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Our Three Main National Causes * Non-disintegration of the Union * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin offer alms to monks in Hkamti

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin donate robes and alms to Hkamti Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Hsinthay Monastery Sayadaw. MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attended a ceremony to offer alms to monks from Hkamti Township at Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre in Hkamti on 13 January.

It was also attended by Union ministers, the Sagaing Region Chief Minister and wife, the North-West Command Commander, deputy ministers, departmental officials, social organization members, townselders and local national races.

First, Chairman of Hkamti Township Sangha Maha Nayaka Hsinthay monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Thuriya preached the five precepts.

The Vice-President and wife afterwards offered robes and alms to the Hsinthay monastery Sayadaw.

The Union ministers and the region chief minister later offered alms to the monks.

The Vice-President supplicated on promotion and propagation of Sasana in the region and cash donation plan for construction of two-story monastery building, and donated cash to local missionary board.

Afterwards, the congregation shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, the Vice-President gave necessary instructions on construction of two-story monastery building and monastic education school.—*MNA*

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental officials, social organizations, townselders from Nanyun, Panhsaung of Naga Self-Administered Zone

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan – Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, accompanied by Union Ministers, the Sagaing Region Chief Minister, the Commander of North-West Command, deputy ministers, Indian Ambassador Dr VS Seshadri and the chairman of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body and responsible people, arrived at Hkamti Port and viewed the watercourse of Chindwin River on 13 January morning.

The region chief minister and officials reported on waterway maintenance tasks and formation of sandbank. The Vice-President gave an instruction on cooperation between local authorities and Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems for ensuring effectiveness and speediness in measures for development of the waterway of the port.

The Vice-President and party visited the training school for development of the youths in border areas (Hkamti) where they were welcomed by the principal, teachers and students.

After cordially greeting those present, the Vice-President inspected the hostels.

(See page 8)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and party being welcomed by departmental officials, townselders and local national races in Nanyun of Naga Self-Administered Zone.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 16 January, 2012

Let's try to be a good citizen

Major cities like Yangon and Mandalay should show off beautiful and neat and tidy images of city characteristics with development facilities. It is important that pavements, motor roads and vehicles must be arranged in proper places systematically to shape clean and pleasant metropolitans.

Pavements are roads for pedestrians only. Some persons sell goods on the pavements in the populous areas and near the large markets in urban areas. Some lay generators on the pavements. Some park their automobiles on the pavements. In consequence, most of the pedestrians walk along the motor roads.

In reality, they should not sell goods on the pavements as well as not lay generators there. Large generators may block narrow pavements. Indeed, large generators should be kept in the own yards. Likewise, vehicles should not be parked on the pavements.

Furthermore, it is important to abide by traffic rules in keeping the urban areas clean and pleasant. Vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, motorbikes and slow-moving vehicles are road users. All types of vehicles should drive along the roads in line with the prescribed traffic rules. Likewise, all the pedestrians are to walk along the pavements as well as to cross the roads through zebra crossings.

Systematic driving of automobiles along the roads large and small polishes beauty of the urban areas. At present, old and overage vehicles are substituted with new ones. Due to import permission, the number of vehicles is increasing day by day. However, long time stopping of vehicles at the places that are not car parking and lesser number of private car parking tarnish the image of urban. In many developed nations, high-rise buildings are facilitated with car parking at respective flats.

Nowadays, Myanmar is marching towards the modern and developed new nation. Only when new property such as buildings, roads and cars are systematically used and kept, will the beauty of urban areas be grander.

Installation of 2nd 37-megawatt generator from Kyeeohn Kyeewa Multi-purpose Dam project inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspected installation of a rotor in the turbine for the second-phase 37-megawatt generator at the hydropower plant of Kyeeohn Kyeewa Multi-purpose Dam Project in Pwintbyu Township, Minbu District, Magway Region yesterday morning.

The project includes installation of two 37-megawatt generators. The first generator has been in operation and the second one will go into operation in March to generate electricity to the national grid and then to Rakhine State.

Next, the Union Minister viewed the vegetable patches of the staff and met with the faculty members and students of the Institute of Agriculture in Pwintbyu Township. Then, he presented Palethwe hybrid paddy strains and K 1 million to the teachers and inspected reclamation of 63-acre of land.

The Union Minister also attended a seed-broadcasting ceremony of the families of the Irrigation Department in Zeeoak village, Pyay Township, Bago Region and presented Palethwe hybrid paddy strains to farmers.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister visited Thonze Agriculture Institute in Thayawady District and donated Palethwe hybrid paddy strains and rice. In the evening, he inspected the 10-acre Palethwe paddy plantation in Okkangon village in Okkan, Yangon Region.

MNA

French Foreign and European Affairs Minister meets political parties

YANGON, 15 Jan—Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Mr Alain Juppe of France and party accompanied by French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry Mathou visited French Culture Centre on Pyay Road, Sangyoung Township here this afternoon. They looked round the centre and encouraged Myanmar students learning French language.

At the centre, the French minister and party met responsible persons from National Democratic Force (NDF), Democratic Party (Myanmar) (DPM), Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP), All Mon Region Democracy Party (AMRDP), Chin Progressive Party (CPP), Chin National Party (CNP) and Kayin Peoples Party (KPP).—*MNA*

FIDE Trainers' Seminar commences

YANGON, 15 Jan—Jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and World Chess Federation, the FIDE Trainers' Seminar was opened at Central Hotel on Bogyoke Aung San Street, here, on 13 January morning.

Mr Ignatius Leong and Mr Eric Gloria of FIDE provided courses to 11 trainees.

The training course will last up to 18 January. After the examination, the FIDE will confer Developmental Instructor (DI), National Instructor (NI), FIDE Instructor (FI) and FIDE Trainer (FT) on the trainees.

MNA

Local Sports

Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) holds up title in Sumitomo Golf Classic

YANGON, 15 Jan—The final round and awarding ceremony of the Sumitomo Golf Classic, jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA with the sponsorship of Aung Hein Min Co Ltd and Sumitomo Heavy Machinery took place at Yedaguntaung Golf Club in Mandalay yesterday afternoon. Chairman U Chit San of Aung Hein Min Co Ltd presented K 500,000 to hole-in-one scorer senior professional U Win Kyi (Su Su Aye Aung Traditional Medicine). Country Manager U Min Min gave daily best awards to respective winners in the men's amateur and professional events.

General Secretary of MGF U Aung Hla Han awarded first, second and third winners in the men's amateur event. Vice-President of MGF U Min Thein presented first, second and third prizes to U Myint Shwe with 217, U Myint Thaung with 222 and U Myint Thein with 225 respectively.

Mandalay Mayor Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Phone Zaw Han presented the first prize to Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) who fired nine-under-par 279 in total, the second to Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) with six-under-par 282 and the third to Hla Myo (APPO) with five-under-par 283 in the professional event.

Chairman of Aung Hein Min Co Ltd U Chit San gave cheque awards to U Myint Shwe in the senior professional and Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) in the professional.

General Secretary of MGF U Aung Hla Han presented gifts to Aung Hein Min Co Ltd.—*MNA*

Myanma Airways, Sun Far to operate special domestic flights

(From our Correspondent Htin Kyaw Aye)

YANGON, 15 Jan—State flag-carrier Myanma Airways and Sun Far Travels and Tours Co Ltd have offered domestic flyers with fresh options.

Utilizing an ATR 72-210 from Myanma Airways, Sun Far, known for its ticketing services for 22 years, arranges new special domestic flights as of 19 January.

"With influx of foreign tourists and increase demand of local passengers, there is a gap between available seats on domestic flights and soaring number of travelers. This is intended to fill the gap," a source close to Sun Far told *The New Light of Myanmar*.

The airliner will fly from Yangon to Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays and from Mandalay to Heho, Lashio, Kengtung and Tachilek daily. The airline will operate flights between Yangon and Mandalay once two days.

The company will transport passengers from Kengtung to Tachilek by Express Buses on Thursdays and Fridays as Tachilek Airport is closed on these days for renovation. Sun Far will provide free-of-charge buses to and fro Mandalay International Airport to downtown Mandalay for the special flight passengers.

Sun Far will offer international-standard meals from LSG Sky Chefs, snacks, teas, coffees and cold drinks to passengers on board, plus to its "comprehensive services". Ticketing, in-flight services and fare charges will equal those of the other private airliners, said the source.

Passengers could easily buy and book tickets in advance at Sun Far Travels and Tours Head Office in Yangon and its branches in Mandalay, Taunggyi, Tachilek, Kengtung, Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung.

Sun Far is one of the earliest air ticketing agencies in Myanmar and an accredited agent of a huge number of local and international airlines.

Friendly neighbours across Himalayas

BEIJING, 15 Jan— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Saturday conducted an official visit to Nepal, the first by a Chinese premier to the neighbouring country over the past decade. During the visit, Wen met with Nepalese President Ram Baran Yadav, Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai and other Nepalese government and political party leaders in seeking ways to boost bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The visit is certain to further promote the development of friendly ties between China and Nepal, two neighbouring countries with the world's highest mountains the Himalayas embedding between them. However, the snowy and icy mountains of the Himalayas can't block the development of time-honored friendship between the Chinese and Nepalese peoples even a little.

The two countries have enjoyed a long history of exchanges dating back to over a millennium ago. A Chinese monk Faxian of the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420) and another one Xuanzang of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) visited southern Nepal to acquire Buddhist scriptures, while an outstanding Nepalese artisan Araniko visited China during the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368) and built the delicate and charming White Stupa in central Beijing, now still an attractive scenic spot in the Chinese capital.

The two countries, which established diplomatic ties in 1955, have committed themselves to ramping up mutual political trust, trade, cultural exchanges, and tourism, among others.

Xinhua

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (C, front) is accompanied by Nepalese Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai (R, front) during the welcoming ceremony in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 14 Jan, 2012.— XINHUA

Five die in unexplained explosion on South Korean ship

SEOUL, 15 Jan — A South Korean cargo ship was rocked by an explosion off the country's west coast on Sunday, leaving five people dead and six others missing, officials said. The unexplained explosion tore apart the front of the ship and left the 4,198-tonne vessel half-submerged, according to the coast guard.

Two of the five bodies located later had serious external wounds, suggesting they were killed by the explosion, coast guard officer Kim Dong-jin said. Five crewmen were rescued and searchers were trying to locate the six missing, the coast guard said in a statement.

The cargo ship, which usually carried refined petroleum products and chemicals, was carrying 80 tonnes of Bunker-C oil and 40 tonnes of diesel oil as its fuel when it exploded, the coast guard statement said. Oil leakage weren't immediately reported, it said. Eleven members of the crew are from South Korea, and the other five are from Myanmar.

Internet

The Doora 3, oil tanker carrying petroleum, lies damaged after it exploded in waters off South Korea's western port city of Incheon .—INTERNET

Italy investigates captain's responsibilities in cruise liner sinking

ROME, 15 Jan— Italy opened a major investigation amidst high debates after cruise liner *Costa Concordia* ran aground off the country's western coast on Friday night, killing at least three passengers so far and injuring many others.The 290-meter-long vessel, with more than 4,200 people from about 60 countries on broad, hit a reef and tore a 70-meter crack in its hull shortly after leaving the Civitavecchia port near Rome and starting a seven-day Mediterranean cruise.

The ship reportedly listed 80 degrees to one side, leaving it half submerged in shallow waters near the Giglio island, a resort 25 km off the country's western coast, local reports said. Two French tourists and a Peruvian crew member were confirmed as drowned on Saturday, while some 40 others are still missing. The Italian news agency *ANSA* said on early Sunday that firefighters found two people alive in a cabin inside the liner.

Rescuers on the ship heard voices of a man and a woman when they were searching, the *ANSA* said, Chief Prosecutor in the Tuscan city of Grosseto, was quoted as saying by the *ANSA*.— *Xinhua*

US radar system starts surveillance in Turkey despite strong opposition from Iran

ISTANBUL, 15 Jan—US early warning radar system started its surveillance activities in Turkey early this year despite strong opposition from Iran. Local *Hurriyet Daily News* reported that the radar system was deployed in eastern Anatolian Province of Malatya and began operation on 1 January.

