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.

Established 1914

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ANCIENT CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Ancient cultural heritage must be preserved through not only strength of the State but also that of wellwishers, entrepreneurs, NGOs, people and international organizations**

NA Y P Y I T AW, 18 Feb—At Bagan Archaeological Museum in Bagan Ancient Cultural Region of NyaungU Township on 15 February morning, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the Workshop on Preservation of Bagan Region Cultural Heritage and Construction of Historical Park (or) Archaeological Park in Future, jointly organized by Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Myanmar Engineering Society and Myanmar Architects Association.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that Bagan region is a land of ancient pagodas and religious edifices and showcase of Myanmar ancient cultural heritage. It is one of the tourist destinations, he said. Thus, he said that the workshop was aimed at preserving the ancient cultural heritages in Bagan for their perpetual existence.

He noted that the workshop is to seek the ways to maintain the Bagan region ancient cultural heritage for perpetuity and construction of Historical Park (or) Archaeological Park step by step. In so doing, he stressed the need to focus on maintenance of the heritages without deviating their original styles and emphasized maintenance works on religious point of view.

He suggested that the workshop should discuss ways and means in six sectors. With regard to first section, the workshop is to seek ways of preservation, conservation, restoration and renovation of the brick, stone and wooden-made ancient heritages, masonry works, relieves, stone inscriptions, glaze works, mural paintings, ink inscriptions and horoscopes for their perpetuity. The second section is to build new structures of roads, landscapes, electricity, toilets, souvenir shops, fast food construction of production roads and digging of drains at 228-acre modern farm in Aungchantha Village of Zabuthiri Township, 11 species of Vietnamese Palethwe hybrid paddy strain, hybrid sunflower plantation and dragon fruit plantation at Chaing Village in Dekkhinathiri Township.

The union minister proceeded to Zabuthiri Township where he looked into cultivation of four species of Palethwe hybrid paddy strain on 100-acre modern farmland in Tegyigon region, and nursery of Palethwe hybrid paddy strain on 100-acre mechanized farmland near Kyagu Village of Dekkhinathiri Township.

NA Y P Y I T AW, 18 Feb—At 369-acre modern farmland in Ayinlo Village of Pyinmana Township, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, this morning instructed district manager and officials of Myanmar Agriculture Service to supply water for agriculture purpose to local farmers as water sufficiency is a key to thriving summer paddy. Agriculturalists are to make field trips and provide local farmers with agricultural methods in order that the latter to secure the highest production of Palethwe hybrid paddy, he said.

Afterwards, the union minister inspected soil preparations, thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations inspected in Nay Pyi Taw

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Afterwards, the union minister inspected soil preparations, construction of production roads and digging of drains at 228-acre modern farm in Aungchantha Village of Zabuthiri Township, 11 species of Vietnamese Palethwe hybrid paddy strain, hybrid sunflower plantation and dragon fruit plantation at Chaing Village in Dekkhinathiri Township.

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MNA

**Thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations inspected in Nay Pyi Taw**

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**Deputy ministers inspect accommodations of displaced persons in Kachin State**

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MNA

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) under construction to shorten distance

P A G E 7

P A G E 8
Conserve beauty of mountain ranges forever

In topographical conditions, the land of Myanmar with Bago mountain range at the center is rounded by Shan mountain range called Shan plateau in the east, Rakhine mountain ranges and Chin mountain ranges in the west, ice-capped mountain ranges in the north and Taninthayi coastal line and mountain ranges in the south.

In fact, mountain ranges are natural origins of artery rivers namely Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin, Sittoung and so on. Streams, springs and small waterfalls join together as creeks. Combination of creeks emerges rivers. In reality, mountain ranges embellish natural beauties of rivers.

Beauties of mountain ranges and that of rivers are in pairs. However, scenic beauties of mountain ranges are degrading gradually due to forest fire, land reclamation, logging and mining works.

In early summer period, forest fires break out on mountains frequently. Before rainy season, growers set trees on the hills on fire to set up croplands. Moreover, making charcoal and cutting firewood cause barren hills.

Nowadays, climate change across the world is becoming worse year by year. Deforestation and forest fire are root causes for worsening the climate. The global countries face natural disasters caused by climate change such as forest fires, droughts, floods and storms yearly.

With a view to protecting the ecosystem of the nation, officials concerned are to raise environmental conservation by urging and educating the local people not to reclaim more cropland and set forests on fire.

NLM hails Valentines Day

NAV PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Nowhere in our country is the Valentines Day more significant than in The New Light of Myanmar where seven couples got married within a period of one year after the daily moved to its new location in Nay Pyi Taw.

Zarni was a carefree guy and nobody in The New Light of Myanmar thought he would get married when they all arrived at Nachangon. Unexpectedly, he was the first to get married in Nachangon that is renamed Khayaybin crossroad.

Concerning the above-mentioned cases, Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee summoned U Gambhiru for three times in vain but Su Yangon Region Police Force took him to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee on Kabas Aye Hill in Mayangon Township on 10 February. SSMNC Chairman Dr Bhaddanta Kumaara Bhivavasana ordered U Gambhiru to follow the admonition of the SSMNC Sayadaws and U Gambhiru gave a written guarantee of following the Sayadaws’ advice to the letter, agreeing to receive punitive actions either by Sangha organization law or existing laws in case of violation of his assurance. U Gambhiru thought a guarantee was requested the Sayadaws to let him present 10-point letter to the SSMNC on behalf of the whole Sangham members. In his letter, U Gambhiru revealed his objection to the phrase “committing offences without permission” in the notice of the SSMNC to him, to ordering Swenyaway monk U Pinnya Sila to leave Sadhu Buddha Tekkatho Monastery within one month, and denouncing of SSMNC for doing nothing for release of 43 monks included in 415 prisoners. Moreover, although SSMNC Sayadaws asked him to rejoin religious order in line with code of conduct for Buddhist monks, U Gambhiru replied that it has no concern with a monk like him and he wouldn’t request to let him rejoin the religious order. His response was seen as a slap in the face of the SSMNC Sayadaws, offensively blackening their reputation. His actions are an insult to educational prestige, moral prestige and prosperity prestige of the SSMNC, disrupting code of conduct for members of Sangha. Furthermore, neglecting of his words such as “objection, denounced—” to the national-level Sangha organization constituted with 47 venerable monks will make monks and person with dark attitude to be too daring to commit the similar cases.

So the SSMNC Sayadaws felt heartaches and wished for legal actions as Dhamma actions is no more possible. Punitive actions will be taken against U Gambhiru (a) Candobhasa (a) Nyi Nyi Lwin, 33 who, under complete political spell, has repeatedly broken Buddhist monks code of conduct and laws that every citizen need to abide by, in consideration of religion, Sasana and purity of Sasana.

Coord meeting on drafting sectoral agreement for construction Kalotehta Dam to be used in Dawei Special Economic Zone

NAV PYI TAW, 18 Feb — A coordination meeting on drafting sectoral agreement between Irrigation Department and Italian-Thai Development Public Co Ltd to build Kalotehta Dam to be used in Dawei Special Economic Zone was held at Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry yesterday, with an address by Deputy Minister U Khin Zaw. The coordination meeting was aimed to discuss required technologies and environmental conservation works in construction of Kalotehta Dam and piping of water to the special economic zone for consumption and industrial process. The Italian Thai Co is reported to be making survey and to design and construct the dam. It is reported that Dawei Water Supply Co Ltd needs to make draft of sectoral agreement and present to the related ministries from Myanmar side urgently to smooth the way of the project. Vice-President (Project) Dr Nattawyd Udayasen of Italian Thai Development Public Co Ltd explained facts about Kalotehta Dam Project and progress in pre-engineering surveys. Technical Expert Dr Suda Bunduung of the company explained work plans for supply of quality water to the special economic zone.

U Gambhiru not only commits offences but also insults national-level Sangha organization after his release from prison

Legal actions to be taken in consideration of religion, Sasana and purity of Sasana as Dhamma action no more works

NAV PYI TAW, 18 Feb — The authorities concerned are taking legal steps to bring U Gambhiru to trial. U Gambhiru who was released from the prison on 13 January by amnesty and rejoined the religious order the same day without request will have to face the charges of squatting in Magin Monastery in Thimguangy Township which is sealed by the government in accordance with laws without permission, and forcing the locks of Sasana Theikpam Monastery and Sasana Gonyi Monastery in Kyaukhtiena Pagoda in Bahan Township.

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Cambodia’s ruling party wins 46 seats, opposition 11 in Senate race

PHNOM PENH, 18 Feb—The Cambodian People’s Party (CPP)/Prime Minister Hun Sen gained 46 seats and Sam Rainsy Party (SRP), the country’s main opposition party, won the remaining 11 seats in the election for the third legislature of the Senate last month, according to the official results released by the National Election Committee (NEC) on Saturday. Top Nytha, NEC’s secretary general, said that among the 57 elected senators, 8 are women—six belong to the CPP and two are in the SRP. The Jan. 29’s election had only the two parties in contest, and the voters were only 119 Members of Parliament and 11,351 commune councils. Although the CPP has 61 seats, but the election was held for only 57 seats as two senators will be nominated by the King and the other two by the National Assembly.

