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Thursday, 19 January, 2012

True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects Yasagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project, development undertakings in Kalay

NAY PYI TAW, 18 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 Chin State Chief Minister, the commander of North-West Command, deputy ministers, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials, visited construction site of Yasagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project at Nerinzara Creek, two miles north of Yasagyo Village in Kalay Township yesterday.

At the briefing hall of the project, Deputy Agriculture and Irrigation Minister U Khin Zaw explained that project is located near Yasagyo Village in Kalay Township, Kalay District, Sagaing Region and is being constructed by damming up Nerinzara Creek and reported to the Vice-President on main task of dam construction.

The Vice-President stressed the need for harmonious implementation of irrigation facility construction and hydropower generation as the project is (See page 8)

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets officials at briefing hall of Yasagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project.—MNA



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets district and township officials in Kalay



NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo who arrived in Kalay of Sagaing Region attended a get-together at Aung Zeya Hall in Kalay on 16 January.

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, the Sagaing Region chief minister, the Chin State chief minister, the North-West Command commander, deputy ministers, ministers of Sagaing Region and Chin State, district and township level departmental officials, social organization members and townselders.

First, the deputy commissioners of Kalay, Tamu and Mawlaik districts reported on data of the districts, land utilization, rainfalls, expected rate to grow monsoon crops and actual crops cultivation, growing of cold season crops, targeted production rate of ten major crops, transforming to mechanized farming system, agricultural loan disbursement, net product and per capita income, education and (See page 9)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets those present at Aung Zeya Hall of Kalay.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 19 January, 2012

Always be alert

Full of roses is the life when the world is in peace and tranquility. Full of thorns is it when the world is amidst armed conflicts and disputes. This explains the efforts for bringing human-induced tragedies to an end.

The impact of natural disasters has been topping in the destructive causes of human society. Natural disasters can be categorized into flood, storm, fire outbreak, etc. Naturally, unstoppable they are, but prevention can be made to avert the catastrophic consequences. In 2008, the cyclone Nargis claimed lots of lives and inflicted widespread damages in riparian regions of Myanmar and cyclone-shelters and communication links were constructed since its aftermath.

Moreover, it needs to run more and more fire prevention campaigns. In 2011, the nation saw a total of over 900 fire outbreaks, resulting in massive loss and damages. Some fire outbreaks even led to casualties apart from damages to properties. There are a number of occasions for fire outbreaks such as negligence, electric shock and arson but negligence accounts for the most.

The number of fire outbreaks has increased year by year with some causing enormous damages. There has been a surge in the number of high-rise buildings, transportation machinery, and fuel and chemicals warehouses due to the growth of the nation and increasing population. Thus, more effective fire preventive measures are a must.

In spite of Fire Services Department organizing fire prevention educative talks and fire drills in offices and departments, emergency responses are still weak on real occasions.

All in all, fire prevention is concerned with the entire people and shopkeepers and urban residents are to give a hand in fire preventive works. Over-10000-gallon-capacity water tanks should be constructed on the top floors of skyscrapers and large markets. Fire is a good servant but a bad master. All the citizens are to be alert to fire outbreaks in all seasons, sticking to the instructions of Fire Services Department.

Danger of narcotic drugs disseminated

YANGON, 15 Jan—An educative talk on danger of narcotic drugs was given at ACA Education Institution in North Okkalapa Township of Yangon on 13 January morning.

IP Myint Thein of Yangon Anti-Drug Squad (East) of Myanmar Police Force explained today's youth and danger of stimulant tablets, U Htin Kyaw Moe (Myaylat Htin Kyaw Moe) and Daw Thet Thet Mar of Yangon Region Voluntary Drug Eradication Supervisory Association gave talks on danger of narcotic drugs.—SWD

Information & Culture Minister receives BBC world news editor

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan received a delegation led by BBC World News Editor Mr Jon Williams at the Information Ministry here today. They had a cordial discussion on close cooperation in media development and TV broadcasting.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, directors-general and managing directors and the head of office.—MNA

U Kyaw Soe Win appointed as Ambassador to Lao PDR

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Soe Win, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

MNA



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan receives BBC World News Editor Mr Jon Williams and party.
MNA

Myanmar, Bangladesh hold bilateral air services consultations

YANGON, 18 Jan—The air services consultations between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was held at the meeting room of the Department of Civil Aviation, Yangon International Airport, here, on 16 January.

The Myanmar delegation led by Director-General U Tin Naing Tun of DCA comprised the representatives from the Union Attorney-General's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the DCA and Myanmar Airways International.

The Bangladeshi delegation led by Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism Mr Md Atharul Islam comprised Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar Maj-Gen Anup Kumar Chakma, Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority Air Cdre Mahmud Hussain, officials of the CAA of Bangladesh and representatives of the Bangladeshi Embassy.

During the course of



U Tin Naing Tun, Director-General of Department of Civil Aviation, Myanmar and Chairman Air Cdre Mahmud Hussain of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh sign Agreed Minutes.—MNA

consultations, the two delegations drafted and agreed a new Bilateral Air Services Agreement in line with international air transport developments, to replace the old one signed on 3-8-1977. And then, an agreed minutes, mentioning airlines designation, traffic rights between the two

countries and beyond third country and airlines cooperation arrangement was signed.

Moreover, the two sides agreed that the designated airlines of each country shall be permitted to operate seven flights per week between the two countries and the two sides also agreed

on the designation of Myanmar Airways International Co Ltd and Air Bagan Co Ltd as designated airlines of Myanmar and designation of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, GMG Airlines and United Airways (BG) as designated airlines of Bangladesh.

MNA

Sports competitions organized in Yanbye

YANGON, 18 Jan—The Yanbye Township Administrator's Trophy Inter-Station Football Tournament took place at Rammawady Myoma Sports Ground in Yanbye from 24 December 2011 to 3 January 2012.

LOCAL SPORTS

Myoma Ward 1 routed Laytaung Station 3-1 in the final. Township level officials awarded the winners in the tournament.

Likewise, Yanbye Township Administrator's Office and Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized the baby show, 100-m race and other sports competitions.—Township IPRD

Sports trial for billiards, snooker, carom on 9 Feb

YANGON, 18 Jan—Totake part in the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar, a sports trial for billiards, snooker and pool carom events, jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department of the

Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation will be held to choose selected players at the training hall of MBSF at Aung San Gymnasium beginning 9 February.

The players wishing to take part in the sports trial may enlist at the federation in person, not later than 6 February. The selected players are to join the training centre in Nay Pyi Taw.—MBSF

Ethiopia gunmen 'kill five foreign tourists'

ADDIS ABABA, 18 Jan — Five foreign tourists have been killed in Ethiopia in an attack by unknown gunmen, state TV reports. The attack was carried out late on Monday in the northern Afar region of the country by gunmen who had crossed from neighbouring Eritrea, the TV said. Two other tourists were seriously hurt and a third is said to have escaped the attack unharmed. The nationality of the victims was not given.

Afar is regarded as a haunt of both Ethiopian and Eritrean rebels. Ethiopia and Eritrea have been bitter adversaries since their 1998-2000 border war. Ethiopian Television (ETV) said the two injured tourists had been taken to a clinic by defence forces. "The group of foreign tourists was attacked by gunmen late on Monday by members of a group that was trained and armed by the Eritrean government," Ethiopian government spokesman Bereket Simon told *Reuters*.



"It is the usual terrorist activity by the regime." A Western diplomat also told *Reuters* that German nationals were among those killed, but that has not been confirmed. However, reports in the German media said the tourists had been near the Erta Ale volcano. Eritrea has so far not commented on the attack. Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993 but the two countries soon became embroiled in border disputes.—*Internet*

MoD announces details of 4,200 job cuts

LONDON, 18 Jan — The Ministry of Defence has announced 4,200 job cuts in a second round of armed forces redundancies. The Army will see up to 2,900 job cuts, including 400 Gurkhas, while the RAF will lose up to 1,000 members and the Royal Navy up to 300. The job losses will account for some of the cuts announced under the defence review - intended to help plug a £38bn hole in the defence budget. Ministers said there was "no choice" but to axe the posts.

Under the terms of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, announced in 2010, the navy and the RAF have to cut 5,000 jobs each by 2015, the Army 7,000 and the Ministry of Defence 25,000 civilian staff. Last September 2,860 people were selected for the first tranche of redundancies, with the Army and RAF each losing 920 posts, and 1,020 cut from the navy.

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said the government had "no choice but to reduce the size of the armed forces - while reconfiguring them to ensure they remain agile, adaptable and effective". Mr Hammond said: "As we continue with the redundancy process we will ensure we retain the capabilities that our armed forces will require to meet the challenges of the future."

Internet



The Army needs to reduce its total fighting force to 82,000 by 2020.— *INTERNET*

Officials said the chemical was bound for Puerto Quetzal and a port in Nicaragua.— *INTERNET*



MEXICO CITY, 18 Jan — The Mexican navy says it has seized 195 tonnes of chemicals which can be used to make the drug methamphetamine. The navy found 12 shipping

Mexican navy seizes huge haul of precursor chemicals

Guatemala and Nicaragua. The authorities said that Mexican drug cartels have been expanding their methamphetamine operations to Guatemala. Mexican officials said the chemical, methamphetamine, could be used to make the synthetic drug methamphetamine, and also to produce cocaine.

Over the past six weeks, the Mexican security forces have seized nearly 900 tonnes of precursor chemicals, almost all of them bound for Guatemala. Estimates by the security forces in the United

States indicate that Mexico has in the past been the main supplier of meth used in the US, but recent seizures of precursor chemicals suggest Guatemala may be producing more. A 2011 report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime said amphetamine stimulants had become the second most widely used illegal substances. According to the report, the main producers of synthetic drugs remain the Netherlands and Burma, but manufacture has spread to Latin America.— *Internet*

containers full of the precursor chemical in the Pacific coast port of Lazaro Cardenas.

They said the chemical had been shipped from China and was destined for

Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang resigns from its board

NEW YORK, 18 Jan — Jerry Yang, the co-founder of Yahoo!, has resigned from its board. Mr Yang founded the online company in 1995 with David Filo and was its chief executive from June 2007 until January 2009. His resignation comes two weeks after the company hired former PayPal executive Scott Thomson to be its new chief executive.

Mr Yang annoyed some shareholders by turning down a \$47.5bn (£31bn) takeover offer from Microsoft in 2008. The company's current market value is about \$20bn.

Mr Yang has also resigned from the boards of Yahoo Japan and Alibaba Group and said in a statement: "The time has come for me to



Mr Yang said it was time to pursue interests outside Yahoo! — *INTERNET*

pursue other interests outside of Yahoo!". He also expressed support for the company's current management. "I am enthusiastic about the appointment of Scott Thompson as Chief Executive Officer and his ability, along with the entire Yahoo! leadership team, to guide Yahoo! into an exciting and successful future," he said. Yahoo! shares rose 3.4% in after-hours trading.

Some analysts had seen Mr Yang as an impediment to the sale or restructuring of the business.