The report said that a small number of US troops were deployed to the military base at Kurecik in Malatya in the last week of 2011 since Turkey's military has no qualified personnel to run the US AN/TPY-2 (X-band) early warning radar system. Despite the deployment, the installation is a Turkish base and will be commanded by a Turkish high-ranking officer. Turkey agreed to the deployment of the early warning radar system on its territory in mid-2011. Iran has strongly opposed Turkey's move to deploy the radar.

On Thursday, Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Ali Larijani told Turkey at a Press conference: "The US radar stationed in Turkey is no good for any Muslim country," demanding further information on the matter. However, Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu informed top Iranian officials about the system during a visit to Teheran last week. "We made it clear that this is a purely defensive (system) against any ballistic threat."

Xinhua

Two hurt in KC area mall shooting

KANSAS CITY, 15 Jan— Two people were injured in a shooting at suburban Kansas City shopping mall late Saturday afternoon, prompting a lockdown of the shopping centre, police said. Neither person's injuries are life-threatening, Independence Police Sgt John Cato said at a Press briefing.

Cato said one person was in custody, others were released after questioning, and one suspect was still being sought. Cato said an argument between two people preceded the shootings. Cato could not say if the shooter and victims knew one another.

The 4:30 pm shootings happened near a Sears store in the Independence Centre mall. Several shots were fired, sending shoppers fleeing for safety, several witnesses told local television stations.

Reuters

People inspect the scene of a bomb attack on Shiite pilgrims, killing and wounding scores of people, police said, near the southern port city of Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, 550 kilometres (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 Jan, 2012.— INTERNET

Security forces clean the scene of a bomb attack on Shiite pilgrims, killing and wounding some scores of people, police said, near the southern port city of Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, 550 kilometres (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 Jan, 2012.— INTERNET

Suicide bombing hits in Iraq, 53 killed

BAGHDAD, 15 Jan—Up to 53 people were killed and some 137 others wounded in a suicide bomb attack targeting Shiite pilgrims in Iraq's southern city of Basra on Saturday as hundreds of thousands of Shiites converge on the holy city of Karbala.

The attack occurred at about 9:00 am local time (0600 GMT) when a suicide bomber blew himself up near a police checkpoint among a crowd of Shiite pilgrims marching to a shrine in the town of al-Zubair, southwest of the oil hub city of Basra, some 550 km south of Baghdad, a local police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Iraqi security forces sealed off the scene as ambulances and civilian cars evacuated the victims to nearby hospitals and medical centers, the source added. Earlier, the source said that 50 pilgrims were killed and some 100 others, including women and children, were wounded by the blast.

Ali al-Maliki, the head of the security committee in Basra's provincial council, told local media that the suicide bomber was wearing an explosive vest under his black coat and started to give food to the pilgrims to attract them close to his place before blowing himself up.

Xinhua

Grapes may help prevent blindness in aged

NEW YORK, 15 Jan— Eating grapes over a lifetime may slow or help prevent age-related macular degeneration, a major cause of blindness in the elderly, US researchers say. Principal investigator Silvia Finnemann of Fordham University in New York said the results from her study suggest age-related vision loss is a result of cumulative, oxidative damage over time.

"A lifelong diet enriched in natural antioxidants, such as those in grapes, appears to be directly beneficial for retinal pigment epithelium cells and retinal health and function," Finnemann said in a statement.

Age-related macular degeneration is a progressive eye condition, leading to the deterioration of the center of the retina — the macula — and it is the leading cause of blindness in the elderly.

Mice prone to developing retinal damage in old age in much the same way as humans do received a grape-enriched diet, a diet with added lutein, or a normal diet.

The study, published in Free Radical Biology and Medicine, found the grape-enriched diet protected against oxidative damage of the retina and prevented blindness in those mice consuming grapes. The lutein was also effective, but grapes were found to offer significantly more protection, Finnemann said.

Lutein — found in dark green leafy vegetables and egg yolks — is a carotenoid, not a vitamin, popular as a dietary supplement to help prevent macular degeneration or to help support healthy eyesight. The study was funded by the California Table Grape Commission.

Internet

Foreigners in India for 'mommy makeover' surgery

NEW DELHI, 15 Jan— When a group of women from Uganda embarked on a trip of a lifetime to India, little did many of their friends and families at home know that a secret surgical "mommy makeover" was on their itinerary. The three mothers from the east African nation meticulously planned their month-long tour around surgical procedures in New Delhi that they hoped would enable them to return to their husbands looking trimmer and healthier.

They admit that vanity is a key motive behind their choice to go under the surgeon's knife in a faraway country, saying they want their tummies tucked and breasts firmed up so they can again wear swimsuits with confidence. "There are certain activities you can't do if your top is very heavy," one of the women told *AFP*, requesting anonymity after breast reduction surgery at a clinic in the Indian capital. "I am feeling so light now. I can go for a jog or a swim without attracting all the negative male attention that I earlier did," said the mother of four. The women, staying at a guesthouse in the upmarket area of Greater Kailash, have been mixing two weeks of post-operative care with shopping and visits to sight-seeing favourites such as the Red Fort and the Qutub Minar monument. "It's been a girls-only fun trip for us," giggled the eldest of the group, aged 40, who is doubling up as a guide to the rest of the women, having visited India once before. "We had thought of visiting South Africa, which is nearer home but expensive," she said. "We are glad we decided to come here." The Ugandan mothers are among foreigners from many countries who are adding surgery to holiday trips that often include visits to the Taj Mahal in Agra and other tourist spots. Millions globally choose to reshape their bodies through cosmetic surgery each year, despite risks such as those highlighted by the French breast implant scandal, in which tens of thousands of women have been told to have defective implants removed.—*Internet*

File illustration photo shows surgeons performing an operation. Foreigners from many countries are adding surgery to holiday trips in India that often include visits to the Taj Mahal in Agra and other tourist spots.

INTERNET

Most feel guilty after fast-food

RED BANK, 15 Jan— Fifty-four percent admit feeling "a bit guilty" after eating fast-food and another 16 percent say they just feel "bad", a US survey indicates. A survey of 1,563 members of the Allrecipes online social networking community — largely female — for the non-profit organization HealthyWomen showed more than 56 percent ate at fast-food restaurants at least several times a month and nearly 15 percent ate fast-food two or more times a week.

"The majority of respondents — 75 percent — said they pay more attention to eating healthy now than they did five years ago," Elizabeth Battaglino Cahill, executive director of HealthyWomen, said in a statement.

"Unfortunately, the quick stops at fast-food restaurants often sabotage their efforts." Half of the survey's respondents said convenience to accommodate busy schedules and faster meal availability were the top reasons for eating fast-food instead of cooking at home. To skip a fast-food meal and cook a healthy meal at home, 83 percent said it would have to be prepared in 30 minutes or less.

Internet

It's earnings versus Europe for stocks

***A sign is shown at the entrance to the headquarters of Intel Corporation in Santa Clara, California on 2 February, 2010.* —INTERNET**

NEW YORK, 15 Jan— Stock investors will return to a tug of war between signs of domestic strength and overseas concerns next week as a batch of critical earnings reports look to add credence to the idea the economy is improving, while credit rating downgrades in Europe will keep that region's difficulties in view.

Bank stocks will probably once again be a primary focus, as not only will European issues call the group's profit outlook into question, but many key names report results.

Equities have recently undergone a decoupling with respect to Europe's sovereign debt crisis as signs of progress in the euro zone, along with improving US data, have pushed Wall Street higher on improved growth prospects. Financials have been a beneficiary of that rising tide, with Bank of America up 22 percent since the start of the year.

So far this month, the S&P 500 <.SPX> is up 2.5 percent, while the Dow <.DJI> is up 1.7 percent and the Nasdaq is up 4.1 percent.

"We're going to see more volatility in the weeks ahead with tension between earnings and Europe," said Christopher Sheldon, the Boston-based director of investment strategy at BNY Mellon Wealth Management, which oversees $171 billion globally. "We want to see Europe resolved, but there will continue to be ups and downs, and while earnings will continue to be relatively good, we do expect slowing compared with 2011."

However, the uncertainty about Europe returned in a big way on Friday after Standard & Poor's downgraded the ratings of several euro-zone countries, including Italy, after the market closed. Talk of the downgrades spurred a selloff that erased most of the gains for the week, when the S&P rose for four straight sessions.

Reuters

Business

China's Wen presses Saudi Arabia for oil access

BEIJING, 15 Jan— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao pressed Saudi Arabia to open its huge oil and gas resources to expanded Chinese investment, media reports said on Sunday against a backdrop of growing tension over Iran and worries over its crude exports to the Asian power. The Saudi kingdom is China's biggest source of imported oil, and securing energy security was high on Wen's agenda in Riyadh, in part reflecting concerns about how nuclear tensions and sanctions could unsettle ties with Iran. "China and Saudi Arabia are both in important stages of development, and there are broad prospects for enhancing cooperation," Wen on Saturday told Prince Nayef, who is a senior member of the Saudi government, according to *Xinhua*.

"Both sides must strive together to expand trade and cooperation, upstream and downstream, in crude oil and natural gas," said Wen, referring to access to extracting oil and gas and then processing the them. The *Xinhua* report made no mention of any discussion of Iran, whose oil exports to China face pressure from new US sanctions. The US sanctions threat is a particular worry for China, the biggest buyer of Iranian oil. Only Saudi Arabia and Angola sell it more crude.—*Internet*

***China's Premier Wen Jiabao delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting of the New Champions, in northeastern China's port city of Dalian in this 14 September, 2011.*—INTERNET**

Honda may spend $650 million to restore Thai plant

***A Honda staff member walks between Honda Motor cars after floodwaters receded at the Honda Automobile Plant in Rojana Industrial Park in Ayutthaya, about 80 km north of Bangkok, on 27 December, 2011.*—INTERNET**

TOKYO, 15 Jan—Honda Motor Co will completely overhaul its flood-hit factory in Thailand in a project that could cost more than 50 billion yen ($650 million), the Nikkei business daily reported on Sunday. Thailand's worst floods in half a century late last year hit Honda the hardest among Japanese automakers, with its 240,000-cars-a-year plant in the Ayutthaya Province in central Thailand submerged under water.

Honda, Japan's No 3 car producer, has already started replacing equipment with the aim of resuming output in April, the *Nikkei* said.

Refurbishing the flood-hit factory will almost be the equivalent of building a plant from scratch, the Nikkei quoted an unnamed Honda executive as saying. Honda may receive payment from insurers, which are still assessing damage at the factory, as early as in the current financial year to March, lessening Honda's financial burden to a certain extent, the *Nikkei* said

Reuters

Science's 'most beautiful theories'

NEW YORK, 15 Jan—From Darwinian evolution to the idea that personality is largely shaped by chance, the favorite theories of the world's most eminent thinkers are as eclectic as science itself. Every January, John Brockman, the impresario and literary agent who presides over the online salon Edge.org, asks his circle of scientists, digerati and humanities scholars to tackle one question.

In previous years, they have included "how is the Internet changing the way you think?" and "what is the most important invention in the last 2,000 years?" This year, he posed the open-ended question "what is your favorite deep, elegant or beautiful explanation?"

The responses, released at midnight on Sunday, provide a crash course in science both well known and far out-of-the-box, as admired by the likes of Astronomer Royal Martin Rees, physicist Freeman Dyson and evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins. Several of the nearly 200 scholars nominated what are arguably the two most powerful scientific theories ever developed. "Darwin's natural selection wins hands down," argues Dawkins, emeritus professor at Oxford University. "Never in the field of human comprehension were so many facts explained by assuming so few," he says of the theory that encompasses everything about life, based on the idea of natural selection operating on random genetic mutations.

