Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

Volume XIX, Number 280 | 3rd Waxing of Tabodwe 1373 ME | Thursday, 26 January, 2012

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win to pay goodwill visit to Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—At the invitation of His Excellency Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Khin Khin Win will pay a goodwill visit to the Republic of Singapore in the near future.

MNA

Our Three Main National Causes

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

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Indian President

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India.

MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Australian Governor-General

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26th January 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.—*MNA*

President U Thein Sein receives Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and party

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Jonas Gahr Store of Norway at the Credentials Hall of President Residence, here, at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and departmental heads.

The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and party were accompanied by Norwegian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ms Katja Nordgaard.

They had a cordial discussion on progress of internal politics and matters related to bilateral cooperation between the two countries.—*MNA*

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Jonas Gahr Store and party at the Credentials Hall of President Residence in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 26 January, 2012

With Dawei beginning,.....

Dawei is a resource-rich region. Also a well-known region it was because of its enormous land and water resources. But it was like a tree that has never been in bloom.

Today, with fruits of peace and stability, development is foreseeable in Dawei region. As the government has put friendly international relations high on its agenda, economic opportunities are knocking at the door of Dawei region. I would like to say this is the beginning of new era of Dawei.

Dawei is being built to become commercial and transportation heart of the South-East Asia Region. Circumstances and conditions are ripe for Dawei to experience rapid development in near future. Special economic zone project covering an area of 204.51 square kilometers, about-160-kilometer long highway project from Dawei to Punanrun Village at Myanmar-Thai border, oil and natural gas pipeline project stretching from Dawei Port to Thailand, and over-170-kilometer long railroad project from Dawei Port to Myanmar-Thai border. These facilities will be the embellishments of Dawei region.

Likewise, Dawei Deep Port is being constructed to be able to cope with about-200000-ton ships as the first phase and is planned to serve about-300000-ton ships in the future. While the projects are kicking into gear, measures were taken to compensate the relocated villages with new settlements.

Meanwhile, Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law and Dawei Special Economic Zone Law were enacted for standardization of procedures of local and foreign businesses. In addition, necessary laws for Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone are in the course of formulation.

Establishment of Dawei Special Economic Zone is the turn-the-page move towards growth of Dawei region. I have strong belief that this move will attract local and foreign investments, create jobs and help develop modern technologies and knowledge, and increase number of skilled workers and technicians, leading to spread of technologies and investments all over the country, thereby facilitating national economic growth.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and party

***Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Jonas Gahr Store and party of Norway at Zabuthiri Meeting Hall of Hluttaw Building.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Jonas Gahr Store of Norway at the Zabuthiri Meeting Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairmen and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw committees.

The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and party were accompanied by Norwegian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ms Katja Nordgaard.

At the call, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw cordially discussed promotion of bilateral ties between Myanmar and Norway, democratization process of the Hluttaw and cooperation in two Hluttaws between Myanmar and Norway.

Speaking on the occasion, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his satisfaction for democratization process of Myanmar. He said that economic sanctions against Myanmar where Norwegian companies were not allowed to operate businesses were lifted. At present, Norway considers to give special privilege for the commodities exported by Myanmar, he said.—*MNA*

AUSTRALIA DAY OBSERVED: ***Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin and wife being welcomed by Australian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ms Bronte Nadine Moules at the reception to mark Australia Day at Australian Embassy in Yangon on 25 January.***

MNA

Road to Victory continues for second day

YANGON, 25 Jan—The Road to Victory golf tournament, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation as a qualifier for Myanmar golfers in the Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012 golf tournament to be held from 2 to 5 February 2012, continued at Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club in Mingaladon Township this morning.

After the second round, Zaw Zaw Latt was leading the golf tournament with a six-under-per 138.

His followers were Myo Win Aung with 143, Hla Myo with 144, Soe Moe Win with 145, Min Naing with 145, Aung Win with 146, Nay Bala Win Myint with 146, Naing Naing Lin with 149, Soe Kyaw Naing with 149, Naing Ye Lin with 149, Myint Shwe with 150, Thein Zaw Myint with 150, Yan Myo Aye with 151, Zaw Zaw Win with 153, Bo Bo with 153, Aung Hsan Win with 153, Ye Htet Aung with 154, Maung Maung Oo with 155, Yan Naing Phyo with 156 and Yin Aung Latt with 156.