"This is clearly a positive. It provides a more objective and unemotional approach to strategic alternatives," said Brett Harris at Gabello & Co. "It's also good for the new CEO. He has one less entrenched legacy board member to resist his vision."

In addition to leaving the board, Mr Yang is also giving up his title of "Chief Yahoo!". "While I and the entire board respect his decision, we will miss his remarkable perspective, vision and wise counsel," said Yahoo! chairman Roy Bostock.

Internet



Policemen inspect the remains of a vehicle used in a bomb attack in Hilla, 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad, on 16 Jan, 2012. A car bomb blew up while the bomber was driving it, killing at least three people and wounding another 18, in central Hilla, police said.— *INTERNET*

Iraqi policemen killed at checkpoint in Anbar

BAGHDAD, 18 Jan — Five policemen have been killed in an attack on a checkpoint in Iraq, close to the Jordanian and Syrian borders. Gunmen in the western province of Anbar targeted policemen who were guarding a highway that links Iraq to Jordan just after midnight on Tuesday. One report said an attacker was killed in the ensuing clash.

The attack, in the town of Rutba, came two days after gunmen stormed a government compound killing seven in the provincial capital of Ramadi. Violence in Iraq has been steadily on the rise in the past few months. Security forces have been one of the main targets of recent attacks, in addition to Shia

religious processions. There has also been a marked deterioration in Iraq's fragile political process since the withdrawal of US forces from the country at the end of last year.

An arrest warrant was issued for Vice-President Tariq Hashemi, the country's most prominent Sunni politician, on terrorism

charges. He fled to the Kurdish-controlled region of northern Iraq, and denied the accusations against him. But the warrant triggered a political crisis, as the biggest bloc in parliament accused Prime Minister Nuri Maliki of using the law to consolidate his grip on power.

Internet



Mexico police chief killed by unidentified gunmen

MEXICO CITY, 18 Jan — Unidentified gunmen have killed the police chief of the central Mexican town of Zacatepec. Juan Manuel Zamudio was shot by three men who ambushed his car as he was travelling alone in Morelos State. Seven alleged hitmen were shot dead by security forces in a separate incident in Morelos.

There have been a number of shoot-outs in the state in recent months but Morelos had escaped the high levels of

violence seen in some other regions.

It is not known who was behind Monday's violence in Morelos but the authorities have blamed the shootings on organised crime.

Early on Monday, police and suspected hitmen exchanged fire near Temixco, close to the city of Cuernavaca. Reports said the alleged gunman had run a police checkpoint on the Cuernavaca-Mexico City motorway and officers gave

chase. In the ensuing shoot-out, "seven alleged criminals who were armed" were killed, a statement from by the Morelos prosecutor's office said.

Later in the day, gunmen said to be on motorcycles opened fire on Mr Zamudio as he stopped at a petrol station.

The police chief was taken to hospital but died soon after from his injuries.

Internet

Babies try lip-reading in learning to talk



This undated handout photo provided by Florida Atlantic University shows a baby, looking at a monitor, wearing a band that contains a little magnet that the head-tracker, under the monitor uses to determine head position which, in turn, enables the eye tracker to find the eye and the pupil.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan—Babies don't learn to talk just from hearing sounds. New research suggests they're lip-readers too.

It happens during that magical stage when a baby's babbling gradually changes from gibberish into syllables and eventually into that first "mama" or "dada."

Florida scientists discovered that starting around age 6 months, babies begin shifting from the intent eye gaze of early infancy to studying mouths when people talk to them.

"The baby in order to imitate you has to figure out how to shape their lips to make that particular sound they're hearing," explains developmental psychologist David Lewkowicz of Florida Atlantic University, who led the study being published Monday. "It's an incredibly complex process."

Apparently it doesn't take them too long to absorb the movements that match basic sounds. By their first birthdays, babies start shifting back to look you in the eye again — unless they hear the unfamiliar sounds of a foreign language. Then, they stick with lip-reading a bit longer.

"It's a pretty intriguing finding," says University of Iowa psychology professor Bob McMurray, who also studies speech development. The babies "know what they need to know about, and they're able to deploy their attention to what's important at that point in development."—*Internet*

India reports new TB strain resistant to all drugs

MUMBAI, 18 Jan—Indian doctors have reported the country's first cases of "totally drug-resistant tuberculosis," a long-feared and virtually untreatable form of the killer lung disease.

It's not the first time highly resistant cases like this have been seen. Since 2003, patients have been documented in Italy and Iran. It has mostly been limited to impoverished areas, and has not spread widely. But experts believe there could be many undocumented cases.

No one expects the Indian TB strains to rapidly spread elsewhere. The airborne disease is mainly transmitted through close personal contact and isn't nearly as contagious as the flu. Indeed, most of the cases of this kind of TB were not from person-to-person infection but were mutations that occurred in poorly treated patients.

What's more, there's a debate within the public health community about whether to even label TB infections as totally drug resistant. The World Health Organization hasn't accepted the term and still considers the cases to be

what's now called extensively drug-resistant TB, or XDR. However, Dr Paul Nunn, a coordinator at the WHO's Stop TB Department in Geneva, said there is ample proof that these virtually untreatable cases do exist.

The Indian hospital that saw the initial cases tested a dozen medicines and none of them worked, a pretty comprehensive assessment. A TB expert at the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said they do appear to be totally resistant to available drugs.

"It is concerning," said Dr Kenneth Castro, director of the CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination. "Anytime we see something like this, we better get on top of it before it becomes a more widespread problem."

Ordinary TB is easily cured by taking antibiotics for six to nine months. However, if that treatment is interrupted or the dose is cut down, the stubborn bacteria battle back and mutate into a tougher strain that can no longer be killed by standard drugs. The disease becomes harder and more expensive to treat.—*Internet*

Toll from pedestrians wearing headphones triples

MARYLAND, 18 Jan—The number of US pedestrians who have been killed or badly injured while wearing headphones has tripled in six years, according to a study published Tuesday.

The annual tally rose from 16 in 2004 to 47 in 2011, bringing the total of cases to 116 over this period, say the authors.

More than half of the incidents involved pedestrians who were run down by trains.

Two-thirds of the victims were males and under the age of 30.

The research, published

in the *British journal Injury Prevention*, was headed by Richard Lichenstein of the University of Maryland Hospital for Children in Baltimore.

The paper warns of "inattentive blindness" when wearing headphones, meaning a distraction that lowers the resources the brain devotes to external stimuli. The tangle of US accident statistics covered iPods, MP3 players and other musical devices. It did not include mobile phones.—*Internet*



The number of US pedestrians who have been killed or badly injured while wearing headphones has tripled in six years, according to a study published Tuesday.

INTERNET

Canadian stocks drop despite Chinese economic growth boost

TORONTO, 18 Jan—Canadian stocks lost early momentum at the end of the day on Tuesday even as commodity prices rose sharply in the wake of data indicating that China is managing to avoid an abrupt economic slowdown. The S&P/TSX Composite Index was down 25.77 points, or 0.21 percent, at 12,232.83 while the S&P/TSX Venture Composite Index lost 1.21 points, or 0.08 percent, at 1,537.72.

The Bank of Canada announced on Tuesday that it was going to leave its key rate unchanged at one percent. The bank observed that the Canadian economy did better than expected in the last half of 2011, but it expects the pace of growth going forward to be more modest than previously forecast, largely due to deteriorating economic performance outside of Canada. China reported its economy grew 8.9 percent in the final quarter of last

year, down from 9.1 percent in the third quarter and the slowest in two and half years. But markets had been expecting growth to come in at 8.7 percent and the data also showed that December retail sales and factory output accelerated. The Chinese government moved to slow its economy last year to deal with high inflation. But leaders have recently started easing lending to encourage growth in the face of plunging export demand from the US and Europe. There have been worries that Chinese officials would be unable to engineer a soft landing for the economy. A growing Chinese economy has been an important source of support for a struggling global economy and, in particular, has boosted prices for oil and metals and in turn energy and mining stocks on the resource-heavy Canadian stock market.—*Xinhua*



India to consider foreign investment in airlines



Five of India's six main airlines have reported losses in recent years.—INTERNET

NEW DELHI, 18 Jan—India's government will consider a proposal allowing foreign airlines to buy stakes of up to 49% in India's airlines, Minister Ajit Singh has said. Five of India's six main airlines have reported losses in recent years. They

have been particularly badly hit by fuel price rises. Foreign airlines are currently not allowed to invest in Indian carriers.

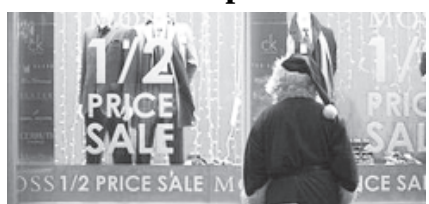
Correspondents say that allowing foreign investment will bring much-needed cash for the ailing airlines. India is one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world with the number of passengers increasing at between 15% to 20% a year. But its airlines may lose a total of \$2.5bn (£1.63bn) in the year ending March 2012 because of high fuel costs, an economic downturn and price wars, according to a study by the Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation, an industry body.

A group of senior ministers met late on Tuesday and agreed that foreign airlines be allowed to buy stakes in India's domestic airlines. "The question was to allow foreign airlines to participate in foreign direct investment (FDI)," Aviation Minister Ajit Singh told reporters. "I discussed it with the finance minister (Pranab Mukherjee) and he has agreed."—*Internet*

'Worst' December for Scottish shops

EDINBURGH, 18 Jan—Scottish shopkeepers have reported their worst December since at least 1999, according to the Scottish Retail Consortium (SRC). Although sales last month were up by 1.6% compared with the previous year, it was the weakest December since the survey began in 1999. Like-for-like sales, which discounts new store openings, were up 0.4%. Scottish shops performed worse than the rest of the UK where total sales grew by 4.1% last month. Although Scottish sales showed some growth, the consortium said the true picture was much worse because the latest figures are compared to December 2010 when heavy snow affected many shops. David McCorquodale, head of retail in Scotland, KPMG, said: "A slight uplift of 0.4% appears to have brought some cheer at the end of what has been a wretched year for retailers."

"However, we should not forget that for two weeks of December last year the country was under a hefty blanket of snow and, with Christmas falling on a Saturday that year, there wasn't a full week's trading during that critical period. As a



According to the Scottish Retail Consortium, 2010 was a wretched year for retailers.—INTERNET

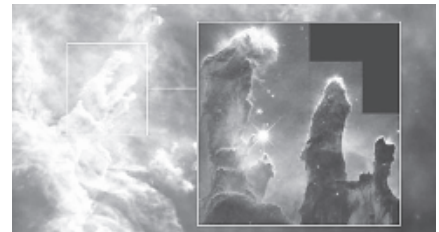
result this slight uplift in like-for-like sales is illusory." He added: "Christmas this year came at a real cost to retailers as the discounting was deep, impacting margins, and opening hours were longer, costing more in wages. Several retailers have not made it into the New Year and more shop closures are anticipated in the coming months."—*Internet*

Herschel telescope revisits cosmic classic

LONDON, 18 Jan — Europe's Herschel space telescope has produced a majestic new version of a classic astronomical target — the Eagle Nebula (also called M16). This dense region of gas and dust some 6,500 light-years from Earth hosts copious numbers of bright new stars. Radiation from these objects is sculpting the clouds of gas and dust, producing in places great columns and curtains of material. The picture is being featured on the BBC's Stargazing Live series. Brian Cox and Dara O'Briain are presenting the popular programmes this week from Jodrell Bank radio observatory in Cheshire. Look just below the centre of the image and you will see the columns that were famously dubbed the "Pillars of Creation" when they were pictured by the Hubble telescope in 1995. But Herschel and Hubble see distinctly different things in the

nebula. Hubble is sensitive to optical light, the kind of light we detect with our eyes. This is easily blocked or scattered by the dust, and shows us merely the shape of the billowing clouds of material.

