

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIX, Number 272

10th Waning of Pyatho 1373 ME

Wednesday, 18 January, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union | * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity | * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

President U Thein Sein receives US Senator Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell and party

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by US Senator Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell at Credentials Hall of the President Residence here this morning.

Also present together with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein were Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U

Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin and departmental heads. The US delegation was accompanied by Charge d' affaires of the US Embassy in Myanmar Mr Michael E Thurston.

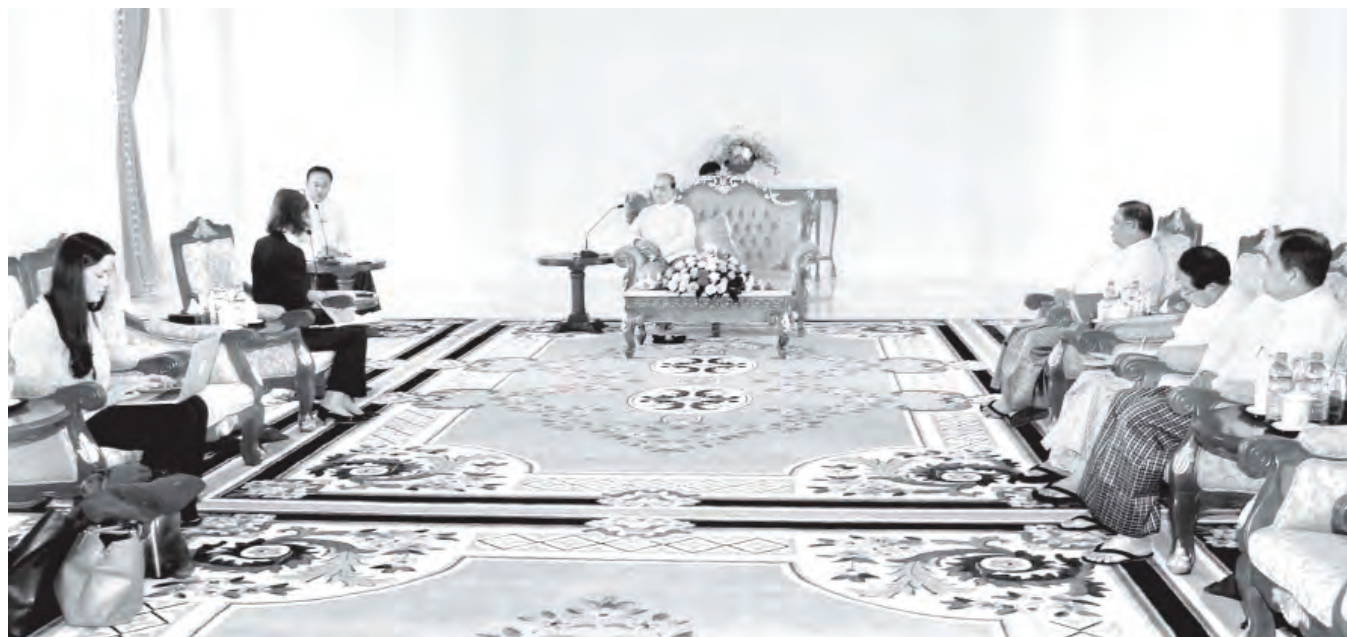
At the meeting, they had a frank and cordial discussion on political developments of Myanmar and promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation.

MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greeting US Senator Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell.—MNA

President U Thein Sein receives senior editor of The Washington Post and party



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Senior Editor Ms Elizabeth Graham Weymouth of The Washington Post and party at the President Residence in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Senior Editor Ms Elizabeth Graham Weymouth of The Washington Post

at the President Residence here at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call together with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein were

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 18 January, 2012

Compete in both self-interest and public interest

There are many contests both in and outside the ring. They are neither underhand machinations nor martial arts. So, what are they?

There are a lot of competitions on earth. But some are necessary while some are unnecessary. Necessary contests can serve the interests of both the mundane and supra-mundane worlds. Unnecessary contests, however, can cause bad effects with sheer waste of time.

Human beings, by nature, are unnecessarily competing with each other. These days, new cars are flooding into Yangon. One who owns a 30 million kyats' worth of car competes with another who possesses a car valued at K 20 million or 10. Moreover, there are those who show off their cars to others who have not. What's more, some motorists even compete with others for speeding. And as a result of this, they may end up in hospital or at the death's door.

Among social conflicts, there are unnecessary, fruitless contests such as pride, wealth and beauty. Indeed, they can cause bad effects rather than good ones.

In reality, we, the Myanmar people, should not vie with each other like this. Instead, we must compete for our capabilities to work hard, to improve the economy, to have knowledge, to have good discipline, to reduce spending and entertainment and to take part in social work. Yet, we still lack such a highly competitive spirit.

We can improve our economy through hard work, be well off through improved economy, be well-known scholars through education, save more money through thrift and develop our whole society through participation in social activities.

Overall, all are urged to compete in their self-interest as well as in the public interest.

Tobacco Kills

US Senator, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker vow to cooperate between two parliaments



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives US Senator Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received the visiting US delegation led by Senator Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Also present together with the Speaker were chairpersons and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw committees.

The Speaker talked about fostering Myanmar-US relations, proposing to establish bilateral cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries. He explained measures for holding free and fair by-election soon, functions

of the Hluttaw, drafting of bills and political policies of Myanmar.

The US Senator expressed his acknowledgement of the political reforms in Myanmar, describing it as a welcome change. He revealed his support for works of the Hluttaw, agreeing to establish bilateral cooperation between the two parliaments. He added that magnanimous actions of the President, Hluttaw Speakers and the government were distinct, stressing the US belief in Myanmar's democratization process.—MNA

FM meets United States Senator



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives US Senator Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin received Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell, United States Senator, at (9:30) am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. During the meeting, they cordially discussed promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation on matters

of mutual interests.

Also present at the meeting with the Union Minister were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Senator McConnell was accompanied by Mr Michael E. Thurston, Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of the United States of America.—MNA

Experts meet to prepare key biodiversity areas conservation

(From our correspondent Aye Min Soe)



YANGON, 17 Jan—As part of commitments towards conserving wildlife and endangered species in Myanmar, Wildlife Conservation Society has organized the workshop on "Building a Shared Vision for conservation Investment in Myanmar" here today.

The two-day workshop was opened with remarks by U Tin Tun, Director General of the Planning and Statistic Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, and Mr Colin Poole, Director of WCS Asia Program.

In his key note address, U Tin Tun called on the participants for updating business opportunities in biodiversity conservation and for finding better solution and synergy to move on current biodiversity conservation activities.

Over 50 experts from the government sector and

stake holders have participated in the two day workshop focusing on wildlife conservation in key biodiversity areas (KBA) in Myanmar.

The number of KBAs in Myanmar has increased from 26 areas in 2005 to 150 areas in 2011, said U Saw Htun, Deputy Country Director of the WCS.

During the first day session, experts discussed in three groups to categorize the KBAs : 43 in upper Myanmar, 59 in lower Myanmar and 48 aquatic ecosystems.

Experts are from Forest Department of MOECF, Department of Fishery, WCS, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) and other related societies, donors and international invitees.

The first workshop of its kind was held in Myanmar 2005.

Mastermind of armed robbers gang caught



A police officer counts the bullets and guns, including an AK-47 assault rifle, after the suspect was captured on Sunday. —XINHUA

BEIJING, 17 Jan—A man suspected in a series of robberies was captured with a loaded AK-47 assault rifle in his possession in a southern border city on Sunday, police say. The man - identified by police only by his surname, Huang - is suspected of masterminding two robberies during last year's Spring Festival holiday in

Pingxiang, the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. He is being held by authorities.

According to police, Huang, 33, would cross the border into Vietnam after robberies. But with Spring Festival drawing near, he returned this month to commit new robberies. On 3 Feb, Chinese New Year,

Huang and another man surnamed Liu, are suspected of breaking into a house in Youai village of Pingxiang and getting away with 20,000 yuan (\$3,166).

On 26 February, Liu and another man surnamed Lu, both armed, robbed villagers in Zhushan, Pingxiang, Liu Wenjie, a publicity official with the Chongzuo public security bureau, told *China Daily*. The Chongzuo public security bureau overseas Pingxiang police forces.

According to police, Huang has many relatives in Vietnam and speaks fluent Vietnamese. During robberies, he would threaten people in Vietnamese, so they would believe he was a foreigner. When he was captured at 2 am on Sunday, he had an AK-47 and a Type-54 pistol along with 77 bullets in his possession, police said. —Xinhua

92 militants surrender to Afghan gov't in month

KABUL, 17 Jan—At least 92 armed militants have surrendered to the government last month, a spokesman for Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS) said here on Monday. "A total of 92 anti-government armed militants have renounced violence and joined the government in Kandahar, Herat, Badghis, Farah, Ghor and Baghlan Provinces last month", spokesman Lutfullah Mashal told reporters at a Press briefing.

He said the former militants were operating in eight groups in the above provinces and a number of local militant leaders were also among those who surrendered to the government. According to Afghan officials, more than 3,000 anti-government militants have laid down arms and joined the government-initiated peace process and

national reconciliation process last year, a claim rejected by Taleban outfit as groundless.

Mashal added that the NDS had detained 18 terrorists loyal to Taleban outfit during manhunt operations in the country's

Kunduz, Logar, Paktika and Nangarhar Provinces last month. The Taleban stepped up their attacks on Afghan and NATO-led troops since a rebel offensive was launched in May 2011 in the war-ravaged country.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 16 Jan, 2012 shows the damaged building in Shangdian Village of Jian'ou City, southeast China's Fujian Province, on 16 Jan, 2012. The fire broke out on about 4 am on Monday here, destroying two buildings and leaving nine people dead, one injured and one still missing. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. —XINHUA

Police kill seven gunmen in central Mexico shootout

MEXICO CITY, 17 Jan—Seven gunmen are dead following a pre-dawn shootout with police on a highway in the city of Cuernavaca, south of Mexico City. A federal police officer is recovering from a gunshot wound to the foot following the confrontation.

The prosecutors office in the central Mexican State of Morelos says the gunmen belonged to an organized crime gang, but did not say which gang. "Organized crime" in Mexico generally refers to drug cartels, and remnants of the Beltran Leyva cartel have been fighting for control of Cuernavaca. Prosecutors said the gunmen were traveling in three stolen vehicles when police confronted them early Monday. —Internet



Extraordinary performance art around world.

XINHUA

Canadian man shot to death in Mexican state of Sinaloa

MEXICO CITY, 17 Jan—Police in Mexico say the body of a Canadian man has been found on a street in the City of Culiacan in Sinaloa State. Sinaloa state police say Salid Abdulacis Sabas had been shot to death. He was carrying a Canadian identification card. His age is not known.

Sinaloa is home to the cartel led by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, considered the most powerful drug trafficker in the world. State police said Monday in an emailed statement that the Canadian man was shot with a high-powered weapon close to midnight on Sunday.

