NASA is pressing forward on assessing the value of a “human-tended waypoint” near the far side of the moon — one that would enable international partnerships as well as commercial and academic participation. NASA’s Planetary Science Division chief Jim Green has said previously that even if the agency were to send a robotic spacecraft to the moon, it would not land on the surface. Instead, NASA might place a robotic spacecraft near the moon, where it could be visited by astronauts. This would allow NASA to develop the technologies needed for human exploration of the moon and other destinations.

Future of long-distance love is cool but creepy

NEW YORK, 12 Feb — It’s 2025 and your boyfriend has been temporarily posted to Tokyo, while you’re still stuck in the Boston-Atlanta Metropolitan Axis. How will you keep in touch? Well, maybe hug shirts and larger-than-life videoconferencing will help you out.

As communication technology has improved over time, it’s helped long-distance couples stay in real-time contact and enjoy conversations almost as if they were sitting face to face. There aren’t good studies on whether more people maintain long-distance romantic relationships now than in the past, said Linda Young, a relationship counselor and board member of the Council on Contemporary Families, a nonprofit group that aims to educate the public about family and relationship science. Young’s anecdotal experience, however, is that there are more separated lovers now. “The impression I get is that yes, it’s true,” she told InnovationNewsDaily.

The possible increase in the number of far-flung lovers isn’t just a result of better tech, she said, but also of the robust economy in the US. “Because of job opportunities or lack of opportunities, people are going where they have to go,” she explained.

Italian satellite is a laser disco ball for science

WASHINGTON, 12Feb — If Albert Einstein were alive to witness Italy’s Laser Relativity Satellite (LARES) in action, he might just start dancing. That’s because the tungsten sphere, just over a foot in diameter, is meant to orbit the Earth and help scientists prove part of the genius’ general theory of relativity — by firing lasers at it.

Due to be launched later this month, LARES is covered in 92 reflectors designed to bounce laser light fired from ground stations back to its origin, thus allowing scientists to measure its precise distance and orbit. Using these measurements, it’s hoped that they’ll see proof that the satellite’s orbit is being altered by a warping of space-time around the Earth as it rotates. This effect is called frame-dragging, and should be present if the concepts of general relativity hold true. Conclusive proof that the frame-dragging is taking place may take several years to confirm, and is possible for variables such as tall mountain ranges to affect the satellite’s orbit as it passes over them. With an expected accuracy of 99%, however, the LARES will provide scientists on the ground the warping of space-time — leverage that previous satellites have been able to offer.

Facebook ‘defriending’ led to double murder in Tennessee

NEW YORK, 12 Feb — A reported by Reuters this week, 36-year-old Billy Payne Jr and his 23-year-old girlfriend, Billie Jean Hayworth, were both murdered after removing and blocking a woman previously on their Facebook friend’s list named Jenelle Potter. The parents of an 8-month-old baby boy named Tyler where allegedly shot and killed within their own home by Marvin Enos “Buddy” Potter Jr, the 60-year-old father of the blocked woman, as well as 38-year-old Jamie Lynn Card who has a romantic interest in Jetelle Potter. When police discovered the victims, Payne also has his throat slashed open and 8-month-old Tyler was found unharmed laying in the arms of his deceased mother.

When asked how Facebook played a role in the murder, Johnson County Sheriff Mike Reece stated “That’s basically what sparked it. Her life is spent at that computer. She’s had some health problems, and she wasn’t working.” Reece continued “It’s just a senseless thing. She’d been blocked on Facebook by Billy Jean. Once you cross her, it’s a big thing to her father, too. And he’s something to deal with.”

Kodak to stop making cameras, digital frames

A Kodak EasyShare digital camera is displayed at B&H Photo & Video, in New York, Eastman Kodak Co said Thursday it will stop making digital cameras, pocket video cameras and digital picture frames in order to focus on its more profitable businesses.

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Kano. Dozens of people died when a church was killed during a series of bombings in has staged a series of increasingly deadly was sacked shortly afterwards. Boko Haram embarrassment for the police, whose head the attack. accused of being a member of the Islamist masterminding the deadly bombing of a province, Thailand, on

Will halt US drone strikes: Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb—Head of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party Imran Khan has said his party will stop US drone strikes in the country if it comes to power. PTI will “free the nation from American slavery and US drones would be shot down”, the Dawn quoted Khan as saying. “It will ‘not let the US attack Pakistan via drone strikes’.” He was speaking at a public rally in Swabi in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province on Friday. Those in power should be embarrassed about the ongoing drone attacks that violate Pakistan’s sovereignty and kill innocent people, he said. Khan declared: “We want beg, we won’t take loans and will generate our own funds.”

Marines pictured in front of Nazi symbol

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb—Several US Marine snipers in Afghanistan posed for a photo in front of a flag bearing the symbol used by the Nazi SS, the Marine Corps confirmed. The photograph of the sniper corps team, deployed to Sangin district in southern Afghanistan’s Helmand Province in 2010, showed up on the Internet, the Los Angeles Times reported. The Marine Corps said Thursday the Marines, based in Camp Pendleton, Calif., had been assigned to one of its scout sniper teams, the newspaper said. The photograph showed them in front of a US flag with a flag bearing the Nazi SS symbol below. A statement by Lt Col Stewart Upton said those involved are not currently part of the unit. “Those involved acknowledged that the symbol could be misinterpreted and is not in keeping with our Marine Corps ethos and values,” the Marine Corps said. Marine officials were quoted as saying those involved were not Nazi sympathizers. The Military Religious Freedom Foundation has written Marine Corps Commandant Gen James Amos and US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta, urging the photo-graph be removed from the Internet and those involved in the incident be court-martialed, the Times reported. Col John Guthrie of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force’s office of inspector general said his office became aware of the photograph in November and got confirmation from a commanding officer in Afghanistan that the personnel were part of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion out of Camp Pendleton, the Times said. Subsequently, the Marine Corps is investigating an incident in which a video showed some Marines based at Camp Lejeune, NC, urinating on the dead bodies of Taliban fighters.