According to the constitution, the Senate will hold its first session no later than 60 days after the election. Before taking office, the Senate will decide on the validation of each member’s mandate and vote separately to choose a president, vice president and its members of each commission by a two-third majority vote, it said. Cambodia’s 57-seat Senate election is held once in six years. The last one was in January 2006, at that time three parties—Cambodian People’s Party, royalist Funcinpec and Sam Rainsy Party—joined the race. As a result, the CPP won 45 seats, the royalist Funcinpec 10 seats and the Sam Rainsy Party two seats.—Xinhua

Obama’s top advisor to visit Israel

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb—The White House said on Friday that President Barack Obama is sending his top advisor Tom Donilon to Israel at a time when speculation is rife about an imminent Israeli strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities.

The president’s National Security Advisor Tom Donilon will travel to Israel on 18 to 20 February for consultations with senior Israeli officials about a range of issues, including Iran, Syria and other regional security issues, the White House said in a statement.

It called the trip the latest in a series of regular and high-level consultations between the two countries, “consistent with our strong bilateral partnership, and part of our unshakeable commitment to Israel’s security.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday called Iran “the most irresponsible” country in the world, saying sanctions against Teheran over its controversial nuclear programme had “haven’t worked.”

US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta was quoted as saying early this month that Israel could attack Iran soon as this spring.

Israel also accused Iran of being behind the recent attacks on its embassy personnel in India, Georgia and Thailand.—Internet

Terror suspect arrested near US Capitol

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb—An Alexandria, Va., man was arrested on Friday as he allegedly prepared to blow himself up at the US Capitol in a suicide bomb attack, Capitol Police said.

Amine El Khalifi, 29, who is from Morocco and living in the United States illegally, was arrested at a parking garage several blocks from the Capitol, carrying a vest that was supposed to be packed with explosives but actually posed no risk to the public, federal prosecutors said. He was also carrying a gun that he allegedly planned to use on any officers who tried to stop him.

The arrest was the culmination of an undercover operation and the being was closely monitored by the FBI, the US Justice Department said.

El Khalifi allegedly thought undercover FBI agents assisting him were members of the Quraysh Mosque.

US Attorney Neil MacBride said El Khalifi “devised the plot, the targets and the methods on his own.” Prosecutors said El Khalifi had also proposed attacks on a building that contained US military offices, as well as a synagogue and a restaurant that was frequented by military officials.—Internet

Fifth bombing suspect identified: Thai police

BANGKOK, 18 Feb—Police have identified the name of the fifth suspect who may have been involved in Tuesday explosions in downtown Bangkok, Thai News Agency reported on Saturday.

National Police Bureau Chief Pol Gen Priwpan Dhamapong told reporters on Saturday that investigators identified the fifth suspect who appeared on surveillance camera footage but he had already left Thailand.

The camera captured images of him walking from the rented house where the first bomb apparently exploded by accident.

According to the surveillance record, he had left the house between 7.8 am local time on Tuesday when the first explosion occurred on the same day at a rented house in Soi Sathorn 71 in downtown Bangkok that afternoon.

However, Gen Priwpan did not revealed the name of the fifth suspect.

He merely said that the investigation was ongoing and until now no additional arrest warrants were sought from the court.

Thailand’s Criminal Court on Thursday issued arrest warrants for four Iranians on various charges related to Tuesday’s Bangkok bomb incidents.—Xinhua

Three insurgents killed, eight detained in Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Feb—Three insurgents were killed and eight others sustained injuries during joint operations launched by the Afghan forces and NATO-led troops in four Afghan provinces, the country’s interior Ministry said on Saturday.

According to the Ministry, Afghan army and International Coalition Forces launched four joint operations in Kunar, Nangarhar, Kandahar and Helmand provinces over the past 24 hours killing three armed insurgents and detaining eight others, the ministry said in a statement.

The joint forces also seized 70 AK-47 guns besides destroying three Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) said the Ministry.

Afghan forces and NATO-led coalition troops have intensified cleanup operations throughout the past—Taliban country recently. Over 140 insurgents have been killed and more than 530 others detained by joint forces since beginning this year, according to the Interior Ministry.

Afghan officials often use the word “insurgents” referring to Taliban.—Internet

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping (L) and his US counterpart Joe Biden smile as they meet with governors of Chinese provinces and US states in Los Angeles, the United States, on 17 Feb, 2012.—Xinhua

An Afghan child carries a brick at a brick factory on the outskirts of the city in Herat, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 11 Feb, 2012. Thousands of Afghan children work to make money to support their families in Afghanistan.—INTERNET

Pakistan suicide attack toll reaches 32

PESHAWAR, 18 Feb—A local official says the death toll from a suicide attack in a majority-Muslim area in west Pakistan has reached 32. Wajid Ali, who is an administrator in the town of Parachinar in the Kurram region, said Saturday that nine people had died in hospitals since the Friday blast, which was initially reported to have killed 23.

Another 67 were injured when on a motorcyclist detonated his explosives in the Parachinar’s market. Ali said security forces later shot and killed four people who took to the streets to protest. Violence by Sunni extremists against Shites is common in Sunni-Muslim areas.

The Kurram region has seen outbreaks of sectarian bloodshed in recent years.—Internet

President Barack Obama (R) looks at an overhead compartment of a Boeing Dreamliner during a visit to a production facility of a Boeing plant in Everett, Washington, US Internet.

Map of Pakistan showing the location of Parachinar in the northwestern tribal belt—a largely Shiite Muslim area.—where a suicide bomber attacked a market on Friday.—INTERNET

Internet
Body clock ‘alters’ immune system

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — The time of day could be an important factor in the risk of getting an infection, according to researchers in the US. They showed how a protein in the immune system was altered by changes in the chemistry of the body through the day. The findings, published in the journal Immunity, showed the time of an infection changed its severity. An expert said drugs were likely to take advantage of the body clock in the near future.

Plants, animals and even bacteria go through a daily 24-hour routine, known as a circadian rhythm. Jetlag is what happens when the body gets out of sync with its surroundings after crossing time zones. It has been known that there are variations in the immune system throughout the day. Researchers are now drilling down into what causes the details. The immune system needs to detect an infection before it can begin to fight it. Researchers at Yale University School of Medicine were investigating one of the proteins involved in the detection process — Toll-like receptor nine (TLR9), which can sense DNA from bacteria and viruses. In experiments on mice, the scientists showed that the amount of TLR9 produced and the way it functioned was controlled by the body clock and varied through the day.

The clinical trial reports growth came from North women from

Dietrich, 18 Feb — US carmaker General Motors reported record profits in 2011 but unveiled huge losses in its European operations. The firm made a profit of $7.6bn ($4.85bn) over the year, up 62% from 2010. However, it lost $700m in Europe, which includes its UK Vauxhall plants in Ellesmere Port and Luton, and made a $100m loss in South America. The firm, which faced bankruptcy two years ago, saw sales rise 7.6% last year to more than 9 million vehicles. Much of its growth came from North America, where profits more than tripled to $7.1bn in 2011. GM has announced it will give up to $7,000 each in bonuses to 47,500 eligible workers across the world — compared with $4,300 a year ago. In 2008, the firm filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and received a $50bn bailout from President Barack Obama’s administration, with the US government now owning 32% of the firm. In the US, the firm has about 4,500 staff, making the Vauxhall Astral van, estate and hatchback models. General Motors’ chief financial officer, Dan Ammann, said: “Behind the scenes, we are working hard to eliminate complexity and cost throughout the organization to improve margins in all of our regions and return Europe and South America to profitability. However, he did not disclose whether this would mean job cuts. Some analysts were disappointed that GM failed to give a detailed forecast for 2012. “A lack of guidance leaves GM shares shrouded in the thick fog of macro-uncertainty,” said Adam Jonas of Morgan Stanley.

BENGALURU, 18 Feb — Apple Inc’s share of China’s smartphone market slipped for a second straight quarter in the fourth quarter of 2011 amid competition from Chinese rivals as some consumers delayed purchases to wait for the iPhone 4S launch. China has not been an easy market for Apple, with the US technology giant having to deal with a lawsuit from a Chinese company over the iPad name and issues at its suppliers’ plants over working conditions. In the world’s largest mobile phone market, where the number of subscribers is set to hit 1 billion this year, there is keen competition from vendors such as South Korea’s Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, and domestic players Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and ZTE Corp. “Chinese handset makers have been actively promoting their smartphones with China’s three telecommunications operators, so we saw ZTE and Huawei gain significant market share,” said Taipei-based analyst CK Lu at research firm Gartner.