Internet

Stricken Italian liner shifts, 29 people missing

GIGLIO, 17 Jan—A stricken Italian cruise liner shifted on its rocky resting place as worsening weather disrupted an increasingly despairing hunt for survivors and authorities almost doubled their estimate of the number missing to 29 people. As the Costa Concordia's owners accused their captain of veering too close to shore in a bravura "salute" to residents of a Tuscan island, the giant ship slid a little on Monday, threatening to plunge 2,300 tonnes of fuel below the Mediterranean waters of the surrounding

nature reserve.

The slippage forced rescuers to suspend efforts to find anyone still alive after three days in the capsized hull, resting on a jagged slope outside the picturesque harbor on the island of Giglio. Six bodies have been found. Most of the 4,200 passengers and crew survived, despite hours of chaos. Captain Francesco Schettino was arrested a day after the disaster accused of manslaughter and abandoning the ship before all of the people were evacuated.

Prosecutors say he also

refused to go back on board when requested by the coastguard. Schettino was due to appear before magistrates for questioning on Tuesday morning. An Italian coastguard official told *Reuters* late on Monday that the number of people missing had been revised up to 29-25 passengers and four members of staff - from 16, showing how much uncertainty still surrounded the disaster. —Reuters



Costa Cruises CEO: "He [the captain] decided to change the course of the ship" —INTERNET

Explosions damage Italy tax agency - Naples police

NAPLES, 17 Jan—Three explosive devices blew up outside the Naples offices of Equitalia, a state agency that collects overdue taxes and fines, breaking windows but injuring no one on Monday night, a police official told *Reuters*. Police said no group had claimed responsibility for the attack on the building on Corso Meridionale near Naples central rail station.

Equitalia, whose offices have been attacked before, is

deeply unpopular among many Italians who accuse it of using strongarm tactics to collect taxes. Italy's technocrat government says it wants to increase Equitalia's powers as part of a war on tax evasion that robs the exchequer of an estimated 120 billion euros (99.12 billion pounds) a year.

Separately, members of right wing association Roma Nord said they hung dummies outside Equitalia offices in

Rome overnight to protest against the agency's methods, Italian news agency ANSA reported. Equitalia's Naples offices were hit by a similar explosion in December. Two letter bombs were also sent to Equitalia's offices in Rome in December. One was intercepted but the other blew off part of a finger of the agency's director general. An anarchist group said it carried out those attacks. —Reuters

**12 killed,
35 wounded
in Iraq
car
bombings**

BAGHDAD, 17 Jan—A total of 12 people were killed and some 35 others wounded in two car bomb attacks in northern and central Iraq on Monday, the police said. The deadliest attack occurred at about 8:00 am local time (0500 GMT) when a car bomb went off at al-Ghadiyer compound, some 20 km east of Iraq's northern City of Mosul, which houses residents from the Iraqi Shabak minority, a local police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Women and children were among the victims, the source said, adding that the powerful blast damaged several nearby houses, 12 shops and several civilian cars. The Iraqi Shabak people are an ethnic and Shi'ite minority group living in villages in Iraq's northern Province of Nineveh, particularly, around the provincial capital City of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad. Iraqi security forces cordoned off the scene, while police experts defused another car bomb found in the same area, the source added. Around noon, another car bomb detonated in Nadir District in the center of Hilla City, some 100 km south of Baghdad, killing up to three people and wounding some 15 others, an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. Earlier the source put the toll at a civilian killed and ten wounded by the blast in Hilla, the capital city of Babil Province. Iraqi cities have been plagued by several attacks, including suicide bombings, since the US troops pulled out of the country earlier last month. —Xinhua

Health Tip: What affects blood glucose?

People with diabetes should monitor the amount of glucose (sugar) in their blood. Insulin and certain drugs often are key, but so is understanding what causes blood sugar levels to fluctuate.

The American Diabetes Association mentions these factors:

- * The foods you eat.
- * How much you exercise, and when.
- * Where in the body you inject insulin.
- * The time of day that you inject yourself.
- * Being sick.
- * Being under stress.—Internet



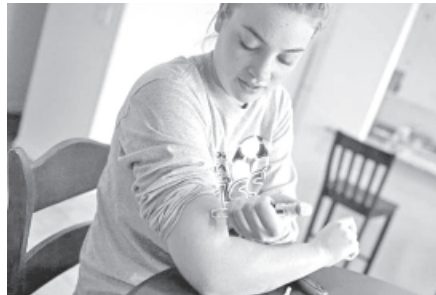
Parents should be aware that sharing a bed with their baby increases the risk of infant suffocation, an Australian expert warned.
INTERNET

Adult-infant bed sharing increases risk of infant suffocation

SYDNEY, 17 Jan—Parents should be aware that sharing a bed with their baby increases the risk of infant suffocation, an Australian expert warned on Monday.

In an editorial published in the *Medical Journal of Australia (MJA)*, Australian forensic pathologist Roger Byard at the University of Adelaide said research has confirmed infants sleeping in the same bed as their parents face an increased risk of accidental suffocation.

It has been reported that 50 percent or more of all infants found unexpectedly dead are sleeping beside an adult at the time, he said, indicating they may have died from suffocation and not sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). "Accidental suffocation appears to be a more likely mechanism of death than subtle processes leading to SIDS," Byard said.—Xinhua



A simple weekly jab can now end the torment of millions of diabetics, who at present take injections two times a day.—INTERNET

Cholesterol meds raise diabetes risk in women

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan—Post-menopausal women who take medication to lower their cholesterol face a higher risk of getting diabetes than women who do not take the popular drugs, known as statins, said a US study on Monday.

The risk was apparent even after researchers adjusted for variables such as age, race/ethnicity and body mass index, said the study in the

Archives of Internal Medicine, a publication of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

The link appeared regardless of what type of statin, or what dosage, the women were taking, said the study which included 153,000 women with an average age of 63. The researchers from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota called for more study on the matter but said in the meantime there was no need to revise the guidelines for statin use in non-diabetic people, pointing out that statins aim to fix the negative heart consequences of diabetes. "Women who are taking statins should be aware of the need to check their blood sugars, along with



Now, once-a-week jab can end misery of diabetics

LONDON, 17 Jan—A simple weekly jab can now end the torment of millions of diabetics, who at present take injections two times a day, researchers say.

The landmark 18 pounds-a-week treatment is now available on the NHS. The drug, called exenatide, can be given to people with Type 2 diabetes who cannot get their condition under control with currently available pills, the *Daily Express* reported.

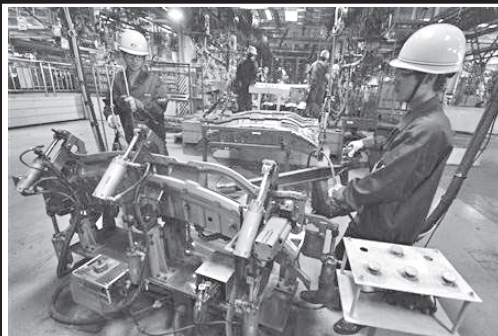
It is a slow-release version of the earlier available version of exenatide, called Byetta, and mimics a hormone found in a lizard from Mexico.

At present, people whose blood glucose levels are not brought under control with tablets face having 14 injections a week – two a day – to regulate it. But exenatide, which can be given just once a week, has been found to be just as effective. Exenatide is the first in a new class of medicines known as incretin mimetics, which trigger the pancreas to produce more insulin in response to raised blood sugar and also influence digestion and appetite.—Internet



A nurse tests a blood sample from a patient using a glucometre.—INTERNET

their liver function tests," said Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. Suzanne Steinbaum, director of women and heart disease at Internet



Employees weld automobiles at Anhui Jianghuai Automobile Co Ltd (JAC Motors) in Hefei, Anhui Province on 18 October, 2011.
INTERNET

China GDP growth at 2-1/2 year low but tops forecast

BEIJING, 17 Jan—China's economy grew at its weakest pace in 2-1/2 years in the latest quarter and it appeared headed for an even sharper slowdown in the coming months as export demand fades and the housing market falters.

The fourth-quarter year-on-year growth of 8.9 percent, although slightly stronger

than the 8.7 percent that economists polled by Reuters had predicted, may give Beijing yet another reason to gently ease monetary policy, most likely by reducing the amount of reserves that large banks must hold.

The data released on Tuesday may not satisfy investors, who were looking for figures that were either

weak enough to provide a clear-cut case for policy easing or strong enough to allay fears that the world's second-biggest economy might unravel.

"The slowdown is not scary, so we are not going to get massive policy easing," said Kevin Lai, an economist with Daiwa in Hong Kong.—Reuters

Samsung Group plans record \$41 billion investment in 2012

SEOUL, 17 Jan—Samsung Group, which includes Samsung Electronics Co, said on Tuesday it is raising its 2012 investment to a record \$41.4 billion, as the South Korean conglomerate seeks to consolidate its leading position in mobile chips and flat screens.

Best known for making massive investments in new technologies ahead of rivals, Samsung is now banking on logic chips and OLED displays to repeat its roaring success in flash chips, computer memory chips and LCD flat-screens, even as a gloomy global economic and IT spending outlook make its peers stick to conservative plans.

Samsung Group, South Korea's biggest business group, did not provide a breakdown of the 47.8 trillion won investment. But analysts have widely



Video monitors are shown the Samsung Electronics booth at the 2012 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 12 January, 2012.—INTERNET

expected it to raise investment in mobile chips and next-generation OLED (organic light emitting diode) flat-screen displays.

Reuters

China's growth ebbs in final quarter of 2011

BEIJING, 17 Jan—China appears on track to avoid an abrupt economic slowdown with possible global repercussions after growth eased to a still robust 8.9 percent in the last quarter of 2011.

The expansion in the world's second-largest economy was the slowest in 2 1/2 years but December retail sales and factory output accelerated, data showed Tuesday. Growth in the previous quarter was 9.1 percent.

"Today's outcome seems to confirm a 'soft landing' scenario," said Frances Cheung of Credit Agricole CIB in Hong Kong.



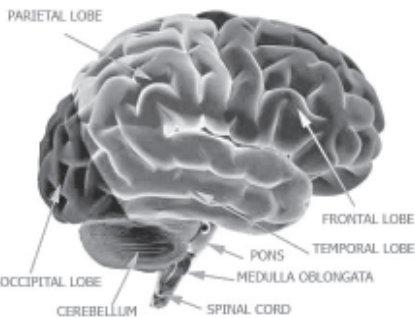
Chinese workers load packages with Chinese words reading, "All the Best," for sale for the coming Lunar New Year outside a shop in Beijing, China, on 17 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

China is one of the biggest importers and slower growth could have global repercussions if it cuts demand for iron ore, industrial components and other goods from Australia, Brazil, Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

Internet



Some amazing facts about the human body



Labeled diagram of the human brain.—INTERNET

Here are some amazing facts about the human body that you may be very surprised to read about.