Iran, G5+1 talks likely in near future

TEHRYAN, 12 Feb—Iranian Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Salehi said on Friday that it is possible that nuclear talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany (G5+1) are to be held in near future, the official IRNA news agency reported. The G5+1 have some ambiguities and Iran is trying to clarify on those ambiguities, Salehi said, according to IRNA. But he did not elaborate on the nature of the ambiguities and Iran’s mechanisms to solve them. Salehi said that Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili’s letter to EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton has either been sent by now or it is going to be sent, therefore it is expected that the negotiations will be held in the near future, according to the report. Earlier this month, Salehi said that “Preparatory work has been done to go ahead with nuclear talks and consultations are underway to take next steps. I hope negotiations with the G5+1 will be held in the near future.” On 1 Feb, Salehi told the semi-official Fars news agency that Iran was ready to resume negotiations with the G5+1 and announced that Teheran would soon send a letter to the six world powers to announce its readiness for talks. “Mr (Saeed) Jalili’s Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator had earlier announced his readiness to hold talks with the G5+1 and he will announce this once again,” Salehi said, adding: “We hope that the meeting will be held not in a far future.” Nuclear talks between Iran and the G5+1 in Istanbul in January 2011 failed to reach any agreement as Teheran rejected any notion of suspending enrichment in exchange for trade and technology benefits, as called for by several UN Security Council resolutions passed since 2006. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said, on 1 Feb, that another meeting between the UN nuclear watchdog and Iran over its nuclear programme would take place in Teheran on 21 to 22 Feb.
Anawrahta Bridge brought about easy access between Chauk and Seikpyu in Magway Region

* The government built Anawrahta Bridge, the second Ayeyawady river crossing bridge, in Magway Region.
* The bridge was built with the aim of motorboats and watercraft plying east bank and west bank of Ayeyawady River to save time and to bring smooth and secure transport along the route.
* With the emergence of Anawrahta Bridge, transport between Chauk on east bank of Ayeyawady River and Seikpyu on west bank of Ayeyawady River has become swift and smooth. Meanwhile, due to the bridge, there emerged better transport among Saw, Pauk and Kyauktu on west bank of Ayeyawady River and Mindat and Kanpetlet in southern Chin State including regions in Seikpyu Township, thereby improving the socio-economic status of the local people.
* The poor transport of the past brought about development gap and friendship among regions. With the advent of the bridge, the national people of different regions have now been able to the fruits of development and to further cement friendly ties among them.

Facts about Anawrahta Bridge
1. The total length of the bridge is 5191 feet with the 4191 foot-long main bridge and the 1000 foot-long approach structure.
2. The upper part of the main bridge is of steel truss type and the lower part is of reinforced concrete piers.
3. The upper part of the approach structure is of reinforced concrete floor and the lower structure is of reinforced concrete piers.
4. It is complete with 28 feet wide motorway flanked by two six feet wide pedestrian lanes. The water clearance of the bridge is 350 feet and it can bear 60 tons of loads.
5. The construction of the bridge started on 26-7-1996 and completed on 10-3-2001.

Translation: MT

Russia to suspend children adoption by US citizens

MOSCOW, 12 Feb—The Russian Foreign Ministry on Saturday signaled that Moscow may temporarily suspend adoption of Russian children by US citizens following a series of mistreatment allegedly committed by American adoptive parents. In a statement posted on its website, the ministry listed a string of cases about US adoptive parents’ abuses of Russian children, saying that it is necessary to make some amendments to Russian laws to introduce stricter criteria for foreign adopters. “Regarding incessant series of crimes in the United States against adopted Russian children, Russian Foreign Ministry believes that the adoption procedures for the US citizens should be suspended until the Russian-US adoption deal, signed on 13 July, 2011, comes into force,” the ministry said.—Xinhua

Fidel Castro holds 9-hour talks with foreign intellectuals

HAVANA, 12 Feb—Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro had a nine-hour meeting on Friday with intellectuals invited to a book fair, the country’s official website Cubadebate reported on Saturday. Castro had discussions with intelle-cuals and writers from 22 countries during the meeting which started from 1:20 pm (1820 GMT) and lasted till 10:20 pm (0320 GMT Saturday), the report said. The main topic, according to Cubadebate, was the need of scientists and intellectuals to join hands to prevent the dangers threatening mankind like climate change and war. Among the guests were Argentine Nobel Peace laureate Adolfo Esquivel and other famous writers and journalists.—Xinhua
President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win greet those present at the reception to mark 65th Anniversary Union Day and dinner. (News on page 1)—MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Air) leaves for Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Delegation led by Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein left Yangon for Singapore to attend Singapore Air Show 2012 this morning. The delegation was seen off by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Huan Oo, the commander of Ayeyawady Naval Headquarters, the commander of Mingaladon Airbase, senior military officers and officials.

The commander-in-chief (Air) was accompanied by Col Lwin Oo of Office of Commander-in-Chief (Air), Lt-Col Tin Aung Tun and Col Han Win Htut. The show started today and ends 16 February.