Herschel, on the other hand, is sensitive to much longer wavelength radiation, in far-infrared. This enables it to detect the emission coming directly from the cold gas and dust that cloaks so much of the region. It is a powerful ability that enables Herschel to look inside the columns and curtains, at the places where dense gas is collapsing under its own weight to trigger the nuclear reactions that give rise to new stars. Herschel's is a false colour image in which the bluer material is relatively warm and the redder material is relatively cold. It is "relative" because these are temperatures below minus 200C.—Internet



Iconic pillars: Hubble (right) sees the light that is scattered off the columns; Herschel (left) detects the pillars glowing in their own light.

INTERNET

Time for decision on removing leap seconds



Pedestrians walk through the Canary Wharf business district in London on 12 Sept, 2011.—INTERNET

GENEVA, 18 Jan — Experts have recommended eliminating leap seconds from the time scale used by most computer systems, but governments are split on the issue, to be decided this

week, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) said Tuesday. Leap seconds, introduced in 1972 as part of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), are added some years to reconcile

the difference between atomic time used by computer systems and time as defined by measuring the movement of the earth around the sun and the earth's rotation. The latter, known as Universal Time, fluctuates due to the earth's irregular rotation, tides or earthquakes.

"This will be an important decision because the problem of introducing the leap second will disappear and we will be able to have a more standard time than the one we have today," Vincent Meens, who headed an ITU experts' group that recommended removing leap seconds, told reporters.

"Time is very, very important for synchronization



of all the radiocommunications systems. For instance, a lot of systems are using GPS time just to synchronize themselves and that would be very important for everybody to have the same time," he said, referring to satellite navigation systems. The Geneva-based ITU is the UN agency responsible for coordinating international communications standards. Its radio-communication assembly is due to debate the issue on Thursday, but clear divisions remain, officials said.

Reuters

SpaceX delays trial run to space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, 18 Jan — Space Exploration Technologies, a startup space transportation firm hired by NASA to fly cargo to the International Space Station, is delaying a planned 7 February test flight to allow more time to prepare for the mission, a company spokeswoman said on Tuesday. The launch of the company's Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon capsule from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station has not yet been rescheduled. "We believe that there are a few areas that will benefit from additional work," said Kirstin Brost Grantham, a spokeswoman for the company, also known as SpaceX.

"We will continue to test and review data. We will launch when the vehicle is ready," she said. The flight will be the second and possibly last test flight before privately owned SpaceX begins delivering cargo to the station under a \$1.6 billion NASA contract.

The firm, based in Hawthorne, California, and founded by Internet entrepreneur Elon Musk, hopes to combine its two remaining test flights into one with a berthing at the space station, pending NASA's approval.—Reuters

Facebook Koobface worm 'hacker gang named'



Sophos researchers identified a network of connections linking group members.—INTERNET

LONDON, 18 Jan — Alleged cybercriminals behind an internet worm, which spread via Facebook and other social networks, have been named. The suspected gang were tracked down to St Petersburg after an investigation by Facebook and cybersecurity researchers. The worm gave the gang control of hundreds of thousands of computers. While not the largest such network of hijacked machines or "botnet", the so-called Koobface worm is notable for its targeting of social networks.

The security company Sophos published details of an extensive investigation into Koobface on its blog. The report,

based on work by independent researcher Jan Dromer, and the firm's Dirk Kollberg, details how the suspects were tracked down. Graham Cluley, a senior technology consultant at Sophos, told the BBC he believed they had identified the right people: "We're pretty confident. I mean obviously we have to assume these people are innocent until proven guilty."

"It's very difficult to be 100% certain of these things. Of course it's always possible that someone could be trying to frame these people, but the evidence feels pretty strong to us. Certainly there's enough evidence to investigate these people." None of the alleged gang members have been arrested or charged with offences

connected to Koobface. The BBC attempted to contact members of the group via a business linked to the gang but was unsuccessful. became active in 2008. The worm spread through social networks, presenting users with bogus links to online videos.

The links encouraged users to install a copy of the Koobface malware masquerading as a Flash update. The worm was even able to create fake social networking profiles able to propagate the malware. "It can create Facebook accounts and then use those accounts to start sending links to people," Mr Cluley said. Researchers believe that up to 800,000 machines could have been infected by the worm. Facebook is expected to share details of the gang with security and internet companies later.

Internet



Soon, 'smart vehicles' to communicate with each other to boost road safety

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan — Automakers and government agencies are teaming up to lay the foundations for a future in which smart vehicles will be able to communicate with one another to improve road safety.

Many new cars today can connect to the Internet, but most of them use their connectivity for "infotainment" purposes like navigation or streaming music. What car companies like General Motors envision for the future is much more ambitious, as not only will cars be able to connect with cloud-based services, they will also be able to talk to other cars, with the smartphone in the driver's pocket, with the toll booth or traffic

light up ahead or with the electric charging station to determine when and how long it needs to be fully juiced up. "The vehicle whose DNA was set 100 years ago - four wheels, mechanically driven, internal combustion engine - cannot be the DNA for the 21st century," LiveScience quoted Alan Taub, GM's vice president of global R and D as telling this year's 'CES' show. In such an auto-connected world, what one car sees or senses could be made immediately available to other cars on the road. The result of all this interconnectivity, automakers say, will be safer roads because drivers will no longer be limited to only what they can see or what their vehicles can sense.

"We want vehicles to have the equivalent of 360-degree situational awareness," Taub said. "We accomplish that today with onboard sensors ... but we can see a world where a vehicle-to-vehicle communication system can first augment and then replace many of those onboard sensors," he said.

According to Clint Steiner, the senior manager of Automotive OEM at Garmin, if the vehicles can talk to each other, "your car could look at the other car's route ahead of time, and determine that, yes, that car is going to change lanes based on the route that the driver has programmed into their GPS."

However, before a world where networked cars are a reality, there are a lot of hurdles to be overcome first. For instance, the more data that smart cars receive, the more drivers will be inundated with notifications. If you think distracted driving is a problem now, imagine if your car alerted you to every potential hazard on the road. If not designed the right way, the notifications themselves could become a danger by distracting drivers.—Internet



Automakers and government agencies are teaming up to lay the foundations for a future in which smart vehicles will be able to communicate with one another to improve road safety.—INTERNET

Sherlock to return for third series

LONDON, 18 Jan — Sherlock will return for a third series, its creators have revealed after a dramatic conclusion to the second run of the BBC One drama. Ahead of series two, co-creator Steven Moffat told *BBC News* there was “no guarantee we’ll be bringing him back”. But on Sunday night, Moffat

wrote on Twitter:

“Of course there’s going to be a third series - it was commissioned at the same time as the second. Gotcha!” It was watched by an average audience of 7.9 million overnight figures show. That compared with the 8.8 million average audience of the opening episode on New Year’s Day. The modern take on Sir

Arthur Conan Doyle’s detective tales stars Benedict Cumberbatch in the title role.

Moffat’s co-creator Mark Gatiss also wrote on Twitter: “Gotcha! And of course there’ll be a third series!” Conan Doyle’s *The Final Problem*, published in 1893, ended with Holmes and his arch-enemy Professor Moriarty apparently falling to their deaths at the Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland.

Conan Doyle later resurrected his hero. Sunday night’s episode was called *The Reichenbach Fall*. In interviews in December to promote the show - which also stars Martin Freeman as Holmes’ sidekick Doctor Watson - Moffat, Gatiss and cast members had hinted the second series could be the last. — *Internet*



The three-part series ended with episode *The Reichenbach Fall*. — *Internet*

Indonesia concrete balls combat ‘train surfing’

JAKARTA, 18 Jan — Railway staff in Indonesia have started hanging concrete balls above train tracks to try to prevent commuters from riding on carriage roofs. The first balls were installed just above carriage-height near a station outside the capital, Jakarta. More will be put up elsewhere if they are found to keep people off the roofs.

Previous attempts to deter roof riders included spraying roofs with paint, spreading oil on carriages and hiring musicians to perform safety songs. Correspondents say those initiatives have failed. Officials hope that the latest move will prove to be the ultimate deterrent. Roof riders also face the possibility of imprisonment.

The balls - which can deliver a severe blow to the head - will be suspended a few inches above the tops of carriages at points where trains enter or pull out of stations, or where they go through crossings. Officials told the BBC that “roof surfing”



Workers erect the concrete balls to deter ‘train surfers’. — *Internet*

can be extremely dangerous. In 2008 at least 53 passengers died in an accident while travelling on a train roof. In 2011, 11 people were killed. Most victims are electrocuted by overhead power cables, but some fall off train carriages while trains are moving. — *Internet*

Ethiopia Airlines rejects Lebanon report into air crash

ADDIS ABABA, 18 Jan — Ethiopian Airlines officials have bluntly rejected the findings of a Lebanese investigation into an air crash off Lebanon in January 2010. The Lebanese report blames pilot error for the crash of flight ET409, in which 90 people died, sources say. But Ethiopian Airlines officials say the plane exploded, which they say points to sabotage, a lightning strike or shooting down. The Lebanese report was due to be released on Tuesday.

The Addis Ababa-bound flight crashed minutes after take-off from Beirut in stormy weather on 25 January 2010, with no survivors. Lebanese Transport Minister Ghazi Aridi told *AFP* news agency it was “clear” that “there were errors on the part of the pilot and co-pilot who are entirely responsible for the plane crash”. According to *AFP*, the Lebanese report says the pilot and co-pilot had been working non-stop for 51 days and were exhausted. Mr Aridi said the plane was sound and transcripts of the exchanges between the crew and air traffic control on takeoff had not indicated any problem.

Other officials say the report accuses the pilot of ignoring instructions from the control tower. Similar claims were made by Lebanese officials at the time of the crash. But Ethiopian Airlines has vigorously denied the Lebanese findings in a statement, in which it insisted the crew was rested in accordance with regulation and the pilot had made appropriate efforts to control the aircraft. — *Internet*



There were no survivors after the Boeing 737-800 crashed into the sea off Beirut on 25 January 2010. — *Internet*

The region of Somalia where the wells are being drilled may have reserves of up to 4bn barrels of oil. — *Internet*



Somalia oil exploration: Drilling begins in Puntland

MOGADISHU, 18 Jan — Oil exploration has begun in the arid north-east of Somalia, which has been wracked by civil war for two decades. The Canadian firm Africa Oil behind the project said its two wells are the first to be drilled there in 21 years. The semi-autonomous Puntland region where the drilling is taking place says it is an

opportunity for peace.