Apple’s market share fell to 7.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011, from 10.4 percent in the previous three months. Huawei’s share rose to 12.6 percent, while ZTE’s was up at 11.1 percent, Gartner data showed. Samsung displaced Nokia Oyj as the top smartphone vendor in China during the fourth quarter, data obtained by Reuters showed. China Unicom, the country’s No 2 telecoms operator, is the only carrier to officially carry the iPhone. The market expects the third and smallest operator China Telecom Corp Ltd to next link in a similar deal with Apple later this year.

Food & drink

Bengaluru, 18 Feb — Nestlé has signed a four-year agreement with Indian food processor Patanjali Ayurved Ltd to supply its ‘PureLips’ chocolate with a digesting enzyme from yeast. The enzyme, which is known to help break down more of the chocolate, will be added to the chocolate bars, making it easier for people to digest. Nestlé, which owns a wide range of brands including Nescafé, Smarties and Milka Bar, said its business in emerging markets grew 13.3%.

Developed markets, such as Europe, grew only 4.3%. The company’s overall sales fell to 83.6bn Swiss francs, from 110bn Swiss francs in 2010. However, the firm’s 2010 sales had been boosted by Nestlé’s sale of its 53% stake in eye-care firm Alcon to Novartis for 25bn Swiss francs. The Swiss franc soared in 2011, raising the cost of Nestle’s exports to clients in other countries. Nestle said the effects of foreign exchange had a negativeimpact of 13.4%. Last month, Nestle announced that it was moving its UK headquarters from south London to west Sussex after negotiations with its old site in Croydon were dead. The move comes as part of the company’s efforts to reduce costs. The company’s shares fell by 2.3% on Monday, as the news dragged down the share prices of other consumer goods companies. The company’s shares fell by 2.3% on Monday, as the news dragged down the share prices of other consumer goods companies.
**Goat kids can develop ‘accents’**

London, 18 Feb — Pygmy goats can develop an “accent” similar to each other, and same social groups were also similar to each other, and became more similar as the kids grew older. “This suggests that goat kids modify their calls according to their social surroundings, developing similar ‘accents’,” Dr Briefer suggested that the social structure of the goat should be the motivator behind the convergence in calls.  

**Humans have about 100 broken genes each**

London, 18 Feb — A new analysis of 185 human genomes indicates that every one of us has about 100 “broken genes.” Some of these lost genes cause harmful effects, many seem innocuous, and some even seem to have some benefit. Figuring out what’s normal in the genome can help researchers better understand disease (and the mutations that can cause it).  

“Currently, there are thousands of disease patients who are having their genomes sequenced as part of studies all around the world,” study researcher Daniel MacArthur, of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in the United Kingdom, told LiveScience. “Our study will make genome sequences easier to interpret — for instance, researchers will be able to see whether the DNA changes they find in their patients are in genes that have been shown to be nonessential in our study, meaning they’re less likely to be disease-causing.”  

The researchers looked specifically at human’s 20,000 protein-coding genes, which are genes that direct the production of proteins, the molecules that do most of the work in our cells. Protein-coding genes make up only about 1.5 percent of the human genome, the rest are regulatory elements and other unused DNA sequences.

**Patents: Apple wins over Motorola in ‘slide-to-unlock’ ruling**

Munich, 18 Feb — Apple has won a patent dispute against Motorola Mobility regarding a “slide-to-unlock” feature on smartphones.  

The judgement marks Apple’s first patent victory over Motorola in any part of the world. Patent consultant Florian Mueller said the ruling could affect patent disputes involving Android device makers worldwide. Motorola said it planned to appeal the judgement with “no impact” on supply or future sales. A spokesperson for the Motorola said: “Today’s ruling in the patent litigation brought by Apple in Munich, Germany, concerns a software feature related to phone unlocking in select Motorola devices sold in Germany. “Motorola has implemented a new design for the feature. Therefore, we expect no impact on current supply or future sales.” Apple said it would not be commenting on the decision. Motorola Mobility is in the process of being acquired by Google, and most of its handsets run on the search firm’s mobile operating system, Android. The Android system is Apple’s closest rival in the mobile market. Mr Mueller, a patent expert who has in the past consulted for Microsoft, described the ruling as a “very significant win for Apple against Android.” “After Google closes the acquisition of Motorola Mobility, the Apple-Motorola Mobility dispute will soon gain importance transcending that of the global battle with Samsung,” he said Whitley’s decision relates solely to activity in the German market. The decision could potentially help Apple with other patent disputes in other parts of the world, Mr Mueller added.

**Curb the car dashboard technology, government asks**

Washington, 18 Feb — Auto dashboards are becoming an arcade of text messages, GPS images, phone calls, and web surfing, the government says, and it is asking carmakers to curb those distractions when vehicles are moving. Manufacturers have been loading up higher-end vehicles with an array of built-in gadgets in an effort to tempt car buyers who want to multi-task behind the wheel in today’s increasingly connected society. But the technological advances have raised concerns that drivers’ attention is being diverted too much from the road. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on Thursday proposed voluntary guidelines for manufacturers, including a recommendation that they design dashboards so that distracting devices are automatically disabled unless the vehicle is stopped and the transmission is in park. “We recognize that vehicle manufacturers want to build vehicles that include the tools and conveniences expected by today’s American drivers,” said NHTSA Administrator David Strickland. “The guidelines we’re proposing would offer real-world guidance to automakers to help them design dashboards that provide features consumers want without disrupting driver’s attention or sacrificing safety.”  

Gloria Bergquist, vice president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, said carmakers will review the guidelines, which have a 60-day comment period. She noted that the industry has had its own voluntary guidelines since 2002. “Drivers are going to have conversations, listen to music, and read maps while driving and automakers are helping them do this more safely with integrated hands-free systems that help drivers focus on the road,” Bergquist said.

**Mobile money — has its moment come?**

London, 18 Feb — Take two scenarios where mobile technology should be able to make our lives easier. A migrant worker in Kenya wants to send your family some money without having to get on a bus and travel for days. A group of young professionals in London goes out for a meal with friends, and when one person pays, the others need to settle up with him.  

In the first case, the money transfer system M-Pesa has been allowing people to transfer cash across the country for years now, proving hugely popular. In the second, it only becomes possible today for anyone with a smartphone to send cash to their friends and see it transferred instantly. The Barclays Pingit system uses a smartphone app to permit person-to-person cash transfers of up to £300. Users who have an account with Barclays — and from March anyone with a UK bank account — can download the app, link it to their phone number, and then send cash to anybody who has linked their mobile number to their account.  

This looks like a big step forwards in the long delayed mobile money revolution. When it comes to turning the phone into a wallet, this country — and much of Europe is in the slow lane compared to some countries in the developing world. In Kenya, the M-Pesa mobile money transfer system was launched in 2007 and is now woven into the fabric of everyday life. In Africa, where just about everyone has a mobile phone but only a minority have a bank account, banking on the move seemed the obvious answer to all sorts of problems.
Britain mints coin honouring Titanic

BELFAST, 18 Feb — The British Mint has created a coin observing the 100th anniversary of the 1912 sinking of the Titanic, which killed more than 1,500 people.

Royal Mint engraver Lee Robert Jones designed the 5 pound ($7.91), depicting the doomed ship and Thane, the goddess of death, the Belfast (Northern Ireland) Telegraph reported Friday.

“Thanе, the goddess of death, is to reflect the significance of the event. In the image of Thane receiving the body of a seaman was used on the Titanic Memorial in Belfast. The Thаinc sank after hitting an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean 15 April, 1912 — on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York. All but 705 of the 2,228 people on board died. “The passing of 100 years has not lessened the interest in the tragic outcome of her maiden voyage, the personal stories of those on board or the achievement of the iconic ship as a feat of British engineering,” said Kevin Clash, director of the Royal Mint Museum. “The Royal Mint’s coin will mark this occasion, we hope, will be passed on to future generations to honor the lives that were lost, underlining the significance of RMS Titanic in British history.”

Though the coin is considered legal tender, the Royal Mint will not release it to circulation. The coin has been made available for purchase for $20.56 — or $33.62 for a silver proof.

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Falklands tension: Argentina condemns UK MPs visit

LONDON, 18 Feb — Argentina has condemned a planned visit to the Falkland Islands by UK MPs as another sign of Britain’s “militarisation” of the South Atlantic. The plans for a visit by members of the Commons defence select committee emerged on Tuesday.

Tension over the islands — which Argentina claims as the Malvinas — has been rising in the run-up to the 30th anniversary of the Falklands war.

The UK has rejected Argentina’s calls for talks on the islands’ sovereignty. “The UK has transformed the Malvinas into the cornerstone of a system of military bases thousands of kilometres from London to control the South Atlantic, inter-oceanic routes, and the approaches to Antarctica,” Argentina’s foreign ministry said in a statement. It also repeated its claim that Britain had sent a nuclear submarine to the region.