Einstein's theory of relativity, which explains gravity as the curvature of space, also gets a few nods. As theoretical physicist Steve Giddings of the University of California, Santa Barbara, writes, "This central idea has shaped our ideas of modern cosmology (and) given us the image of the expanding universe."—*Reuters*

A woman walks past the entrance for the Darwin's Evolution Exhibition in the Calouste Gulbenkina Foundation in Lisbon 12 February , 2009.
INTERNET

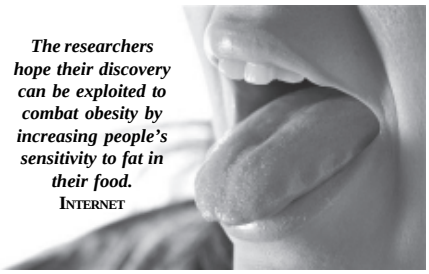
Test could help diagnose mad cow disease

LONDON, 15 Jan—British scientists are developing a test that will identify the human form of mad cow disease.

Until now, the only way to confirm a diagnosis of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a human variation of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, was through tonsil biopsies or taking brain samples after the patient has died, *The Daily Telegraph* reported.

"In principle, [the new blood test] may allow us to find how many people in the population are infected so we can target risk management strategies and ensure the safety of our blood supply," said Professor John Collinge, who is leading the Medical Research Council team developing the blood test. "It could also enable us to make an earlier diagnosis and as treatments become available it is going to be desperately important to get to patients early before there is extensive damage to the brain."—*Internet*

Scientists find fat is the sixth human taste



The researchers hope their discovery can be exploited to combat obesity by increasing people's sensitivity to fat in their food.
INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan—For generations, scientists thought the human tongue could detect only four basic tastes: sweet, sour, salt and bitter.

Then a fifth was discovered, "umami" or savoury. Now, researchers have identified a previously-unrecognised "sixth taste"—fat. A team in the United States has located a chemical receptor in the taste buds on the tongue that recognises fat molecules, and found that its sensitivity varies between individuals.

The finding may help to explain why some people consume more fatty foods, as they are less aware of the taste as they eat.

The researchers hope their discovery can be exploited to combat obesity by increasing people's sensitivity to fat in their food.

Apart from the basic tastes, other aspects of food flavour actually come from the smell and are detected in the nose.

The research team, from the school of medicine at Washington University, St Louis, showed that people with more of a receptor called CD36 were better at detecting the presence of fat in food.

They found that variations in a gene that produces CD36 makes people more or less sensitive to the presence of fat.

"The ultimate goal is to understand how our perception of fat in food might influence what foods we eat and the qualities of fat that we consume," said Professor Nada Abumrad, who led the research.—*Internet*

science

Wireless teaching tool shown at CES

LAS VEGAS, 15 Jan—A technology meant to make large college lecture classes feel smaller and more interactive is being displayed at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. LectureTools, developed by the University of Michigan, is a Web-based student response, note-taking and inquiry system that turns potentially distracting cellphones and laptops into learning aids, a university release said Thursday.

UM professors were at CES to provide "a sneak peek at the forthcoming LectureTools iPad application for students and demonstrate how instructors can use their iPad or tablet PC to present lectures wirelessly in class," said Perry Samson, a professor of atmospheric, oceanic and space sciences who developed LectureTools. More than 4,000 UM undergraduate students in almost 20 classes used LectureTools on laptops or cellphones last semester, the university said.

The technology lets students rate their comprehension of a lecture presentation slide by slide and the instructor can see the feedback in real time. Questions can be asked that teaching assistants can answer while the lecture continues, and the questions and answers become anonymously visible to the entire class. Students can type notes in the system alongside the instructor's slides and can bookmark slides for later review, the UM release said.—*Internet*

CES gadgets bringing the "Matrix" to life

NEW YORK, 15 Jan—The annual Consumer Electronics Show ended Friday, leaving gadget lovers with visions of a "Matrix"-like world in which the Internet surrounds them no matter where they go.

Makers of everything from cars and refrigerators to televisions, smartphones and software pitched innovations heralding the arrival of connected lifestyles made possible by "smart" devices.

"The underlying driver at the show is that we will have screens on all types of devices connected to the Internet; it could be your refrigerator, your vacuum...," said lead analyst Tim Bajarin of Creative Strategies.

"We are going to have a lot of screens in our lives and they will be connected."

Intel's move into the smartphone and tablet computer chip market at the show promised a near future in which mobile gadgets get more powerful and energy efficient, according to the analyst.

The US chip giant announced that it will move into the booming smartphone market with a China debut of a handset made by Chinese computer powerhouse Lenovo.

"The best of Intel computing is now coming to smartphones," California-based Intel's chief executive Paul Otellini said. "It is coming first to China, the largest market for smartphones in the world."

Lenovo introduced a K800 smartphone powered by an Intel processor and Google's Android software.

"You can't underestimate what the market will look like when Intel jumps into smartphones," Bajarin said. "The architecture core should allow them to make their chips very fast."

Faster chips translate into richer video viewing, smoother music listening, and slicker "apps" for anything from games to work.

Intel was also at the core of an onslaught of slim, lightweight laptop computers known as "ultrabooks."

New "ultrabooks" were shown off by a slew of consumer electronics titans including Acer, Asus, Hewlett-Packard, Lenovo, Samsung and Toshiba. A Lenovo "Yoga" ultrabook even boasted a bendable screen.

As in years past, televisions were among the stars of the show, with flat screens slimming down, synching to the Internet and delivering richer imagery.

A razor-thin television from LG Electronics was crowned best gadget at CES.

Throngs jockeyed for looks at LG's 55-inch (140-centimeter) TV set, which is just 0.16 inches (four millimeters) thick and uses OLED, or organic light-emitting diode, display technology.

Internet

***CES gadgets bringing the "Matrix" to life.—*INTERNET**

A view of the Symantec Security Operations Center in a photo courtesy of the company.
INTERNET

Hacker says to release full Norton Antivirus code on Tuesday

NEW DELHI, 15 Jan—A hacker who goes by the name of 'Yama Tough' threatened Saturday to release next week the full source code for Symantec Corp's flagship Norton Antivirus software.

"This coming Tuesday behold the full Norton Antivirus 1,7Gb src, the rest will follow," Yama Tough posted via Twitter. In the past week Yama Tough has released fragments of source code from Symantec products along with a cache of emails. The hacker says all the data was taken from Indian government servers.—*Reuters*

TECHNOLOGY

Iran sends rare letter to US over killed scientist

TEHERAN, 15 Jan — Iran said on Saturday it had evidence Washington was behind the latest killing of one of its nuclear scientists, state television reported, at a time when tensions over the country's nuclear programme have escalated to their highest level ever. In the fifth attack of its kind in two years, a magnetic bomb was attached to the door of 32-year-old Mostafa Ahmadi-Roshan's car during the Wednesday morning rush-hour in the capital. His driver was also killed.

US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton denied responsibility and Israeli President Shimon Peres said Israel had no role in the attack, to the best of his knowledge.

"We have reliable documents and evidence that this terrorist act was planned, guided and supported by the CIA," the Iranian foreign ministry said in a letter handed to the Swiss ambassador in Teheran, state TV reported.

The Swiss embassy represents US interests in a country where Washington has no diplomatic ties.

The spokesman for Iran's Joint Armed Forces Staff, Massoud Jazayeri, said: "Our enemies, especially America , Britain and the Zionist regime (Israel), have to be held responsible for their actions."

Iran in the past has accused Israel of causing a series of spectacular and sometimes bloody mishaps to its nuclear programme. Israeli officials do not comment on any involvement in those events, although some have publicly expressed satisfaction at the setbacks.

Feeling the heat from unprecedented new sanctions, Iran's clerical establishment has brandished its sword by threatening to block the main Mid-East oil shipping route, starting to enrich uranium at an underground bunker and sentencing an Iranian-American citizen to death on spying charges.

Internet

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks with journalists at Teheran's Mehrabad airport after his visit to Latin American countries on 14 Jan, 2012. — INTERNET

Sotheby's wine auction 'disappoints'

HONG KONG , 15 Jan — Sotheby's hotly anticipated first wine auction of the year fetched HK$44 million ($5.6 million), falling short of its HK$50-70 million estimate, the auctioneer said in a statement.

The sale — called Finest and Rarest Wines — trailed 983 lots including the Bordeaux Winebank Collection, but sold only 85 percent on offer, the auction power house said late Saturday. Robert Sleigh, head of Sotheby's Wine, Asia, attributed the disappointing sale to a tailing-off in demand for younger Bordeaux vintages, after buyers flocked to the wine over the last two years.

"(But)Burgundy, Champagne and Californian wines continued to perform very strongly, along with mature Bordeaux," he added.

The top of the lot was a case of Romanee Conti 1990 which sold for HK$1.8 million. Other sale highlights include three magnums of Veuve Clicquot Champagne, 1921, 1929 and 1947, which Sotheby's said were bought by a mainland Chinese connoisseur.

The disappointing results may slightly tarnish Hong Kong's status as a leading wine market which has been spurred by buyers from China — the world's fastest-growing wine consumption market. In recent years, Hong Kong has emerged as the world's third-largest auction centre after New York and London, thanks in large part to China's rapidly growing number of millionaires.— *Internet*

Robert Sleigh, head of wine for Sotheby's Asia, seen here during bidding at Sotherby's 2012 wine auction in Hong Kong, on 14 January.— INTERNET

Volunteers clear traps for endangered Siberian tigers in NE China

BEIJING , 15 Jan — Dozens of volunteers braved freezing temperatures and knee-high snow to clear traps for endangered wild Siberian tigers in northeast China this week. In six groups, 73 volunteers searched six forest farms in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang in a four-day trap-clearing campaign that ended on 13 Jan. The volunteers included members such as doctors, computer engineers, public servants and college students, and among them there was an Australian named Melissa Pettigrew.

Winter is a tough season for the rare tigers as their prey becomes scarce, and the animals sometimes die from not having enough to eat or by coming into contact with a hunter's bullet or a trap. Wang Lin, an initiator of the trap-clearing campaign, said that every winter, poachers set iron wire ring traps to catch wild animals like rabbits and roe deer as they can be more easily tracked on snow."The traps are cheap but very dangerous," said Wang. "They reduce the population of small animals, which are often prey for the tigers. They can even hurt tigers or help to catch them."

In late October 2011, a wild Siberian tiger was found dead with a trap around its neck in the city of Mishan in Heilongjiang, prompting environmentalists to call for enhanced wildlife protection. Four to six wild Siberian tigers are believed to be living on the six forest farms, underscoring the importance of the volunteers' protection efforts. Workers at one forest farm filmed a Siberian tiger last November, and with improving ecology, there have been more and more tiger paw prints spotted over the past couple of years.Siberian tigers are among the world's rarest species. The population of wild Siberian tigers is estimated at around 500, most of which live in Russia's far east and China's northeast.

In November 2010, leaders from 13 countries, including China and Russia, committed to backing the Global Tiger Recovery Program, which aims to double the number of tigers in the wild by 2022.

Xinhua

Liu Tong, an expert with the New York-based non-profit organization Wildlife Conservation Society, checks a suspected paw print of Siberian tiger in a forest farm of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 10 Jan, 2012. XINHUA

School officials says missing Montana math teacher is dead

SIDNEY, 15 Jan—A Montana high school math teacher who vanished last weekend while on her morning jog is dead, and a man has been taken into custody in connection with her disappearance, authorities said on Friday. Sherry Arnold, 43, was last seen setting off for a run on Saturday in her hometown of Sidney, a fast-growing agricultural community in northeastern Montana. Her husband, Gary Arnold, later reported her missing, police said.

Sidney Public Schools Superintendant Dan Farr said law enforcement authorities had informed family members and district officials of Arnold's death, but declined to elaborate. Sidney Police Chief Frank DiFonzo said in a prepared statement that authorities had taken one man into custody and were seeking information from another in connection with Arnold's disappearance. A 47-year-old man has been jailed in neighbouring Williston, North Dakota, and a 22-year-old man is being held for questioning in Rapid City, South Dakota.—*Internet*

Suez Canal's revenue up 9.6 pct in 2011

CAIRO, 15 Jan — Egypt's Suez Canal garnered 5.22 billion US dollars of revenue in 2011, up 9.6 percent compared with 2010, Egypt's official news agency *MENA* reported on Saturday.A total of 17,799 vessels passed the canal in 2011, down 1.1 percent, while the cargo volume increased by 9.7 percent, *MENA* said.