- * Women's hair is about half the diameter of men's

Soil bugs quit sea for land later than speculated

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan —Soil bacteria azospirillum quit the sea for land much later than speculated by scientists.

Igor Jouline, joint faculty professor of microbiology at Oak Ridge National Lab's (ORNL) Institute for Computational Sciences, performed a genome sequence analysis of azospirillum. The analysis indicates the shift may have occurred only 400 million years ago, rather than approximately two billion years earlier, as originally thought.

"Because these bacteria colonize roots of grasses and improve their growth and development, they might be important for bioenergy research," Jouline said.

Jouline conducted the research with microbiologists Kristin Wuichet and Leonid Sukharnikov, molecular biologist Gladys Alexandre and Kirill Borziak, graduate student of genome science at the the ORNL.—INTERNET

hair. While it might sound strange, it shouldn't come as too much of a surprise that men's hair should be coarser than that of women.

- * Human hair is virtually indestructible. Aside from its flammability, human hair decays at such a slow rate that it is practically non-disintegrative. Hair cannot be destroyed by cold, change of climate, water, or other natural forces and it is resistant to many kinds of acids and corrosive chemicals.
- * Eighty per cent of the brain is water. Your brain isn't the firm, grey mass you've seen on TV. Living brain tissue is a squishy, pink and jelly-like organ thanks to the loads of blood and high water content of the tissue. So the next time you're feeling dehydrated get a drink to keep your brain hydrated.
- * The human body is estimated to have 60,000 miles of blood vessels. To put that in perspective, the distance around the earth is about 25,000 miles, making the distance your blood vessels could travel if laid end to end more than two times around the earth.—INTERNET



Beyonce gets fly with golden booty named after her



In this 2009 photo released by researcher Bryan Lessard of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), a newly discovered horse fly in Australia with its golden-haired bum is shown at the Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra, Australia.—INTERNET

CANBERRA, (Australia), 17 Jan—A newly discovered horse fly in Australia was so "bootylicious" with its golden-haired bum, there was only one name worthy of its beauty: Beyonce.

Previously published results from Bryan Lessard, a 24-year-old researcher at Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, were

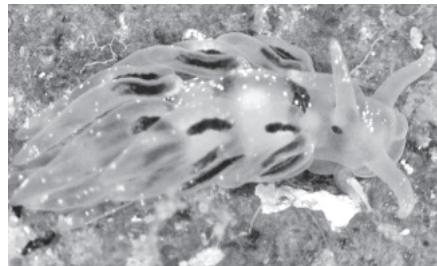
recently announced on the species that had been sitting in a fly collection since it was captured in 1981—the same year popdiva Beyonce was born.

He says he wanted to pay respect to the insect's beauty by naming it *Scaptia (Plinthina) beyonceae*.

Lessard said Beyonce would be "in the nature history books forever" and that the fly now bearing her name is "pretty bootylicious" with its golden backside.

"Bootylicious" was the title of a song by Beyonce's previous group, Destiny's Child.

It's unknown if the rare species is a bloodsucker like many female horse flies. Lessard says he was unable to find any live specimens when he went looking in 2010 in northeast Queensland's Atherton Tablelands, where it was captured three decades ago. However, at least one member of the public has alerted him that he was recently bitten by what's locally called the "gold bum fly."—INTERNET



New species of sea slug that was discovered during California Academy of Sciences' 2011 Philippine Biodiversity Expedition. These brightly colored mollusks don't need shells for protection—instead they produce powerful toxins to keep potential predators at bay.—INTERNET

Samsung's Bada goes boom, gets integrated into Tizen



Samsung hope to have "at least one or two" Tizen phones out this year, but have no plans to make it their main mobile operating system.—INTERNET

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 Jan—Samsung made a big deal of its Bada mobile operating system when it was launched back in 2009, using words such as "ground-breaking" and "iconic" when describing it. Since then it has achieved around 2% market share and several phones using it have been released, including the Wave 3, which also introduced the second version of Bada.

But Bada's days as a standalone mobile OS are numbered, as Samsung has decided it'll be merged with Intel's Tizen, the phoenix that rose from the ashes of MeeGo following Nokia's departure from the project. Samsung and Intel

got together to announce Tizen in September last year.

The Tizen/bada mash-up joins Windows Phone, Android and several other mobile platforms supported by Samsung, although like MeeGo, Tizen can be used in other devices too.

According to a Samsung senior vice-president work has already started on the project, but they currently do not have a completion date. Thanks to both platforms being based on Linux, Tizen will be backwards compatible with Bada and the SDK will be almost identical, allowing existing developers to start working on Tizen apps straight away.

Internet

Hackers disrupt Tel Aviv exchange, El Al websites

JERUSALEM, 17 Jan—Computer hackers disrupted access to the websites of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) and Israel's flag carrier El Al Airlines on Monday, officials at both companies said.

Stock trading and flights operated normally despite the cyber assaults, which occurred as Israeli media reported that pro-Palestinian

hackers had threatened at the weekend to shut down both these websites.

"There has been an attack by hackers on the access routes to the (TASE) website. The stock exchange's trading activities are operating normally," said Ora Goren, deputy manager of the exchange's marketing and communications unit. The bourse's website could be



An ultra-Orthodox Jewish man walks past an El Al Israel Airlines logo at Ben Gurion International airport near Tel Aviv, in this file picture taken 22 Aug, 2011.—INTERNET

accessed intermittently.

The site of El Al Israel Airlines website also crashed, and the company said it was busy trying to overcome the problem. "El Al is aware that for the past two weeks cyber war has raged against Israel," El Al said in a statement. "The company is closely monitoring the Saudi hacker's activity."

A hacker who identified himself as coming from Saudi Arabia had earlier this month published thousands of personal and credit card details of Israelis apparently gleaned from commercial websites in one of the worst cases of mass cyber identity theft experienced by Israel.

There was no claim of responsibility for Monday's cyber incidents. El Al said it had taken "precautions in

operating the company's site. As a result there may be disruptions in the site's activity." Israel opened an agency to tackle cyber attacks earlier this month. A founding member of the unit, Isaac Ben-Israel, said the country's most vital systems were already protected, but that incidents like the ones seen recently would only increase.

"As long as the systems are not guarded, any hacker anywhere in the world can break into them and do damage," Ben-Israel said on Israel Radio. "I believe that, done right, in a year or two, we will be able to wipe out all these hackers' threats."—Reuters



Robots to replace human labour in China

BEIJING, 17 Jan—Technology firm Foxconn will employ one million robots to replace human labour in China in the next three years.

"Robots are more accurate and adaptive than workers," *China Daily*

reported Monday quoting Xie Gang, professor at the School of Information Engineering, Taiyuan University of Technology.

Foxconn is one of the largest corporations in the electronic assembling industry in China.—INTERNET



Technology firm Foxconn will employ one million robots to replace human labour in China in the next three years.—INTERNET

China's Xi says to push forward Sino-US cooperation

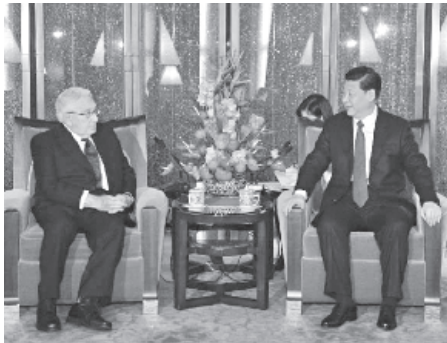
BEIJING, 17 Jan—China's Vice President Xi Jinping on Monday said that China is willing to work with the United States to push forward their cooperative partnership under the new situation, so as to benefit the two peoples and world peace.

Xi and former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger attended a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of former US President Richard Nixon's visit to China and the release of the Shanghai Communiqué.

In his speech, Xi reviewed the course of Sino-US relations and expressed his wish for the continuation of bilateral cooperation. The vice president said that China and the United States have gained a lot of experiences from the 40-year history of bilateral ties, one of which is that both sides should always adhere to the three Sino-US joint communiques. The two countries should constantly enhance mutual

understanding and cultivate and deepen strategic trust, Xi said. "Under the new situation, we should unswervingly develop the Sino-US cooperative partnership based on mutual respect and mutual benefit, in accordance with the important consensus reached by President Hu Jintao and President Obama," he said. The vice president urged the two sides to

respect each other's core and major interests, as well as properly handle their differences, in order to keep the proper direction of bilateral ties. He also urged the two sides to strengthen contact at all levels, promote cooperation in the economic and trade fields, and enhance coordination on inter-national and regional issues.—Xinhua



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping (R) meets with former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who is here to attend the third China-US Track Two High-level Dialogue, before an event marking the 40th anniversary of former US President Richard Nixon's visit to China and the release of the Shanghai Communiqué, in Beijing, capital of China, on 16 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

China seeks Gulf partnership to push renewable energy

ABU DHABI, 17 Jan—At the 5th World Future Energy Summit (WFES) which opened in Abu Dhabi on Monday, Chinese firms are looting to sell their innovative products to the sun-rich, but dry and hot Gulf Arab region. For the first time China has a national pavilion at the leading energy convent and exhibition in the Middle East to seek cooperation in the rapidly growing market in the region. Senior managers from China's major solar companies also attend the conference. Five Star Solar Energy Company from Dongguan City in south China's Guangdong Province produces water heater systems powered by solar panels for private

homes. The 1990-founded company landed a major success when they installed solar panel park of 1,200 square meters for the 2010 Asian Games in Guangdong.

According to the company's exclusive sales agent Solitaire Solar in the sheikhdom of Dubai, some 100 units of solar water heaters from the FS-NPTS Series were sold to private homes so far.

"One unit costs 6,800 Dirham (1,854 US dollars), and

its installation pays off after five years," Murad Fahmy, Business Development Manager at Solitaire Solar said, adding that prices in the solar industry came down by 60 percent since 2008.

Xinhua

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao addresses the opening ceremony of the fifth World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, on 16 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA



Amazon-owned Zappos warns users after cyber-attack



Zappos says credit card and payment data was not exposed.—INTERNET

New York, 17 Jan—Cyber-attackers have struck Zappos, the Amazon-owned fashion e-retailer. The company has reset the passwords of 24 million customers and asked them to choose new ones. It said names, email addresses and other personal information may

have been exposed, but not full credit card numbers. Though significant, other attacks have been larger. In 2010 a US court convicted a hacker of stealing details from more than 130 million cards. Zappos, which was founded in 1999 by Nick Swinburn, started out as an online shoe retailer but now sells clothing and accessories.

It was sold to Amazon for more than \$1bn (£650m) in 2009. In an email to staff sent on Sunday and posted on the company website, Zappos chief executive Tony Hsieh said: "We were recently the victim of a cyber-attack by a criminal who gained access to parts of

our internal network and systems through one of our servers in Kentucky.

"We are co-operating with law enforcement to undergo an exhaustive investigation," Mr Hsieh added: "We've spent over 12 years building our reputation, brand, and trust with our customers. It's painful to see us take so many steps back due to a single incident." Following the attack the company wrote to its 24 million customers asking them to choose new passwords for zappos.com and any other site where they may have used the same or similar password.