Steel trusses being fixed at Ayeyawady Bridge

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Steel Truss Fixing Ceremony of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) was held on Michaungye bank this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe, Magway Region ministers, Managing Director of Public Works U Kyaw Lin and deputy managing directors, and officials. The Union minister and the chief minister fixed golden bolt at the steel truss, sprinkled it with scented water and lifted it.

Special Project Group (4) of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction undertook the construction of the bridge over the fourth defile of Ayeyawady River on Michaungye-Pahtanago road in Magway Township in Magway Region. The rail-cum-road bridge has the length of 3215 feet, the 2624-ft-long approach roads, 3939-ft-long and 38-ft-wide railroad, 28-ft-wide two-lane motorway, three-ft-wide sidewalks, 320-ft-wide and 57-ft-high clearance area. It will withstand 60 tons of loads.

Upon completion, it will play a significant role in development of the region as it joins Pathein-Monywa Road on western part of Ayeyawady River and Yangon-Pyay-Magway-Mandalay Road on eastern part.

Some Myanmar workers receive treatment for choking at factory fire in Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—A fire broke out at Thai Union Frozen Products Factory in Thasai area-7, Samut Sakhon, Samut Sakhon District in Maha Chai, Thailand, yesterday, and 37 workers were taken to hospital as they were choking in fumes.

About half of 37 workers—thirty-one Myanmar women migrant workers and six Thai workers—discharged from the hospital on the same day and the remaining patients will be discharged within three days.

The fire caused by the gas cylinder explosion started at the prawn cold storage room of the factory where over 8000 Myanmar workers and over 2000 Thai workers working.

Two helicopters fought the fire about 3.14 pm and managed to control the fire around 7 pm. Fire engines could not reach the factory as the entrance to it is narrow.

Deputy Minister emphasizes breeding of mythun in Mindat District

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye made a trip to Mindat, Matupi and Kanpetlet townships of Chin State from 4 to 7 February and met mythun breeders and other livestock breeding entrepreneurs.

He coordinated with departments concerned on development of mythun breeding industry.

In the meeting, the deputy minister explained arrangements for diversion of loans to breeders to be able to extend breeding of mythun and change of breeding system from semi-extensive system to semi-intensive system. He discussed current accounts for herds of mythuns and matters related to pasture land. Later, he attended to the need for establishment of the emergency lab to conduct the breeding centre in Mindat.

Uniforms presented to bus workers

YANGON, 12 Feb—Yangon North District All Private Bus Lines Supervisory Committee provided uniforms to bus workers at the hall of Insein Township General Administration Department on 29 January.

Yangon Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin presented 1700 sets of uniforms worth K 8,415,000 to bus workers.
65th Anniversary Union Day...
(from page 16)
At 7:30 am, the guard of honour of defence services (Army, Navy and Air) took position at the square. Chairman of 65th Anniversary Union Day Holding Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on the dais took salute of the guard of honour. Together with the guard of honour, the Vice-President and those present on the occasion saluted the flag to the accompaniment of the national anthem by band of the guard of honour.

The Vice-President read the message sent by President U Thein Sein.

In commemoration of 65th Anniversary Union Day, ministries, Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, roundabouts, Myanmar Gems Museum, Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Jade Garden, Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market and Thabyegon Market were decoratively illuminated by colourful lights.—MNA

Dy FM wraps up China visit
NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrived back here by air today from Beijing, the People’s Republic of China, after paying a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China, at the invitation of Mrs Fu Yin, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China.

On 8 February, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint and his Chinese counterpart had a bilateral meeting and the latter hosted a luncheon. The deputy minister paid a courtesy call on Mr Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. They had a discussion on further promoting existing bilateral relations and cooperation between two countries.

Deputy Minister U Maung Myint and Myanmar delegation also visited to Harbin, Heilongjiang Provinces and Dalian, Liaoning Provinces.

MNA

65th Anniversary Union Day observed in Myeik
NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—The 65th Anniversary Union Day was observed in Myeik this morning at Myoma Stadium. The attendees saluted Union flag and late martyrs.

Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo of Myeik District read out the message sent by President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Union Day.

After the ceremony, the deputy commissioner and the participants viewed educative booths of the government departments in commemoration of the Union Day.—MNA

Human-trafficking prevention and health knowledge shared
NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—An educative talk on prevention against human trafficking and health knowledge was given at Women Domestic Science Training School in Seikpyu on 7 February. Township Administrator U Ye Htut Naing spoke on the occasion and Police Captain Kyaw Soe of the township Police Force gave talk on knowledge about trafficking in person and head of the township Health Department Dr Than Than Chit on health knowledge.

MNA
**Russian engineer sentenced for spying**

**MOSCOW, 12 Feb**—A Russian engineer convicted of selling the CIA information on testing of strategic missile systems was sentenced in Russia to 13 years in prison for treason.

Lt Col Vladimir Nesterev had worked as a senior testing engineer at Plasetsk Space Centre, used mainly for launches of military satellites and tests of ballistic missiles, RIA Novosti reported.

“Nesterev has pleaded guilty on charges of selling information about testing of new Russian strategic missile systems to CIA officers in exchange for money,” the Russian Federal Security Service said in a statement.

Nesterev, sentenced to a high-security prison by a military district court, also was stripped of his rank, the FSB said. RIA Novosti said details about the closed-door trial were not available for national security reasons.

President Dmitry Medvedev said on Tuesday Russian

**Hackers attack Croatian president’s website**

**ZAGREB, 12 Feb**—Website of Croatia’s Presidential Office was attacked and shut down for hours by hackers on Wednesday night, according to a statement from the office.