The Suez Canal Authority will raise the tolls by three percent for all vessels passing through the waterway from March 2012.

The canal's tariffs had not been changed for the previous three years and the change was made based on studies on the global economy and trade, the authority said in December 2011.Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. Its revenue is one of Egypt's major sources of foreign currency.

Xinhua

Deaf 'signers' quick to interpret body language

NEW YORK , 15 Jan — Deaf people who use sign language recognize and interpret body language quicker than hearing people who don't use sign language, researchers have found. "There are a lot of anecdotes about deaf people being better able to pick up on body language, but this is the first evidence of that," David Corina, a professor in the department of linguistics and Center for Mind and Brain at the University of California, Davis, said in a university news release.

Corina and a colleague compared the response times of deaf and hearing people to video clips of people using American Sign Language or making other "non-language" physical gestures, such as stroking their chin. "We expected that deaf people would recognize sign language faster than hearing people, as the deaf people know and use sign language daily, but the real surprise was that deaf people also were about 100 milliseconds faster at recognizing non-language gestures than were hearing people," Corina said in the news release.

The findings are important because they indicate that the human ability for communication is adaptable and not limited to speech, Corina explained. The research also suggests that deaf people may be especially adept at detecting subtle traits in the physical actions of others, a skill that could be valuable for some sensitive jobs, such as airport screening. The study was released online in advance of publication in the March print issue of the journal *Cognition*.— *Internet*

Visitors view the paintings displayed at the personal exhibition of Chinese-French painter Li Zili at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, on 12 Jan, 2012. XINHUA

Couple rescued from submerged ship Costa Concordia

Big search-and-rescue operation continued overnight. INTERNET

ROME, 15 Jan — Two passengers have been found alive on the submerged cruise ship Costa Concordia, more than 24 hours after it ran aground off the Italian coast. The South Korean couple, who were on their honeymoon, were found in a cabin, but 40 more of the 4,000 on board are still believed to be missing.

The captain of the Costa Concordia has been detained for questioning, as police investigate why the accident happened in calm conditions. Three people are so far confirmed dead. Two French passengers and a Peruvian crew member died, and another 30 people were injured, two seriously. The South Korean couple was located after rescuers heard voices from a cabin two decks down on the half-submerged ship late on Saturday, and they were reached a few hours later.

The man and woman, about 29 years old, were both said to be in good condition when they were brought ashore. Meanwhile, divers are continuing to comb submerged parts of the ship, which is lying on its side close to a coastal island. The vessel, which is operated by Costa Cruises, had sailed from Civitavecchia near Rome on Friday on a regular weekly Mediterranean cruise when it ran aground.

Italian, German, French and British nationals were among the 3,200 passengers on board. There were also 1,000 crew. Those who died include two French passengers and a Peruvian crewman. Coast guard captain Cosimo Nicastro told Italian TV that divers had carried out an extensive search of the waters near the vessel and found no further bodies.

Some passengers were rescued by lifeboat, helicopters plucked to A school and private homes took in the passengers and crew. On Saturday the survivors were taken by ferries to Porto Santo Stefano on the mainland, about 25km (15 miles) away.— *Internet*

The South Korean man was brought ashore on a rescue boat, after being found with his wife.— INTERNET

2012 Jiangsu Traditional Chinese Painting Institute Art Exhibition and Zhao Xucheng Inkwash Painting Exhibition were held simultaneously in Jiangsu Provincial Art. — XINHUA

US uses secret channel to warn Iran's supreme leader against closure of strait

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan — The Obama administration has used a secret channel of communication to warn Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, not to make good on the country's threat to close the Strait of Hormuz, the *New York Times* reported on Friday. Government officials were quoted as saying that closing the strait is a "red line" that would provoke an American response. But they declined to describe the unusual contact between the two governments, and whether there had been an Iranian reply.

The secret channel was used to underscore privately to Iran " the depth of American concern" about rising tensions over the strait, a strategically crucial waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, where 16 million barrels of oil — about a fifth of the world's daily oil trade — flow through every day, the report said. Iran's threat to close the strait came in late December in response to the planned expanded sanctions by the West to target its oil exports over its controversial nuclear programme.

Senior Obama administration officials have said publicly that Iran would cross a "red line" if it does so. However, American naval officials said their biggest fear is that an overzealous naval captain of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard could do something provocative on his own, setting off a larger crisis. Some officials and analysts described Iran's threat as bluster and an attempt to drive up oil price.

"Blocking the route for the vast majority of Iran's petroleum exports — and for its food and consumer imports — would amount to economic suicide," the *New York Times* report said. — *Xinhua*

Over 70 percent of Europeans aware of ageing

BRUSSELS, 15 Jan—Over 70 percent of Europeans are aware that Europe's population is getting old, although only 42 percent are concerned about the issue, according to a Eurobarometer survey released here on Friday. Over 60 percent of respondents believe that Europeans should be allowed to continue working after retirement age, and about 53 percent reject the idea of a compulsory retirement age.

Europeans also have various opinions towards the definition of being "young" and "old." In Malta, Portugal and Sweden, people under 37 years are considered young, whereas in Cyprus and Greece people are considered young up to the age of 50, according to the survey. On average, Europeans believe that people start being regarded as old just before 64 and are no longer considered young from the age of 42 years, the survey says.— *Xinhua*

5.0 magnitude earthquake hits New Zealand's Christchurch

WELLINGTON, 15 Jan—A 5.0 magnitude earthquake ratted New Zealand's South Island city of Christchurch on Sunday, followed by more aftershocks. The quake occurred at 2.47 am Sunday (13:47 GMT Saturday).

It was centred 10 km east of Christchurch and 10 km north-east of Lyttelton, at a depth of 9 km, New Zealand government geological agency GNS Sciences reported.

The quake was followed by magnitude 3.0 and 3.7 aftershocks at 4.11 am and 5.10 am and magnitude 3.3 and 3.5 at 7.05 am and 7.48 am.

The ambulance service says there are no reports of damage or injury. GNS Sciences said early this month that aftershocks might continue in Canterbury for the next 30 years.— *Xinhua*

Participants ski in the 30th edition of the Belalp Witches Ski Race on 14 Jan, 2012 in Belalp, Switzerland. The race is inspired by a legend dating back to the middle ages, of a witch who tormented villagers in the area until she was burnt to death.—INTERNET

People look at ice sculptures during the London Ice Sculpting Festival in London on 13 Jan, 2012. The annual festival runs from 13 to 14 January this year.— XINHUA

Cambodia finds first case of H5N1 infection in human in 2012

PHNOM PENH, 15 Jan—A 2-year-old boy from northwestern Cambodian province of Banteay Meanchey was infected with avian influenza H5N1 virus, Cambodia's Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization announced on Friday. The patient is currently in "critical condition" in Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap Province. The boy became sick on 3 Jan with fever, cough, runny nose and vomiting, the statement said, adding that he was initially treated by local private practitioners, but his conditions worsened and he was admitted to Angkor Hospital for Children on 9 January. "The diagnosis of the clinical samples on 12 January found that the boy had contact with sick or dead poultry prior to becoming sick," it said.

The boy is the nineteenth person in Cambodia to become infected with the fatal H5N1 virus, and the first such victim this year, said the statement. Of all the nineteen cases, 16 died. "Avian influenza is still a threat to the health of Cambodians. This is the first case of H5N1 infection in human this year, and children appear to be most vulnerable," the Minister of Health Mam Bunheng said in the statement.— *Xinhua*

Malaysia signs deal to continue oil operations in Sudan

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Jan—Malaysia's state oil and gas company, Petronas and its partners signed a Transition Agreement with the Southern Sudanese government to continue operations in the upstream blocks of South Sudan.

Petronas said on Saturday that the agreement grants Petronas and its partners rights to conduct petroleum operations in Blocks 1, 2 and 4, Blocks 3 and 7 and Block 5A that were previously granted by the Sudanese government before South Sudan's independence in July last year.

The Transition Agreement was signed on Friday in Juba, South Sudan in the presence of South Sudan' petroleum and mining minister, Stephen Dhieu Dau. "Petronas' investments in these two countries form an important international asset portfolio for the Malaysian national oil corporation," Petronas said in a statement. "Apart from protecting the rights and investments of Petronas and its partners... the Transition Agreement also paves the way for enhanced, mutually-beneficial relationship between Petronas and its partners with the government of South Sudan," it added.

MNA/Xinhua

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin and party receive Five Precepts from a Sayadaw at alms offering ceremony of members of the Sangha from Hkamti Township at Theravada Buddhist Missionary (Central) Monastery in Hkamti. **(News on page 1)**—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo …

(from page 1)

At the assembly hall, Max Myanmar Co Chairman U Zaw Zaw and IGE Co Chairman U Nay Aung donated K 5 million for the funds of the school and Shwe Thanlwin Co Chairman U Kyaw Win DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and portable generator.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo converses with trainees of Border Region Nationalities Youths Development Training School (Hkamti).—MNA

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said arrangements have been made for the students who have matriculated from the training school to join Ywathitgyi National Races Development University in Sagaing Region for BED, arts & science and GTI course and then to pursue B. Tech and BE course if qualified. Plans are being made for them to be able to work at respective departments after graduating.

So, the teachers are to train their students in order to reach the objectives of the training school. The students on their part are to try to become the ones capable of participating in the drive for regional development tasks and strengthening Union Spirit among the national brethren showing loyalty to the State, said the Vice-President.

The Vice-President and party then helicoptered to Nanyun of Naga Self-Administered Zone, where they were welcomed by departmental officials, townselders and local nationals.

On arrival at the Nanyun BEHS, the Vice-President viewed the students learning and taking pre-test of matriculation exam. Then, he attended a meeting with township level departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders at Nanyun General Administrative Department.

Township Administrator U Myint Naing reported on facts about Nanyun Township, its education, health, management and economic affairs, rural development tasks and regional requirements.

In his report, Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Chairman U Ru San Kyu said Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun townships in Sagaing Region have been formed into Naga Self-Administered Zone in accord with the constitution. The region chief minister nominated the members of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body who were then assigned by the President. Then, he reported on the locations, areas and weather conditions of the townships, formation of townships and sub-townships, population, education, health, transport, agricultural and livestock breeding sectors of the zone, regional development work and the needs for regional development.

Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye reported on construction of bridges on Shinbwayyan-Nanyun-Panhsaung road, reclamation of terraced farmlands, expanding of livestock breeding and regional development requirements; Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than on plans to provide assistance for extending agricultural tasks in Nanyun Township and quality paddy strains; and Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay on construction of 133-mile Nanyun-Donhee-Lahe road and bridges.

By making coordination with related ministries and entrepreneurs, the Vice-President fulfilled the needs for development of Naga Self-Administered Zone such as opening of new primary schools in required places, upgrading of the existing basic education schools, construction of new buildings for the schools if necessary, building staff quarters for teachers and setting up of funds for hospitals and health centres.

Then, the Vice-President delivered a speech saying he and his entourages came there to witness condition of Naga Self-Administered Zone and fulfill the needs. In the past, Hkamti District took responsibility for all the affairs of Nanyun Township. But now, in accord with the constitution, Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun townships have been formed into Naga Self-Administered Zone under the leadership of the leading body. Being the local national people, leading body members have been able to work harder for fulfilling their regional needs as they have more familiarity with the situation of the region.

He mentioned that over 5000 acres of farmland and 10000 acres of cropland have been utilized in the region, adding that local food security can be ensured by shifting to quality strains while extending the sown acreage and even surplus can be obtained if provided with necessary inputs as the region is sparsely populated.

He added that fundamental requirements have been fulfilled to the region for its educational and health development, urging personnel concerned to stimulate development of the region with goodwill.

He promised that measures will be taken to be able to use Nanyun-Donhee road in all seasons and for construction of Shinbwayyan-Nanyun-Pansaung road and Naungyan Lake ring road as part of yearly projects.

He confirmed the formation of a team constituted with departmental personnel which will coordinate with the region government concerned on the ground to spur economic development of Naga Region.