Members of the select committee have said their visit was not intended to exacerbate tensions with Argentina. Labour member Thomas Docherty said the Falklands were “an appropriate place” for the committee to visit, given the presence of British troops there. The last such visit was in 1999. The UK government has dismissed Argentinian accusations of militarisation as “absurd” and says its defensive military posture has not changed.

Plane carrying marijuana strays into Obama LA airspace

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb — A small plane with more than 20 pounds of marijuana strayed into restricted airspace around President Barack Obama’s helicopter on Thursday in Los Angeles, prompting US F-16 fighters to rush to intercept it, officials said.

The two F-16s were scrambled from March Air Reserve Base, east of Los Angeles, by North American Aerospace Defence (NORAD).

Iran announces some nuclear “achievements”, defies western sanction threats

TEHRAN, 18 Feb — Iran announced some nuclear “achievements” on Wednesday in defiance to the western sanction threats. In a ceremony held in Teheran, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad unveiled several fuel rods, new generation of centrifuges and a number of radioactive medicines.

In the ceremony, Ahmadinejad, symbolically, fed a home-made fuel made out of 20-percent enriched uranium into the core of Teheran Research Reactor. State TV broadcast live a ceremony in which Ahmadinejad was briefed about the process of production and performance and then he fed a rod into the core of Teheran Research Reactor.

Simultaneously, the TV showed other “achievements” in Iran’s nuclear technology, including the radioactive medicines for the treatment of cancer. Ahmadinejad also unveiled a new generation of centrifuges for uranium enrichment. In live broadcast footage, the TV model of the forth generation of domestically-made centrifuges was presented. At the same time, a live video from Iran’s central Natanz enrichment site displayed a chain of new generation of centrifuges.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2nd, L) attends an unveiling ceremony of a new generation of centrifuges for uranium enrichment in Teheran, Iran, on 15 Feb, 2012. In the ceremony, Ahmadinejad, symbolically, fed a home-made fuel made out of 20-percent enriched uranium into the core of Teheran Research Reactor. — Xinhua

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Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) under construction to shorten distance

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) across Ayeyawady River will link Nwenyein Village, Kyaukmyaung Sub-township, Shwebo Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Region and Singu Township, PyinUoLwin District, Mandalay Region.

Bridge Project Special Construction Group (14) of the Public Works under the Ministry of Construction has been building the bridge since 16 April, 2010.

Upon completion of the bridge, one can travel to Mogok in Mandalay Region, Momeik and Mabein in Shan State and Sieu, Mantha and Mansi in Kachin State via Mandalay-Madaya-Bhamo-Myitkyina through Singu in the east bank of Ayeyawady River.

It will also create a smooth link Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina road, Shwebo-Ayadaw-Monywa-Yagyi-Kalay road and Thekelgyin-Mongpyin-Homalin-Htanmanthi-Khamti via Nwenyein-Kyaumkyauk-Shwebo road on the west bank of Ayeyawady River.

The bridge will bring about connectedness and social cohesion among national brethren who were separated by rivers and mountains, fostering the national solidarity.

Facts about Yadana Theinga Bridge

1. The bridge is 2480 feet in total length.
2. It has 28-ft wide two-way motor lane, flanked by three-ft wide pedestrian walks.
3. Its clearance is 320 feet wide and 47 feet high and it can withstand 75 tons load per vehicle.
4. The bridge superstructure is of RC type with 1.5 meter diameter RC type bored piles foundation and upper structure is of steel truss and RC type floor.

Translation: TKK

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Autism impairs kids’ motor skills

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb—Autism hampers the development of motor skills in children, say scientists. Autistic kids often have problems developing motor skills, such as running, throwing a ball or even learning how to write. But scientists have not known whether those difficulties run in families or are linked to autism.

Now, new research at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis points to autism as the culprit. "From our results, it looks like motor impairments may be part of the autism diagnosis, rather than a trait genetically carried in the family," said lead author Claudia List Hilton, PhD, assistant professor in occupational therapy and an instructor in psychiatry.

"That suggests that motor impairments are a core characteristic of the diagnosis," Hilton noted. The researchers studied 144 children from 67 families in which at least one child had a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder as well as at least one biological sibling in the same age group.—Internet

Harvard offers students $100,000 prize

CAMBRIDGE, 18 Feb—The president of Harvard University has offered $100,000 to students who come up with solutions to some of the world’s biggest problems.

“The world’s most pressing problems need no borders and to better address them we need to work across boundaries to formulate solutions,” Harvard President Drew Faust said in a statement on Wednesday. The President’s Challenge, hosted by the new Harvard Innovation Lab, is intended to get students from different disciplines to respond to problems such as poverty and global warming, the Boston Herald reported. The 2012 Challenge will kick off later this month when a faculty panel will select five important social issues to be presented to students. The 10 teams participating in the challenge will be announced in early April.

A grand-prize winner and up to three runners-up will be named and awarded a share of the $100,000 prize shortly before commencement.—Internet
Information on Kaladan River Multi-Model Transit Transport Project clarified

YANGON, 18 Feb—Chairman of Implementation Committee for Kaladan River Multi-Model Transit Transport Project Managing Director U Cho Than Maung of Myanmar Port Authority delivered an opening address at the press briefing on Kaladan River Multi-Model Transit Transport Project at the MPA Office on Panodan Street, here, on 15 February.

Chairman of the Supporting Committee of the Project General Manager U Kyaw Khin, Deputy Chief Engineer (Road) U Khin Maung Kyaw of Public Works explained matters related to the project and conclusion of meeting.

Project Coordinator Mr Nu Mi of IWAI of India discussed important role and impact of the project on environment and Manager Mr Htay Thet of Ministry of Science and Technology, professors of the Technological Universities, chairmen, executives and scholars of MES and MAA.

The workshop focused on basic factors and requirements for construction of Historical Park (or) Archaeological Park, rules and standards for renovation of ancient buildings and maintenance theories, experiences on maintenance of pagodas and stupas of Pyu and Bagan eras, damage of ancient buildings due to rain water and ways for protection, progress in renovation of architectural works at Bawtawgyi Pagoda of Pyu era, difficulties in maintenance of ancient buildings in Bagan region, special studies on Shwezigon Pagoda and its environs regarding management for maintenance works, structural view on ancient religious edifices in Bagan region, and maintenance of architectural heritages at Buddhist monasteries in central Myanmar.

The tasks will be continued to draw a Master Plan based on the discussions, suggestions and reviews.

The participants of the workshop made a field trip study to ancient pagodas and stupas in Bagan on 16 February.

Mine blasts in Namkham Township

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—A wire was found in the ground under a vehicle of workers from Namkham Township Public Works between Hankam Village and Mantmaing Village, one mile west of Shweili Suspension Bridge in Namkham Township at 6:20 pm on 15 February.

After the vehicle had left there, an explosion occurred from the place of wire. However, there was no injury of human and animal and damage of material.

According to the information given by a duty conscientious people, one hand-made mine made of motorcycle battery container packed with black-coloured plastic sheet was found by the roadside, about 100 feet from the entrance to Mantmaing Village in Namkham Township at 7:45 am on 16 February.

It is estimated that the project will cost US$ 74 million and the highway, US$ 140 million.

On 14 February, a new briefing on implementation of the project was held and it was attended by reporters of periodicals, social organizations of Rakhine and Chin states. —MNA
The Union Minister for Information and for Culture meets heads of
District/Township IPRDs

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan held a meeting with heads of District/Township Information and Public Relations Departments at NyaungU District IPRD in NyaungU on 15 February morning. At the meeting, the Union Minister heard reports presented by heads of NyaungU, Myingyan and Pakokku District IPRDs, Myaing, Seikpyu, Yesagyo, Natogyi, Taungtha, Myingyan, Kyaukpadaung, Chauk townships and Ngathayauk Sub-township IPRDs on establishment of village libraries, wall-magazines and raising reading skills.

The Union Minister stressed the need to organize departments, local people and well-wishers to become IPRDs as libraries for the youth, facilitate the libraries meeting five-point standards for raising reading skills of local people and helping essay and extempore talk contests for students, disseminate the people on reforms of the nation, eternal peace, national reconsolidation and development of the country and create the departments to become information centres of the State in respective regions.

Later, he viewed publications and wall-magazines displayed at the library. —MNA

Work coord meeting on resettlement of displaced persons in Kachin State held

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsang, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, Kachin State ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Tun Tun, and Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives U San Tun and U Khet Hnin Nan, Secretary of National Human Rights Commission U Sit Myaing and officials on 13 February held a meeting at the Kachin State Government Office and discussed matters on resettlement of those who were displaced since 15 June due to security reasons in Kachin State.

First, the Kachin State Chief Minister clarified about assistance provided by the State Government and social organizations for those who were displaced since 15 June due to security reasons in Kachin State, steps being taken by the Union Government and UN agencies to tackle the increased number of displaced persons, arrangements for students of displaced persons to continue pursuing education and requirements of displaced persons being accommodated at camps.