The attack started at about 10:40 pm (2140GMT) Wednesday night, and the website went back to normal at around 1 am Thursday. Local media reported that the hackers claimed to be linked with the international hacker group named “Anonymous,” which carried out the attack in protest of Croatian President Ivo Josipovic’s supporting the controversial Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), the global anti-piracy and anti-counterfeiting agreement. The “Anonymous” threatened to attack again on Saturday. The Presidential Office said it would take necessary steps to protect the website.

**Italian small towns cut off, at least 53 killed by cold snap**

**ROME, 12 Feb**—Italy’s winter woes continued on Friday when snow fell heavily in much of central and southern Italy, cutting off a number of remote towns, amid forecasts over worsening weather in coming days.

Rome remained on high alert, with schools and public offices closed and snow-removal crews in place, in what most of the city endured rain and sleet during the daytime on Friday rather than a repeat of white covering that paralyzed the capital last weekend, according to the ANSA news agency.

Italy’s Civil Protection Department, however, warned that snow was expected to continue over the night in Rome. Lots of Romans stocked up on food stuffs on Friday in anticipation of possible shop closures or shortages, leaving many supermarket shelves empty and prompting price rises.

“There is heavy snow from Emilia Romagna down to the northern part of Calabria,” Paola Pagliara of the Civil Protection Department was quoted as saying by ANSA. The current cold snap has caused at least 53 deaths in Italy since the start of the month, including a 42-year-old homeless Romanian woman who was found frozen to death in Rome on Friday, ANSA reports said.

While forecasts have worsened, as much as 30 centimetres of snow were expected to fall in Rome, prompting the mayor to order drivers to put chains on their tires in an effort to thwart a repeat of last week’s massive traffic jams that trapped thousands of motorists for hours.

“There is already heavy snow and we are expecting more,” Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno, who has been sharply criticized for the city’s response to two feet of snowfall last week that brought the capital to a standstill for days.

The city has increased its stock of salt and snow plows and recruited more personnel, including inmates from Rome’s Rebibbia prison to disperse salt around local government offices at the Capitoline Hill.

According to local media, Rome has scrambled to ensure continued bus, metro and taxi services to disperse salt around local government offices.

**Children’s Theatre Festival kicks off in Nepal**

**KATHMANDU, 12 Feb**—The third Children’s Theatre Festival kicked off in Nepal on Friday, according to Swiss writer Anton Chekhov’s famous story Vanka adopted as a play in the inauguration. The week-long festival was organized by Nepal’s Shakespeare Theatre with the support of Russian Culture Centre.

Nepal. It aims to advocate child rights and help in the development of child psyche with the medium of theatre. Many children in Nepal are like Chekhov’s Vanka who comes from the countryside and is forced to work in the towns areas in houses, hotels and even as a conductor in public vehicle. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Shanta Das Manandhar, a veteran writer of the children literature in Nepal said that theatre is very important for the development of a person and a society. “This kind of children theatre festival would prove very fruitful for a child as he is the future of the nation,” he said.

Director of the Russian Culture Centre Stainslav Simakov said this kind of event will help for the overall development of children. “This will help children for their improved academic performances and their extra-curricular activities,” he said. Mahesh Poudyal, the translator of the play Vanka, told Xinhua that the main aim of the festival is to make every child aware of their rights and improve their ability. The festival will showcase different plays and at the end evaluate and announce prizes for the best drama throughout the festival.

**Nazi surgical set withdrawn from auction**

**LONDON, 12 Feb**—A set of surgical tools once used by a Nazi war criminal who oversaw a labour camp is being put up for auction in Britain. Villa Hall Auctions, a small auctioneer in Cornwall, southwest England, said on Tuesday the wooden box of equipment was engraved with the name of Anton Burger, an SS commander of the Terezin ghetto—a labour camp north of Prague in then-Czechoslovakia.

Disguised as a music box, the set contains instruments that would have been used in amputations, including a saw and scalpels. It belonged to the late Jewish man whose wife is the current owner.

The kit’s case contains scissors, scalpels, and saw-like knives. The equipment was originally made for a Mr Burger, the commandant of World War II concentration camp Theresienstadt.

**The previously missing jewels included a diamond considerably bigger than this one (file photo).**

**The seal of the Central Intelligence Agency sits on the table of the floor of the CIA Headquarters, Langley, Va.**

**INTERNET**

**INTERNET**

**In this image made available by Villa Hall Auctions UK on 7 Feb, 2012 a show a surgical kit said to belong to a Nazi war criminal who oversaw a labour camp is being put up for auction in Britain. Villa Hall Auctions, a small auctioneer in Cornwall, southwest England, said on Tuesday the wooden box of equipment was engraved with the name of Anton Burger, an SS commander of the Terezin ghetto—a labour camp north of Prague in then-Czechoslovakia.**

**INTERNET**

**‘Stolen’ $9m jewels found in drawer**

**THE HAAG, 12 Feb**—Five years after their disappearance, jewels thought stolen from the wife of the US ambassador to the Netherlands in 2006 have been found in The Hague. Dawn Arnall realised her $75m (£5.9m; $9.3m) gems were missing after staying in a Dutch hotel.

Unknown to her, the jewellery had been found and was held for safekeeping by the hotel, AFP reports before being given to an employee as unclaimed.

The employee, assuming the items were costume jewellery, forgot about them. Only after she recently found them in a drawer and took them to a jeweller for valuation did their true worth emerge.

They were then handed in to police and have since been returned to the US. Mrs Arnall, whose husband Roland was the US ambassador to the country prior to his death in 2008, had received an insurance payout for her loss.