Internet

Uncertainties cloud China's economy in 2012

BEIJING, 17 Jan—A slowdown is expected for China's growth engine in 2012 as uncertainties continue to cast clouds over the world's second largest economy amid festering European debt woes and painstaking macro-control policies. The country's release of economic data for the fourth quarter of 2011 will take the spotlight on Tuesday, with many analysts expecting economic growth below 9 percent, the slowest in 10 quarters.

A slowing Chinese economy is inevitable due to weaker exports and fixed-asset investment, said Lu Zhongyuan, Deputy Director of the Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council, or China's Cabinet. "We should no longer be obsessed with the speed of growth," said Lu, who predicted the expansion of China's gross domestic product (GDP) would decelerate to around 8.5

percent in 2012. While short-term demand shrinks, China's mid- and long-term growth potential will decrease because of factors such as an aging population, rising labor costs and less room for infrastructure improvement, said Yu Bin, director of the

DRC's Macroeconomic Research Department. Yu also estimated the 2012 GDP growth will slow to around 8.5 percent, based on an overall stable domestic property market and barring another global financial crisis.—Xinhua



Children play at an expo on tourism and vacation in Vienna, Austria, on 15 Jan, 2012. The four-day expo, with the participation of some 750 tourism service agencies from over 70 countries and regions, concluded on Sunday.—XINHUA

"Merry-go-rounds" become powerful investment tools in Kenya

NAIROBI, 17 Jan—They were once dismissed as "dens of gossip", but "merry-go-rounds", as they are popularly known in Kenya, are turning out to be powerful investment tools. The groups are economically empowering Kenyans as many turn to them to pool resources together and invest in various sectors.

Merry-go-rounds, which are micro-finance schemes, work as the name suggests.

Members contribute money weekly, fortnightly or every month. The collection is then passed to one person in a continuous cycle, until the last person is served. Initially, the groups also known as chamas were mainly associated with women, making them appear like "dens of gossip".

However, over the years, they have evolved into investment groups and clubs, attracting all members of the

Kenyan society, including children, men, the youth and rich and poor. Kenyans are now using them to invest in the public service transport sector, real estate, stock market, among others. Contributions, depending on the group, range from as low as 0.6 US dollars to 2,352 dollars, which is pooled together and given to one member, thus the term "merry-go-round".

Internet

Outpatient shocked by \$45m bill error from New York hospital

NEW YORK, 17 Jan—An outpatient is recovering from shock after being billed \$44.8m (£29.2m) in error by a New York hospital. Alexis Rodriguez, 28, was one of a number of patients charged astronomical amounts because of a computer glitch, the *New York Daily News* reports. The Bronx-Lebanon Hospital treated him for pneumonia, but the actual cost was no more than \$300. Billing firm PHY Services said it had mistakenly printed the patient invoice number where the amount should go.

Mr Rodriguez told the *New York Daily News* he could not believe his eyes when he opened the envelope last week. "I think they should have somebody look over the bills before they send them out," said the unemployed doorman. "To send out a lot of bills with numbers that big - someone could have had a heart attack." PHY Services requested that patients ignore the bills, adding that new ones would be sent out.—Internet



The billing company has said the error is a simple mistake but will send apology letters to all affected.

INTERNET

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign heads of State to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Lucas Papademos, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

On the occasion of the national day of your country, I would like to convey to you my warmest congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity, progress and welfare of the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa
Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the celebration of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 04 January 2012 the Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa join me in conveying to His Excellency, the Government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, our warmest greetings and sincere congratulations. May I take this opportunity to express the wish for His Excellency's good health and also reaffirm our desire to further enhance and consolidate the bond of

friendship that exists between our countries.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Republic of Maldives

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Maldives and on my own behalf, I wish to extend warm greetings and sincere good wishes to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of Myanmar, on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of Myanmar.

Please also accept my best wishes for the progress, welfare and harmony of the people of Myanmar.



President U Thein Sein receives US Senator Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell and party at Credentials Hall of President Residence. (News on Page 1)—MNA

Myanmar, France to further strengthen cooperation in cultural sector



Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan holds discussion with French Ambassador at large for Cooperation in Asia Mr Jacques Valade and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—A delegation led by Ambassador at large for cooperation in Asia Mr. Jacques Valade of French Republic called on Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan at the latter's office here at 8.30 today.

They discussed matters on preservation of cultural heritage, upgrading and preservation of museums, human resources development and granting of scholarship for departments under the Ministry of Culture, inking of MoU on cooperation in cultural sectors between the two nations and potentials for cooperation in the information sector.

Both sides also cordially discussed assistance of France for preservation of cultural heritage in Bagan and other historical regions, technical assistance of France for National Museum under construction in Nay Pyi Taw and other sectors.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, the directors-general and managing directors, head of office and officials. The guest was accompanied by France Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Thierry Mathou and embassy officials.

MNA

New school building handed over in Hinthada Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—The opening of new building of Pynnmahaung No. 6 Basic Education Primary School along with its hand-over was held at the school in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region on 14 January, attended by Hinthada Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htay Oo, former Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzou Abe, and Japanese MPs Mr Toshiaki Endo and Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki, former Japanese MPs Mr Ikuzo Sakurai and Mr Yoshitsugu Harada, Ayeyawady Region Social Affairs Minister U San Maung, Region Forestry and Mines Minister U Soe Myint and others.

The new school building cost was

contributed by U Htay Oo jointly with the former Japanese PM and MPs who are making donations for children of Asia Region. Mr Shinzou Abe spoke on the occasion and handed over relevant documents to the township education officer.

U Htay Oo provided funds for remaining 33 schools out of 315 primary schools in Hinthada Township.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htay Oo, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Hsan Hsint, Japanese former PM Mr Shinzou Abe and Mr Toshiaki Endo formally open the new school building.—MNA



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife attend ceremony to present offertories to members of the Sangha in Leshi Township

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—A ceremony to present offertories to members of the Sangha of monasteries in Leshi Township, Sagaing Region was held at the Therevada Buddhist Missionary Centre of the Hill Missionary in Leshi yesterday morning, attended by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha from monasteries in Leshi Township led by Presiding Sayadaw of Therevada Buddhist Missionary Centre Bhaddanta Sudassana, union ministers, the chief minister of Sagaing Region and wife, the commander of North-West Command, deputy ministers and departmental officials.

The ceremony was opened with the recitation of Namo Tassa three times, and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ottama of Therevada Buddhist Missionary Centre.

Afterwards, members of the Sangha recited religious verses.

Next, Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife presented offertories to Presiding Sayadaw of Therevada Buddhist Missionary Centre Bhaddanta Sudassana.

Later, Union ministers, region chief minister, the commander and deputy ministers presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo supplicated on the purpose of cash donation for promotion and propagation of the Sasana and hill missionary to the Presiding Sayadaw.

Next, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ottama of Therevada



Buddhist Missionary Centre delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits gained, which brought the ceremony to a close with the recitation of Buddha Sasanam Cirantitthatu three times.

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin present offertories to members of the Sangha of monasteries in Leshi Township.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental personnel...

(from page 16)

Naga national chieftains from Lahe, Nanyun and Leshi.

The township administrator reported to the Vice-President on facts about the township, administrative matters, education, health, social and economy and requirements of the region. Next, the chairman of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body explained measures for accuracy of farmland data, boosting target production of paddy and other crops, extended cultivation of perennial crops, plans for construction of inter-village roads and needs of Leshi.

Next, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye briefed on measures for ensuring smooth transportation in the region, reclamation of terraced farms, cultivation of tea, orange, coffee and cardamom on industrial scale, trial growing of rubber, extended breeding of mythun and goats and electricity supply on self-reliant basis.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than explained possible assistance of the ministry for agriculture sector of Leshi and its economic prospects through agriculture according to its water, land and natural



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo greets trainees at Border Areas and National Races training School in Leshi.—MNA



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets students at Basic Education High School in Leshi.—MNA

resources.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that they were there to fulfill the needs for development of Hkamti District and Naga Self-Administered Zone. He said that he sympathizes with Naga nationals for he has travelled throughout Naga Region while assigning duties there for years.

He added that the population of the region is sparse in comparison with the area of the region and thus he has made coordination necessary to upgrade Swammara Village into sub-township level so that effective security and administrative measures can be taken closely for Naga Region which is a border region. This would provide better grounds for effectiveness of defence, security, administration and rule of law and improvement of education, health and regional development as well.

He then fulfilled the educational health and regional development requirements presented by townselders and personnel. The Vice-President added that Union Solidarity and Development Party donated K 100 million and entrepreneurs K 400 million during Naga Traditional New Year Festival to be able to use in education, health, social works and rural development and poverty alleviation tasks in

(See page 9)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental personnel...

(from page 8)

Naga Region. Of the contribution, K 200 million to be used mainly on health and social works, and K 300 million on rural development and poverty alleviation tasks as the

funds.

He added that on his tour, he has provided medical funds to the hospitals and fulfilled the requirements of staff and Ministry of Border Affairs has also provided funds for water supply and land reclamation of the regional development. The contribution of K 500 million is to be used mainly for children to be able to go to school and continue their learning to high education despite financial difficulties and health care services.

He said that the leading body of Naga Self-Administered

Zone and townselders are to jointly manage the fund by forming a committee to ensure that that fund is saved systematically and used properly.

In disbursing loans from the fund, the interest rate should not be more than two per cent, and the 50 per cent of the interest is to be used for education, health and regional development undertakings. And the remaining 50 per cent is to be saved to the fund. He in conclusion called for collaboration of the all for effective use of the fund.

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo...

(from page 16)

for the hospital fund by Max Myanmar Co Chairman U Zaw Zaw.

After the meeting, the Vice-President cordially greeted those present. Then, the Vice-President and party helicoptered to Homalin. At Homalin Airport, they were welcomed by departmental officials, members of social organizations, townselders and local nationals.

The Vice-President attended a meeting held at the gymnasium of the Homalin Township. The township administrator reported on data of the township, management, education, health, economic and social matters and requirements of the region.

Homalin Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aye, Region Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Swe and local U Mya Than Tun reported on regional requirements.

Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye reported on measures being taken for increasing per capita income, reaching the target high yield of groundnuts and environmental conservation and smooth transport in the region; Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets those present at Homalin Township Gymnasium.—MNA



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo at 100-bedded Homalin Township People's Hospital. MNA

Than on thriving of crop plantations due to temperate climate and favourable soil condition, supply of quality strains and extended reclamation of vacant land and regional economy; and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint on necessary measures for cooperation between health staff and the public in disseminating health knowledge to the people. Then, the Vice-President made a speech saying that Homalin Township is found to have food sufficiency in proportion to its population. But, it is still necessary to meet the target cultivation of 10 main crops, he urged. The region needs to grow rubber on a commercial scale as it has many land resources and favourable climate condition. Rubber is an industrial raw crop that is much in demand in the market. If rubber factories can be established, more jobs will emerge as well, noted the Vice-President.