Afterswards, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Zaw Win and U Phone Swe and personnel held discussion for home-returning of displaced persons in Kachin State. —MNA

Special Refresher Course No. 79 for basic education teachers concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Special Refresher Course No. 79 for basic education teachers concluded at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint.

It was also attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Member of Union Civil Services Board Dr Win Myint and personnel, 1499 trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Aye Myint said education is key to human resources development, especially the basic education sector. As the government is promoting national education to reach international standard, teachers from different regions are to accomplish their duties with devotion. Teachers themselves need to try hard for improvement in personal qualities. As the matriculation exam is the one and only national examination organized by the State, teachers are to monitor the exam to be fair, disciplined and without cheating. He urged the teachers to bolster the nation character and strive to overtake the expected 95.5 percent literacy rate of the entire nation in 2015.

Union Minister awarded outstanding trainees and presented certificates to trainees. Next, Union Minister U Aye Myint and Union Minister Dr Mya Aye cordially greeted the trainees. —MNA

Dy Education Minister visits schools in PyinOoLwin

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu visited Pyinnsa model village Basic Education Primary School in PyinOoLwin Township this morning. In meeting with principal board of trustees, the township education officer, the headmistress and teachers, he called them to train students to become morally good, polite and disciplined ones, stressing the quality of education.

He then attended the stake-driving ceremony for construction of two-storey school building in Pyinnsa model village Basic Education High School (branch) and viewed round the classrooms and sports ground of the school.

Later, he visited Anisakhan BEHS and coordinated essentials for the school. He inspected progress in construction of self-reliant new BEPS building in Aungthuka Ward (Kachinsu), Sinkaunggyi Village-tract in Ward (17) and attended to the needs. —MNA
Tabodwe (January-February) is a cool month in Myanmar. A Myanmar saying goes “so cold as to freeze the tips of the buffalo’s horns”, that is how cold it gets in the central parts of the country in Pyatho (January) and Tabodwe (February).

But it is also the time when the first harvest is gathered. The paddy crop had ripened but it is the paddy species known as “kuak nyin” or the glutinous/sticky rice that are first harvested. In Myanmar this first harvest is offered to the pagodas and monks, and to friends and neighbours too, in order to benefit. Tabodwe is known as the month when the Htamane (sticky rice) making competitions are held.

The people of Myanmar had, however, organized these occasions into a community-based and joyful event. They organize competitions to make the finest sticky rice. Teams of youth representing their own neighbourhoods enter these competitions with good spirits, sometimes accompanied by traditional “doebut” (a music group) and their own group of fans.

The glutinous rice (either white or black variety) is put in a huge iron wok. Water and oil are added and stirred by muscular teams of youths. Slowly other ingredients are added too. These will include coconut shavings, sesame seeds, groundnuts, sliced ginger etc. To enhance the flavor, encouraged by their fans the teams stir and stir. Seems so easy at first. But slowly it gets harder and harder as the rice grains soak up the water and swell and consequently the whole wok becomes one sticky mess of glutinous matter. The sticky mess clings to the long paddles and makes it very difficult to stir. But the youths cannot be bothered. A lively discussion is going on.

They need to discuss the latest world news sitting around a table while sipping green tea. But all in all, everybody is happy and having a good time.

Soon the glutinous rice is ready. All reverently take the first plates to the pagoda and the monks. Packets are also prepared to be distributed to neighbours and friends. These will be taken around by the children with much fun and shouts. Other friends who had come here are also warmly welcomed and invited to partake the glutinous rice.

These traditional sticky rice preparation competitions are held all over the country during the Myanmar month of Tabodwe (February). Many are held at monasteries and pagoda compounds but some also in residential areas. No invitations are necessary or needed. Just walk into any competition and you will be warmly welcomed.

By Hpone Thant (Enchanting Myanmar)

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 19 February, 2012
Children ‘watch same level’ of junk food ads despite TV rules

LONDON, 18 Feb — Children are still exposed to the same level of junk food advertising despite tighter regulations, research suggests. The UK regulations ban the advertising of foods high in fat, salt or sugar during children’s programming. Newcastle University academics said 61% of adverts seen by children were about junk food before the ban — the figure was 7% after the ban. They said young people do not just watch children’s programmes, to which the rules apply.

The researchers measured the amount unhealthy food advertising six months before the restrictions were introduced in 2007, and again six months after they were fully implemented in 2009. They linked this data to how many people saw the adverts, and found there was a rise in the promotion of less healthy items such as crisps, sugary drinks and cereals containing large amounts of sugar.

Trade, tourism keep Dubai economy growing

DUBAI, 18 Feb—Dubai’s economy will continue to grow in 2012 despite persistent contraction in its once rapidly-booming construction sector, thanks to healthy trade and tourism, an official and economists said on Wednesday. Growth in the gross domestic product of the debt-laden emirate is “expected to be over 4.5 percent this year,” said Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, the head of the Dubai Economic Sector Committee.

The forecast by Dubai’s Department of Economic Development (DED) is also around 4 percent for 2012. Thissina “responsible” GDP growth driven by over six percent growth in tourism, and similar rates in trade and manufacturing, in addition to transport, said DED chief economist Mohammad Lahouel.

The growth will continue “despite a continued decline in construction,” he said at the Dubai Economic Outlook 2012 forum.

Lahouel said the final figures on GDP growth achieved in 2011 were not out, though he expected they should be around three percent, “a little bit over two percent,” he achieved in 2010. Standard Chartered’s Maratheftis, the bank’s head of research for Western Hemisphere.

“We think it is good given that 2011 was a good year,” said Maratheftis, the bank’s head of research for Western Hemisphere.

“Growth achieved in 2011 were not out, though we link this data with a good year,” said Maratheftis, the bank’s head of research for Western Hemisphere.

A slower rate of growth is not bad news because the quality of growth is improving, he said. “The fundamentals of Dubai are pretty healthy and strong. Construction will continue to be negative, but I think it is good news because focus is shifting towards productive sectors,” he said.

Threatened butterfly vanishes in last Flra refuge

BABA HONDA KEY, 18 Feb—For more than a year, Bahia Honda State Park biologist Jim Duquesnel traversed the nature sanctuary with two hopes. He wanted to see a Miami blue butterfly and rid the Florida Keys outpost of as many iguanas as he could.

The reason: The Central American invader may be driving the Miami blue into extinction by eating the leaves which it lays its eggs — a diet of butterfly caviar in every bite. No confirmed Miami blues have been seen on Bahia Honda since July 2010, and with each passing day it becomes less likely any exist there. The US Fish and Wildlife Service last August issued an emergency listing of the Miami blue as an endangered species and three similar butterflies — casius blue, cerulean blue and nickerman blue — as threatened. The emergency listing continues through April, and federal officials may make it permanent.

In the listing, federal officials noted that the only surviving Miami blue population appears to be a couple hundred living in the Key West National Wildlife Refuge, about 50 miles west of Bahia Honda. Still, Duquesnel has tried to keep hope alive — and eradicate the iguana from his 600-acre park in the Middle Keys.

Perhaps, he says, a half dozen Miami blues survive on some corner of the island, waiting for the right weather to emerge.

And if that happens and the weather starts changing and if Miami blues start breeding, we want to find this a good place to be doing that like they used,” he says. “In this case, that means it will be lacking in iguanas.”

If the Miami blue makes a comeback, it wouldn’t be the first. The pale blue butterfly — about the size of a quarter — was once ubiquitous in the hardwood hammocks, pines and scrub along the Florida coasts from the Keys north to Tampa Bay on the Gulf Coast and Cape Canaveral on the Atlantic. But the region’s development and a list of emergency of the Miami blue as an endangered species.

Cyclist says helmet saved his life

BRISTOL, 18 Feb—A British cyclist thrown off his bike when a bus driver rammed into him says his helmet saved his life. Phillip Mead, 43, was knocked off his bicycle when Gavin Hill, 29, swerved into him in a bout of road rage. The Daily Telegraph reported.

On 5 April, Hill cut Mead off as the two were travelling down a steep. At a stop light, Mead tagged at one of the bus’ windshield wipers and was thrown off, at a slow pace, in front of the bus.

The bus was then caught on camera trying to catch up to Mead and swerving into him, running him over.

Mead suffered a broken leg, fractured wrist and thumb, but said he couldn’t die if he had not been wearing a helmet.

“Without my helmet it could have been a lot worse — I could have been killed,” he said.

Mead said he felt “no anger” toward Hill, who was sentenced to 17 months in jail for the incident Thursday after pleading guilty to dangerous driving and causing grievous bodily harm. “It goes to show how one bit of [road] rage can affect so many people’s lives,” Mead said.

“It has affected me and my family — but also now him and his family now he has gone to prison. But I do not feel any anger towards him now. In fact, I feel really sorry for his family.”

Britons come home after 36 years at sea

LONDON, 18 Feb—Globe-trotting Brittons Bill and Laurel Cooper have returned home to retire after spending 36 years at sea, The Sun reported on Friday. The couple have sailed the equivalent of four times around the globe since setting off in 1976.