It is not known if the Dutch hotel employee can expect a finder’s reward from the insurance company for returning the jewellery.

**INTERNET**

**INTERNET**

**A man drives a snowplow vehicle in San Gregorio Mattei, Italy, as temperatures sink as low as minus 33 Fahrenheit (minus 36 Celsius) in eastern Europe.**
Icy roads hazard after snow fell in England and Wales

The Met Office has issued "yellow" warnings, telling people "to be aware" of ice on the roads.— Internet

London, 12 Feb— The snow that fell in England and Wales overnight will turn to ice later, causing potentially hazardous driving conditions, the Met Office has warned. Snow fell in many areas, while other parts of the UK received sleet. Dozens of schools in England closed, including 30 in Staffordshire and Cheshire, one in Wiltshire, four in Lincolnshire and two in Cambridgeshire.

Temperatures will drop to -10C (14F) in rural areas and -4C (25F) in towns on Friday night, said BBC forecasters. The Met Office has issued "yellow" warnings, telling people "to be aware" of ice between 17:00 GMT on Friday and midday on Saturday in northern England and Wales.

Motorists should be aware that driving conditions could become hazardous, it said. A "level three" cold weather alert, issued by the Met Office on behalf of the Department of Health, also remains in place for England, telling people to "be prepared" for severe cold weather and icy conditions until Monday morning. The largest amount of snow overnight fell in Lincolnshire, which had up to 8cm (3in), and the coldest temperature, of -7C, was recorded at Houghton Hall in Norfolk.

Overfishing ‘costs EU £2.7bn each year’

London, 12 Feb— Overfishing of EU fisheries is costing £2.7bn (3.2bn euros) a year and 100,000 jobs, a report has said. The research, by the UK-based New Economics Foundation, said a third of Britain’s fish consumption could be met if stocks were allowed to recover. Separate research suggests that half of fishermen would not be willing to give up their livelihoods.

Last week, a report said there were reasons to be optimistic that fisheries could recover from past exploitation. “Overfishing is bad for the economy,” said report author Rupert Crilly, environmental economics researcher for the foundation’s Ocean2012 initiative. “With the stroke of pen, European fisheries ministers are wiping out millions of pounds and thousands of jobs each year by allowing overfishing to continue.”

The report, Lost at Sea, concluded that the restoring 43 of the continent’s fish stocks to their “maximum sustainable yield” (largest annual catch that can be maintained over the long-term) would result in an additional 3.5tn euros of fish fishing markets, “enough to meet the annual demand for almost 160m EU citizens”. It added: “Overfishing is the single most destructive force in the marine environment.”

Morocco opens North Africa’s biggest car plant

Tangiers, 12 Feb— The biggest car factory in North Africa has been officially opened in Morocco by the French Renault. The plant is in Meliloussa, a small town on the Mediterranean near Tangiers, and is close to Europe which offers tax benefits to manufacturers.

Low-cost cars will be produced under the Dacia brand for emerging markets and Renault executives say up to 10% of the production could be sold locally. It employs 2,000 local staff and intends to triple production by 2015. The BBC’s Nora Fakim in Tangiers says this could boost staff numbers to 6,000 and create up to 35,000 jobs indirectly.

In recent years, Morocco’s economy has been expanding thanks to free trade deals with international partners, but unemployment remains an issue—especially for graduates, who hold weekly protests outside parliament. Morocco’s King Moham- med VI attended the inauguration in Meliloussa, along with the country’s trade minister and the head of Renault.

Mexico City, 12 Feb— A suspected member of Mexico’s Zetas drugs gang has led authorities to two graves in Veracruz state holding 15 bodies, the Mexican navy says. Marines unearthed the decomposing corpses on two ranches near the town of Acayucan, in the south of the state. The suspect gave details of the two sites after being arrested when he tried to evade a military checkpoint.

Veracruz has seen a rise in violence in recent months, blamed on feuding between the Zetas and their rivals. Hundreds of bodies have been found in mass graves in the last few years, many of them in the northern state of Durango and Tamaulipas.

Marines went to the reported grave sites after a suspect identified as Juan Francisco Alvarado Martagon gave information to the authorities. Initially 10 bodies were found but officials later said a total of 15 victims had been recovered.

Overfishing cost five times more than the value of EU subsidies, the report says. Internet

Father forces son to run naked in snow

New York, 12 Feb— A man who made his young son run around and do pushups in the New York City snow in his underwear has incited outrage from people who say he is cruel.

The father, He Liehsheng, 44, a Chinese businessman, has been arrested when he tried to challenge limitations of his son’s wings, He told a Chinese newspaper.

“I believe I am helping my son in this way—to force him to challenge limitations and exceed his own expectations,” he said. Viewers of He’s video have voiced concern about his parenting tactics.

“You are torturing your child,” one viewer commented on the video.

Why didn’t you run with your son naked too?” said another.

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Two journalists killed at home in Bangladeshi capital

Dhaka, 12 Feb—Two Bangladeshi journalists were killed on Friday night at their residence in capital Dhaka, police said.

Police Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Benazir Ahmed told Xinhua by phone on Saturday that the two journalists were murdered and the reasons were still unknown.

Considering the case as a sensitive one, Ahmed said police will act quickly to arrest the killers of the two journalists.

Pakistan vehicle sales up

Islamabad, 12 Feb—Vehicle sales in Pakistan rose by 17 percent to 96,900 units in the first seven months of the current fiscal year compared to 82,767 units in the corresponding period last year.