As the region is engaging in timber extraction and gold mining, close supervision is necessary in order to prevent the river courses from being damaged and protect the natural environment. As for the education sector, the region needs to have primary, middle and high schools in one community. In the health sector also, arrangements are to be made to provide health care services by having links between the rural health centre, station hospital and township hospital.

The Vice-President went on to say that the requirements presented by the Homalin Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative and townselders such as acquiring funds for construction of Homalin-Naungpoaung-Namtaw road and getting a fire truck and a nursery will be fulfilled in

coordination with related departments.

Afterwards, the Vice-President explained sharing of legislative, executive and judicial powers by the public representative after the emergence of the constitution, measures being taken for State peace and stability, the rule

of law, elimination of armed insurgency, rural development and poverty alleviation, inviting of local and foreign investments for national economic development, ensuring all school-age children go to school and pursue constant learning, reforms and changes in education and health sectors to meet the international standard, rendering of government's assistance and State developments.

The chairman of Shwe Thanlwin Co donated DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and portable generator for the township.

After the meeting, the Vice-President cordially greeted those present. He then looked round the stand road and development of the township by car. The Vice-President and party proceeded to Homalin People's Hospital (100-bed), inspected the X-ray room, operation theatre and lab and comforted the patients.

Shwe Thanlwin Co Chairman donated DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and portable generator and Max Myanmar Co Chairman and IGE Co Chairman K 5 million for the township hospital and K 2 million each for five station hospitals.

On arrival at Homalin high school, the Vice-President cordially greeted the students and teachers. After inspecting the classrooms, he instructed the officials to choose a site for construction of a high school as the township's downtown area has only a high school.

Later, the Vice-President and party went to Kalay by special flight. On arrival at Kalay Airport, they were welcomed by Chin State Chief Minister U Hon Ngai, ministers, Sagaing Region ministers and departmental officials. — MNA



Local nationals of Moepainglut Sub-Township waiting to welcome Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and party. MNA

Italian Government to provide Euro 400,000 for preservation of Myanmar cultural heritage

Project for preservation of the cultural heritage is the first of its kind to be launched with the assistance of UNESCO in a decade

Union Minister for Information and for Culture

U Kyaw Hsan meets Italian Ambassador Mr. Paolo Andera Bartorelli.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan met Italian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Paolo Andera Bartorelli at the latter's office, here today.

Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, the directors-general and managing directors from the departments under the ministry also attended the meeting.

They had a cordial discussion matters on promotion of cultural and media cooperation, preservation of cultural heritage and exchange of information and technology.

UNESCO will launch a work capacity building project for preservation of Myanmar cultural heritage, and Italian government will contribute Euro 400,000 to the project. With the participation of UNESCO, foreign experts will actively engage in the preservation of Srekitra Pyu city which is home to rich Myanmar cultural heritage and Bagan region which is home to Buddha religious edifices. The project is aimed at developing of management and imparting of knowledge.

It will take 12 months for Archaeological, National Museum and Library Department of the Ministry of Culture to complete the tasks.

UNESCO Culture Assistant Director-General Mr Francesco Bandarin said that as the tasks for preservation



of rich Myanmar cultural heritage is huge, it is to be carried out with great care. And the task is a great step as it is of paramount importance.

The project is the first of its kind to be launched with the assistance of UNESCO in a decade.

In line with the principles of World Cultural Heritage Convention, the project will cover three spheres—protection and management of cultural heritage region, adopting of Myanmar cultural heritage management and presenting its name to the list of World Culture.—MNA

Union level peace-making group, RCSS/SSA peace-making group sign 11 initial agreement



Union Minister U Aung Min and U Sai Baung Khe exchange notes relating to 11 initial agreements between Union level peace-making group and RCSS/SSA peace-making group.

MNA

Myanmar, in order to designate territory and open economic and liaison offices, Union level peace-making group and RCSS/SSA peace-making group met at the office of Shan State government in Taunggyi on 16 January.

The Union level peace-making group included Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Minister for Electric Power No.2 U Khin Maung Soe, Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Shan State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Aung Thu, Col Kyaw Soe Win of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), General Staff Officer (Grade-1) Lt-Col

Zaw Min Aye of Central East Command, General Staff Officer (Grade-1) Lt-Col Zaw Tun Myint of Triangle Region Command and RCSS/SSA peace-making group was headed by U Sai Baung Khe.

Union Minister U Aung Min made a speech first, and Union Minister U Win Tun explained economic condition and Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe territorial designation and opening of liaison offices.

U Sai Baung Khe discussed territorial designation. Next, Union Minister U Aung Min vowed to deal with reports.

Union level peace-making group and RCSS/SSA peace-making group signed 11 initial agreements.

After that, Union Minister U Aung Min and U Sai Baung Khe exchanged notes and had documentary photo taken.—MNA

Zaykabar Myanmar Open Golf Tournament 2012 on 2-5 Feb

YANGON, 17 Jan—A coordination meeting on holding Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012 international invitational golf tournament at Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club from 2 to 5 February 2012 took place at the Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club today.

It was attended by Joint-Secretary of

Myanmar National Sports committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thauing Htaik and officials, Vice-President of Myanmar Golf Federation U Aung Kyi and guests.

A total of over 100 golfers from 20 countries are reported to take part in the tournament.—MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—According to proposal to keep the peace by the government of the Republic of the Union of

Special Refresher Course No 45 for basic education teachers opened

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—Special Refresher Course No 45 for basic education teachers was opened this morning at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar), with an address by Member of Union Civil Services Board Dr Win Myint.

It was attended by Mandalay Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Hlaing, personnel and 1510 trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Win Myint confirmed government's financial assistance for those in education sector to be able to pursue higher education abroad, calling the

trainees to devote in their work with all seriousness, playing an active part in human resources development drive of the government.

He stressed the need for cooperation between parent-teacher associations and school boards of trustees apart from government's fulfillment of school necessities, noting the importance of basic education sector in producing intellectuals and intelligentsia to enhance national socio-economy.

MNA

London seeks major slice of offshore yuan market

LONDON, 17 Jan—The government said Monday it will partner with Hong Kong to develop the City of London as a major offshore centre of trade in China's yuan currency.

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said Britain and Hong Kong had agreed to launch a joint private-sector forum to enhance cooperation and

support China's efforts to develop the offshore market for the yuan (renminbi).

Osborne told a meeting of Asian finance officials and executives in Hong Kong the intention was to "establish London as a new hub" for the yuan (RMB).

"It's clear that there is scope for the substantial expansion of the RMB market in the coming years,"

he told the Asian Financial Forum in the southern Chinese banking centre.

"I think London is perfectly placed to act as a gateway for Asian investment and banking to Europe and as a bridge to the United States."

Hong Kong is currently the only officially designated offshore yuan trading centre, and is keen to expand the currency's use in international transactions as an alternative to the greenback and the euro.

China and Britain agreed in September to work towards the development of an offshore yuan market in London, the heart of European banking.

Osborne said establishing London as an offshore centre for yuan denominated settlements, in partnership with Hong Kong, would benefit China's economic development as well as Britain's.—Internet



File photo of the City of London skyline. Britain said Monday it will partner with Hong Kong to develop the City of London as a major offshore centre of trade in China's yuan currency.—INTERNET

A volunteer pastes poster about wild animal protection regulation on the wall of a house in a forest farm of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 11 Jan, 2012.
XINHUA



China, India face golden period to grow bilateral ties

BEIJING, 17 Jan—Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo said China and India face a golden period to grow bilateral relations, in a bylined article published on the Indian mainstream daily *The Hindu* on Monday.

Dai, who is visiting India to attend the 15th meeting between special representatives on China-India border issues, said China-India relations have huge potential and broad space for

cooperation. In the mid 1950s, China and India, in response to the call of the time, jointly initiated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Today, these five principles are still shining with strong vitality, Dai said in his article.

Noting the world is undergoing drastic and profound changes, he said China and India, both ancient civilizations and major developing countries

whose combined population accounts for nearly two-fifths of the world's total, once again respond to the call of our time. The two countries have seized the historic opportunity of economic globalization and achieved fast development, he said, noting that they are now the two largest emerging countries in the world and play increasingly important roles in regional and international affairs.

MNA/Xinhua

Egypt tourism earnings fall 30% in 2011

CAIRO, 17 Jan—Revenues from Egypt's lucrative tourist industry dropped by 30 percent in 2011.

Munir Fakhri Abdel Nur told reporters that tourism revenues in 2011 dropped to \$8.8 billion compared to \$12.5 billion in 2010, with tourist arrivals falling and their daily expenditures also dropping.

"The significant drop in revenues last year was expected in a country where millions revolted in all main cities and where the political situation has been developing for the past 12 months," Abdel Nur said.

"The security circumstances in the country have affected tourism," he added, stressing however that he was confident that the situation would improve in the coming year to make up for the losses of 2011.

Abdel Nur said the number of tourist arrivals fell by 33 percent in 2011 with tourists spending fewer



An Egyptian man waits for tourists to take them on camel rides at the Giza pyramids on the outskirts of Cairo on 14 February, 2011.—INTERNET

nights in Egypt than in the previous year and spending on average about \$13 each less per day.

Tourists spent 114 million nights in Egypt in 2011 compared to 141 million nights in 2010, he said, each spending about \$72 per day instead of \$85 the previous year.

Internet

Thai police raid warehouse in terror probe

BANGKOK, 17 Jan—A Thai television station is reporting that a Lebanese suspect with alleged links to Hezbollah militants has led police to a warehouse housing materials that could be used to make explosives. Thai PBS television showed police confiscating boxes of urea fertilizer and liquid ammonium nitrate in Monday's raid.

The raid comes after the

US and Israel warned Friday of a terror threat targeting their citizens in Bangkok. Officials say that threat has now been thwarted.

The Lebanese suspect was detained Thursday. He led police to the warehouse, where police also found three beds, matching accounts that the man was travelling with two companions.

Internet

S Korea couple tell of 30-hour nightmare in sinking ship

SEOUL, 17 Jan—A South Korean honeymoon couple have described their 30-hour nightmare trapped in a wrecked Italian cruise ship, saying they screamed for help for hours after waking up too late to evacuate the vessel.

The couple were rescued Sunday morning after being stranded in the half-submerged ship, where a search for people still missing out of more than 4,200 originally on board was underway.

Five people have been confirmed dead and more than a dozen are still missing after the Costa Concordia hit rocks off Italy's west coast on the evening of Friday the 13th.

Prosecutors have arrested the captain and

officer for alleged mishandling of the incident and neglect of duty.

Han Ki-Deok and his wife Jeong Hye-Jin, both 29-year-old schoolteachers, said in an interview with South Korea's *Yonhap* news agency published Monday that they had been sleeping after dinner, oblivious to the disaster outside.

"By the time we woke up, the ship was tilting," *Yonhap* quoted Han as saying in a hotel in Rome.