The third round will take place at the same venue tomorrow.

MNA

LOCAL SPORTS

TEO's Shield Football Tourney kicks off in Shwepyitha

YANGON, 25 Jan—As a gesture of hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day, the Township Education Officer's Shield Inter-Basic Education School U-10 and U-13 Football Tournament for 2011-2012 academic year was kicked off at the football ground of Basic Education High School No. 4 in Shwepyitha Township on 22 January afternoon.

Township Education Officer U Hla Yi made a speech.

Post-Primary School No. 35 and Basic Education Middle School No. 45 Branch met in the debut of the U-13 football event. The prizes will be awarded on the Union Day.

Myanma Alin

***Township Education Officer U Hla Yi speaks at the opening of Township Education Officer's Shield Inter-Basic Education School U-10 and U-13 Football Tournament.*—MYANMA ALIN**

'Lower the temperature,' Obama urges

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan— President Barack Obama called on Congress Tuesday to send him bills that would help repair the lack of trust between Washington and average Americans.

"The divide between this city and the rest of the country is at least as bad" as the lack of trust between Wall Street and Main Street "and it seems to get worse every year," Obama said during his State of the Union before a joint session of Congress.

"Some of this has to do with the corrosive influence of money in politics. So together, let's take some steps to fix that," Obama said. "Send me a bill that bans insider trading by members of Congress, and I will sign it tomorrow. Let's limit any elected official from owning stocks in industries they impact. Let's make sure people who bundle campaign contributions for Congress can't lobby Congress, and vice versa — an idea that has bipartisan support, at least outside of Washington."

He said some of what's broken concerns how Congress operates. "A simple majority is no longer enough to get anything … passed through the Senate," Obama said, noting neither party is blameless. "Now both parties should put an end to it. For starters, I ask the Senate to pass a rule that all judicial and public service nominations receive a simple up or down vote within 90 days."

The executive branch of government wasn't guilt-free either, Obama said.

"Too often, it's inefficient, outdated and remote," he said. "That's why I've asked this Congress to grant me the authority to consolidate the federal bureaucracy so that our government is leaner, quicker, and more responsive to the needs of the American people." But he also urge lawmakers to "lower the temperature" in Washington.

"We need to end the notion that the two parties must be locked in a perpetual campaign of mutual destruction [and] that politics is about clinging to rigid ideologies instead of building consensus around common sense ideas," he said.—*Internet*

President Barack Obama.—INTERNET

Three killed in N Philippine ambush

MANILA, 25 Jan—Three people, including a village official, were killed in an ambush Tuesday night in the northern Philippine Province of Masbate, a military spokesman said Wednesday.

Maj Angelo Guzman, spokesman for the Ninth Infantry Division, identified the victims as village chairman Eddie Crisostomo of San Isidro Village, village treasurer Noel Rosal and Jolex Rivera.

Guzman said the three were aboard a motorcycle when they were waylaid by at least five suspects believed to be members of a private armed group. Guzman said the victims died on the spot.

"(The) said armed men fled towards unknown direction (after the incident)," he said adding that soldiers have been dispatched to pursue the perpetrators while the provincial police is conducting further investigation into the incident. The motive for the killing remains unknown.—*Internet*

Israel, China celebrates 20 years of diplomatic relations

Israli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) speaks at a reception celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Israel in Tel Aviv on 24 Jan, 2012.
XINHUA

TEL AVIV, 25 Jan—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday praised the relations between Israel and China at a reception celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

"We may be celebrating 20 years of relations, but our peoples are now celebrating a thousand years of friendship," Netanyahu said.

He mentioned China's fair treatment towards the Jewish communities in the past, and the safe-haven given to them during the holocaust. "Like the Chinese people, the Jewish people have a long memory. We always remember our friends. We always remember people who extended a hand to us in our darkest days and we are grateful for China for that."

The prime minister said that the friendship between the two sides can further deepen. "I think we barely scratched the surface of Israeli-Chinese relations. I have no doubt that in the coming years we'll see a dramatic expansion of these ties," he said.

"We've talked about doubling the trade (between the two countries). Well, I'd like to see a doubling of a doubling of the trade. I think Israel and China together are a winning combination, " Netanyahu said.