The Pakistan Auto-mobiles Manufacturers Association (PAMA) has revealed the sales data of car and light commercial vehicles Friday. Daily Times reported Saturday. The sales of cars and commercial vehicles went up by 2 percent on a yearly basis to 14,967 units in January 2012, while it increased by 34 percent on a monthly basis.

Three Gorges Dam to work at full capacity in May

YANGTZE RIVER, China, 12 Feb—The Three Gorges Dam, the world’s largest hydropower project, will work at full capacity by the end of May, when the last two power units will become operational, Chen Fei, general manager of the China Three Gorges Corporation, said Saturday.

Including the four 700,000-kilowatt power units starting to generate electricity last year, the six units are situated inside the mountain on the right side of the river bank. Construction of underground hydropower station in central China’s Hubei Province began in July 2001 to harness the power of the water discharged during flood season on the Yangtze River, China’s longest waterway.

The Three Gorges Project, launched in 1993 with a budget equivalent to 22.5 billion US dollars, consists of a dam, a five-tier ship dock and a total of 32 hydropower turbo-generators. The 26 generators on the two sides of the dam had gone into operation as of October 2008, with each unit having a generation capacity of 700,000 kw.

The project generates electricity, controls flooding by providing storage space and adjusts shipping capacity on the river. Last year it generated 78.29 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity.

It also withstood three major floods last summer, taking the edge off the fierce flows by holding back the majority of the flood water in its reservoir to ease the flood’s impact on the river’s lower reaches.

The dam reservoir releases water in the dry season to ease droughts, particularly in downstream rice-growing areas.

I suggest using a medium-sized font for better readability.
**Puppy rescued from basement drain**

Animal rescuers in Detroit said a puppy spent 12 hours stuck in a basement drain before it was rescued.

Kevin Hatman, a spokesman for the Michigan Humane Society, said the group received a call around 8 am Thursday from a homeowner who said the dog, believed to be a dachshund mix about 1-2 months old, apparently crawled into the basement drain sometime Wednesday night and found itself unable to wiggle free, the Detroit Free Press reported Friday.

**Women sue over hospital baby switching**

A lawsuit two Russian women filed against the hospital where they were born in 1975 accuses medical workers of switching them at birth.

The women, identified in court documents as Archipova NM and Buanova OV, are seeking more than $100,000 compensation for the “moral trauma” they received as a result of being sent home with the wrong families from the Belyaevka village hospital, RIA Novosti reported on Friday.

The women said they have taken DNA tests that determined they were not genetically related to the people they thought to be their parents.

**Oscar organizers honour film science, technology**

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb—Hollywood Oscar organizers Scientific and Technical Awards on Saturday night, actress Milla Jovovich, a veteran of effects-driven movies like the “Resident Evil” franchise, confessed she knew little about what actually goes on behind the cameras.

“I’m not an expert in technology. However I will say that as an actor, I certainly benefited from the many innovations you bring to filmmaking,” she told a packed ballroom of technical wizards being honoured by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills.

The annual awards event typically overshadowed by the Academy Awards, Oscars, which will be given out on 26 February for the best film, performances, directing, best writing and other film work of the year.

**Kelly Rowland honoured at Black Women in Music bash**

Kelly Rowland is nominated for Best Rap Song at the Academy Awards, or Oscars, which will be given out on 26 February for the best film, performances, directing, best writing and other film work of the year.

**Only man in my life is my son: Bullock**

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb—Actress Sandra Bullock has denied reports she’s dating producer Jonathan Komack Martin, insisting the only man in her life is her son.

The 31-year-old has been romantically linked to Martin who is also the best friend of actor Ryan Reynolds. But the actress insists Martin is actually an old friend and not her latest love interest.

“For over a decade now, I have been so lucky to have Jonathon and Ryan as my friends, and I agree with the reports that they are both very handsome and a great catch,” contactmusic.com quoted Bullock as saying.

“But the only man who has stolen my heart is my son. And for now it wouldn’t be it any other way,” she added.

Bullock adopted Louis Bardo in 2010.

**Women over 50 sue over hospital baby switching**

A lawsuit two Russian women filed against the hospital where they were born in 1975 accuses medical workers of switching them at birth.

The women, identified in court documents as Archipova NM and Buanova OV, are seeking more than $100,000 compensation for the “moral trauma” they received as a result of being sent home with the wrong families from the Belyaevka village hospital, RIA Novosti reported on Friday.

The women said they have taken DNA tests that determined they were not genetically related to the people they thought to be their parents.

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“I’m not an expert in technology. However I will say that as an actor, I certainly benefited from the many innovations you bring to filmmaking,” she told a packed ballroom of technical wizards being honoured by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills.

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**Store shutting down over BBQ smell**

The owners of a boutique in a Chicago suburb said they are being forced to close down due to odors from the barbecue restaurant next door.

Honor Lorenzini and Mary Kral, owners of the Urban Sole boutique in La Grange, said they are shutting down the shop, which sells shoes, clothes and accessories, due to the constant odors from the Q BBQ restaurant next door, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

“Everything smells like smoke or barbecue. We can’t dry clean clothes before we sell them,” Lorenzini said. She said some customers have even returned items as a result of the odor.

Lorenzini said she and Kral spoke with the landlord and the restaurant owner, but they refused to do anything about the problem.

However, Q BBQ owner Michael LaPudus said his business is not to blame for the boutique’s closing.

“We have gone above and beyond in putting in a $6,000 exhaust system that gets the smoke up into the air faster, and it’s just unfortunate that they’re closing,” LaPudus said.