The couple ventured out to the corridor, which was already inclined so steeply that they couldn't walk on it, he added.

"We ended up slipping towards the end of the corridor and even got ourselves injured," said Han.

So the pair stayed in their dark cabin with no power, subsisting on bits of cookie and water. They took turns wearing an extra life jacket over their own lifevests to fight the cold.

Internet



Rescue workers hold on to equipments next to the capsized Costa Concordia cruise ship that ran aground off the west coast of Italy at Giglio island on 16 Jan, 2012.
INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (291)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (291) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (427)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (427) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1202)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1202) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



A saleswoman examines milk, yoghurt and other soft drinks on the shelves of a supermarket in Zhengzhou.

INTERNET

Drink makers look to cut waste, emissions

BEIJING, 17 Jan—Drink makers are investing heavily to make better use of resources and lower carbon emissions in China to achieve sustainable development.

There should be a systematic government plan to support the companies executing environmental protection plans, experts said.

The Belgian-based international beverage manufacturing giant Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) has signed a strategic partnership agreement with United States-based General Electronic Co (GE) to undertake a series of activities to improve the

efficiency of energy usage and reduce carbon emissions from its Chinese factories.

The company said the first phase of the plan will be complete in 2013. It will help to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by about 100,000 tons a year. Water consumption will also be reduced significantly for every unit of beer produced in China.

"If this project succeeds and is promoted throughout the entire drinks industry, it will greatly help businesses lower energy consumption and can help the country to develop into a low carbon economy," said Wang Yancai, director of the China

Alcoholic Drinks Industry Association.

ABInBev said it has done everything possible to reduce the production of waste and improve the efficient use of resources over past years in China. The company said it needs to strengthen cooperation with technology service companies to make better use of resources. "We did everything we could. Now we have reached a point at which if we want to achieve our dream to live in a better world, we need GE to help us," said Ricardo Dias, vice-president of procurement for ABInBev.—Xinhua

6.0-magnitude quake hits South Shetland Islands

BEIJING, 17 Jan—A 6.0 magnitude earthquake hit South Shetland Islands around 22:21 Beijing Time (14:21 GMT) on Sunday night, said the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC) on Monday morning.

The epicentre was monitored at 60.7 degrees south latitude and 55.9 degrees west longitude with a depth of 10 kilometres, according to the CENC.

Xinhua

China's Internet population hits 513 million

BEIJING, 17 Jan—The number of Internet users in China rose last year by nearly 56 million to more than half a billion, nearly half of whom used weibos, or microblogs, according to latest official figures. China's online population — the world's largest — hit 513 million in 2011, a 12.2 percent increase over the previous year, the China Internet Network Information Centre (CNNIC) said in a statement on Monday.

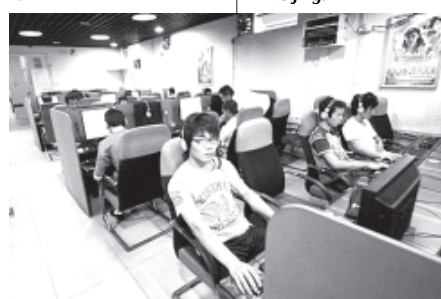
Of these, 48.7 percent — or nearly 250 million people — now used weibos, compared to just 63.1 million at the end of 2010, posing a huge challenge to government attempts to

control information in the country of 1.3 billion.

The weibos — hugely popular microblogging services similar to Twitter, which China bans — have become the most popular medium for web users to vent their anger over corruption, scandals and disasters, or alert others about protests or riots. The number of people using more traditional communication tools such as emails, web forums or blogs was falling, the CNNIC said.

The government blocks web content it deems politically sensitive in a vast censorship system dubbed the "Great Firewall of China", and is hugely concerned about the power of the

Internet to influence public opinion. In a bid to exert more



This file photo shows people using computers at an Internet bar in Beijing.—INTERNET

control over weibos, some cities such as Shanghai and Beijing now require users to register under their real names, making it easier for authorities to track them.

CNNIC said the number

of people in rural areas using the Internet also rose last year — up 8.9 percent to 136 million in 2011 — but huge disparities still exist between rich and poor regions.

Internet

Australia's unemployment rate forecast to rise in 2012

SYDNEY, 17 Jan—Australia is expected to have a higher jobless rate in 2012, the nation's major bank ANZ Bank said on Monday. The total number of job advertisements in Australia on the Internet and in newspapers dropped 0.9 percent in December compared with the previous month, contributing to a 2.6 percent annual fall, ANZ said.

ANZ head of Australian economics Katie Dean said the figures point to modest employment gains for the Australian economy over the coming months.

"Indeed, the current trend rate of employment growth is unlikely to be fast enough to absorb the forecast growth in the labor force in the short term," Dean said.

"As a result, ANZ forecasts the unemployment rate to rise to 5.5 percent by mid-2012." Dean predicted that the unemployment rate would remain at this elevated level in 2012, before declining modestly in 2013 as economic activity started to rise, in response to strong mining and infrastructure investment and a possible prolonged period of low interest rates. The Australian Bureau of Statistics is due to release official employment figures for the month of December on Thursday.—Xinhua

Two giant pandas from China find new home in France

PARIS, 17 Jan—Two giant pandas from China's southwest Sichuan Province arrived Sunday at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport to start their new life in France.

The two giant pandas, Huan Huan and Yuan Zi, both 3 years old, will be directly delivered to the Beauval Zoo near the city of Tours in central France, where they will settled down in an living area of 2.5 hectares as their new home in France. "The arrival of Huan Huan and Yuan Zi is a historic event for the Beauval Zoo. It reflects our excellent cooperation with China and our long-standing involvement in the protection of endangered species," said Frances Delord, Founder and President of the Beauval Zoo.

The two pandas' arrival marks the return of the Chinese

endangered species to France. Since 1973, two pandas had been sent to France, one died shortly after arriving, another one named Yen Yen died in 2000 of old age.

"We've been waiting for this moment for five years," the zoo president said, "since the day the zoo decided to embark on this epic to bring giant pandas in France."

Rodolphe Delord, Director of the Beauval Zoo, said the arrival of the two giant pandas has allowed the zoo to strengthen its role in protecting one of the most endangered species in the world. "This marks the beginning of a long-term partnership in support of research programmes and conservation between Beauval and (China's) Chengdu panda base."—Xinhua



A chartered plane carrying two giant pandas from southwest China's Sichuan Province arrives at De Gaulle Airport in Paris on 15 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Message falsely claimed plane going down

Passengers on a British Airways flight said they received only a "blase" apology when a recorded message mistakenly warned their plane was going down.

Duncan and Tracey Farquharson of London said they were on a Miami to London flight on 14 Jan when the recorded message informed passengers of an "emergency" and said the plane would "shortly be making an emergency landing on water," *The Daily Telegraph* reported Monday.

"We looked at each other and figured we were both about to die. Families with children were distraught and people were in tears. It was very distressing," Duncan Farquharson said. "About 30 seconds later one of the cabin crew told us to

ignore the announcement and accept their apologies but the tone of suggested they had not grasped how seriously we had taken it.

"Imagining yourself plunging towards a cold, watery grave in the middle of the Atlantic is a pretty horrific thought but they seemed very blase about it."

A British Airways spokesman said the cabin crew spoke to passengers individually to reassure them after the incident.

"A pre-recorded emergency announcement was activated in error on our flight from Miami to Heathrow on Saturday ...," the spokesman said. "The cabin crew canceled the announcement immediately and sought to reassure customers that the flight was operating normally."



Participants make dumplings during an activity in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, on 16 Jan, 2012, to greet the coming of Xiaonian festival which falls on the 23rd or 24th day of the 12th month of the Chinese traditional lunar calendar. A total of 2,012 participants took part in the "world's largest cooking lesson" in an area of about 6,800 square meters, to set a new Guinness World Record on Monday.

Woman with two husbands not a bigamist

A New York woman who wound up with two husbands at the same time can keep the support payments from her first husband, court records show.

A recent court decision said husband No 1, Daniel Silber, can stop paying \$60,000 in annual support, but Eda Silber, 37, of Long Island can keep the \$300,000 she's already been paid, the *New York Post* reported Monday.

And even though Eda Silber married husband No 2, George Frenkel, before her divorce from Daniel Silber became final, she's not a bigamist under law because there was no state marriage license involved in her second

wedding, the court said.

Eda and Daniel Silber married in 1995 and had four children. In 2006, she left the family to move in with Frenkel, a wealthy 51-year-old pillow manufacturer who showered her with expensive gifts and vacations, court papers say.

Silber sued for divorce but Eda kept stalling all the while "she was being plied with lavish gifts by her male companion," hearing officer Stanley Gartenstein said.

Eda Silber, claiming to be an Orthodox Jew, allegedly married Frenkel last April in a religious service but without benefit of a state marriage, the *Post* reported.

German group upset by dictionary's word

A German dictionary maker drew heat from a group dedicated to preserving the language by picking an English-derived word as the "Youth Word of the Year."

The Verein Deutsche Sprache, which is dedicated to preserving the purity of the German language, criticized dictionary-maker Langenscheidt for choosing "swag," an English-derived word meaning an "enviable, casual-cool appeal" and a "charismatic positive aura," as its "Youth Word of the Year," *The Local* reported Monday. The group said the dictionary's choice is contributing to the language being diluted by foreign influence.



The most longevous horse in the world: 62-year-old "Old Billy" from Britain.

News Album

Swift teases songs about heartbreak on next album

NEW YORK, 17 Jan—Should Jake Gyllenhaal be worried? Taylor Swift graces the cover of *Vogue*'s February issue and tells the magazine her next album will be about an "absolute crash-and-burn heartbreak" she experienced.

The 22-year-old singer doesn't name names, but she did date Gyllenhaal for a few months in 2010, and he broke up with her.



In this magazine cover image released by Vogue, singer Taylor Swift appears on the cover of the February 2012 issue of "Vogue."—INTERNET

Swift says it helps her to "feel better" and gain "clarity" by writing songs about her relationships. She also says she now has a list of "red flags" for if a relationship won't work: If a guy falls in love with her based on her Wikipedia page, is threatened that she needs security, puts her down or is obsessed with privacy, they're not for her.—INTERNET



Undated photo released by Christie's auction house in London on 16 Jan, 2012 of Vincent van Gogh's autumn landscape "Vue de l'Asile et de la Chapelle de Saint-Remy," which was once owned by actress Elizabeth Taylor and estimated to sell for 5 million to 7 million pounds (\$7.6 million to \$11 million) when auctioned in February 2012.—INTERNET

Christie's to sell Elizabeth Taylor art collection

LONDON, 17 Jan—A Vincent van Gogh landscape and other paintings from the collection of Elizabeth Taylor are up for auction in London next month.

Christie's auction house says 38 works belonging to the late actress will be included in Impressionist and modern sales 7 and 8 Feb.

They include van Gogh's autumn landscape "Vue de l'Asile et de la Chapelle de Saint-Remy," estimated at 5 million to 7 million pounds (\$7.6

million to \$11 million), as well as an Edgar Degas self-portrait and works by Camille Pissarro and Auguste Renoir.