In addition to the prime minister, several other senior Israeli officials attended the reception, among them ministers, former ambassadors and envoys to China and key figures in the bilateral ties. Chinese ambassador Gao Yanping said that "Over the past 20 years our pragmatic cooperation has been booming. When we started our diplomatic relations in 1992, our two-way trade volume was only a little bit more than 50 million US dollars. Now the trade volume we have in two days equals that of the whole year of 1992."—*Xinhua*

A police bomb disposal expert packs defused home-made bombs made from cans of soft drink at the bomb disposal unit of the Kano State police command in northern Nigerian City of Kano.
INTERNET

14 killed, 80 injured in spate of bomb attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 Jan—A total of 14 people were killed and some 80 others wounded on Tuesday in a series of bomb attacks in central Iraq, including four car bombs targeting Shiite bastions in the capital. The car bomb attacks started in the morning when a first booby- trapped car went off near al-Mudhafar Square in Sadr City, where construction labourers gathered waiting to be hired for a day-long job, an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

A second blast followed when another car bomb detonated in al- Dakhil area inside the Shiite bastion of Sadr City, the source said, adding that the two attacks in Sadr City killed a total of seven people and wounded some 35 others. Two more of Baghdad's Shiite bastions were also targeted by two car bombs, one of which detonated near two schools in Shula district in northern part of the capital, killing two people and wounding 18 others, the source said.

Another car bomb ripped through al-Hurriyah district in northern Baghdad and killed a civilian and wounded 13 others, the source added.

Militants on Tuesday also targeted the Iraqi police when gunmen in their car opened fire on the outer checkpoint of al- Tahrir police station in the town of al-Khaldiyah, some 80 km west of Baghdad, killing two policemen and wounding three others, a local police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, gunmen planted bombs in the house of a policeman and blew them up in Abu Ghraib area, some 20 km west of Baghdad, killing him and wounding his wife and three of his children, the source said.

In Baghdad, six civilians were wounded when a roadside bomb detonated in Adhamiyah district in northern of the capital, the police said. *Xinhua*

2,262 civilians killed in Afghanistan last year

KABUL, 25 Jan—A total of 2,262 Afghan civilians had been killed in militancy-hit Afghanistan last year, a local newspaper reported Wednesday. "A total of 2,262 Afghan civilians had been killed in violent incidents in the militancy-plagued Afghanistan," citing a report of the US Congressional Research Service (CRS), the *Daily Outlook* reported.

According to the report, the civilian casualties had decreased in the conflict-ridden country compared with 2,777 in 2010.

According to the report of the US Congress, there was a similar decline in the casualties of Afghan army with 289 deaths in 2011 against 821 in 2010.

"The death toll for Afghan police stood at 522 last year, lower than 1,292 in 2010," the newspaper said based on the CRS report.

A total of 1,462 Afghan civilians had been killed in the first half of 2011, a 15 percent rise over the same period of 2010, according to the United Nations mid-year report released in Kabul in July, 2011.

However, a joint Afghan Human Rights Commission and the United Nations mission in Afghanistan said in a mid-year report that the number of civilian casualties had been soaring in the country in the first half of 2011. The report attributed 80 percent of the civilian deaths in the first six months of 2011 to the attacks of Taleban militants and other armed groups opposing the Afghan government, a claim rejected by the Taleban as baseless.—*Internet*

Residents comb through debris looking for personal belongings after a severe storm and possible tornado ripped through the Georgebrook subdivision area in Trussville, Alabama.
INTERNET

Chemical compounds widely used in fast-food packaging, waterproof clothing and non-stick frying pans were linked in a study out Tuesday to lower immune response by young children to routine tetanus and diphtheria immunization shots. INTERNET

Chemicals linked to lower vaccine response in children

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan— Chemical compounds widely used in fast-food packaging, waterproof clothing and non-stick frying pans were linked in a study out Tuesday to lower immune response by young children to routine tetanus and diphtheria immunization shots. The study, in Tuesday's *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, is the first to show how perfluorinated compounds can negatively affect the response to vaccines.

PFCs can be transferred to children before birth via the mother, or after birth from exposure in the environment, according to the report.