He then elaborated on elected representatives' engagement in legislative, executive and judicial pillars, measures for peace and stability of the State, rule of law and order and bringing armed conflicts to an end, invitation of domestic and foreign in vestments for national economic

(See page 9)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets to those at Nanyun Township General Administration Department. MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo …

(from page 8)

growth, government's assistance for and reforms in education and health to meet international standard and developments of the State.

Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay presented school uniforms, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe clothing, blankets, and solar lamps, Shwe Thanlwin Co Chairman U Kyaw Win DTH Sky Net TV receiver, TV and portable generator for locals of Nanyun Township through the township administrators.

During the meeting, fund for reclamation of land and construction of irrigation canal for terraced farming and medical fund to Nanyun Township Hospital was provided as well.

After the meeting, the Vice-President cordially greeted those present. The Vice-President and party then proceeded to Panhsaung of Naga Self-Administered Zone by choppers.

The Vice-President visited Panhsaung Basic Education High School and asked requirements of the school. He then coordinated essentials for completion of new school building under construction, building of teachers' quarters and opening of multi media classroom and attended to the needs of the school, calling for higher matriculation exam pass rate.

He then cordially greeted shopkeepers and locals of Panhsaung and spoke words of encouragement to them. He met departmental officials, members of social organizations and senior citizens at Panhsaung Township General Administration Department.

The Vice-President enquired about the township and gave a speech, saying that he while visiting Nanyun observed the development of Naga Self-Administered Zone and fulfilled the requirements of Nanyun. Likewise, requirements have been fulfilled for structural and academic necessities of Panhsaung BEHS in addition to needs for educational, health, social, economic, transportation and rural development of the entire Naga Self-Administered Zone including Panhsaung Sub-township.

He revealed a plan to raise a Foundation Fund for education, health and regional development of Naga Region and rural development fund by Union Solidarity and Development Party in collaboration with entrepreneurs who accompanied him on his tour of the region. He called local senior citizens to supervise those works under the aegis of the leading body of Naga Self-Administered Zone.

He added that Naga national representatives themselves are closely steering development undertakings of Naga Region after the establishment of Naga Self-Administered Zone according to the constitution, calling local nationals to play an active role in development endeavours of own region under the patronage of the leading body of Naga Region.

He provided a fund for water supply to Panhsaung and medical fund for the station hospital.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay and Deputy Minister U Phone Swe presented clothing and consumers goods and Shwe Thanlwin Co Chairman U Kyaw Win DTH Sky Net TV receiver, TV and portable generator for locals of Nanyun Township through the township administrators.

After the meeting, the Vice-President cordially greeted the attendees and left Panhsaung for Hkamti.

MNA

***Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo in meeting with students at Nanyun BEHS.*—MNA**

***Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets students of Panhsaung BEHS.*—MNA**

***Deputy Minister U Phone Swe presents warm clothing for local people.*—MNA**

Fund to be set up for implementing…

(from page 16)

and Development Party and entrepreneurs will set up the 120 million funds for carrying out the tasks. He stressed the need for townselders to form a committee to supervise the fund. He urged departmental officials to help the committee to be able to manage the fund in line with law, rules and regulations.

He pointed out that loans from the fund are to be disbursed to the borrowers at not more than 2 per cent interest rate. The 50% of interests obtained from the loans are to be spent on education, health, regional deve-lopment and poverty alleviation tasks, he said. The remaining 50% interest is to be added as the investment to the fund, he added. He invited enthusiasts to join the management and raising the fund.

Thus, he called on them to maintain the fund in line with the rules and regulations for durability of the fund and effectively benefiting the region.

Townselders U Khin Maung Nyunt, U Hla Pe and U Tin Hla accepted funds donated by USDP through Pyithu Hluttaw representative Thura U Aye Myint of Wetlet Township of Sagaing Region and wellwishers through Chairman of Max Myanmar Co U Zaw Zaw and IGE Co Chairman U Nay Aung.

On behalf of the wellwishers, Chairman of Shwe Thanlwin Co U Kyaw Win presented cash assistance for maintenance of Hkamti BEHS, medical funds of Hkamti People's Hospital (100-bed) and Kaunghein Station Hospital, Paul Mine Dhammayon, Women's Vocational Training School (Hkamti) and Border Region National Race Youths Development Training School (Hkamti) to officials.

The Region Chief Minister spoke words of thanks.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Hla Tun of Hkamti Township, on behalf of the townselders, expressed thanks for the Head of State to set up the fund and vowed to realize the aims. After the ceremony, Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greeted those present on the occasion.—*MNA*

***Chairman of IGE Co U Nay Aung presents cash for regional development.*—MNA**

US Senator Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 15 Jan—A delegation led by Senator Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell of the USA arrived here this noon by special flight, welcomed by officials of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Charge d' affaires Mr Michael E Thurston of US Embassy in Myanmar and personnel at Yangon International Airport.—*MNA*

***This file photo shows Japan Airlines passenger planes on the tarmac at Tokyo International Airport at Haneda. A Japan Airlines flight bound for Sydney was forced to turn back after takeoff when a business class passenger seat caught fire, according to reports.—*INTERNET**

Japan flight turns back after seat fire

TOKYO, 15 Jan—A Japan Airlines flight bound for Sydney was forced to turn back after takeoff when a business class passenger seat caught fire, according to reports.

The small fire was apparently caused by a cigarette lighter — although the airline said it has not yet identified who it belonged to, according to the *Kyodo News* and *Jiji Press* news agencies.

The Boeing 777, carrying 260 passengers and crew members, took off from Narita airport near Tokyo on Saturday evening but turned back shortly after takeoff.

No one was injured in the incident but passengers were forced to stay in Japan overnight, the reports said. The airline was not immediately available for confirmation.—*Internet*

Tanker moored off Nome, gearing up fuel delivery

ANCHORAGE, 15 Jan—A Russian tanker with a cargo of much-needed fuel for Nome was moored less than a half mile from the Alaska town's iced-in harbour Sunday morning, holding for disturbed ice to refreeze before crews can finish work to deliver the fuel, the Coast Guard said.

The US Coast Guard Cutter Healy, which cleared a path through hundreds of miles of Bering Sea ice for the tanker, was nearby. "We were able to successfully navigate that last bit of ice," Coast Guard spokesman Kip Wadlow said. "We were able to get it pretty much right on the money, in the position that the industry representatives wanted to start the fuel transfer process." The crew of the 370-foot tanker Renda was working to ensure the safe transfer of the 1.3-million gallons of fuel through a segmented hose that will be laid on top of the ice to the harbour, located about 2,100 feet from the ship, Wadlow said in a telephone interview from Nome Saturday night.

Wadlow said he doesn't know how long it will be before fuel flows as crews must wait 12 hours, or until about 5 am (6 am PST) Sunday, to ensure that the disturbed ice has refrozen.

At that point, crews must build some sort of road or pathway over the ice for the hose to rest on. Then the hose's segments will have to be bolted together and inspected before the fuel can begin to flow.

There has been a lot of anxious waiting since the ship left Russia in mid-December. It picked up diesel fuel in South Korea before traveling to Dutch Harbour, Alaska, where it took on unleaded gasoline. Late Thursday, the vessels stopped offshore and began planning the transfer.

Internet

***In this image provided by the US Coast Guard the Coast Guard Ice Breaker Healy guides the Russian tanker Renda closer to the fuel transfer mooring point on 14 Jan, 2012. Russian tanker carrying much-needed fuel to Nome moored less than a half mile from the town's iced-in harbour Saturday evening, starting final preparations for delivering the diesel fuel and gasoline, the Coast Guard said.—*INTERNET**

***This file photo shows boats crossing Mekong River. Unidentified attackers fired on a Chinese cargo boat on the Mekong River in Laos on Saturday evening, China's police said, less than two months after Beijing began joint patrols to protect shipping.—*INTERNET**

China says shots fired at cargo boat on Mekong

BEIJING, 15 Jan—Unidentified attackers fired on a Chinese cargo boat on the Mekong River in Laos, China's police said, less than two months after Beijing began joint patrols to protect shipping. Shots were fired at the Chinese ship *Sheng Tai 11* on Saturday evening, but none of the crew was wounded, China's Ministry of Public Security said in a statement on its website on Sunday.

The boat, which had five crew members, was carrying wood, Chinese state television reported. China last month deployed more than 300 armed police to patrol the Mekong in boats in collaboration with Myanmar, Thailand and Laos after a deadly attack killed 13 Chinese sailors in October last year.

In the latest incident, the Chinese ship was returning to China from Thailand, the statement said.

After the attack occurred, patrol ships from both Laos and China responded and Laos was still pursuing those suspected of carrying out the shooting. The Mekong flows through China's southwestern province of Yunnan into Southeast Asia, serving as a major trade route through several countries.

China reacted angrily to the October attack, sending patrol boats down the Mekong to retrieve 164 stranded Chinese sailors and 28 cargo ships and calling on diplomats from Thailand, Laos and Myanmar to speed up investigations.

Since then, police in Thailand have detained nine soldiers suspected of killing the Chinese sailors and are also thought to have links with a drug kingpin.—*Internet*

More than 1,300 kg drugs seized in Azerbaijan over past years

BAKU, 15 Jan—The State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan has seized 1,346 kg of drugs since 2007, the customs said in a statistics report on fight against drug trafficking released on Saturday. The drugs include 924.344 kg of hashish, 203.666 kg of heroin, 188.469 kg of opium, 4.747 kg of marihuana, 24.4 kg of methamfetamin.

According to the report, most detainees were Azerbaijani and Iranian citizens who were brought to responsibility for drug trafficking in the past five years.

Complication of the drug trafficking in Azerbaijan is directly linked with Afghanistan factor. According to the assessments of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 32,200 tones of opium were produced in 727,000 hectare area in Afghanistan between 2007 and 2011.—*Xinhua*

Somali pirates free Indian crew of 21

ABUJA, 15 Jan—All 21 Indian crew members held hostage by Somali pirates on a chemical oil tanker since August have been released safely, officials in Mumbai said. The release of the crew on the MV Fairchem Bogey comes after 17 Indian sailors were among hostages freed from a hijacked Italian vessel late last month after more than 10 months in captivity.

"All the 21 sailors are safe and the ship is now on its way to a safe port," Director General of Shipping SB Agnihotri told reporters in Mumbai late Saturday. He declined to comment on reports that a ransom had been paid, but added that 22 Indian sailors remained held by Somali pirates on various other ships in the Indian Ocean. The Marshall Island-flagged Fairchem Bogey, run by Anglo-Eastern Ship Management, was hijacked when at anchor in Salalah port off the coast of Oman on 20 August. Piracy for ransom is an organised and lucrative operation in Somalia that has expanded into a vast area off the country's coast.—*Internet*

This file photo, provided by the US Navy, shows Somali pirates speeding off of towards Somalia's coast. All 21 Indian crew members held hostage by Somali pirates on a chemical oil tanker since August have been released safely, officials in Mumbai said.—*INTERNET

Heavy rain to sweep south China, disrupt road traffic

BEIJING, 15 Jan—Heavy rains will continue to sweep across most parts in south China for the coming 24 hours and will disrupt road traffic in the regions, the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) warned on Sunday.

The eastern parts of Guangxi, and some regions in Guangdong, Jiangxi and Fujian Provinces will see heavy rains over the next 24 hours, with some areas receiving downpours of 50 to 60 milliliters, the NMC said in a statement.

Transportation in parts of major highways in the south, including Changsha-Shenzhen, Lanzhou-Haikou and Guangzhou-Kunming expressways, could be affected by unfavorable weather conditions, the NMC said. Meanwhile, a new round of cold front will hit northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region from Tuesday, bringing strong winds and temperatures drops along the way, the NMC said.—*Internet*

Four women held inMexican child-trafficking case

MEXICO CITY, 15 Jan—Investigators say four women are being held in the western Mexican city of Guadalajara in connection with an apparent child-trafficking ring that aimed to supply babies to childless Irish couples.

The Jalisco state prosecutor's office says a 21-year-old woman has been arrested after a relative reported that she was "renting out" one of her children.

The woman said she had been paid to give the child to a group of three women who needed baby pictures for legitimate advertising purposes.