The daughter of a London art dealer, Taylor amassed a significant collection of 19th and 20th century works.

Her father, Francis Taylor, bought the van Gogh painting in 1963 on his daughter's behalf for \$257,600 at a Sotheby's auction in London.

It was later the subject of an ownership battle that ended

in 2007, when the US Supreme Court refused to consider a claim brought by descendants of a former owner, a Jewish woman who had fled Germany in 1939.

"Having grown up surrounded by fine art and surrounded by her own canvasses until the end of her life, this collection of paintings was very important to Miss Taylor," said Christie's Impressionist and Modern specialist Giovanna Bertazzoni.—INTERNET

50 years of James Bond cars on show

LONDON, 17 Jan—The largest collection of James Bond vehicles in the world opens to the public on Tuesday in Britain featuring classics such as the Aston Martin DBS from "Quantum of Solace."

From earlier Bond films, the Phantom III Rolls-Royce from "Goldfinger" and the Lotus Esprit S1, which takes a trip into the sea with Roger Moore at the wheel in "The Spy Who Loved Me", are also among the 50 vehicles on show. The "Bond in Motion" show at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu, southeast England, marks half a century of 007 films.

Also featured are the vintage 1962 Rolls-Royce from "A View To A Kill" which was pushed into a lake by Bond's foe Zorin and May Day, played by singer Grace Jones, with Bond still inside.—INTERNET



A film clip showing Sean Connery as James Bond driving the Aston Martin DB5 in the James Bond movie "Goldfinger" at the opening of the Bond in Motion 50 vehicles in 50 years exhibition at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu, near Southampton, England on 15 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Mickey's next stop is China

NEW YORK, 17 Jan—Mickey Mouse and Winnie the Pooh are setting up shop in China.

Walt Disney Co is on track to open its first store in China in Fall 2012, and is committed to opening 25 to 40 stores in the world's most populous country over the next three years, a top company executive told *Reuters*.

The news comes as the world's largest media conglomerate, home to iconic brands such as Mickey Mouse and Winnie the Pooh, looks beyond mature markets such as the United States and Europe for new sources of revenue.

"China is very important to overall Disney company plans, obviously with the launch of the Shanghai Disneyland Park. So, it is probably the newest country that is getting the most focus," Jim Fielding, president of Disney Stores Worldwide, said in an exclusive interview. Disney broke ground on the Shanghai Disneyland theme park in April 2011.

Also, the Chinese are not new to the Disney brand.

"Because the licensing division has had a presence in China already, there is affinity for the brand and affinity for characters," he said. "The market is ready."

Disney has signed a lease for its first store in Shanghai and is looking at sites in other top tier cities such as Beijing,

Fielding said.

"We are focusing on tier-one cities in very high population and tourist locations, very similar to what we look at around the world," Fielding explained.

The difference will be in Disney's strategy to woo the Chinese.

"The product assortment is definitely localized to Chinese consumers and Chinese knowledge because they don't know all the Disney characters that people know in America and in Europe," he said.

Reuters



Disney character Mickey Mouse poses at the premiere of the Disney Channel movie "High School Musical 2" at Downtown Disney in Anaheim, California, on 14 August, 2007.

INTERNET

Kvitova advances to 2nd round



Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic serves to Russia's Vera Dushevina during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, on 17 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—After surrendering her opening service game with a double-fault, Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova won 12 consecutive games in a 6-2, 6-0 win on Tuesday over Russia's Vera Dushevina to move into the second round of the Australian Open.

Wearing the purple color synonymous with Wimbledon, the No. 2-ranked Kvitova underlined her growing stature on the women's tour by not giving Dushevina a second chance.

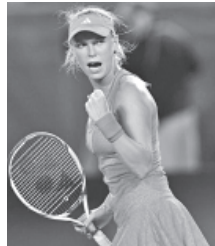
The 21-year-old Czech broke her Russian rival's serve three times in each set and finished off Tuesday's opening match on Rod Laver Arena in an hour. Kvitova reached the quarterfinals here last year at the start of a season in which she surged up the rankings.

Last week, she missed

a chance to overhaul Caroline Wozniacki's No. 1 ranking when she lost in the Sydney International semifinals. She needed to win the Sydney tournament to take the top ranking. But she gets another chance at Melbourne Park, where she's one of six women who can finish No. 1.

Internet

Wozniacki eases into 2nd round



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki made light of concerns over a wrist injury to beat Anastasia Rodionova of Australia 6-2, 6-1 in the first round of the Australian Open on Monday.

Wozniacki hurt her left wrist in a quarterfinal loss at the Sydney International last week, but the injury didn't appear to trouble her against Rodionova.

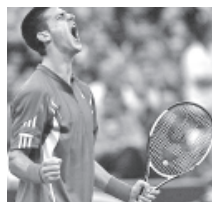
Wozniacki is seeking her first Grand Slam title and must reach at least the fourth round at Melbourne Park to hold on to her top ranking.—*Internet*

Djokovic dazzles Lorenzi to storm into the 2nd round

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—World No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia made a cruising start to his title defence campaign in the 2012 Australian Open on Tuesday, as he subdued world No. 108 Paolo Lorenzi of Italy comprehensively in straight sets with a 6-2 6-0 6-0 scoreline and stormed into the second-round of this Grand Slam tournament.

Top-seeded and defending champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia made an authoritative start to his title defence campaign in the 2012 Australian Open, as he subdued world No. 108 Paolo Lorenzi of Italy comprehensively in straight sets with a 6-2 6-0 6-0 scoreline and stormed into the second-round of this Grand Slam tournament on Tuesday.

The Serbian finished the



World No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia

match in 1 hour and 32 minutes, as he mustered 73% points on his first serve, fired 4 aces and hammered 22 massive winners as compared to Lorenzi's 10. On the other hand, Djokovic also kept a check on unforced errors and committed only 13 as compared to Lorenzi's 30 – which allowed him to run away with this lop-sided duel. In the end, Djokovic converted 9 out of 13 break points to win this match.—*Internet*

Li downs Pervak to reach 2nd round

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—China's Li Na recovered from a slow start to down Ksenia Pervak of Kazakhstan 6-3, 6-1 in stifling heat at the Australian Open on Monday.

Fifth-seeded Li, the reigning French Open champion and runner-up to Kim Clijsters in Melbourne last year, overcame the dangerous Pervak in 69



China's Li Na

minutes.

Pervak, the world number 40, matched Li for much of the first set as the

australian open

The Grand Slam of Asia/Pacific

16th Jan to 29th Jan



Australian Open: Sharapova demolishes Dulko in Rd 1

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—Maria Sharapova marched into the second round of the Australian Open on Tuesday with a ruthless 6-0 6-1 victory over Argentina's Gisela Dulko in just 58 minutes.

The 24-year-old Russian had been heading for a 'double bagel' 6-0 6-0 victory until she temporarily lost control of her serve in the third game of the second set and was broken.

Dulko, who had beaten Sharapova at Wimbledon in 2009 in their only other meeting, punched the air in delight after winning the game while the crowd on the second show court of Hisense Arena gave her a massive cheer and sustained applause.

Sharapova, however, was not prepared to stay on court any longer than she had to in the intense heat, breaking

two players traded a series of booming groundstrokes.

However the Chinese star always looked the more threatening and she drew first blood when she broke Pervak to go to 4-2, only to surrender a break in the next game.

But Li then stepped up to break Pervak straight back, winning the next five games to take the first set and open a 3-0 lead in the second.

Internet

Dulko's next two service games and while the Argentine had three break points when the fourth seed was serving for the match she was unable to stave off the inevitable.—*Internet*



Maria Sharapova

Petkovic (back)s out of the Open

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—World No. 10 Andrea Petkovic has withdrawn from the Australian Open following her match against Agnieszka Radwanska at the Sydney International.

Internet



World No. 10 Andrea Petkovic

Uncertainty clouds recovery of skier Burke in Utah



Canadian freestyle skier Sarah Burke

SALT LAKE CITY, 17 Jan—Canadian freestyle skier Sarah Burke's agent and her publicist were teary-eyed at a hospital on Monday as they tried to explain the lack of any prognosis report for the Olympic favourite. Burke, 29, was seriously injured on 10 January in a training accident at the superpipe in Park City, Utah, and six days later remained sedated on a breathing tube as doctors tested her brain functions.

Reporters gathered at Salt Lake City hospital on Monday for what was expected to be a discussion by doctors of Burke's most recent neurological tests and assessments. At the last minute, however, Burke's agent, Michael Spencer, and her publicist, Nicole Wool, said there was nothing the family wanted to report as doctors continued working on Burke, so the news conference was canceled. "Obviously, this is a sensitive situation," a somber Wool said at the University of Utah Hospital.—*Internet*

Romeu says Torres close to top form



Fernando Torres (right)

LONDON, 17 Jan—Chelsea's Oriol Romeu says the club are close to seeing the best from striker Fernando Torres. Torres has struggled for goals since his move to Stamford Bridge from Liverpool last January.

His last goal in the Barclays Premier League came against Swansea in

September, but he played a major part in Chelsea's winner against Sunderland at the weekend as his excellent volley came back off the bar to Frank Lampard who tapped in.

Romeu argues that the 27-year-old Spaniard, who scored 65 goals in 102 League appearances for Liverpool, makes an important contribution even when he is not among the goals. "People used to say that if he doesn't score he is not playing good, but that is not true," said Romeu. "He is playing good and he helped us to get the goals. He played very good in the game at Wolves and he played another big game for us [against Sunderland]. Every ball he fights for and he is big player for us. "If he is happy, if he is enjoying it on the pitch, then he is going to play better and he helps us much more than if he is not enjoying it on the pitch."

Internet

Dzeko sends Man City three points clear

LONDON, 17 Jan—Wigan Athletic 0 Manchester City 1. Manchester City re-established their three-point lead at the top of the Barclays Premier League courtesy of victory away at bottom club Wigan. City striker Edin Dzeko scored the only goal of the match halfway through the first half, glancing in a header from David Silva's deadly left-wing free-kick. Dzeko and Sergio Agüero both went close to scoring a second and after Joe Hart saved brilliantly from Wigan's James McCarthy, City held on for a crucial victory.—*Internet*



Man City striker Edin Dzeko climbs highest to glance his team in front at Wigan.

Haye insists he will be world champion again

LONDON, 17 Jan—David Haye believes he will become world heavyweight champion once again, despite having retired from boxing.

The ex-WBA champion retired in October after losing to Wladimir Klitschko, whose brother Vitali owns the WBC belt. "My people



Haye has been beaten on points by Wladimir Klitschko in July.