They have been travelling around on boats they built themselves since Bill quit his high-flying job in the city and they sold their home in Chatham, Kent. Over the past four decades they have hooked up nearly 100,000 nautical miles sailing across seven seas, stopping in 45 different countries.

They’ve also battled 25 feet waves, hurricanes, winds of 100 mph and got close enough enough to dolphins, sharks and whales.

And they even once had a one-eyed cat called Nelson on their boat. Former Royal Navy Commander Bill, 83, said: “We’ve had a wonderful time but I’m afraid I have been over-taken by what you could call ill-health.

“When I got to about 78, I thought this isn’t going to go on forever so we built a boat we could manage when old age really strikes we call it the ‘geriatric boat.’

“We will get used to the life here. I plan to write a book and decay gently,” Laurel, 82, added: “We have had an absolutely amazing life, I wouldn’t wish to change it for the world. ’I’m very happy looking back at all the wonderful places we’ve been, the people we’ve met and the adventures we’ve had. ’We’ve been very lucky and we always knew it wouldn’t last forever.”

The couple met in 1945 and started sailing together on the Norfolk Broads two years later, with Bill as the captain and Laurel as first mate.
CARGO SHIP SINKS KILLING EIGHT IN EAST CHINA

Fuzhou, 18 Feb—A cargo ship with 11 aboard sank in waters off China's southeastern coast on early Saturday, leaving at least eight crew members dead.

A spokesman of the maritime rescue center said noon rescuers had saved one person, recovered eight bodies, and were still searching for the remaining two missing. The Xinyuanshun 6 cargo ship, registered in Beihai of China's Guangxi, was carrying 5,000 tonnes of pottery clay to the coastal Shandong Province when it sank off the coast of Chongwu in Fujian Province at about 3 am, the spokesman said.

The vessel might have capsized after goods slid to one side of its hold, he added. Eleven boats and two helicopters were involved in the rescue, battling strong winds and rough seas, the spokesman said.

The robbers entered the Olympia museum, around 7:30 am Friday and when a female guard refused to hand over the pieces, she was tied up and gagged. The robbers "approached the museum’s guard, tied her hands and bound her mouth and then went into the museum, where they took 65 to 68 small clay and brass small statues, and a gold ring, and put them in a bag and left". CNN said quoting police.

The operation was sanctioned by the prosecutor’s office of the southern Italian city of Potenza and was the result of an investigation initiated a year ago by the Potenza prosecutor and Swiss authorities.

The China set to overtake US in diamond consumption

BEIJING, 18 Feb—China is expected to overtake the US to become the world’s largest diamond-consuming country in 2016, Ari Epstein, CEO of Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC), said on Friday.

China’s demand for diamonds has grown sharply in recent years with its rapid economic development. Many Chinese regard diamonds as a token of love as they are traditional gifts in wedding ceremonies, while others buy the stones with the hope of maintaining and increasing the value of assets. Epstein said, reported Xinhua.

The sun’s newswroom on Friday in an attempt to reassure staff that will not close server the paper following the arrest of senior staff members over alleged corrupt payments. He told colleagues the newspaper was “part of me” and described it as “one of our proudest achievements”.

The Sunday version of the paper —The Sun on Sunday— would launch “very soon”. Murdoch visited The Sun’s newswroom on Friday in an attempt to reassure staff that will not close server the paper following the arrest of senior staff members over alleged corrupt payments. He told colleagues the newspaper was “part of me” and described it as “one of our proudest achievements”.

Arrested Sun journalists can return to work

 London, 18 Feb—News Corporation chairman Rupert Murdoch has said that suspicions had been lifted on Sun newspaper employees arrested over allegations of payments to police officers, The Telegraph reported on Friday.

In an email, he said a Sunday version of the paper —The Sun on Sunday— would launch “very soon”. Murdoch visited The Sun’s newswroom on Friday in an attempt to reassure staff that will not close server the paper following the arrest of senior staff members over alleged corrupt payments. He told colleagues the newspaper was “part of me” and described it as “one of our proudest achievements”.

The study is the first to look at puzzle play in a naturalistic setting, based on an analysis of 53 child-parent pairs from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

Researchers video-recorded parent-child interactions for 90-minute sessions that occurred every four months between 26 and 46 months of age.

Both boys and girls who played with puzzles had better spatial skills later, according to an analysis of video recordings.

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The Logos Hope is reflected on a puddle of water as it docked in Pier 15 in Manila, the Philippines, on 17 Feb, 2012. The Logos Hope is the world’s largest floating book fair which displays and sells books in a wide range of subjects such as art, philosophy and technology.

Puzzle solving helps infants pick up math skills

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb—Children who love to play with puzzles between two and four years of age develop better spatial skills later, according to an analysis of video recordings.

The children who played with puzzles performed better than those who did not on tasks that assessed their ability to rotate and translate shapes, said Susan Levine, professor of psychology and maths expert at the University of Chicago, who led the study.

The video recordings of parents interacting with children at home showed that kids who play with puzzles between 26 and 46 months of age have better spatial skills when assessed at 54 months of age, the journal Developmental Science reported. Activities such as early puzzle play may lay the groundwork for the development of this ability, the study found, according to a Chicago statement.

The study is the first to look at puzzle play in a naturalistic setting, based on an analysis of 53 child-parent pairs from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

Researchers video-recorded parent-child interactions for 90-minute sessions that occurred every four months between 26 and 46 months of age.

China's demand for diamonds has grown sharply in recent years with its rapid economic development. Many Chinese regard diamonds as a token of love as they are traditional gifts in wedding ceremonies, while others buy the stones with the hope of maintaining and increasing the value of assets. Epstein said, reported Xinhua.

The sun’s newswroom on Friday in an attempt to reassure staff that will not close server the paper following the arrest of senior staff members over alleged corrupt payments. He told colleagues the newspaper was “part of me” and described it as “one of our proudest achievements”.

The Sunday version of the paper —The Sun on Sunday— would launch “very soon”. Murdoch visited The Sun’s newswroom on Friday in an attempt to reassure staff that will not close server the paper following the arrest of senior staff members over alleged corrupt payments. He told colleagues the newspaper was “part of me” and described it as “one of our proudest achievements”.

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Both boys and girls who played with puzzles had better spatial skills, but boys played with more complicated puzzles than girls, and the parents of boys provided more spatial language during puzzle play and were more engaged in play than the parents of girls.

The operation was sanctioned by the prosecutor’s office of the southern Italian city of Potenza and was the result of an investigation initiated a year ago by the Potenza prosecutor and Swiss authorities.

The China set to overtake US in diamond consumption

BEIJING, 18 Feb—China is expected to overtake the US to become the world’s largest diamond-consuming country in 2016, Ari Epstein, CEO of Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC), said on Friday.

China’s demand for diamonds has grown sharply in recent years with its rapid economic development. Many Chinese regard diamonds as a token of love as they are traditional gifts in wedding ceremonies, while others buy the stones with the hope of maintaining and increasing the value of assets. Epstein said, reported Xinhua.

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Two Asian teenagers visiting Canada will go home with scary memories of a drunken man entering their home, playing the piano and using a skateboard, police say. News emerged Thursday about the incident at a home in Saanich, British Columbia, where the two teens were staying with relatives, the Victoria Times-Colonist reported.

Sunday afternoon, one of the teenagers heard the piano playing and went downstairs to find an inebriated man at the keyboard. Saanich Police Sgt. Dean Jantzen told the newspaper. As the girl went to call police, the man made some racial slurs and then went outside and began playing on a skateboard, Jantzen said. Police arrived and the man became violent and police prepared to take a break test. He was arrested and charged with breaking into a home and refusing a breath test.

Outside the home, officers found a pickup truck with a U-Haul trailer attached. Police suspect the 23-year-old man had earlier crashed the truck but continued driving it to the alleged break-in site on three wheels and a broken axle, Jantzen said.

Beyoncé to bounce back with two albums

LONDON, 18 Feb—Motherhood hasn’t let Beyoncé Knowles to slow down on the work front. She is working on two new albums post the birth of her baby daughter Blue Ivy last month. The R&B superstar, whose is married to rapper Jay-Z, took some time off the spotlight in 2011 while she was preparing for the arrival of her first child, but her songwriting pal Ryan Tedder reveals Beyoncé is already setting her sights on a chart comeback, reports dailystar.co.uk.

“She has been really busy setting up the new album but I have to say she is really efficient. I needed a week to write five songs but she did it within four days. She is a phenominial filter and she fans shouldn’t get too excited as her debut album when the new albums will be released. ‘All I can say is you kind of feed her the best that you have and she’s this phenominial filter and she takes it all in,’ he said. Beyoncé’s last album, “4”, hit music retailers in June 2011.—Internet

Man gets six months for shooting TV

A North Dakota man who admitted shooting a TV because he was angry about the volume has been sentenced to six months in jail.