Investigators found the other three women were taking the child and several others to a hotel where Irish couples believed they were going to adopt them.

Officials are investigating whether the Irish couples and Mexican mothers were tricked.

Internet

Int'l Consumer Electronics Show held in Apple's shadow

LAS VEGAS, 15 Jan— Showcasing more than 20,000 products from a record number of over 3,200 exhibitors in an exhibition space of 0.17 million square meters, the 2012 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) turned out to be one of the largest in the event's 44-year-old history. Though Apple was absent, its dominating influence was felt everywhere throughout the world's largest consumer technology trade show, which ended here on Friday.

While other top-notch brands are touting their versions of Ultrabook, Smartphone, Smart TV and Tablets, Apple once again proved its status as the industry's most innovative firm and role model. Over 300 companies exhibited Apple accessories, even more defined their products in terms of Apple's products. "It's now clear that one theme will dominate this year's International Consumer Electronics Show: catching up with Apple," said the San Francisco Chronicle on its website.

At last year's CES, it was all about Tablets. This year, the super-thin Ultrabooks are in the show's spotlight. The "Ultrabook" laptops are making computers as attractive as Tablets while retaining standard performance. More than 30 types of Ultrabooks were presented by PC makers such as Hewlett-Packard, Lenovo, Acer, Samsung and others. The concept of "Ultrabook" was created by computer processor giant Intel in 2011 in response to Apple's Macbook Air.

CNET, the official streaming media partner of CES, said in a review that "The Ultrabook format has been described as a MacBook Air running the Windows OS." In the competition for the best Smartphone of CES 2012, Nokia's Lumia 900 came out on top, staging a comeback for the mobile phone leader Nokia after it joined hands with software giant Microsoft. Other ambitious contenders include Lenovo K800, the world's first Smartphone containing Intel's powerful chip.— *Xinhua*

***Zeng Jie (L) performs during a live show in Zhouzhuang, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 10 Dec, 2011.*— XINHUA**

Miss Wisconsin wins Miss America pageant in Vegas

LAS VEGAS, 15 Jan—A 23-year-old beauty queen from Wisconsin won the Miss America pageant on Saturday in Las Vegas after singing opera and strutting in a white bikini and black beaded evening gown. to answer a question about whether beauty queens should declare their politics.

"Miss America represents everyone, so I think the message to political candidates is that they represent everyone as well," she said.

Miss Wisconsin Laura Kaeppeler reacts after being crowned Miss America on 14 Jan, 2012, at The Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.
INTERNET

"And so in these economic times, we need to be looking forward to what America needs, and I think Miss America needs to represent all." Miss Oklahoma Betty Thompson came in second, while Miss New York Kaitlyn Monte placed third.

Kaeppeler wins a $50,000 scholarship and gets the title for one year. Her platform during the competition was supporting and mentoring children of incarcerated parents — a topic close to her heart.

Kaeppeler's father, Jeff Kaeppeler, told The Associated Press he served 18 months in federal prison for mail fraud. He said when his daughter approached the family about making the personal topic her chosen platform, they supported it even though they knew it would be discussed publicly. "We've seen this come full circle," he said.

Internet

***Lionsgate buys "Twilight" studio for $412.5 mln.* XINHUA**

Lionsgate buys "Twilight" studio for $412.5m

LOS ANGELES, 15 Jan— Leading independent motion picture producer and distributor Lionsgate has acquired vampire and werewolves epic series "Twilight" producer Summit Entertainment for 412.5 million US dollars, the company announced on Friday. The announcement helped settle the dust on the acquisition which had circled around for a couple of months, as Lionsgate beat out other bidders headed by Colony Capital to complete the high-publicity deal.

"This transaction continues Lionsgate's long-term growth strategy of building a diversified worldwide media company through a combination of disciplined, accretive strategic acquisitions and organic growth while maintaining a solid balance sheet," said Lionsgate Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jon Feltheimer and Vice Chairman Michael Burns. "Rob Friedman and Patrick Wachsberger have built a remarkable organization, and we're pleased to welcome Summit's talented team to the Lionsgate family," they added, referring to the co-chairs of Summit Entertainment. Lionsgate will foot the majority of the bill with cash, which includes 55 million dollars of existing cash, 45 million of cash received from a newly issued series of Lionsgate convertible notes, as well as 50 million dollars of its common stock and an additional 20 million dollars of cash or stock to be issued at its option within 60 days, the Santa Monica, Calif based firm said.

The deal, which had been on and off since late 2008, will boost Lionsgate's library of 13,000 titles, and helps pave the way for its overseas development with the addition of an international distribution network from the Summit Entertainment which it lacks. Summit Entertainment, also based in Santa Monica, will retain its label, according to the announcement.

Xinhua

Costs of removing faulty breast implants to be covered in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Jan— The Brazilian government said Friday that public and private healthcare systems will cover the costs of removal or replacement of faulty PIP and Rofil breast implants.

Health Minister Alexandre Padilha told reporters that there is no need for all patients who received PIP and Rofil breast implants to undergo the replacement surgery. Only those with ruptured implants will need to have them replaced.

"Women should head to the healthcare services to make an evaluation and find out if they need to undergo surgery," he said.

Next week, Health Ministry will announce the full instructions which the patients who received PIP or Rofil implants need to follow to get checked by a doctor, but patients can already set up evaluations, via public or private healthcare systems.

Meanwhile, National Health Surveillance Agency has established procedures to determine how to punish the importers of PIP and Rofil implants.— *Xinhua*

***Models presented creations from Filhas de Gaia's collection during Fashion Rio Winter 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*— XINHUA**

Indonesia's Bali enjoys robust tourism

JAKARTA, 15 Jan— Tourism sector in Indonesia's Bali remained strong in 2011 with foreign tourist arrivals slightly above the government's target of 2.7 million people, the *Jakarta Post* reported here on Friday. Surprisingly, despite the ongoing economic woes that have riddled the US, visitors from that country rose by nearly 25 percent.

Based on data by the provincial Tourism Agency, total foreign tourist arrivals to Bali reached 2,756,579 people last year, a rise of 10.57 percent from 2,493,058 people in 2010.

The number of tourists from the US visiting Bali last year was 90,154 people, or an increase 24.96 percent from the previous year. The US contributed 3.27 percent to the total foreign tourist arrivals to the island.

Three other nationalities showing a two-digit increase were Australia (22.09 percent), China (20.32 percent) and Singapore (17. 29 percent)."The number of tourists from the United States showed a significant increase, although the country is still facing a financial crisis. The country ranks 10th in tourist arrivals to Bali," said agency head Ida Bagus Kade Subhiksu.—*Xinhua*

Mothers on SSRIs risk newborns with high blood pressure in lungs

STOCKHOLM, 15 Jan— Mothers who take selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) anti-depressants during pregnancy are facing greater risk of giving birth to children with high blood pressure in the lungs, a research showed on Friday. According to a study lead by Swedish medical university Karolinska Institutet, anti-depressants taken in mothers' late pregnancy are more likely to cause high blood pressure of babies, so called persistent pulmonary hypertension, than in early pregnancy and the risk is doubled compared to non-exposed cases.

Persistent pulmonary hypertension, a rare but severe disease, leads to difficulties in breathing and has strong links to heart failure, explained Karonlinska Institutet in a statement. The study was carried out between 1996 and 2007 by researchers from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden at the institute on 1.6 million births in total in these countries, said the statement.

It added that the study found that out of 11,014 mothers who used anti-depressants in late pregnancy, 33 babies (0.2 percent) were born with persistent pulmonary hypertension and out of 17,053 mothers who used anti-depressant drugs in early pregnancy, just 32 babies (less than 0.2 percent) were diagnosed with persistent pulmonary hypertension. A total of 114 babies whose mothers had previously been diagnosed with a mental illness were found to be suffering from the disease. The new research is published on the *British Medical Journal*.

Xinhua

The Eternal Flame on Parliament Hill burns as snow continues to fall in Ottawa, Canada, on 13 Jan, 2012. Over 15 centimeters of snow was expected to fall in the capital on 13 January. — XINHUA

Super Model Miranda Kerr arrives at the W Magazine Best Performances Issue and The Golden Globes celebration hosted by Dom Perignon and W Magazine held at Chateau Marmont on 13 Jan, 2012 in Los Angeles, California.
INTERNET

S Koreans find new beauty obsession in small faces

SEOUL, 15 Jan — Double-eyelid surgery is so 1990's. So is a nose job. For beauty-conscious South Koreans, whose endless pursuit of a more Westernized look has led to a thriving plastic surgery industry, operations that make their face smaller are the new "it" thing. There is now a rapidly growing demand here for double-jaw surgery, which involves reconfiguring and aligning the upper and lower jaws and takes months for post-surgical recovery.

Though the surgery is originally developed to correct underbite and crossbite, among other orthodontic problems, more and more In a country where double-eyelid surgery to get larger eyes is a common high school graduation gift from parents, the latest craze might not come as a big surprise. "It could be easily assumed that 99 percent of South Korean celebrities got stuff done on their faces," said Dr Park Sang- hoon, head of Seoul's ID Hospital, which specializes in double-jaw surgery.

The popularity of double-jaw surgery, which Dr Park calls a " post-2000 phenomenon", also has a lot to do with a succession of South Korean celebrities who recently had their jaw bone cut and emerged looking like "totally different people" as countless Internet users enthused. Comparing face sizes of celebrities is a common topic of discussion for netizens, who hardly hesitate to judge those with smaller faces are "winners".—*Xinhua*

5.3-magnitude quake hits Solomon Islands

SYDNEY, 15 Jan—An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Solomon Islands at 02:40:10 GMT on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said.The epicenter, with a depth of 102.70 km, was initially determined to be at 7.2949 degrees south latitude and 155.1455 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

Space station moves up and out of way of debris

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan—*The International Space Station* has moved up and out of the way of a softball-sized piece of space junk. NASA officials said debris from an old US private communication satellite would have come within three miles (5 kilometres) of the orbiting outpost on Friday had the station not changed its orbit.

Space junk moves so fast that it can puncture the station, so engineers try to give debris a wide berth whenever something comes close. Astronauts fired the station's engines for 54 seconds Friday to move the outpost about 1,000 feet (305 meters) higher. NASA said it needed to boost the station's orbit anyway to get ready for a cargo delivery. This is the 13th time the space station has dodged space junk since 1998.—*Internet*

Three ETA suspects arrested in France

MADRID, 15 Jan—French authorities on Saturday announced the detention of three suspected members of Basque separatist group ETA.The suspects, one of whom has been identified as Jon Etxeberria Oyarbide, were arrested after getting off a train in the town of Joigny in the Yonne region of France.

The other two detainees have not been identified, but French police have confirmed that they are both Spanish and sources confirmed to Spanish TV station TVE that they were also armed.The arrests represent the first detention of ETA members since the Spanish general elections, which brought Mariano Rajoy's Popular Party to power and saw the radical Basque separatist party, Amaiur, win a total of seven seats in the Basque Country and the Community of Navarra.

Xinhua

Rescuers transfer an injured man following an attack by militants on a police station in northwest Pakistan's Dera Ismail Khan on 14 Jan, 2012. Pakistani security forces quelled a militant attack on a police station in which 9 people were killed including four suicide bombers, two police and three civilians, police said.
XINHUA

Passengers wait for buses at a coach station in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 14 Jan, 2012. As the spring festival holidays approaches, coach stations in Nanjing witnessed a travel peak recently.
XINHUA

Survey finds science misconduct "alive and well"

LONDON, 15 Jan—More than one in 10 British-based scientists or doctors have witnessed colleagues intentionally altering or fabricating data during their research, according to a survey by the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) on Thursday. The survey, which collated more than 2,700 responses, also found that 6 percent of scientists said they were aware of possible research misconduct at their institution that had not been properly investigated.

The results suggest "research misconduct is alive and well in the UK," the BMJ said in a statement, and highlights the need for better systems to deter, detect, and investigate it.

According to BMJ editor-in-chief Fiona Godlee, who wrote a commentary about the findings, high profile cases of misconduct have led many other countries, including the United States, Canada, Sweden, Norway and Poland, to create formal mechanisms for overseeing research integrity. "Why does the United Kingdom have no plans to do the same?" she wrote.