“It’s a new beginning - if oil is found it will change Somalia for the better,” Issa Farah head of Puntland’s Petroleum and Minerals Agency told the BBC. Speaking on the BBC’s *Focus on Africa* programme, he said it was an important development not only for Puntland, but the whole of Somalia, which has not had a functioning central government since 1991 and has been convulsed by fighting between militias.

“I think in 10 years’ time - if oil is found, we will see a better country, a stronger country that lives in peace and prosperity with its own neighbours and hopefully that produces what we have been all looking for - peace, prosperity, development and progress,” he said. In the area where the two wells are being drilled to a depth of 3,800m (about two miles), there is an assumption that “there will be about 3bn to 4bn barrels of oil”, he said.

— *Internet*

World Bank warns developing world to prepare for shocks

LONDON, 18 Jan — The World Bank has warned developing countries they need to be prepared for shocks as global economic growth slows. The organization has slashed its growth forecasts, and is now predicting a 0.3% contraction for the eurozone in 2012. “Developing countries need to evaluate their vulnerabilities and prepare for further shocks, while there is still time,” said World Bank chief economist Justin Yifu Lin.

“Escalation of the crisis would spare no-one,” the report’s author warned. Referring to the eurozone crisis and its potential to impact growth in rich and poor countries, Andrew Burns said: “Developed and developing-country growth rates could fall by as much or more than in 2008/09. “The importance of contingency planning cannot be stressed enough.” The World Bank is predicting growth of 5.4% for developing countries in 2012 and 1.4% for high income countries, down from its forecasts of 6.2% and 2.7% respectively in June.



The World Bank said lower inflation had been good news for developing countries. — *Internet*

The World Bank’s Global Economics Prospects report says that slower growth is already visible in global trade and commodity prices. It said that declining commodity prices were better news for the developing world, although food security for the poorest countries was still a major concern. Food prices are down about 14% from their peak in February 2011. Andrew Burns, manager of global macroeconomics at the World Bank, told the BBC there was a danger that the downturn could be longer lasting than the one which followed the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008.

“This time, going in, [developing countries] will be in much better condition than high income countries, but that said, we are concerned,” he said. “They are going to be operating in a situation where the high income countries aren’t going to be able to offer the same type of counter fiscal policy and the same type of support to the financial system as they did in 2008/9.” — *Internet*



The Vietnamese navy has relied on Russian-built vessels in the past. — *Internet*

Vietnam’s navy unveils first home-made warship

HANOI, 18 Jan — Vietnam’s navy has taken delivery of its first locally-made warship, equipped with artillery and missile systems, local media report.

The Hong Ha shipbuilding company started building the model in 2009 and tested the warship last year.

The ship’s design was reportedly bought from an unnamed foreign company.

A high-ranking navy official said it would patrol the country’s territorial waters.

The new ship is 54m long and has an operational range of more than 2,000 nautical miles.

Vietnam has said that it intends to build more warships in the future. At the moment most of its vessels come from Russia and the former Soviet Union.

— *Internet*

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 18 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 Abdullah Gul, President of the Republic of Turkey Dear President,

On behalf of myself and the people of Turkey, I would like to sincerely congratulate Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

We are monitoring closely and welcome the opening process initiated last year in Myanmar. Sustaining the democratic reforms realized in this framework will surely be the most important guarantee for Myanmar to proceed towards the more prosperous future in peace and stability.

We aspire to further our bilateral relations between

our two countries on the basis of our people's mutual benefit. Our decision to open an Embassy in Nay Pyi Taw is the solid sign of our stance.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate my best wishes for Your health and happiness as well as the prosperity and well-being of the people of Myanmar.

From Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Dear President,

On behalf of the Turkish people, the Government of the Republic of Turkey and myself, I would like to congratulate the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Taking this opportunity, I extend my best wishes for the prosperity and well-being of the people of Myanmar.

From Viktor Yanukovitch, President of Ukraine

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Ukraine and myself

please accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar—Independence Day.

I am confident that friendly bilateral relations between our countries have great potential for its further development.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish You, Your Excellency, a strong health and successes in Your responsible activities, as well as peace and prosperity to the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of the Portuguese Republic

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to convey to Your Excellency my congratulations and sincere wishes for Your personal well-being and for the progress and prosperity of the Myanmar people.



Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives a delegation led by member of the House of Representatives of Australia Ms Janelle Saffin.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Australian MP Ms Janelle Saffin

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received a delegation led by member of the House of Representatives of Australia Ms Janelle Saffin at the room-1 of the Hluttaw Building Meeting Hall here at 1 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw were chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw Committees and officials.

They held discussions on further cementing friendly ties between the two countries and mutual cooperation between the two parliaments.

MNA

Union Transport Minister receives Malaysian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung received Malaysian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Ahmad Faisal Muhammad at the hall of the latter's office, here, at 1 pm today.

They cordially had a

discussion on extension of the Myanmar-Malaysia aviation sector, aviation management and services at Nay Pyi Taw Airport and investment, too.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Win Shein and officials.—MNA



CHINESE SPRING FESTIVAL MARKED: Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe being welcomed by Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Li Junhua at the reception to mark Chinese Spring Festival at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 18 January.—MNA



Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin receives Singaporean Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the Attorney-General, here, this morning.

MNA

Basic livestock breeding and veterinary course conducted

INGAPU, 18 Jan—The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department opened the basic livestock breeding and veterinary course at the town hall of Ingapu on 9 January for development of livestock breeding and meat and fish production in

the township.

It was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Ingapu Township member of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development Committee U Maung Maung Soe and local authorities.—Township IPRD

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets faculty members and students at Kalay University.

MNA



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

(from page 1)

a multi-purpose one. He said that construction of irrigation facility can be completed earlier than hydropower generation facility and in this case, channels are to be constructed first so that irrigation water provision works can start so after the completion.

The Vice-President then inspected the progress of the project, waterway of Nayraoakza Creek, and samples of sand and gravels to be used in dam construction.

The Vice-President and party from there proceeded to construction site of new three-storey main building of University of Computer Studies (Kalay) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

At the briefing hall of the construction site, the Vice-President heard report on construction progress presented by a responsible person of Shwetaung Co Ltd and called for arrangements for teachers accommodation.

Next, Shwe Thanlwin Co presented 3-in-1 MPS Sky

The Vice-President looked around the hospital and comforted the patients. On behalf of the entrepreneurs, IGE Co Chairman U Nay Aung contributed K 5 million for Kalay People's Hospital and K 4 million for two rural dispensaries in Kalay District.

On his visit of Kalay University, the Vice-President met lecturers and students. Rector-in-charge of the university explained brief history of Kalay University, available academic subjects, number of students from different townships, research works, academic matters and management of the university.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that he and his entourage visited universities in Kalay Development Region today and fulfilled the requirements. Universities in Kalay Region were established for youths of Chin State and Sagaing Region to be able to pursue higher education. The Arts and Science University can cope with over 5000 students and currently over 4000 are easing their starvation of intellectual nourishment there. A total of 125 students are learning at University of Computer Studies and 1400 at Technological University.

Nevertheless, number of students attending at vocational universities is still low and to fill this gap is the duty of Basic Education Department which needs to take more effective actions to produce qualified students.

Plans are underway to extend one additional academic year for universities commencing 2011-2012 academic year. The main reason behind this move is that although curriculums could be completely taught to the students within three academic years, students have less time to make further self-studies and compile theses, leading to a gap in bridging the theories and practices.

The move is believed to help the graduates climb the career ladder with right qualifications and attitude. Teachers on their part need to place emphasis on improving educational qualifications of students.

The Vice-President urged the lecturers to train their students to be able to join the work life with appropriate qualifications, mentioning that all kinds of businesses are mushrooming in the nation today and jobs opportunities would increase following the influx of international corporations into the country.

Next, the Shwe Thanlwin Co Chairman presented three-in-one MPS Sky Net receiver, TV and portable generators to Kalay University.

(See page 9)



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo visits People's Hospital (200-bed) in Kalay.—MNA

The region, the Vice-President noted that, serves as the rice bowl of Chin State, Naga region and Hpaphant region, adding that triple cropping pattern could be applied on over 8500 acres of farmland on condition that the region has access to irrigation water. So, the dam project is a practically beneficial one to agricultural output of the region.

Furthermore, the potential electricity of the project can somewhat satisfy the electricity demand of the region, said the Vice-President who urged for soonest completion of the project.

Net Receiver (Telecommunication, Internet and TV channels), TV and potable generator for the university. The Vice-President inspected progress in construction of the main building and left necessary instructions.

The Vice-President and party then visited 200-bedded Kalay People's Hospital. Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint briefed the Vice-President on lay-out of the hospital. The Vice-President inspected land plot for extension of the hospital and stressed the needs as the hospital is overburdened with patients.

Photo shows progress of Yasagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project at Nerinzara Creek, two miles north of Yasagyo Village in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region.

MNA



Vice-President

Thiha Thura

U Tin Aung Myint

Oo views sample
sand and gravels
to be used in
construction of
Yasagyo Dam.

MNA



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

(from page 8)

The Vice-President and party then visited Technological University (Kalay). He enquired after the lecturers and spoke words of encouragement to them. The Shwe Thanlwin Co Chairman donated three-in-one MPS Sky Net receivers, TVs and portable generators for the university and Government Technical Training School (Kalay) as well.

The Vice-President on his return to Nay Pyi Taw inspected the condition of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road aboard the plane.—MNA



Photo shows progress in construction of three-storey main building at University of Computer Studies (Kalay).—MNA

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

(from page 1)

health measures, implementation of rural development tasks, and requirements of the region.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Thein Hlaing and senior local U Win Khant Paung touched upon needs for education, health, transport and electricity.

Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye gave supplementary report with respect to the reports of district administrators.

those who were there to engage in exploration, and education for their children.

The State has planned to provide text books and note books beginning next year under the scheme of free learning primary education for each and every child, and arranged to ensure education for school-age children and grant stipend for continuous education.

Moreover, the State has been creating opportunities to enable youths around the nation to pursue basic and higher education incessantly. Students, teachers and parents are required to do their bit in order that each and every child can grab that chance, he said.

He vowed that reports of locals on extension of

Progresses are now in hand that can grantee to fade arms struggling and ensure eternal peace.

Similarly, as arrangements are being made for participation of all national races including political parties in democratization process, all political parties including newly formed parties are planning to run for upcoming election.

In order that the country see economic boom, arrangements are being made for amendment to required laws, lessening of taxes and measures to expedite work procedures to ease internationally economic cooperation and local and foreign investors, and for implementation of industrial zones to invite investments.

To uplift social status, more budgets have been



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially meets district and township departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders at Aung Zeya Hall of Kalay.—MNA

Next, the Vice-President said that he was there to meet local authorities and attend to the needs of regions.