Daryl Lee Nikle, 56, of Grand Forks, pleaded guilty in Grand Forks County District Court to a charge of reckless endangerment and the court ruled he will receive credit for time served and will be able to serve the remainder of the sentence on electronic home monitoring or work release, the Grand Forks Herald reported Wednesday. Police said Nikle asked three people in his home to turn down the volume on the TV just after 4 a.m. on Feb. 25 and fired his .44 Magnum handgun at the set when they refused. Investigators said the bullet went through the wall of his home.

Nikle was also ordered to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation.

MADONNA NAMED 'GREATEST WOMAN IN MUSIC'

LONDON, 18 Feb—Madonna still reigns as the Queen of Pop, according to a poll of the 100 Greatest Women in Music. The Material Girl came out on top of the survey by VH1, which aims to rank accomplishments made in the last 20 years. The 53-year-old singer is followed by Mariah Carey and Beyoncé, who take the second and third spots respectively, the Daily Express reported.

Actors Brad Pitt and George Clooney attend the Critics’ Choice Awards on 12 January, in Los Angeles, California.—INTERNET

Clooney praises Pitt

LOUISVILLE, 18 Feb—Actress George Clooney has heaped praises on Brad Pitt and says the latter is “one of the great guys” in Hollywood.

Clooney has praised Brad for being one of his best friends in the movie business, but insists they don’t hang out as much as people think he does.

“Brad is one of the great guys. We’re good friends, but it’s different from what people think — meaning we don’t spend a lot of time together. He has been to my home in Como; we motorcyle together. But until recently, I hadn’t seen Brad in a year,” the Hollywood Reporter quoted the “Descendants” star as saying.

Clooney is known to be a huge prankster in Hollywood, and even played numerous pranks on Pitt, especially when they filmed “Ocean’s Eleven” and its sequels.

But the 50-year-old insists the 48-year-old actor has got him good on a few occasions.

“A couple of years ago, he (Pitt) really nailed me. He did one of those shows and they asked him when he was going to marry Angie, and he said, ‘I’ll marry when George can legally marry (a man).’ He really got me badly, it’s something I have had to deal with the past few years,” said Clooney.—Internet

Robin Thicke arrested for alleged pot possession

NEW YORK, 18 Feb—Recording artist Robin Thicke has been arrested for alleged marijuana possession in New York, police said.

The 34-year-old son of actor Alan Thicke was arrested on Friday afternoon near Manhattan’s Madison Square Park after he allegedly lit up a joint in a car in front of police, TMZ reported.

The singer cooperated with police and was issued a desk appearance ticket. He has since been released from police custody, the celebrity news Web site said.

Singer Robin Thicke arrives at the 59th American Music Awards at Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles on 20 Nov, 2011.—INTERNET

Robin Thicke and Paula Patton

Home intruder plays piano, uses skateboard

Two Asian teenagers visiting Canada will go home with scary memories of a drunken man entering their home, playing the piano and using a skateboard, police say. News emerged Thursday about the incident at a home in Saanich, British Columbia, where the two teens were staying with relatives, the Victoria Times-Colonist reported.

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Injury blow for Arsenal’s Mertesacker

**London**, 18 Feb — An ankle ligament injury will rule Arsenal defender Per Mertesacker out for the “long term,” Gunners boss Arsene Wenger has said. The German international was injured during Saturday’s 2-1 Barclays Premier League victory at Sunderland and had to be carried off. Mertesacker did not feature in the midweek Champions League defeat at AC Milan. On Friday, Wenger told the club’s official website: “Unfortunately he has had surgery and we have lost him for a while.”

“Of course it’s a blow to lose him, but we have to get on with it. We have other big players here and there is no reason for us to panic.”

Mertesacker has been a regular in the Gunners’ defence and has been an integral part of the team’s success in recent seasons.

Boos at the Bridge as Chelsea held by Birmingham

**London**, 18 Feb — Daniel Sturridge’s 62nd minute header spared Chelsea from a humiliating FA Cup exit at the hands of Championship side Birmingham but Saturday’s unconvincing 1-1 draw will do little to ease the pressure on Andi Villas-Boas.

The home side recovered after falling behind to David Murphy’s first half goal to earn a fifth round replay. But the chorus of boos as the players left the Stamford Bridge pitch confirmed this had been another sub-standard display from Villas-Boas’ side. Birmingham fully deserved the opportunity to take this tie back to St Andrews, where they will justifiably believe they have a good opportunity of reaching the quarter-finals.

**England - FA Cup result**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everton</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>Blackpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millwall</td>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>Bolton W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwich C.</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Leicester C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Raonic advances to San Jose Open tennis semis

**San Jose**, 18 Feb — Defending champion Milos Raonic of Canada advanced to the semi-finals of the $531,000 ATP San Jose Open by defeating South African sixth seed Kevin Anderson 7-5, 7-6 (7/3).

**Internet**

Canadian Milos Raonic, has advanced to the semi-finals of the $531,000 ATP San Jose Open by defeating South African sixth seed Kevin Anderson 7-5, 7-6 (7/3). Third seed Raonic fired 16 aces and never faced a break point in booking himself into a Saturday match-up against American Ryan Harrison, who earlier ousted Bulgarian Dimitar Kudrovsky 6-1, 6-4 at the indoor hardcourt tournament.

Raonic claimed the first set with his eighth ace of the match, one fewer than Anderson blasted in the opening set, and won six of the first seven points in the tie-breaker on his way to winning in one hour, 42 minutes. In later quarter-finals, US second seed and three-time San Jose winner Andy Roddick will face Uzbekistan’s Denis Istomin and French fifth seed Julien Benneteau will meet Belgian Steve Darcis. — Internet

**Internet**

Phil Mickelson shoots 1-over 70 to lead at Riviera

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb — Phil Mickelson wasn’t at his best Friday at Riviera. Two shots at least helped him stay in the lead. Despite having only two birdie chances inside 15 feet, Mickelson holed out from the eighth fairway for eagle and chipped in for birdie on the par-3 16th. That carried him to a 1-under 70 and a one-shot lead over Tiger Woods and Sang-Moon Bae going into the final few months of the season.

Man Utd’s Valencia suffers hamstring injury

**London**, 18 Feb — Manchester United winger Antonio Valencia is set to miss the next month of the season after suffering a hamstring injury. Valencia, 26, picked up a strain after coming on as a late substitute in United’s 2-0 UEFA Europa League last 16 first leg victory over Ajax in Amsterdam on Thursday. The Ecuadorian was himself taken off only 10 minutes after coming on, getting injured while he was in the process of helping to set up Javier Hernandez to score for United.

“It looks a bad one,” said United manager Sir Alex Ferguson after the match. “He has a hamstring injury unfortunately. It will be four weeks out.” Losing Valencia is a blow to United, who are currently fourth, behind leaders Manchester City in the Barclays Premier League going into the final few months of the season. But Ferguson gave midfielders Tom Cleverley his first run-out since October in the Netherlands and he was also able to pick the returning Phil Jones, with other players also getting back to full fitness.

“It’s a blow to lose Valencia tonight, but bit by bit, we are getting stronger with Nani and Ashley Young coming back,” added Ferguson. “Tom Cleverley has played a bit of football tonight and Phil Jones has played a full game which is good for us. Cleverley might be in the return match at Old Trafford next Thursday.”

**Internet**

Stosur, Azarenka advance to Qatar Open semis

**DOHA**, 18 Feb — US Open champion Sam Stosur reached her first semifinal of the year, defeating Monica Niculescu 6-2, 6-3 Friday at the Qatar Open. In another quarterfinal, top-ranked Victoria Azarenka swept aside Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium 6-2, 6-4 for her 15th straight win. Azarenka next plays Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, who beat American Christina McHale 6-1, 6-1.

After losing in the first round of her home Australian Open, Stosur has won three straight matches in Doha. Her latest victory came against a Romanian opponent who has blown backhand and forehand. Stosur will face fifth-seeded Marion Bartoli of France, who ended the strong run of Lucie Safarova of Czech Republic, 7-5, 4-6, 6-1.

“It was a perfect set,” she said after playing a “perfect set” to go up 6-0, but the second set was much more competitive. The two players traded breaks throughout until 4-4. The Belarusian then ran off the last two games, winning a love service game to close out the match. “Second set, I had opportunities in every single game. I just couldn’t really convert them,” Azarenka said. “But, you know, it’s important the way I finished the second set. It was the same way I started the match.”

**Internet**

Chelse striker Didier Drogba says he wants to stay with club

**London**, 18 Feb — Chelsea striker Didier Drogba says he wants to stay at Stamford Bridge despite rumours of a move to China. The 33-year-old, who joined Chelsea in 2004, has been linked with Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua, where former Blues team-mate Nicolas Anelka now plays. But Drogba told Football Focus: “I’m really happy where I am. I belong to Chelsea. For me, that’s what matters. Everyone knows I want to stay in blue and everybody knows I love the club and the fans.” Anelka signed a two-year deal to play in the Chinese Super League in December. In his first news conference with his new club, the Frenchman said: “I hope Drogba will come. I’m in contact with him very often and if I fall goes well, we could see him in Shanghai.”