Internet

are talking loosely with Vitali's people and they have shown a keen interest in a potential fight," Haye told BBC Sport. "I'm going to stay in shape if that call comes, and if it does come I will be heavyweight champion again." The 31-year-old was talking about his future after a training session in his south London gym, having paid tribute to Muhammad Ali, who turns 70 on Tuesday. London-born Haye, who moved up from cruiserweight to win the heavyweight crown against Nikolay Valuev, lost his title in a unification bout when he was beaten on points by Wladimir in July and announced his retirement three months later, on his 31st birthday.—*Internet*

International Sports



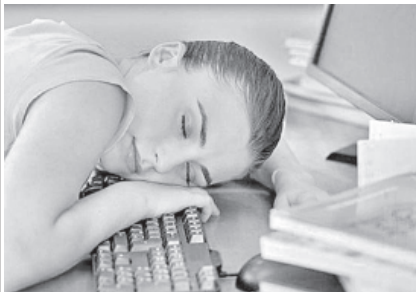
SSC Napoli's Uruguayan forward Edison Cavani kicks to score on a penalty kick during their Italian Serie A football match SSC Napoli vs Bologna FC in San Paolo stadium in Naples.—INTERNET

Napoli frustrated again as Bologna claim point

NAPLES, 17 Jan—Napoli's title hopes took another blow as Walter Mazzarri's team were frustrated by lowly Bologna, who held them to a 1-1 draw at the San Paolo Stadium on Monday. Despite having recorded impressive wins over AC Milan, Inter Milan and Manchester City this season, Napoli have slipped up too often against supposed minnows.

And it happened again as they needed Edinson Cavani's penalty to cancel out Robert Acquafresca's early opener for the visitors. The result left Napoli down in sixth and still 10 points off leaders Juventus while Bologna moved four points clear of the drop zone. Bologna coach Stefano Pioli was proud of his team. "We played a great game, it's not easy going to Napoli and keeping your head up against such a strong team with good organization, a well-defined game-plan and quality players," he said.— *Internet*

Being desk-bound can erode physical, mental health



LONDON, 17 Jan—Being desk-bound for long hours daily is not only bad for your physical health but can affect your mental well-being as well.

The findings by Myanna Duncan, Aadil Kazi and Cheryl Haslam, professor at Work & Health Research Centre, Loughborough University, also showed that more time spent sitting at work was tied with decrease in mental well-being.

Researchers surveyed over 1,000 employees measuring employees' use and experiences of occupational health services and their physical activity levels.

In the UK, as elsewhere in Europe, there are now twice as many workers aged 50 and over as there are aged 25 or younger.

Duncan says: "People don't need a psychologist to tell them to get up and walk around. But if it helps, I'd tell them to put a post-it note on their computer to remind them. Anyway go and talk to your colleagues face to face, it's a lot more sociable and better for you than emailing them."

These findings were presented at the British Psychological Society's Annual Occupational Psychology Conference, in Chester.— *Internet*

Dalglish wants Reds to develop ruthless streak

LIVERPOOL, 17 Jan — Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish has demanded his shot-shy squad develop a ruthless streak in front of goal after losing more ground in the race for a top four finish in Saturday's goalless home draw with Stoke.

A seventh draw in 11 games at Anfield has left Liverpool seventh in the table, five points behind fourth-placed Chelsea, and facing up to another season without Champions League football.

Attacking weaknesses, with Luis Suarez suspended and Andy Carroll having thus far failed to deliver a year on from his big money move from Newcastle, has been the key failing with the Reds scoring

just 24 goals in 21 league matches. Suarez, half way through his ban for racially abusing Patrice Evra, is top scorer with only five league goals this season, veteran Craig Bellamy has notched four, but no other player has

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish has demanded his shot-shy squad develop a ruthless streak in front of goal after losing more ground in the race for a top four finish in Saturday's goalless home draw with Stoke.



managed more than two. "Deliveries into the box have got to be a lot better than what they were and we have to be more decisive when we get up there," said Dalglish.

Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(18-1-12 09:30 am ~ 19-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

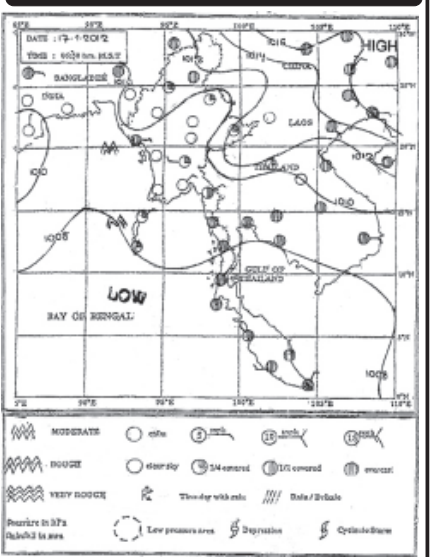
- * News
- * Emerging Evidence of Iron Age
- * News
- * "Secret Places for Yummy Food" (Episode-3) Rakhine Noodle
- * News
- * Festive Mood & Festival Food
- * News
- * Let's Talk About VCD Album
- * Straw Embossed Painting
- * News
- * A Shining Music Star
- * News
- * Fad and Fashion of Myanmar Cotton Ware
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * National Literary Award Presenting Ceremony
- * News
- * Sightseeing Around Taunggyi, Inlay (Part - I)
- * Myanmar Movies "Master of Flowers"

MYANMAR TV

(18-1-2012) (Wednesday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:50 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:15 am
- 4. Cultural Dances
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial Song
- 4:35 pm
- 2. Dance Of National Races
- 5:05 pm
- 3. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 5:30 pm
- 4. Solo Favourites
- 5:40 pm
- 5. International Science News
- 5:50 pm
- 6. "ASEAN" Programmes
- 6:20 pm
- 7. Traditional Boxing
- 8:00 pm
- 8. News
- 9. Korea NG Award
- 10. TV Drama Series
- 11. TV Quiz

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 18th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)	Forecast	Percent
		Maximum Minimum		
1	Kachin	27/81	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	26/79	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	34/93	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	18/64	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	28/82	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	33/91	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	29/84	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	29/84	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	26/82	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	33/91	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	32/90	Generally fair weather	
13	Rakhine	27/81	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	24/75	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	24/75	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	24/75	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyarwady	31/88	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	32/90	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	32/90	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	28/82	Generally fair weather	

During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Tanintharyi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Regions, Shan State, (5°C) to (6°C) below January average temperatures in Bago Region, Kayin and Mon States and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Namsan (0°C), Pindag and Heho (1°C) each.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of slight decrease of night temperature in Lower Myanmar Areas.

Taungdwingyi boosts production of pigeon

TAUNGDWINGYI, 17 Jan—Thanks to storm Theim, there rained in Taungdwingyi, Myothit, Magway and Natmauk townships of Magway Region in the last week of 2011 December.

Pigeon pea mixed in sesame and bean plantations met better production than that of last year and farmers got higher prices, said a local farmer. Pigeon pea plantations are being harvested beginning second week of January 2012. It was reported that a basket of pigeon pea fetched K 12000 to K 15000.—*Kyemon*

DIS NEWS TRIC T



MRCS provides relief aids

MOMAU, 17 Jan—Myanmar Red Cross Society donated relief aids to the displaced persons in Momau Township of Kachin State, at the temporary relief camps in Momau Township on 15 December.

Township Administrator U Nyan Hlaing, camp officials, Deputy Commanding Officer of Township Red Cross Battalion Daw San San Aye and members presented relief aids to the families at the camps. The relief aids comprised 219 sets of family kits and 219 sets of kitchen kits. On 15 August, they also provided 171 sets of hygiene kits and 171 family kits to the displaced families in Momau Township.

MRCS

Fire drill exercised at Padetha Market in Hinthada

HINTHADA, 17 Jan—A fire drill was demonstrated at Padetha Market of Hinthada on 28 December morning, attended by local authorities, departmental personnel, market committee members, social organization members and fire brigade members. They showed off fire fighting skills with the use of water from the tube-well and water tanks at the market.—*Township IPRD*

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental personnel, Naga national chieftains of Leshi Tsp



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo greets locals in Swammara Village.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, accompanied by Union Ministers, the Sagaing Region Chief Minister,

the Commander of North-West Command, deputy ministers, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, and personnel inspected terraced farming, condition of roads and forests in western part of Leshi by helicopter on their

way from Leshi to Swammara Village on 15 January.

On arrival at the village, they were welcomed by local Naga nationals and students. The Vice-President then visited Swammara Village Basic Education High School. He enquired after the teachers and coordinated with responsible persons for extension of school building and construction of staff quarters for teachers. The Vice-President then inspected Swammara Village Station Hospital and stressed the needs.

In meeting with departmental personnel and locals at the assembly hall of the school, the Vice-President said Swammara Village has difficult access to other regions due to its weather and terrain conditions and thus lagged behind in education, health and development.

In addition, the region shares borders with the neighbouring country and it therefore needed to have convenience in bilateral contacts. The Vice-President confirmed continued measures for upgrading of Swammara Village-tract into sub-township status by combining with other village-tracts so that the region can see rapid betterment in administration, rule of law, health, social affairs and transportation.

He then coordinated with responsible persons for upgrading of Swammara BEHS (Branch) into BEHS and opening more Basic

Education Post Primary Schools and Basic Education Middle Schools around Swammara BEHS.

The entrepreneurs accompanying the Vice-President on his tour contributed cash assistance for construction of staff quarters for teachers and for the hospital. After the meeting, Naga nationals presented the Vice-President, wife and party with Naga traditional blankets.

The Vice-President and party then went back to Leshi by choppers. While visiting Leshi People's Hospital, he comforted the patients, inspected site chosen for extension of the hospital to be 25-bedded one and gave necessary instructions.

The Vice-President then went to Leshi BEHS where he looked around the library and classrooms and called the principal and personnel for high matriculation examination pass rate and effective teaching of academic subjects.

The Vice-President and party then proceeded to Leshi Border Region Nationalities Youths Development Training School. The Vice-President enquired after instructors and trainees and spoke words of encouragement to them.

At the assembly hall of the training school, the Vice-President and party met departmental officials, members of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body, (See page 8)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets officials, social organizations, townselders, locals from Homalin, Mopainglut of Sagaing Region



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers address in meeting with departmental officials, social organization members and townselders at the hall of Mopainglut sub-township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 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, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, and officials, left Leshi by helicopter and arrived in Mopainglut Sub-township yesterday morning.

They were welcomed there by

departmental officials, members of social organizations, townselders, local nationals and students.

The Vice-President and party attended a meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders at the hall of the sub-township.

The sub-township administrator reported on data of the sub-township, management, education, health, economic and social matters.

For his part, the Vice-President said sub-townships have been formed for systematic implementation of the tasks for State defence, security, administration, the rule of law and regional development as there can be gaps between townships if the administrative machinery cannot be reached out to them. He then called for the extension of the region's area in order to further develop the education, health

and transport sectors of the neighbouring regions of the sub-townships.

Next, the sub-township administrator and townselders accepted exercise books presented by Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, solar lanterns by Deputy Home Affairs Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and portable generator by Shwe Thanlwin Company Chairman U Kyaw Win and K 2 million (See page 9)