He encouraged growing of rubber and other commercial perennials in vacant land of Kalay, Tamu and Mawlaik districts as well as meeting targeted production rate of ten major crops.

He continued that the districts see not only food sufficiency also surpluses. But, as Chin State and Naga Region still rely on other districts for foods, it is required to make all-out efforts for development of those areas more than current situation.

As crude oil and gold mining explorations are being carried out in the region, it is needed to pay attention to security and management measures, healthcare services for

Kalay Hospital, availability of an ambulance and upgrading of schools will be coordinated. Monywa-Yagyi-Kalay-Kalewa (115 miles) that will be a link among India, Myanmar and Thailand will be repaired. Pakokku Bridge on that road has been commissioned into service recently.

The Vice-President urged those involved to actively take part in rural development and poverty alleviation scheme led by the President.

Today, representatives elected by the people in line with the Constitution have taken on legislative, executive and judicial powers. The image and essence of a democratic nation come into view step by step.

Stability and rule of law are important issue for long-standing and sustainable development of the nation.

earmarked for spending on education and health sectors in coming fiscal year.

The Vice-President urged that all the people as a sound society needs to participate in the clean government, good governance drive implemented by the President.

All the staff members also need to do their bit tinged with goodwill in the interest of the people in building a modern developed nation.

The Shwe ThanLwin Co chairman donated DTH Sky Net TV receivers, TVs and generators for Kalay, Tamu and Mawlaik districts through district administrators.

After that, the Vice-President cordially greeted the attendees.

MNA

Farmlands of Paletwe hybrid paddy strain inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing attended the seeding of Paletwe hybrid paddy strain on 25 acres of farmlands through good agriculture pattern in Ngansat Village of Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area today.

The Union Minister and party presented Paletwe hybrid paddy seeds, foodstuffs and gifts to female farming workers and farmers.

After inspecting filling of gravels along the 6760 feet long retaining walls at the canal No. 1 of Ngalaik Dam near Htantabin Village of Dekkhinathiri Township, the Union minister gave instructions on timely

completion of gravel filling works before summer paddy cultivation.

At Htantabin Village BEPS No. 28, he attended to the needs.

The Union Minister looked into construction of 16000 feet long production road near Aungthukha Village, digging of drains and construction of production road at Kyuntetpe Village-tract, thriving 369-acre Paletwe paddy plantation in Ayinlo Village of Pyinmana Township and land preparations for seeding at 945-acre mechanized farm in Aungchantha Village of Zabuthiri Township.

MNA

Dy Construction Minister inspects rural development tasks in Kawhmu

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint made an inspection tour of the Kawhmu-Htamaing-Thaminchan-Thayettaw road and also the road construction works of the Magyikan-Hnetawsan-Masalseik-Kyaikhtaw road in Kawhmu Township of Yangon Region on 15 January.

Afterwards, the Deputy Minister met teachers and local residents at Natsingon

Basic Education High School (Branch) in Kawhmu Township and left necessary instructions.

Next, the Deputy Minister looked into Wabalaunkhauk Station Hospital and asked station/village administrators, responsible persons, village elders and local people in Htamaing and Wabalaunkhauk villages to meet the requirements of the village needs.

MNA



A satellite photo shows Meethwayphogon Village which previously had only about 17 households.—MNA

Land management under systematic supervision...

(from page 16)

natives. At present, the remaining eight households of the village were given K 200,000 each as transport charges, and one household returned to its original region by dismantling

the house.

The present households in Meethwayphogon Village removed from Aunglan, Taungdwingyi, Thayet, DaikU, Pyinmana and Yangon and its surrounding villages namely Thayagon, Gyopin, Doenwe and Shwege-in villages, illegally living there in temporary huts on the plots of farmlands they bought at about K 300,000-K 200,000 each.

Article 4 of the 1953 the Farmland Nationalization Act

1953 said that if it is not in line with this act or by-laws of this act, the farmlands shall not be pawned, sold, handed over or allotted.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council Land Management Scrutiny Committee systematically supervises the tasks of land managements under the law not to lose the rights of the deserved persons.

MNA

Union F&R Minister meets officers, staff of departments, enterprises under F&R Ministry in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun delivered an address citing that at the time of devoting efforts to improve the country's interests, it is important to perform monetary affairs and taxation tasks in accordance with the rules and regulations, in the meeting with departmental heads and officers, staff and other ranks of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, held at the meeting hall of the Internal Revenue Department in Mandalay Region on 16 January morning.

At the event, the Union Minister left

necessary instructions after hearing reports presented by Region level departmental heads of the departments and enterprises under the ministry.

The Union Minister encouraged the trainees at the Basic Computer and Office Works Course No. 31 before he went to Customs Department Region (1), Region/State and Township Internal Revenue Departments to instruct the officials to stay away from doing exports and imports illegally, and to undertake the tasks in accordance with the rules and regulations.

MNA

Thithnapin General Economic Cooperative Ltd formed

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun this morning delivered an address at the formation ceremony of Thithnapin General Economic Cooperative Ltd at Mount Pleasant Resort Hotel in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

In his address, the deputy minister said that a total of 11323 cooperative societies including Central Cooperative Union have

been registered to bring about social-economic development of the people. He urged those present to set up their cooperative society to become a reliable organization for serving the society members and the people.

The ceremony was attended by officials of the Ministry of Cooperatives, the Pyinmana Township Administrator and members of the cooperative society.

MNA



A satellite photo shows Meethwayphogon Village which has now over 133 households.—MNA



Maung Shwe Toe Aung, victim of KIA's mine blast.—MNA

KIA mine blast leaves three dead and one injured...

(from page 16)

planted by KIA group on a road 50 yards away from the village primary school at about 4.30 pm on 17 January. The mine blast caused serious injury to his left calf and he was rushed to Lonkhin Station Hospital by officials concerned for medical treatment.—MNA

Educative talks on traffic rules given

YANGON, 18 Jan—The traffic police members led by Head of No. 5 Traffic Police Region Police Captain Nyi Nyi Tun of Yangon Region Wireless and Traffic Police Corps

gave an educative talk on traffic rules to 300 teachers and students at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Pabedan Township here on 16 January morning.

MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Groundwater overuse, climatic change threaten lives of 60 mln in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 18 Jan — Unplanned withdrawal of groundwater and adverse impacts of climate change pose dangerous threat to the lives and livelihood of about 60 million people in Bangladesh, state-run news agency BSS reported on Monday, quoting leading water and environment experts. Water table of groundwater is declining rapidly due to its excessive use for irrigation in agriculture sector, which causes salinity water intrusion, posing a serious threat to the ecosystem and biodiversity of the southern part of the country, said Md Eftekharul Alam, Agriculture, Water and Environment Engineer of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC).

He said in Bangladesh, 80 percent of irrigation water and 98 percent of drinking water is collected from underground sources without proper study and planning. "The groundwater is the most valuable natural resource of the country. If this resource is polluted by saline water intrusion, it will destabilize the food security, the ecosystem and biodiversity of the southern part," he added. — *Xinhua*



People attend the 2012 Asian Financial Forum in south China's Hong Kong, on 16 Jan, 2012. The fifth Asian Financial Forum (AFF), under the theme "Asia: Driving Sustainable Growth", kicked off here on Monday. — *XINHUA*

Researchers find new indicator to identify patients with increased risk from throat cancer

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan — Researchers at the University of Michigan Health System have found a new indicator that may predict which patients with a common type of throat cancer are most likely have the cancer spread to other parts of their bodies.

Patients with oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma who had "matted" lymph nodes — nodes that are connected together — had a 69 percent survival rate over three years, compared to 94 percent for patients without matted nodes, according to a study published online Monday in *Head & Neck*.

The oropharynx is an area that includes the back of the tongue, soft palate, throat and tonsils.

"The spread of cancer throughout the body accounts for about 45 percent of the deaths from oropharyngeal carcinoma," says the study's senior author, Douglas Chepeha, an associate professor at the U-M Medical School. "Our findings may help doctors identify patients who are at higher risk for having their cancer metastasize and who would benefit from additional systemic therapy."

Xinhua

London's Science Museum to scan visitors' faces in 3D

LONDON, 18 Jan — Visitors to London's Science Museum are being invited to have their faces scanned in 3D. The Me in 3D stand at the museum uses a series of cameras to build a virtual image visitors can then view and manipulate. Data from participants will be used by Great Ormond Street Hospital, University College Hospital and Eastman Dental Hospital and Institute to provide better treatment and surgery for patients with disfigurements and congenital conditions.

"It's a very simple process using simultaneous photography by nine cameras and then some software modification to produce a 3D image," says Dr Chris Abela, a senior craniofacial fellow at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

"Any visitor to the stand will be able to spin their image around, look at themselves from behind their ear or from the worm's eye view as we call it and really see themselves in another dimension." Visitors, who must first sign a consent form so that their data can be used for research, will also have the option of rendering their 3D faces in zebra and crocodile skin, just for fun.

The more faces scanned, the better we will understand the human face in all its great variety, the researchers say, and that could mean better facial surgery for children born with disfiguring disorders or for patients requiring reconstructive surgery. "We know a lot about the bones in our faces but



Dr Chris Abela, a senior craniofacial fellow at Great Ormond Street Hospital, explains what participants will experience. — *INTERNET*

little is known about what makes our face the shape it is and about the skin and muscles that make up our face," says Dr Abela. "By collecting as many 3D face photographs as we can we will have a greater understanding of our complex faces, and have greater knowledge to plan and perform the best facial surgery in the future." — *Internet*

Aye aye 'heats up' middle finger

LONDON, 18 Jan — Madagascar's mysterious aye aye warms up its extra-long finger when searching for dinner, scientists have found. The lemur, the world's largest nocturnal primate, taps its specialised middle finger on tree trunks to find nutritious beetle larvae. Studying thermal images, researchers found that the digit was colder than the others but warmed by

up to 6°C during foraging. Scientists suggest that the aye aye saves energy by keeping the digit cool.

The findings are published in the *International Journal of Primatology*.

The team from Dartmouth University in New Hampshire, US, wanted to investigate the surface temperature of sensitive structures.

Cold finger: the special digit shows up black on thermal images. — *INTERNET*



The aye aye's unusual middle finger has already been found to be super-sensitive to vibrations, so provided the perfect subject for their study.

"It was striking to see how much cooler the third digit was while not in use and how quickly it warmed to [match] the other digits when engaged in an active foraging task," said graduate student Gillian Moritz, who carried out the study under the guidance of her supervisor, Dr Nathaniel Dominy.

When not in use, the finger appeared black on thermal images. This indicated a large difference in

temperature between it and the white (hot) ears and eyes. But when the animal was looking for food, the finger rose in temperature by up to 6°C. "We think the relatively cooler temperatures of the digit when not in use could be related to its [long, thin] form," said Ms Moritz.

"This form results in a relatively high surface-to-volume ratio [but] such a ratio is bad for retaining heat." In order to sense the vibrations of beetle larvae through the bark of a tree, the finger is "packed with sensitive nerve endings", the scientist explained. — *Internet*

Passenger train derailed by truck in Taipei, train driver dead

TAIPEI, 18 Jan — A passenger train collided with a truck which carried sandstone and intruded into the rail track in the northern part of Taipei Tuesday morning. The train's driver died from wounds.