The survey, which was conducted via email and is ongoing, has so far received responses to 31 percent, or 2,782 of the 9,036 emails delivered to researchers. The doctors were asked whether they had "witnessed or have first-hand knowledge of UK-based scientists or doctors inappropriately adjusting, excluding, altering or fabricating data during their research or for the purposes of publication," - to which 13 percent said yes. Godlee, whose journal has long been campaigning for greater scrutiny of scientific research and greater transparency in clinical trials, said the results exposed as myth the idea that research misconduct was very rare in Britain.

Internet

Banned Bulgarian soccer referee uses false identity

A banned Bulgarian referee took charge of this week's friendly between Werder Bremen and AZ Alkmaar under a false identity, state television BNT reported on Friday.

BNT said Luchezar Yonov used the name of fellow countryman and eligible referee Raicho Raichev for Wednesday's game played in the Turkish resort of Belek. "This story convinces us the decision we took last year was right," Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) refereeing commission chairman Kostadin Kostadinov told state television. Yonov and his assistants Petar Tarulov and Emil Mitev were among the referees who were suspended in 2011 for officiating at international matches in South America without informing the BFU.

"I'll take all necessary measures to clear my name," Raichev told the Bulgarian football referees association's website. "What they did is so sneaky." Bundesliga club Werder came back from a goal down to beat their Dutch opponents 2-1.

News Album

Two girls leaning on cows talk with each other during the 96th Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, the United States, on 12 Jan, 2012. The Pennsylvania Farm Show is the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the country, with nearly 6,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits and 290 commercial exhibits. About 400,000 visitors would join the show.

Children put their hands on a huge pumpkin weighing 735 pounds during the 96th Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, the United States, on 12 Jan, 2012. The Pennsylvania Farm Show is the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the country, with nearly 6,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits and 290 commercial exhibits. About 400,000 visitors would join the show.

Woman finds love letter from 1862

A Swedish woman who discovered pages covered in handwriting while walking in the countryside said she was shocked to read they were from 1862.

Susann Bollo, 45, of Stockholm, said she was walking with her boyfriend, Roger Bengtsson, in a field outside of Morup when she came across the folded pages covered in handwriting, *The Local* reported Friday. "I cried out to Roger that the letter was from '62," Bollo said.

However, she took a closer look and discovered the date on the letter, which was written by a woman named Lina to her "beloved," named Otto, and found it was actually dated July 24, 1862. "The fields were frosty so the pages were completely dry. It must have come in with the storm, 'Emil,' the day before," Bollo said. "The letter was only a few meters from a water-filled ditch. It would have only taken a breath of wind to take it off into the water where it would have been destroyed."

Firefighters rescue toddler from air duct

Connecticut firefighters said a 2-year-old boy was rescued uninjured after he fell 8 to 10 feet into an air duct. New Haven Fire Chief Michael Grant said a 911 caller around 2:30 pm Thursday reported a 2-year-old boy had crawled into a duct and fell from the first floor to the basement, CTnow.com reported Friday.

Grant told the Hartford (Conn) Courant the boy was freed by firefighters who cut through the duct.

The boy appeared to be uninjured but was taken to a hospital as a precaution, Grant said.

"This was a unique call that you don't hear of everyday, but our troops did good," Grant said.

Nicole Kidman says off-screen privacy is key

***In this image released by HBO, Nicole Kidman, left, and Clive Owen are shown in a scene from the HBO film, "Hemingway & Gellhorn." Owen and Kidman portray writer Ernest Hemingway and war reporter Martha Gellhorn in the film debuting in May.*—INTERNET**

PASADENA, 15 Jan—Nicole Kidman and Clive Owen play writers Martha Gellhorn and Ernest Hemingway in a new HBO film, but they'd prefer to keep their own lives off-screen.

At a news conference Friday promoting "Hemingway & Gellhorn," Kidman said she likes her privacy and protects it "quite diligently." She and husband Keith Urban live in Nashville, Tennessee, with their two daughters.

Kidman's British co-star shares her viewpoint. Of a Clive Owen biopic, he said, "I wouldn't want to see it."

"Hemingway & Gellhorn" is set to air in May. It's about the passionate, short-lived relationship of Gellhorn, a daring war correspondent, and the great novelist.

Kidman says she enjoys portraying inspirational women "who defy the odds and that burn bright," as Gellhorn did.

Internet

DiCaprio, Streep celebrate at pre-Globes tea party

LOS ANGELES, 15 Jan—Before the Golden Globes Champagne, there is the BAFTA tea.

The Los Angeles branch of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts held its 18th annual Awards Season Tea Party Saturday, where a slew of Golden Globe nominees sipped Earl Grey and nibbled on finger sandwiches and scones with jam and cream.

Michelle Williams, Viola Davis, Meryl Streep and Charlize Theron — all up for best actress Sunday — mingled with fellow filmmakers and nominees at the afternoon affair at the Four Seasons Hotel, also home to a gift suite and beauty lounge leading up to the Golden Globes. The place was alight with stars. While the BAFTA tea party was going on in the hotel ballroom, Gilles Marini and Anne Heche collected swag at the HBO Luxury Lounge upstairs and Malin Ackerman and her stepmom got dolled up at the InStyle Beauty Lounge on a private outdoor patio.

Theron was already picture perfect when she arrived at the BAFTA party — so perfect, in fact, that supporting actress nominee Octavia Spencer was afraid to get too close.—*Internet*

***Actress Shailene Woodley arrives at the 18th Annual BAFTA Los Angeles Tea Party in Los Angeles on 14 Jan, 2012.*—INTERNET**

In this 7 June, 2011 photo, Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez attend the Samsung Hope for Children Gala in New York.
INTERNET

Lopez, Anthony promoting new project

PASADENA, 15 Jan—Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony were together again on Saturday — at least to promote their new project. The stars, who announced last summer they were ending their marriage after seven years, appeared on a stage Saturday to talk briefly about a new music series they are doing together. "Q'Viva! The Chosen" premieres on Univision on 28 January.

Anthony reached down to offer his hand and help Lopez climb three stairs to the stage, and later admired the four sparkling rings on her left hand. They sat side by side on director's chairs.

The two stars, along with Jamie King, travel throughout north and south America to search for artists who will come to the United States and participate in a live show of Latin music and entertainment. It airs in 12 weekly episodes in the US and on Spanish-language stations across Latin America. An English-language version is planned later for Fox.

Anthony and Lopez were working this week to judge some of the contestants, Univision said. "It was like any time that we work together," said Lopez, who wore a tight blue leather mini-dress for the morning news conference. "We have a great time working together." Lopez, also a judge on Fox's "American Idol," said she'd be open to doing another season if the first one is successful.

Anthony said that there's been a misconception that "Q'Viva! The Chosen" is just a talent show. "We're not judges," he said. "We're show producers. We're putting together a live show and we're documenting the process."

Internet

Jennifer Hudson spreads her fashion wings

NEW YORK, 15 Jan—US actress-singer Jennifer Hudson says losing weight has opened new doors for her into the wonderful world of haute couture.

Hudson told Stylelist in New York she's having a blast decking herself out in sharp-looking frocks and shoes.

"I feel like my own little Barbie doll — I get to dress myself up," Hudson said. "I hated [high] heels before, but that's all I wear now."

People magazine said Hudson's trimmer frame helped land her a recent cover spread on Good Housekeeping, and she's not finished yet. "Who is this new me?" she said. "I knew how to be the big girl, but now I have to find out how to be this."

Internet

Jennifer Hudson

Manchester United's Paul Scholes, right, celebrates with teammate Danny Welbeck after scoring against Bolton Wanderers during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford, Manchester, England, on Saturday. INTERNET

Scholes helps Man United beat Bolton 3-0

MANCHESTER, 15 Jan— Paul Scholes scored his first goal since ending his short-lived retirement to help Manchester United to a 3-0 Premier League win over Bolton on Saturday.

In the second match of his comeback, Scholes turned in Wayne Rooney's cross in the 45th minute for his first goal since August 2010.

Scholes' 151st league goal helped United pull two points ahead of third-place Tottenham, which drew 1-1 with relegation-threatened Wolverhampton Wanderers.

United trails City on goal difference, although City can restore its three-point lead if it beats Wigan on Monday. Six months after ending a career during which he only played for United, the 37-year-old Scholes returned in last weekend's FA Cup win over Manchester City.

On Saturday, he became the oldest Englishman to score a league goal for United.— *Internet*

Birdie blitz gives Canadian rookie share of lead

JOHANNESBURG, 15 Jan— European Tour rookie Andrew Parr fired an eight-birdie 64 on Saturday to share the Joburg Open clubhouse lead after an incomplete third round. He is level on 12-under-par 203 with South African Dawie van der Walt, although six of the leading nine golfers on the leaderboard have four or fewer holes to play in a tournament constantly disrupted by thunder-storms. Among those who must complete their rounds early on Sunday are South African Branden Grace and Englishman Richard Finch, who lie 15-under, and another local, George Coetzee, at 14-under.— *Internet*

European Tour rookie Andrew Parr, pictured in 2009, fired an eight-birdie 64 on Saturday to share the Joburg Open clubhouse lead after an incomplete third round. INTERNET

Real Madrid's forward Karim Benzema tries control the ball during their Spanish league football match against Mallorca at the Iberostar stadium in Palma de Mallorca. Real Madrid won 2-1.

Real Madrid hit back to go eight points clear

PALMA DE MALLORCA , 15 Jan — Jose Callejon grabbed a late winner for Real Madrid as Jose Mourinho's men fought back from a goal down to defeat Mallorca 2-1 and go eight points clear of bitter rivals Barcelona at the top of La Liga on Saturday. The win piled the pressure on champions Barcelona who tackle Real Betis at home on Sunday.

Israeli international Tomer Hemed put Mallorca in front in the first-half and it looked like a surprise result was on the cards before substitute Gonzalo Higuain gave Madrid hope with a 71st minute equaliser. Callejon then struck what could prove to be a crucial winner in the 82nd minute of a game where Real were second best in the first half.

"They defended well with no errors and knew how we would attack them, they played really well, especially in the first-half," said Mourinho. "We had to take risks in the second half to win. I took Marcelo off because I wanted to go with three at the back. I put Fabio Coentrao with Pepe and Sergio Ramos, because they are quick enough to play in a three-man defence." Callejon added: "The most key thing is the teamwork that keeps us at the top, the three points are much more important than my goal."— *Internet*

Keflezighi, Flanagan win Olympic marathon trials

HOUSTON, 15 Jan—Meb Keflezighi remembered to wear his nasal strip this time, then made some history at the US Olympic marathon trials. The Eritrea-born Keflezighi won Saturday's race in a personal-best time of 2 hours, 9 minutes and 8 seconds to qualify for his third games. At 36, Keflezighi is the oldest winner of the trial and the first man to win the event and the New York marathon (2009) in his career.

A spectator handed Keflezighi an American flag in the final mile on Saturday, and he waved it and pumped his fist to the cheering crowd as he approached the finish line. "It was just a magical moment," Keflezighi said.

The top American men's and women's distance runners competed in Houston for three Marathon spots on each team that will represent the US at the Summer Games. Shalane Flanagan won the women's competition in an event-record time of 2:25.38. Running in only her second career marathon, the 30-year-old Flanagan shaved more than three minutes off her previous personal best, set in her runner-up finish in New York in 2010.

Keflezighi, the silver medalist in the Athens marathon in 2004, was the only man entered Saturday who ran in the New York City Marathon in November. He finished sixth with a personal-best time (2:09.13), then developed an infection in his left foot, the result of leaving a nasal strip in his shoe, part of his pre-race ritual. He missed three weeks of training, and felt fortunate he was able to get ready for Houston in time. Keflezighi relied on his longtime coach, Bob Larsen, to hand him the nasal strip before Saturday's race.