“Drogba, who is 34 next month, arrived at Stamford Bridge from Marseille for a reported £24m and in his first season helped the team win the Premier League and League Cup. The Ivory Coast international collected another Premier League winner’s medal the following season and has also won three FA Cups, another League Cup and a third league title with the Blues. However, the club are without a trophy since their Premier League success in 2010 and have struggled to make headway in the league in Andriy Villas-Boas’ first season at the helm. Asked how he would improve the team’s fortunes, Drogba said: “I don’t know, I’m not the manager but I think all together we can find a solution.”

**Internet**

Anderlecht 1 - 0 Sparta Prague

**Leuven**, 18 Feb — The one goal difference between the two teams was not enough for Anderlecht to win their first Champions League game of the season. The home side were sniffing victory early on, but were unable to capitalise on their chances. Sparta Prague, on the other hand, were unable to make the most of the few opportunities they had.

**Grand Slams**

**The New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 19 February, 2012**

**Winger Antonio Valencia has been in superb form for Manchester United this season. — Internet**
In memoriam
Family shares merits gained
Mahathayaysithu Lt-Gen Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phayi Lt-Gen Tin Oo who suddenly left us eleven years ago, we family members have made donations and offered ‘soon’ and provisions to members of the Sangha today on 19-2-2012. We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife Daw Khin Than Nwe
Sons and daughters-
- Major Maung Maung Kyaw (Retd) (BSI) + Daw Cho Leh Oo
- Phyu Phyu Tin Oo
- Dr Myat Noe+Yin Mar Oo
- Zaw Tun Oo+ Khin Thida
- Nay Tun Oo

Grandchildren
- Hein Htet, Yin Myat Noe, Phu Ngon Kyaw,
- Thant Thi Han Zaw (Po Thila)

**DISTRICT NEWS**

Fire drill exercised

**YANGON, 18 Feb**—A talk on danger of fire was held in conjunction with the fire drill at Petro Green Fuel Station of Yuzana Group of Companies on Panbingyi Street in Kyimyindaing Township on 11 February.

Head of Township Fire Station U Than Htet Aung talked about fire preventive measures. Members of Township Fire Brigade demonstrated fire drill.

**Bo Ba Htoo Road put into service**

**MYAUNGMYA, 18 Feb**—In commemoration of the 65th Anniversary Union Day, Bo Ba Htoo Road, repaved with asphalt, was inaugurated in Myaungmya on 9 February morning.

Township level departmental officials formally opened the road.

The 1300 feet long and 12 feet wide road was built at a cost of K 10.53 million funded by Township Development Affairs Committee. —DistrictPRD

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**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(19-2-2012) (19:30 +
20-2-2012 09:30 am) MST

**Oversea Transmission**
- News
- **Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture “Tea”**
- News
- Seminar on Myanmar Character Map
- News
- A Warm Welcome from the Golden Land
- News
- Let there be the light of Abdalhamma throughout the world
- News
- **Myanmar Style or Western Style**
- Sand Sculptures on Beautiful Beach Chaung Tha
- News
- Music Gallery
- News
- Ever Blooming Flower
- News
- Working and Living in Myanmar "Tea House and Internet Cafe"!
- **Myanmar Movies “Our Folk”**

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**MYANMAR TV**

(19-2-2012) (Sunday)

7:00 am 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
7:25 am 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
8:00 am 3. (38) Phyar Mingalar
8:25 am 4. Documentary
11:00 am 5. Musical Programme
11:20 am 6. Round Up Of The Week’s International News
11:30 pm 7. TV Drama Series
12:30 pm 8. Myanmar Video
14:00 pm 9. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition
4:15 pm 10. Dance Of National Races
4:25 pm 11. 2012 University Entrance Examination
5:00 pm 12. Sang & Enjoy
8:00 pm 14. News
14:00 pm 15. Cartoon Series
16:TV Drama Series

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**Federer comes through tough match in Rotterdam**

**ROTTERDAM, 18 Feb**—Top seed Roger Federer struggled to defeat Finn Jarkko Nieminen 7-5 7-6 (6-4) Friday to reach the semi-finals of the World Indoor Tournament. The Swiss, who is this week making his first appearance in the Dutch port city since he won the title in 2005, lacked rhythm against the unseeded Nieminen.

Former world number one Federer came back from 40-0 down in the 1st game to break serve on the indoor carpet and then had to rely on the tie-break to clinch victory in the second set. “It was a tough match but important to get through,” he told reporters. “I am still getting used to the surface and tonight I struggled with my timing in the rallies. “But I also have to give credit to Jarkko the way he played. He was really aggressive and even on his second serve he kept attacking.”

Federer, the world number three, next meets Nikolay Davydenko after the unseeded Russian put out fifth-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych also went through with a 6-3 6-4 triumph over Italian Andrea Seppi. Berdych now faces third seed Juan Martin Del Potro after the Argentine thrashed seventh-seeded Serb Viktor Troicki 6-0 6-1.  —Internet
MMA opens Day Care Centre for Aged Doctors

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Feb—A ceremony to open the Day Care Centre of the Aged Doctors of Myanmar Medical Association was held at University of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Yangon this morning with an address by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thein Khin.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that nowadays, the number of old people is on the increase with the changing ratio of population in the global nations, and there are 8.4 per cent of above 60 years old population in Myanmar. According to the resolution No. 46/90 of WHO, he said that the equal term of rights are to be given to the aged like that of others while attending to their needs.

He added that with regard to data base of the aged doctors, there are 294 aged doctors of above 70 years old, 213 of above 80 years old, 14 of above 90 years old and one of above 100 years old. He continued to say that a total of 423 aged doctors are living in Yangon and 99 in Mandalay, Taunggyi, PyinOoLwin and Monywa.

Although the Day Care Centre is being used by old doctors in Yangon, old doctors from Mandalay are welcomed to take relaxation there when they are free medical checkup, physical examination and BP checkup will be provided to the aged doctors. The centre can be used as place for get-together, demonstration workshop and recreation centre, he said.

Chairman of MMA Prof Dr Kyaw Myint Naing made a speech, and Chairperson of the Aged Doctors’ Society Prof Dr Myint Myint Khin spoke words of thanks.

Later, the Union Minister handed the bronze plaque of the centre and key to Chairperson Dr Myint Myint Khin.

Boro eye Williams deal
Middlesbrough hoping to tie down star

Sky Sports understands that Middlesbrough are hopeful of tying down prized asset Rhys Williams to a new long-term deal.—INTERNET

Ertl happy with Blades

London, 18 Feb—The 29-year-old centre-half, whose current deal at Bramall Lane expires in the summer, has struggled to reclaim a place in Danny Wilson’s first team since returning from a long-term injury in December.

German outfit 1860 Munich were thought to be chasing his signature last month but no move materialised. Ertl says he is keen to stay at the South Yorkshire club until the end of the season as they bid for promotion to the Championship.

“It was quite quiet during the window to be honest, which suits me because all I am focused on is doing my best for Sheffield United and trying to break back into the side,” he told Sky Sports.

“I’m not really interested in going anywhere else in the next few months and there was a bit of interest, but I want to stay here and help this club achieve promotion like everybody else here.”

The Blades currently sit second in League One and are hopeful of tying down prized asset Rhys Williams to a new long-term deal.—INTERNET

Road/bridge companies urged to do their utmost in constructing roads, bridges

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Feb—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint attended the work coordination meeting between Public Works of the Ministry of Construction and 148 road/bridge companies held at the ministry here today.

The Union minister urged the companies to do their best to ensure bridge construction works with altruistic mind. Deputy Ministers U Soe Tint and U Kyaw Lwin called for teamwork between region and state engineers and companies. The Union minister inspected roadwork in Nay Pyi Taw-Taunggyo-Pantin road section.—MNA

Chin State sees new reliant
Phain-Khwarpheroad,
Daung Creek Bridge

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Feb—To hail the 64th Chin State Day, Phain-Khwarphero Village to village road and Daung Creek Bridge were put into service in Haka Township in Chin State, in the presence of Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, this morning.

At the event, soon after State Minister for Planning and Economic U Yanman and Phain Village administrator U Hayanhin had formally opened the road and the bridge, those present strolled along the road.

In the meeting hall of Phain Village, the State Chief Minister made a speech citing that rural people need to make efforts for regional greening and development as the newly-opened bridge and road help them have easy access to make efforts for achieving rural development and to reduce poverty. The bridge is 10 feet wide and 21 feet long, whose costly amount is 6 million, fund of rural people.—MNA

Goat kids can develop ‘accents’

Body clock ‘alters’ immune system

Raonic advances to San Jose Open tennis semis

Stosur, Azarenka advance to Qatar Open semifinals