The collision occurred in Taoyuan county when the train was coming from central Changhua County to eastern Hualien County at a speed of 130 kilometres per hour in the island.

The locomotive was derailed and the driver was taken to hospital but died. More than 20 train passengers were slightly injured. The truck's driver was missing.

Xinhua

China's urban population outnumbers rural for first time at end of 2011

BEIJING, 18 Jan — The number of people living in China's cities for the first time exceeded those in the country's rural areas at the end of 2011, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Tuesday.

The number of urban dwellers increased by 21 million to hit 690.79 million at the end of 2011, accounting for 51.27 percent of the country's total, the NBS said. Meanwhile, the rural population fell by 14.56 million to 656.56 million at the end of 2011, the NBS noted.

Xinhua

- * The aye aye's middle finger is long and very thin - less than half the width of its other digits
- * It has a ball and socket joint so it is far more flexible when it comes to extracting grubs from trees
- * The finger is also used for grooming, scraping out coconuts and drinking. The animal uses it to move water or nectar rapidly into its mouth.



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (12002)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (12002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.1.2012 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 T.S LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV PLATINUM JADE VOY NO (PJ/V01/12)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PLATINUM JADE VOY NO (PJ/V01/12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 HUB SHIPPING SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV CATALONIA VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CATALONIA VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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: CITIC-SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

Beirut rescue operation at collapsed building ends

BEIRUT, 18 Jan — The rescue operation at a collapsed building in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, has been called off after the authorities ruled out the possibility of finding more survivors. The five-storey block of flats in the Ashrafiyeh district collapsed suddenly on Sunday evening, killing 27 people.

Eleven of the dead were Lebanese, while the other 16 were workers from Sudan, the Philippines, Egypt and Jordan. The Lebanese government has said the owner of the block is being questioned. It is not yet known what caused the sudden collapse, but there is speculation that cracks in the building made worse by heavy rain may have been the cause.

Internet



Tenants of the building had reportedly been urged to move out.— INTERNET

Ukraine declares measles outbreak, 883 people infected

KIEV, 18 Jan — The Ukrainian Health Ministry on Monday declared an outbreak of measles, with 883 cases of the infectious disease so far reported. "It is still too early to talk about the epidemic, but we have recorded outbreaks of measles in some Regions of Ukraine," said Sergey Platov, chief expert of the ministry's Public Health and Epidemiological Welfare Department.

Platov told a Press conference here alerts had been issued in the country's western and central regions and in Kiev, Ukraine's capital. The expert also urged people to be vaccinated against the disease immediately.

Measles is not usually life-threatening but can cause complications in people with weak immune systems and in pregnant women.— Xinhua

WHO chief proud of achievements made in public health

GENEVA, 18 Jan — Given the state of world affairs, many significant achievements have been in public health since the start of this century, director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO) Margaret Chan told the WHO Executive Board at its 130th Session on Monday.

In her opening speech, Chan said the WHO and its member states should be especially proud of their consistent ability to reach agreement on global governance instruments that provide collective protection against shared threats.

Since the turn of the century, WHO has been successful in achieving consensus among member states in areas such as tobacco control and influenza preparedness to name a few. "We have stayed the course, steadfast and surefooted," the WHO chief said. "This is an outstanding achievement at a time when international negotiations keep breaking down in so many other areas," she added.

Xinhua

Claire Tiltman was murdered while she was on her way to see a friend in 1993.
INTERNET



Father appeals to find daughter's killer

LONDON, 18 Jan — The father of a Kent schoolgirl stabbed to death in an

alleyway exactly 19 years ago has made an appeal from his nursing home to find her killer. Cliff Tiltman, 62, said it would "mean everything" to him to find out who murdered his daughter Claire in Greenhithe, in 1993. "It's been along time but I've never given up hope and never will," he said. "I can't be going to put into words how this has affected our family. She would have been 35 now. I miss her to bits."

Claire was murdered just

off the A226 London Road while on her way to see a friend. The Dartford Grammar School for Girls pupil was stabbed more than 40 times, in an apparently motiveless attack, four days after her 16th birthday. No-one has ever been charged with the murder. Two years ago, Kent Police investigated after a handwritten sign claiming to name the killer was found next to a plaque in memory of the teenager.— Internet

Microsoft inaugurates first tech centre in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Jan — US software giant Microsoft inaugurated a major technology center in Brazil's largest city Sao Paulo on Tuesday. With an area of 1,300 square meters, the new Microsoft Technology Center (MTC) is the largest of its kind in Latin America, and will operate as a tech simulation center. The MTC will be open to Microsoft's partners, corporate clients, NGOs, and students.

The investments in the new technology center amounted to 10 million US dollars, and several partners of software companies such as AMD, Dell, HP, Nokia, and Hewlett-Packard participated. Microsoft plans to inaugurate five other MTCs in Brazil. Three cities have already been chosen including Rio, Salvador and Recife. The MTC in Rio will be located in the port area, which is undergoing major renovations to be completed by the beginning of the 2016 Summer Olympics. The Sao Paulo MTC is the second one to be built in Latin America. The first was inaugurated last year in Mexico City. According to Microsoft, it is the 17th centre outside the United States.— Xinhua



26 killed in Port-au-Prince

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 18 Jan — At least 26 people have died and some 56 have been injured after a lorry's brakes failed on one of the busiest streets in the capital of Haiti. The lorry, carrying gravel, hit street vendors, motorcyclists, cars and a small bus as it tore through Route Delmas in Port-au-Prince on Monday.

The accident happened in front of national TV

headquarters at about 22:00 local time (03:00 GMT on Tuesday). President Michel Martelly visited the scene of the crash, his office said. "It's the worst accident we've ever experienced in our city," police official Will Dimanche told AFP news agency. Some 10 cars, including taxi cabs, were completely destroyed in the pile-up, officials said.

Internet

Cuba's electricity generation increases tenfold in 50 years

HAVANA, 18 Jan — Cuba currently generates over 4,000 megawatts of electricity, 10 times as much as 53 years ago, an official from the National Electric Company (UNE) said on Tuesday. In January 1959, the island produced only 475 megawatts of electricity, and only 60 percent of the population had access to it. But today, 96 percent of the population has electricity, the official daily *Granma* quoted UNE's Commercial Director Ramon Lopez as saying. Since 1998, the country has generated electricity not only from ordinary feedstocks like oil and accompanying gas from oil wells, but new energy sources like photovoltaic cells, wind farms and sugarcane biomass as well. Lopez said the "Energy Revolution" was started in 2005 by former leader Fidel Castro to guarantee a high electricity supply. Current leader Raul Castro is also trying to achieve energy independence, though half of the country's oil supply for electricity still comes from Venezuela.— Xinhua

Fake iPad 2s made of clay sold at Canadian stores



One of the clay tablets sold to an unwitting customer as an iPad 2.

As many as 10 fake iPad 2s, all made of slabs of modeling clay, were recently sold at electronic stores in Vancouver, British Columbia. Best Buy and Future Shop have launched investigations into how the scam was pulled off.

The tablet computers, like most Apple products, are known for their sleek and simple designs. But there's no mistaking the iPad for one of the world's oldest "tablet devices." Still, most electronic products cannot be returned to stores. For the stores and customers to be fooled by the clay replacements, the thieves must have successfully weighed out the clay portions and revealed the original Apple packaging.

Future Shop spokesman Elliott Chun

told CTV that individuals bought the iPads with cash, replaced them with the model clay, then returned the packages to the stores. The returned fakes were restocked on the shelves and sold to new, unwitting customers.

"Customers don't expect to receive this kind of product from Future Shop, so it's a very serious matter and something we are addressing right away for anyone who has been impacted," Chun told CTV British Columbia. "It really saddens Future Shop that people stoop to be this opportunistic and make money in this kind of organized way."

Escaped bomb-sniffing dog captured

A retired bomb-sniffing dog that worked at the White House was captured Tuesday after escaping from handlers and biting two officers at a Detroit Airport.

Arco, a 5-year-old Belgian shepherd, had arrived on a flight Monday from Arizona to be united with new owners, but got loose when the owner let him out to relieve himself, the *Detroit Free Press* reported.

Arco bit two Romulus police officers when they attempted to grab him by the collar around 5:30 am near Detroit Metro Airport. One officer required stitches to a bite on his hand.

Animal control officers and police captured the dog Tuesday afternoon using a looped leash. Arco will be quarantined for 10 days at the Romulus Animal Shelter before being released to the new owners.

Arco had been at Rescued Helpers Inc for the past seven months, but founder Nadine Karsevar told the newspaper he was not an aggressive dog.

"He's not vicious," she said. "We have had him at events. We have had him in parades."

Arco was retired because he killed a cat that came into the backyard in Virginia where he worked as a bomb-sniffing dog.

Thirty-pound cat too fat to jump on bed

The Canadian foster mother of an abandoned 30-pound cat named Tiny says she's using a laser pen to get the lazy critter moving more than a few yards.

The male cat was abandoned in a box at an animal shelter before the New Year in Fredericton, New Brunswick, and fostered out to Nancy Garon, the *Toronto Star* reported.

For five days, Tiny refused all food, which workers attributed to stress. Tiny lost three pounds, but concerns arose the cat could go into liver failure because of the sudden loss of appetite.

Garon said she's experimented and found Tiny will eat anything unhealthy from her

hand, but isn't particular about fish and chicken unless there's some gravy involved.

She said the green-eyed gray tabby needs help getting onto her bed, but she's had success with getting Tiny active by having him chase a dot from a laser pen and swatting at a toy swung from a little fishing pole. Once a week, she takes Tiny for a weigh-in as part of a fundraising weight loss challenge for Canada's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Meanwhile, she told the *Star* she's leaning to changing from a foster role to outright adoption, as Tiny is "growing" on her.



A picture of Tiny the cat, via the Fredericton SPCA.

News Album

Judge says Lindsay Lohan doing well on probation

LOS ANGELES, 18 Jan—Lindsay Lohan received her second favourable probation report in a row and a judge told the actress that she appears to be on track to complete a strict program by the end of March.

Lohan appeared in court for less than five minutes Tuesday to update the judge on her progress in completing strict probation terms that were imposed in November after a series of missteps by the actress.

By all accounts, the rigid programme has benefited Lohan, with Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner

telling Lohan that she received favourable reports from probation officials and her community service programme. Lohan is doing mandatory cleanup duty at the county morgue and attending frequent psychotherapy sessions, with Sautner requiring Lohan to appear in court monthly for updates.

"Just keep doing what you're doing, you appear to be doing it well," Sautner told Lohan.

The model and actress arrived early for Tuesday's hearing, wearing black slacks, a blue blouse and matching



Lindsay Lohan leaves Los Angeles Superior Court after a probation progress hearing on 17 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET

sweater.