“It’s unfortunate they’re going out of business, and they’re desperate and trying to lay the blame on everyone else but themselves. I wish them well.”

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Guardiola says Barcelona at Real Madrid’s mercy now

Barcelona, 12 Feb — Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola admitted his side’s sinking hopes of hanging onto their La Liga crown were at the mercy of bitter rivals Real Madrid following the shock 3-2 defeat at Osasuna. “We lost the title,” said Guardiola on a freezing night in Pamplona. “We will see what happens. But we are a significant distance behind which I guess will increase on Sunday. The league will be more difficult for us now.”

“In the second half tonight we did well on this pitch but we should have done better in the first half. It was hard for us to get into this game but we have to congratulate Osasuna.”

The reigning La Liga and Champions League winners have struggled on their travels this season with just four wins and succumbed to their second defeat on Saturday.

Internet

Barcelona's Sergi Roberto (L) and Osasuna's Javad Nekounam during their Spanish League match on 11 February. 

Mali beats Ghana 2-0 for 3rd place at African Cup

Malabo, 12 Feb — Mali beat 10-man Ghana 2-0 in the last-place match at the African Cup of Nations for its best finish since it lost the 1982 final. Cheick Diabate scored twice for Mali, which avenged its 2-0 defeat to Ghana in the group stage. Ghana ended their campaign with successive losses after its surprising loss in the semifinals to Zambia. Diabate pounced on a rebound to put Mali ahead in the 23rd minute and then slid in for the goal that sealed victory with 10 minutes left. Ghana’s Isaac Vorsah was ejected in the 64th minute. France and South Korea are in the last three African Cups and haven’t won the title for 30 years. In Libreville, Gabon, on Sunday, Ivory Coast is favored to win its second African Cup title when it plays Zambia.

Internet

Mali’s Abdoulaye Youssouf Maiga, right, fights for the ball with Ghana’s Daniel Tawiah Opah during the African Cup of Nations third place soccer match against Ghana in Malabo Stadium in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 11 Feb, 2012. — Internet

Milan's Philips Mexes clashes with Udinese's Antonio Di Natale (L) during their Serie A football match at the Friuli Stadium in Udine. 

Milan go top after come-from-behind win

Udine, 12 Feb — Youngster Stephan El Shaarawy was the hero as AC Milan hit back from a goal down to defeat Udinese 3-2. The defending champions had given fourth-placed Udinese, who came into the game unbeaten at home this season, a first half lead but Maxi Lopez equalised before El Shaarawy snatched the winner five minutes from time.

Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri was understandably delighted with the result, which ended a run of three games without a win, particularly given how the game seemed to be going against at half-time. However, he was coy about the significance of this result would have in the title race.

“It was a great game for us, although I don’t know when it will be decisive (in the title),” he said. “Everybody played very well, like Maxi Lopez. He gave us depth and substance in attack and also he scored the equaliser.”

Internet

US sweeps Federer’s Swiss team out of Davis Cup

FEBRUARY, 12 — Given a supposedly tough draw in the Davis Cup, the United States is off to an exhilarating start. It swept Roger Federer and Switzerland in the first round, with Mardy Fish and Mike Bryan winning the doubles match on clay, a surface selected by Federer to exploit what was perceived an American weakness. But Fish and Bryan, paired for the first time in more than three years, were clearly up for this challenge Saturday before a Swiss crowd that at times turned angry. They defeated Federer and Stanislas Wawrinka, the reigning Olympic champions, 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3. “This is probably going down as one of the most memorable (wins),” said Bryan, who played on the 2007 winning team. The doubles victory gave the Americans a 3-0 lead in the best-of-five, first-round series. Fish and Bryan built on the momentum from Friday’s riveting singles matches when John Isner stunned Federer in four sets and Fish outlasted Wawrinka in five. This was a big step forward for our guys to come in here and play against a team of this caliber,” US captain Jim Courier said. “Our attitude remained strong all the while and we were ready for whatever. That is what you need for any road trip.”

Handling partisan fans is among those demands, and sections of the crowd of some 7,000 were not pleased in the least when Bryan hit Federer and Wawrinka with volleys at close range. The US will again be on the road for the next round of Davis Cup, an April 6-7 quarter-final against France or Canada. France leads that match-2-1 in Vancouver/Brith Columbia. — Internet

Tottenham hit the offside of the Spyglass Hill golf course during the third-round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament on 11 Feb, 2012, in Pebble Beach, Calif. — Internet

Charlie Wi hit off the third fairway of the Spyglass Hill golf course during the third round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament on 11 Feb, 2012, in Pebble Beach, Calif. — Internet

Ponchai Rese, 12 Feb — Charlie Wi played bogey-free at Spyglass Hill for a 3-under 69 to build a three-shot lead on Saturday in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Now it is time for him to face his demons of self-doubt — along with a familiar rivalry in golf.

Tiger Woods took another step toward showing his game is nearly back. He ran off five birdies in a six-hole stretch early in his round at Pebble Beach and had a 5-under 67 that put him four shots behind going into the final round, the closest he has been to the 54-hole lead in a regular PGA Tour event since the 2010 Masters.

With a new swing, it’s starting to look like the old Tiger. “But the scenario doesn’t change,” Woods said. “The ultimate goal is to win a golf tournament.”