Internet

Ali still the Greatest as he celebrates 70th

PHOENIX, 15 Jan — "Rumble, young man, rumble," used to be his battle cry. But Muhammad Ali is an old man now, ravaged by his years in the ring and his decades of braving Parkinson's disease. The voice that used to bellow that he was "The Greatest" is largely muted now, save for those times in the mornings when he is able to whisper his thoughts. The face, though, is still that of the most recognizable man on earth. Maybe not as finely chiseled as it was in his prime, but close enough.

"It's not like he doesn't look like himself," said his oldest daughter, Maryum "May May" Ali. "It's the same face, the Parkinson's hasn't affected that.'" Ali turns 70 on Tuesday, giving Baby Boomers who grew up with him one more reason to reflect on their own advancing years. He's fought Parkinson's the way he fought the late Joe Frazier, never giving an inch. But it's a fight he can't win, and nearly 30 years of living with it has taken a heavy toll.

His days at home with wife, Lonnie, in a gated community near Phoenix, generally follow the same routine: He gets out of bed and takes a shower before easing into his favorite chair for long hours at a time. Sometimes he will watch videos of his old fights. The hands will move, eyes will twitch, as he remembers the magnificent fighter and physical specimen he once was.— *Internet*

In this 25 May, 1965, file photo, heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali stands over fallen challenger Sonny Liston, after dropping Liston with a short hard right to the jaw in Lewiston, Maine. Ali turns 70 on 17 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Edson Barboza, from Brazil, left, exchanges punches with Terry Etim, from the UK, during their lightweight mixed martial arts bout at the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) 142 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 15 Jan, 2012.— INTERNET

International Sports

Kim Clijsters of Belgium plays a stroke during a training session ahead of the 2012 Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 15 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Former Brazil star Rivaldo joins Angolan club

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Jan — Former Brazil star and World Footballer of the Year Rivaldo has signed a one-year contract with Angola premier league club Kabuscorp Sport Clube do Palanca. Club officials confirmed on Saturday a deal that will bring Rivaldo, who turns 40 in April, to a Luanda team who finished second behind Recreativo Libolo in the national championship last year. The 1999 World Footballer of the Year and European Footballer of the Year will inject much needed interest into a league that suffers, like most others in Africa, from an exodus of its best footballers to Europe.

Rivaldo left Brazilian outfit Sao Paulo a month ago after another chapter in a globe-trotting career that had taken him to Spain, Italy, Greece and Uzbekistan before returning home last year. Attacking midfielder Rivaldo, who said the fact that Brazil and Angola are Portuguese-speaking countries played a big part in his decision, was part of the Brazil 2002 World Cup-winning team and played for Barcelona and AC Milan.— *Internet*

Former Brazil star and World Footballer of the Year Rivaldo, pictured here in 2007, has signed a one-year contract with Angola premier league club Kabuscorp Sport Clube do Palanca.—INTERNET

Vonn wins Cortina super-G

CORTINA, 15 Jan—Lindsey Vonn of the United States on Sunday bagged her 47th World Cup race success in winning the super-G at Cortina d'Ampezzo.

Vonn scored her sixth win of the campaign - and sixth in all at the venue—in timing 1min 26.16sec to see off Germany's Maria Hoefl-Riesch and Slovenia's Tina Maze by 0.61sec and 0.86sec respectively.

Vonn placed second in the Saturday downhill and has bounced back from a disappointing showing last week at Bad Kleinkirchheim in Austria, where she missed the podium after coming in fourth in the downhill and then trailing in 18th in the super-G for her worst result in four seasons. Discipline world champion Elisabeth Goergl came in fourth on Sunday 0.97sec adrift of Vonn while fellow Austrian Anna Fenninger, having managed three straight podium placings, this time failed to finish.

Vonn increased her lead in the overall standings where she leads Maze by 291 points.—*Internet*

American Lindsey Vonn has bagged her 47th World Cup race success in winning the super-G at Cortina d'Ampezzo.
INTERNET

Newcastle 1 - 0 QPR

Leon Best's brilliant first-half strike took Newcastle up to sixth in the Premier League table and spoiled Mark Hughes's first game as QPR manager.

LONDON, 15 Jan—Rangers twice hit the woodwork in the first half, through a fierce Shaun Wright-Phillips strike and Jay Bothroyd's fabulous, curling effort.

But Newcastle recovered from a shaky start and Best stroked home a cool winner after some fine footwork.

Bothroyd wasted two good chances after the interval but the Magpies held on. The result was more than a little harsh on QPR, who gave a competitive performance befitting their new boss.

Best's immaculate winner was the only shot on goal the hosts managed but the statistics betray their contribution to a frenetic and entertaining match.

QPR slipped into the relegation zone following Blackburn's win over Fulham on Saturday, but would have climbed back out with a point.

And a blistering beginning augured well for their chances of doing just that.

Wright Phillips skimmed the top of the bar with a fierce 18-yard strike as Newcastle struggled to gain or retain possession in the opening ten minutes.

Heidar Helguson had a decent strike saved within the first 60 seconds and the Londoners were first to every ball and kept the Magpies pegged back in their own half.

***Leon Best curls in the winner after cutting inside Luke Young.—*INTERNET**

Akos Buzsaky also caused home goalkeeper Tim Krul a nervy moment with a swerving strike.

And just after the half-hour mark, Jay Bothroyd grazed the far post with a delicious, curling effort from the edge of the box after a lovely piece of skill on the left.

But in between the two efforts that hit the bar and post, Newcastle got on top, despite Yohan Cabaye having to come off with an ankle injury after a late lunge from Shaun Derry.—*Internet*

DISTRICT NEWS

Basic fire fighting course concludes at MTE

YANGON, 15 Jan—The basic fire fighting course No. 1/2012, organized by Myanma Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, concluded in conjunction with the fire drill at Main Workshop (Saw Mill) in Kyimyindine Township on 9 January.

Assistant Director Ye Bala U Thaung Htaik of Myanmar Fire Services Department gave talks on fire preventive measures.

He presented certificates to the trainees. Later, the fire brigade of Kyimyindine Township together with the trainees demonstrated the fire drill.—*Myanmar Alin*

Lower Binhlaing Road opened as repaved facility

THATON, 15 Jan—The lower Binhlaing Road, repaved as a self-reliant asphalt road, was put into service in Binhlaing Ward of Thaton on 29 December 2011.

Mon State Minister for Development Affairs Dr U Toe Toe Aung, Minister for Transport U Tun Hlaing, departmental officials, social organization members and local people, totalling about 500 attended the opening ceremony.

The road, 3090 feet long and 12 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of K 34.12 million.—*Township DAC*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(16-1-12 09:30 am ~ 17-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

* News
* Travel in Monywa - Moe Hnyin Than Buddhe Pagoda
* News
* "Topic on Journal" Care the olds! Be Blessed!
* 16th Mayor Cup Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Exhibition & Competition
* News
* Youth and Fashion (Wit Hmone Shwe Yee)
* News
* Music Gallery
* Myanmar Martial Arts (Part 6)
* Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham's Visit to Mingalar Taung Nyunt Victims Relief Camp
* Vibrant and lively Kyaukse Elephant Dance
* Music
* "Myanmar Movie Impact" New Model
* Shwe Settaw (Min Bu)
* Myanmar Movies ''Competition of Consecration''

MYANMAR TV

(16-1-2012) (Monday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:40 am
2. Nice & Sweet Song

8:35 am
3. International News

4:00 pm
4. Martial Song

4:10 pm
5. Dance Variety

4:15 pm
6. Musical Programme

4:30 pm
7. Dance of National Races

4:40 pm
8. Teleplay (Health)

5:05 pm
9. Songs for Upholding National Spirit

5:15 pm
10. Myanmar Language

5:35 pm
11. Myanmar Idol

7:00 pm
12. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
13. News
14. World's Stars
15. TV Drama Series
16. India Drama Series

Golden Globe nominees warm up with rooftop party

WEST HOLLYWOOD, 15 Jan— The glittery, Champagne-soaked vibe of the Golden Globes spreads through Hollywood days before the ceremony, and the Dom Perignon was definitely flowing at W magazine's pre-Globes party.

On a patio overlooking the Sunset Strip at the storied Chateau Marmont, Golden Globe nominees Charlize Theron and Tilda Swinton and stars Emma Stone, Jessica Biel and Patrick Stewart mixed it up Friday night with fellow actors, filmmakers and fashionistas. The soiree honored W magazine's February movie issue. Swinton, nominated for best actress in a drama for "We Need to Talk About Kevin," lit up the party in a white pantsuit, short platinum hair and bright smile. Theron, who's up for best actress in a comedy or musical for "Young Adult," looked every inch the star in a slinky black dress, her hair in old-Hollywood waves. She talked beauty and fashion with Biel, who dazzled in a white beaded gown.

Orlando Bloom and his wife, model Miranda Kerr, charmed partygoers together, while model Agyness Deyn posed for iPhone photos with a friend. Also enjoying the view from the patio: Actress Rose McGowan, "Modern Family" star Eric Stonestreet, director Sofia Coppola and Rodarte design duo Kate and Laura Mulleavy. The pre-Globe festivities continue Saturday with various gift suites and galas. The 69th annual Golden Globes will be presented Sunday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel and broadcast live on NBC.—*Internet*

Charlize Theron arrives at the 17th Annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards on 12 Jan, 2012 in Los Angeles.

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Fund to be set up for implementing long-term plans on education, health, rural development and poverty alleviation

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo delivered an address at the ceremony to present cash to the funds of regional development tasks, at the Hkamti District General Administration Department on 13 January.

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, the Chief Minister of the region, the commander of North-West Command, deputy ministers, departmental officials, members of social organizations, townselders and wellwishers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that he met with townselders and local authorities to set up the funds for development tasks of Hkamti region and to give necessary instructions on systematic use of the funds and effective provisions to the tasks to benefit the region. Due to not only the observations along the trip but also reports of officials and townselders, he saw requirements of assistance for religious affairs, education, health, social sectors and rural development tasks, he said.

He explained the purpose of two tasks for assistance. With regard to the first type, he said that the first type is to render assistance to religious and social tasks such as the assistance for donations to monastic education schools, setting up of medical trust-funds at hospitals, convenient accommodation for teachers and provisions for Border Region National Race Youth Training School that are nurturing the local youths.

He noted that the second type is to set up the capital fund for implementing the long-term plans on education, health and rural development and poverty alleviation. It is aimed at providing assistance for needy families of the region so that their children can attend the schools and learn continuous education and enabling the outstanding students to pursue higher education, he said. Likewise, he noted one more purpose for assisting health care service and regional development tasks.

Moreover, he said that assistance will be provided for agriculture task of rural business contributing to rural development and poverty alleviation being undertaken by the State. He said that Union Solidarity

(See page 9)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo greets those present at the fund raising ceremony at district General Administration Department in Hkamti.—MNA

Naga nationals celebrate New Year

Naga Traditional New Year Festival 2012 in progress in Leshi of Naga Self-Administered Zone.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Naga nationals celebrated their New Year festival 2012 in Leshi of Naga Self-Administered Zone of Sagaing Region this morning.

U Ba Cho, a Naga man from Leshi Township chaired the Naga Traditional New Year Festival.

Guests and globetrotters participated in the festival together with locals and traditional cultural reps, enjoying the Naga traditional music and dances.

The festival was full of fun with sports events, traditional dances shows, and lucky-draw programmes.

MNA

Night temperature goes down

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—According to the observation at 6.30 am today, night temperatures will reach below the average temperature of January—3°C to 4°C in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Regions and Shan State (South) and Rakhine State, 5°C to 6°C in Magway and Bago Regions and Chin State—with significant coldness due to cold winds that enter Myanmar from India.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issued the weather forecast today that raining may be decline across the nation within next three days beginning this morning, and there may be significant coldness.—*MNA*

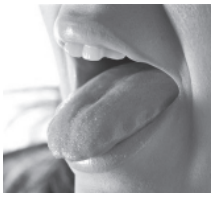
French Foreign and European Affairs Minister meets political parties

PAGE 2

Grapes may help prevent blindness in aged

PAGE 4

Scientists find fat is the sixth human taste



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Ali still the Greatest as he celebrates 70th

PAGE 14

Birdie blitz gives Canadian rookie share of lead

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