The "Mean Girls" star will have to work at the morgue 15 times before she returns to court on 22 Feb.—*Internet*

Alba keeps it 'Honest' with eco-friendly products

NEW YORK, 18 Jan—Jessica Alba has another new baby. She's launched an e-commerce company at Honest.com (named after her 3-year-old daughter Honour) to sell eco-friendly and toxic-free baby products and household items for a monthly subscription.

Alba, who welcomed her second daughter Haven in 2011, said Tuesday the idea was born after she learned that toxic chemicals are in widely used, everyday products.

"I would buy what I thought was like an eco-brand and pay out the wazoo for it

and then find out that it's made with the same ingredients as any other brand, but the packaging is a little more biodegradable and you're like 'But I care about the product touching my kid. Is that OK?'"



Actress Jessica Alba poses for a portrait Tuesday, on 17 Jan, 2012, in New York to promote Honest.com, a new e-commerce eco friendly and non-toxic baby product company.

INTERNET

In this 14 June, 2011 file photo, director Julie Taymor arrives at the opening night performance of the Broadway musical "Spider-Man Turn Off the Dark" in New York.

INTERNET

'Spider-Man' producers punch back at Julie Taymor

NEW YORK, 18 Jan—Producers of Broadway's "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" have fired back in their legal fight with one-time director Julie Taymor, claiming the woman who they once called a visionary later failed to fulfill her legal obligations, wrote a "disjointed" and "hallucinogenic" musical, and refused to collaborate on changes when the \$75 million show was in trouble.

In a countersuit filed Tuesday in US District Court for the Southern District of New York against Taymor and her company, LOH Inc, the producers argued that the show "is a success despite Taymor, not because of her."

The lawsuit, which quotes from several private emails from members of the creative team, further exposes the deep rift that has opened between former collaborators who seemed to have reconciled—at least through forced smiles—on the red carpet this summer when the musical finally officially opened.

Taymor, who had been the original "Spider-Man" director and co-book writer, was fired from the musical in March after years of delays, accidents and critical backlash. The show, which features music by U2's Bono and The Edge, opened in November 2010 but spent months in previews before officially opening a few days after the Tony Awards in June.—*Internet*



Sarajevo-born director Emir Kusturica (L) and South Korean director Kim Ki-duk (R) attend the opening ceremony of the Fifth Kuestendorf film and music festival in Drvengrad.

INTERNET

Stars walk snowy 'white carpet' of Serbian film festival

PARIS, 18 Jan—French screen star Isabelle Huppert was among guests to walk a "white carpet" of snow at Tuesday's opening of the Fifth Kuestendorf film and music festival in Serbia.

The event is organized by Sarajevo-born director Emir Kusturica in Drvengrad, a wooden village he built as a movie set some 250 kilometres (150 miles) southwest of

Belgrade. Huppert, asked to compare the festival with the glamorous red-carpet event in Cannes, told AFP: "They are not comparable, that's for sure... but there is a white carpet" of snow in Drvengrad.

"There is a plethora of directors, great directors coming here. From that point of view, they (the festivals) can be compared." Kusturica, a two-time Golden Palm winner,

said the main goal of the festival was to "defend the dignity of author films that are facing the terror of the market" and praised Huppert as "one of the best actresses in the world".

Thierry Fremaux, artistic director of the Cannes film festival, said Kuestendorf was an "unique festival in times when it is difficult to invent a new form of festivity celebrations".—*Internet*

She decided the best solution was to make available the kinds of products she would buy. To launch the business, she partnered with author and environmentalist Christopher Gavigan, ShoeDazzle founder Brian Lee and PriceGrabber.com executive Sean Kane.

The 30-year-old actress said the venture is "hands down" more nerve-racking than the opening of a new movie but also more gratifying.—*Internet*



Nadal, Federer advance at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 18 Jan — Rafael Nadal advanced to the third round of the Australian Open on Wednesday without much trouble from his opponent or his injured right knee. Rival Roger Federer got through without picking up a racket. Nadal beat German veteran Tommy Haas 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in a 2 1/2-hour match, declaring that the twisted tendon in the heavily taped knee was not a concern.

Just before Federer was due on Hisense Arena, the Swiss found out that his scheduled opponent, Germany's Andreas Beck, had a back injury and had to withdraw. "Now, I'll just take it easy this afternoon and come out tomorrow and hit intensely, and then I'll be ready for the next match," said Federer, a four-time Australian Open winner. Nadal, asked after his match if he would have appreciated the same kind of good fortune, was pragmatic.

"Before the day started, yes," he said, smiling. "Now



Roger Federer of Switzerland

that I've played and won, I'm happy. It was a positive match, but not that demanding. We didn't play four hours, five hours. Three sets, so it wasn't that tough." Nadal and Federer could meet in the semifinals next week. Top-seeded Novak Djokovic and fourth-seeded Andy Murray, the threats from the other side of the draw, play their second-rounders Thursday. — *Internet*

Azarenka silences mockers with ruthless

MELBOURNE, 18 Jan — Victoria Azarenka underlined her credentials as an Australian Open title contender, if not a crowd favourite, with a ruthless 6-1, 6-0 demolition of local wildcard Casey Dellacqua in the second round on Wednesday.

The Belarussian's loud grunts inspired a string of mocking imitators in the partisan crowd on Rod



Laver Arena but the third seed ignored the jibes to brush aside her opponent in just 57 minutes.

Azarenka, who won the

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus hits a return to Casey Dellacqua of Australia during their women's singles match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne 18 Jan, 2012. —INTERNET

title against a strong field at the Sydney warm-up tournament last week, was simply too sharp, too accurate and too mobile for the 126th-

ranked Dellacqua.

The 22-year-old, one of four players who could emerge from the year's first grand slam as world number one, pointed a single finger into the night sky after setting up a third-round meeting with Mona Barthel of Germany.

"I'm loud always, I guess," Azarenka laughed. "I played really well. She came out really aggressive and I just waited for my shots." — *Internet*

Li ends post-Paris slump, into 3rd round at Aussie



Li Na of China waves after winning over Australia's Olivia Rogowska during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, 18 Jan, 2012. —INTERNET

MELBOURNE, 18 Jan — Li Na advanced to the third round of the Australian Open with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Olivia Rogowska on Wednesday, her best run at a major since her breakthrough win at the French Open. Li lost last year's Australian Open final to Kim Clijsters but rebounded at the subsequent major at Roland Garros to become the first player from China to win a Grand Slam singles title.

Her form dipped, with

losses in the second round at Wimbledon and the first round at the US Open, until she returned to Australia.

Coming off a run to the final at last week's Sydney International, Li is the first woman into the third round.

Li, who will be 30 next month and is seeded No 5 at Melbourne Park, said she had great memories of the start of 2011. "I'm feeling always good to come back to Rod Laver Arena," she said, reflecting on how her life had

changed dramatically since last season started. "This year is much better than last year — more fans come to watch me play, not only from China but all over the world." Clijsters was to play in the following match on Rod Laver. Serena Williams advanced to the second round in a match that finished after midnight, her ankle holding up to its first test since she sprained it in Brisbane two weeks ago.

Internet

Wozniacki, Clijsters into 3rd round at Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, 18 Jan — Defending champion Kim Clijsters and No 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki advanced to the third round of the Australian Open in contrasting styles on Wednesday.

Clijsters needed only 47 minutes to beat Stephanie Foretz Gacon of France 6-0, 6-1, then showed just how much support she has at Rod Laver Arena by getting the crowd to sing 'Happy Birthday' to her younger sister.

Wozniacki seemed to be on the same trajectory, but had to battle to beat Anna

Tatishvili of Georgia in the second set, recovering two service breaks and saving a set point en route to a 6-1, 7-6 (4) win.

She needs to reach the quarterfinals to have a chance of retaining the top ranking she held for all but one week in 2011. That's also the stage when she could come across Clijsters. The No 11-seeded Clijsters showed no signs of a hip problem that forced her to retire during a semifinal against Daniela Hantuchova at a warmup tournament two weeks ago. — *Internet*



Kim Clijsters during the Australian Open second round women's singles match against France's Stephanie Foretz Gacon on 18 Jan. —INTERNET

Bale says Spurs can test Man City

LONDON, 18 Jan — Tottenham star Gareth Bale has praised the quality of Barclays Premier League leaders Manchester City — but says his club has the ability to upset them in Sunday's League match at the Etihad Stadium. City enjoyed a 5-1 win at White

Hart Lane in August as Roberto Mancini's side enjoyed a lightning start to the season, but Spurs have hit brilliant form since then and are keeping pace in the title race. "It will be a big game and one we're looking forward to. There is no reason why we can't pull off a result

there," said Bale.

"City still have a great squad and a great team and no matter what team they put out it will be difficult to play against. "It wasn't a great start to the season losing to the two Manchester clubs, but all the lads have shown what a great spirit we have here and

the determination we have. We've come a long way since then.

"We know we have to play our best football to beat them - they gave us a lesson at home at the start of the season. "They started the season very well which wasn't good for us, but we bounced back. I'm sure it will be a great game." — *Internet*

Turner hails O'Neill influence

LONDON, 18 Jan — Sunderland defender Michael Turner believes manager Martin O'Neill is the man to lead the club into the top half of the Barclays Premier League. The 28-year-old has hailed the positive influence O'Neill has had at the club since he took over at the Stadium of Light at the beginning of December.

"Training has been really enjoyable and the lads are buzzing to get out there every day," Turner told the Sunderland Echo. "Tactically, he's very astute and his team talks are very efficient and you know what you've got to go out there and do. "The manager puts you in a good mindset to not fear anyone."

In his seven League matches in charge, O'Neill's team have picked up 13 points from a possible 21, a run which included the 1-0 victory over leaders Manchester City on New Year's Day. Sunderland lost 1-0 at Chelsea last time. And Turner says the performance will give Sunderland a boost as they prepare for a run of three home matches, starting with the contest against Swansea on Saturday. "I think we can take confidence from Chelsea and previous weeks into these three home games," added Turner, whose side currently lie in 12th place in the League table. — *Internet*



Michael Turner joined Sunderland from Hull City in 2009. —INTERNET

International Sports

Mourinho says nobody plays to lose

MADRID, 18 Jan — Real Madrid coach this Tuesday Jose Mourinho refused to speculate on what would be a good result for his side to take into the return leg of their Copa del Rey quarter final against Barcelona. Madrid receive Barca in the first leg in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Wednesday night before the return leg in Barca's Camp Nou a week later. Speaking to the press the day before the game, Mourinho said he did not know what side he was going to play on Wednesday, neither did he make a prediction over the result.

"All I want to do is win the tie and that is the perfect result: we could lose at home and then win away from home, you never know what's going to happen," he said. The coach has doubts over the fitness of



Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho

winger Angel Di Maria and central defender Pepe, while Sami Khedira is out injured and Alvaro Arbeloa is suspended for the game. Mourinho would not speculate on Di Maria's fitness, but added the Argentinean would be in his squad. He also had words for the press, expressing his frustration at the way every decision he makes is analysed in such depth.

"If Coentrao plays at right back they criticize me because he is left footed, if Lass plays there, I get criticized because he should play in midfield. If Pepe plays in midfield, I get criticized because he should be in defense, but if he plays in defense, some people say he should play in midfield... Maybe we should go to the cinema tomorrow," said the Real Madrid coach.