That’s something Wi has never done in 162 previous PGA Tour events. — Internet

World champion Blake opens season with lifetime best

KENNEDY, 11 Feb — Jamaican world 100 meters champion Yohan Blake opened his 2012 Olympic season with a lifetime best of 10.05 in the best of five 100-meter heats at the Camperdown Classic on Saturday. The man seen as the major challenger to world record holder Usain Bolt’s sprint titles at the London Games looked set as he shaved three tenths of a second off his three-year-old previous best of 10.08. He was passed in the last 10 meters by world 4x400 relay bronze medalist Allegria Ferguson who won in 46.28 seconds.

“It’s a wonderful feeling because as you can see I ran a personal best, so the season is going quite well,” Blake told Reuters. “I am much stronger this year and also much faster, running 46.4 in my first outing is wonderful.”

This fine form will be put to the test in Sunday’s Olympic trials at the National Stadium in Kingston. — Internet

Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake competes at the men’s 100m at the Camperdown Classic at National Stadium in Kingston on 11 Feb, 2012. — Internet

Tottenham striker Emmanuel Adebayor scored a late goal to down Newcastle at White Hart Lane. Adebayor set Benoit Assou-Ekotto to open the scoring after just four minutes and then up strike partner Luis Saha to score his first for Spurs since returning from a broken leg. Saha smashed in a second and then Niko Kranjcar slotted home to make it 4-0, with Adebayor hooking in a goal of his own to complete the scoring.

Internet

Wi maintains the lead as Tiger charges
Odemwingie treble piles on misery for Wolves

Wolverhampton Wanderers’s Stephen Ward vies with West Bromwich Albion’s Nigerian player Peter Odemwingie during their English Premier League football match. Odemwingie’s hat-trick inspired a 5-1 thrashing of their local rivals in the Albion’s biggest win at their hated rivals’ home since 1962.

Korda wins Women’s Australian Open

289 in the first women’s professional event at Royal Melbourne, the historic sand-belt layout that was the site of the 2011 Presidents Cup.

Stained glass windows of the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. The Hagia Sophia, or Church of the Holy Wisdom, is a former Orthodox patriarchal basilica, later an imperial mosque, and now a museum in Istanbul, Turkey. It was built by Justinian between 532 and 537 AD at the site of an earlier church dedicated to Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom). The building was commissioned by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I and completed in 537.

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

Weather forecast for 13th February, 2012

Stationery, assistance provided

Finance minister wounded in Congo plane crash

Crime reduction talked

KINSHASA, 12 Feb—Democratic Republic of Congo Finance Minister Matata Ponyo Mw战 was seriously injured in a plane crash on Sunday that claimed the life of President Joseph Kabila’s chief adviser, the government said.

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IN Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Feb—In accord with the objectives of 65th Anniversary Union Day: to build the Union for its perpetual existence through the strength of national unity; all the national people to uphold Our Three Main National Causes forever; to endow the national people with Union Spirit; to strive for ensuring eternal peace for all the national races and to build a modern and developed Union by practising discipline—flourishing democracy in accord with the constitution, State flag-hoisting ceremony to mark 65th Anniversary Union Day along with saluting ceremony with the constitution, State flag—hoisting ceremony to mark 65th Anniversary Union Day together with all the national races representatives and distinguished guests, totaling over 2300, were also present on the occasion. Beginning 5 am, ministry staff, social organization members and national races representatives gathered at the square of the City Hall, and took designated positions. Flag-hoisting company hoisted the State flag atop pole at 5:30. (See page 9)

Chairman of 65th Anniversary Union Day Holding Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham reads out the message sent by President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Union Day.—MNA

Aungmyay Village BEMS (Branch) gets new school building

YANGON, 12 Feb—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win attended a ceremony to open Aungmyay Village Basic Education Middle School (branch) in Kawa Township, Bago District yesterday. The region chief minister together with Region Social Affair Minister Dr Kyaw Oo and donor Thita Thudhamma Manizawdawya U Ngwe Shein formally opened the new school building.

The region chief minister then visited Thyetgyen Village Basic Education High School (Branch) and station hospital where he provided cash assistance to patients. U Ngwe Shein donated $1.5 million for construction of operation theater to the hospital.—MNA

PawU Library opened in Madaya Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—PawU Library was opened in Nandawgun village in Madaya Township of PyinOoLwin District in Mandalay Region on 7 February. Moectar Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suriyabebbivamsa, Madaya Township Administrator U Aung Swe Myint and Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw May Thu Myint formally opened the library. Region Hluttaw Representative U Ko Lay and officials donated publications to the library.—MNA

US-style alcohol tests to be used for problem drinkers

PAGE 4

Kindergartners who can pay attention may reap benefits later

PAGE 4

Milan go top after come-from-behind win

PAGE 14

US sweeps Federer’s Swiss team out of Davis Cup

PAGE 14

Lescott scores as Man City beat Aston Villa

BRUMS, 12 Feb—England defender Joleon Lescott preserved Manchester City’s two-point lead in the Premier League by scoring a second-half winner in a 1-0 victory at Aston Villa on Sunday. Lescott hooked in a far-post nod-down by Gareth Barry in the 63rd minute to settle a match City dominated at Villa Park. Villa missed two great chances to equalise in a late rally, however, with an unmarked Carlos Cuellar heading over from six yards and Darren Bent’s close-range effort drawing a fine reaction from City goalkeeper Joe Hart. With 13 matches remaining, City maintain their narrow advantage over Manchester United, with Tottenham five points further back in third. Meanwhile, Peter Odemwingie scored his first Premier League hat-trick as West Bromwich Albion beat local rivals Wolverhampton Wanderers 5-1 on Sunday. Steven Fletcher cancelled out Odemwingie’s opener to level the scores at 1-1 at the break before West Brom ran away with the game in the second half.—Internet