Xinhua



Bale has scored seven Barclays Premier League goals so far this season.

INTERNET

Wenger issues Arsenal rallying call

LONDON, 18 Jan — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger says next weekend's match against Manchester United is the perfect opportunity for his side to bounce back from two straight Barclays Premier League defeats. The Gunners were beaten 2-1 by Fulham at Craven Cottage at the beginning of January while on Sunday, they took an early lead against Swansea at the Liberty Stadium only to lose the contest 3-2.

But Wenger believes that his side can use Sunday's match against Manchester United to rejuvenate their attempt to cement a place in the top four. "It is a massive opportunity because you feel we have given six points away in the last two games in a way that is unbelievable," Wenger told the official Arsenal website. "It is time for us to wake up and be focused— we have a good opportunity to do that against Manchester United."

And Wenger says his team will need to show a big improvement if they are to overcome Manchester United, who currently lie second in the League table. "That's now twice - at Swansea and at Fulham— where we have given the game



Arsenal were beaten 8-2 by Man Utd in the corresponding fixture at Old Trafford.—INTERNET

away," added Wenger. "At our level that is frustrating and not good enough. It is down to a lack of composure and the right decision-making. It is alarming because at Fulham we were 1-0 up and we lost the game. "[Against Swansea] we came back to 2-2 and straight away we gave the third goal away. It is really a concern."— *Internet*

Newcastle sign striker Cisse



Papiss Cisse will not get to run out at the Sports Direct Arena until February.—INTERNET

LONDON, 18 Jan — Newcastle have completed the signing of Senegalese striker Papiss Cisse for an undisclosed fee on a five-and-a-half year contract. The 26-year-old joins the Barclays Premier League club from German Bundesliga side Freiburg, where he enjoyed a prolific spell, scoring 37 goals in 65 matches. He will join up with his country Senegal for the African Cup of Nations before settling into life on Tyneside, having been given Newcastle's famous number nine shirt.

"I would like to thank everybody for their welcome, and for inviting me to sign for the club," Cisse told the club's official website (nufc.co.uk). "It is an honour to play for such a big club and I am looking forward to it. "I want to pay back the confidence the club have shown in me, and give the supporters something to be proud of. "I am aware of the huge importance of the number nine shirt, and when I spoke with the manager he made it very clear how important this shirt is. "I will treat it with the respect and I hope to do my very best in this shirt."— *Internet*

Guardiola wary of Real Madrid threat

MADRID, 18 Jan — FC Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola this Tuesday gave a huge vote of confidence to reserve goalkeeper Jose Manuel Pinto ahead of the first leg of his side's Copa del Rey quarter-final against eternal rival Real Madrid on Wednesday night. Although Pinto is the usual substitute to Victor Valdes in the Spanish BBVA Primera Liga, he has been first choice for Barca in the Cup. However, the fact that he was in goal for the only defeat Guardiola has suffered against Madrid, in last season's Cup final, has raised some doubts over

whether or not he should play on Wednesday.

Guardiola, however, showed total loyalty to his player: "I have it in mind that Pinto should play. He is an excellent keeper and I would be betraying myself if I didn't play him and I would also betray him.

Xinhua



FC Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-1-12 09:30 am ~ 20-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

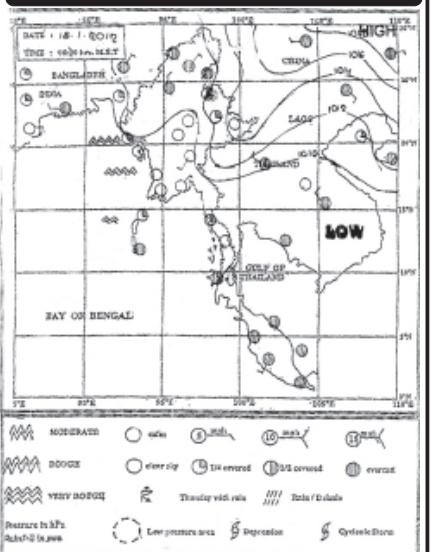
- * News
- * Fantastic Villa From Ancient Cultural Land
- * News
- * Myanmar Beauty and His Creation (Episode-1)
- * News
- * Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) in Kachin State
- * Myanmar Culture & Food Festival in Bangladesh
- * Foreign Investment in Garment Factories
- * Youth of the Future (Harry Ko, Violinist, Gitamate)
- * New Roads and Bridges "Bringing us closer through fairer journey"
- * The Artworks of Bagan Gift Centre
- * Music Gallery
- * MI People's Celebrities "Zaw Paing & Moe Hay Ko"
- * ES4E Parent's Day
- * Visitation to Mawlamyine (Part - I)
- * Myanmar Movies "Love was Born"

MYANMAR TV

(19-1-2012) (Thursday)

- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
- 2. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm
- 3. Cute Little Dancer
- 4:30 pm
- 4. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:45 pm
- 5. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Geography)
- 5:10 pm
- 6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:20 pm
- 7. Instrumental Music
- 5:35 pm
- 8. Singing In Different Version
- 5:45 pm
- 9. Science and Environment
- 6:40 pm
- 10. Approaching Science Discovery World
- 7:00 pm
- 11. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 12. News
- 13. Documentary
- 14. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 19th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	27/81	13/55	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	29/84	07/45	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	34/93	13/55	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	19/66	08/46	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	25/77	13/55	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	31/88	13/55	Generally fair weather	
7	Taintharyi	34/93	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	31/88	15/59	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	33/91	14/57	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	31/88	15/59	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	34/93	15/59	Generally fair weather	
12	Yangon	33/91	15/59	Partly cloudy	
13	Bhamo	28/82	14/57	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	26/79	08/46	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	25/77	06/43	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	29/84	08/46	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	32/90	17/63	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	33/91	13/55	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	15/59	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	31/88	15/59	Generally fair weather	

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Kachin State, isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taintharyi Regions, weather have been partly cloudy in Yangon Region, Bhamo, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (4°C) above January average temperatures in Chin State, (2°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Bago and Yangon Regions, Mon State, (0°C) below January average temperatures in Kayin State and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Namsan and Pailung (1°C) each Heho and Lolo (2°C) each, Mogoke and Lashio (4°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mactanaw (0.16) inch and Kawthoon (0.12) inch.

Summary of observations at 09:30 to MST on today

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

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain in the Northern Myanmar Areas.

DISTRICT NEWS

Fire drills demonstrated

GYOBINGAUK, 18 Jan—Saw Mill No 63 of Myanma Timber Enterprise organized the fire drill in Gyobingauk Township on 1 January.

Saw Mill Manager U Oo Kyaw Win, Head of Township Fire Services Department Ye Kyawswa Phyu Win and fire brigade members participated in the fire drill, supervised by departmental officials.—*Myanma Alin*



Model monsoon plot harvested



SITTWAY, 18 Jan—Manawtun paddy strain on 1.76 acres of model farmland was harvested in Bumay Village of Sittway Township on 28 December.

The model plot produced 78.91 baskets of paddy per acre.

The harvesting of model plot was supervised by township departmental officials and local village authorities and observed by local farmers.

Township SLRD

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives a delegation led by member of the House of Representatives of Australia Ms Janelle Saffin.

MNA



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Australian MP Ms Janelle Saffin

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by member of the House of Representatives of Australia Ms Janelle Saffin at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw, Hluttaw Building here at 10.30 am today.

Also present on the occasion together with the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw were Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Committees and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

They had a cordial discussion on further strengthening friendship between the two countries and cooperation between the two parliaments.—MNA

Significant night temperature (18-1-2012)

Namhsan	(1° C)
Pinlaung	(1° C)
Heho	(2° C)
Loilem	(2° C)
Mogok	(4° C)

Land management under systematic supervision not to lose actual rights of deserved persons

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—The Nay Pyi Taw Council Land Management Scrutiny Committee held the meeting 4/2012 at the hall of Nay Pyi Taw Council, here, this morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Committee Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and members, departmental officials and township administrators of eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Today's meeting focused on illegal settlement on farmlands of Meethwayphogon Village and correct resettlement of the people.

The village is located in Shansu Village-tract of Lewe Township. The village is constituted with 17 houses according to the census in 2003 and 20 houses in the 2009 farmland census.

In October 2010, the census was collected again for undertaking the development projects of Nay Pyi Taw. At that time, the village grew up with 145 households of 133 houses.

Among 145 households, a total of 49 households comprising natives and their offspring and those who resettled on their own plots were allotted to 60x60 ft plots in Shwe Ingyin Ward 2 of Dekkhinathiri Township. Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee has given K 18.911 million as compensation for buildings, K 12 million for transport charges and K 2.087 million for perennial crop compensation to them.

Moreover, Nay Pyi Taw DC helped them transport their property to the new places.

It was scrutinized that the remaining households of the village moved from other regions bought the farmlands illegally so that they can get plots as compensation if they were moved from Meethwayphogon Village. The State gives plots, transport charges and compensations to the local people who were moved as necessary and deserved to get the compensations. In addition, the State has met transport costs for illegal settlers enabling them to return to their

(See page 10)

KIA mine blast leaves three dead and one injured in Phakant Township

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Maung Hsan Win, 18, of Hsin-o Chay Village, Minbya Township, stepped on a mine reportedly planned by KIA insurgents when he got off an express bus which stopped for a while for the passengers to get relaxed on the way from Phakant to Mogaung on 16 January.

The mine blast left Maung Hsan Win and a man (under scrutiny) dead on the spot. The mine blast also blew off right elbow and arms of Maung Aung Tun Khaing, 21, of Sinohn Village, Mrauk-U Township, Rakhine State and left his right thigh fractured. And he died of serious injuries on the way to Mogaung People's Hospital.

In a separate incident, Maung Shwe Toe Aung, 18, of Lonkhin Village, Phakant Township, stepped on a mine

(See page 10)

Kean retains Hoilett hope

Rovers boss still believes forward could extend stay

LONDON, 18 Jan—Blackburn Rovers boss Steve Kean has not given up hope of securing Canadian forward Junior Hoilett on fresh terms.

The 21-year-old's contract expires at the end of the season, although Rovers would be entitled to compensation if he leaves in the summer.

Talks over a new deal have ground to a halt, but that has not hindered Kean's hopes of extending the youngster's stay at Ewood Park.

It has been suggested Hoilett will see out of the

campaign with Rovers and Kean sees no reason why more contract talks cannot take place.

"I think it's been very public where we are with Junior's contract," Kean told Sky Sports.

"I think if anyone saw him play on Saturday against Fulham he's playing for the club and his teammates.

"I've never had a problem in bringing Junior up through the development pathway he's had at the club. He's a top player and we're still hopeful he can be with us.

"If it goes beyond this window and he's still here until the end of the season

then we'll have to sit down at the appropriate time with him and tie him to the club because we're developing players and we want to keep him."

Internet



Information & Culture Minister receives BBC world news editor



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Mourinho says nobody plays to lose

Li ends post-Paris slump, into 3rd round at Aussie

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