"The negative impact on childhood vaccinations from PFCs should be viewed as a potential threat to public health," said study lead author Philippe Grandjean with the Harvard School of Public Health. Grandjean appeared alarmed because routine childhood immunizations "are a mainstay of modern disease prevention."

Researchers "were surprised by the steep negative associations, which suggest that PFCs may be more toxic to the immune system than current dioxin exposures," said Grandjean.

PFCs have thousands of industrial and manufacturing uses, and most Americans have traces of the chemical compounds in their bodies.

Internet

Alzheimer's: French scientists focus on key target

PARIS, 25 Jan—French scientists said on Tuesday that lack of a key brain protein was linked to Alzheimer's, a finding that threw up a tempting target for drugs to fight the disease.

"What we've found is a weapon for controlling and modifying tau," said Etienne-Emile Baulieu of France's National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm), referring to a culprit involved in Alzheimer's.

Building on earlier work, researchers delved into a Paris "brain bank," of organs donated for medical science, to compare levels of a protein called FKBP52 among brains of people who had died of dementia and those who had died of other causes.

Tiny slivers of brain were extracted and their chemicals analysed.

In the frontal cortex, "levels of FKBP52 were 75 percent lower among people who had died of Alzheimer's and other tau diseases, a dramatic fall," Baulieu told a Press conference.

Baulieu said FKBP52 was the best target that had surfaced so far in the fight against Alzheimer's, a disease that is as cruel as it is baffling. A rogue protein that later became named tau was first spotted in 1912 by Alois Alzheimer, the German neuropathologist who gave his name to this relentless degenerative disease of the brain.

When normal tau undergoes a process called hyperphosphorylation, it starts to assemble in microscopic tangles inside brain cells, killing them.—*Internet*

French scientists said on Tuesday that lack of a key brain protein was linked to Alzheimer's, a finding that threw up a tempting target for drugs to fight the disease.—INTERNET

More kids seek tans, may raise skin cancer risk

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—As children go from elementary to junior high school, the desire to tan grows stronger while the habit of using sunscreen goes out the window, according to a survey — potentially raising the risk of getting deadly skin cancer later on.

The survey, carried out over three years, found that sunscreen use fell by half, said a study published in the journal *Pediatrics*, a worrying trend since there is evidence that sun damage at a young age is tied to a higher risk of developing melanoma.

The number of melanoma cases in the United States has been rising for the past three decades, and around 70,230 new cases will be diagnosed this year, according to the American Cancer Society.

"I think especially at this age, and in general, there are a lot of forces that promote tanning," said Stephen Dusza, a researcher at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York City and lead author of the study.

Though Dusza said he expected that children would want to tan more as they grew older, due partly to advertising and tanning among many celebrities, the results surprised him. "I was struck by the magnitude of the reduction in the use of sunscreen — a 50 percent drop," he said.

Reuters

Japan posts first annual trade deficit since 1980

TOKYO, 25 Jan—Japan reported its first annual trade deficit since 1980 as it imported expensive energy to offset shortfalls caused by the devastating tsunami and manufacturers shifted production overseas to avoid the damage inflicted by the strong yen.

The 2.49 trillion yen ($32 billion) deficit for 2011 reflected a 2.7 percent decline in the value of Japan's exports to 65.55 trillion yen ($843 billion). In December, the trade balance was a deficit of 205.1 billion yen, according to the Ministry of Finance figures released Wednesday. "It reflects fundamental changes in Japan's economy, particularly among manufacturers," said Hideki Matsumura, senior economist at Japan Research Institute. "Japan is losing its competitiveness to produce domestically." "It's gotten difficult for manufacturers to export, so they're they've moved production abroad so that products sold outside the country are made outside the country," he said.—*Internet*

In this photo taken on 19 Jan, 2012, Japanese cars are unloaded from trailer trucks before being shipped for export at a port in Kawasaki near Tokyo. INTERNET

Asia stocks rise as Apple result lifts tech shares

Dragon dance performers swing their dragon infront of the electronic board at the trading floor as part of the celebration of Chinese New Year on 24 Jan, 2012 in Manila's financial district of Makati, Philippines.—INTERNET

BANGKOK, 25 Jan— Asian stocks rose Wednesday as investors stayed calm in the face of a possible debt default by Greece to search for good deals in technology shares boosted by stunning results from Apple Inc Benchmark crude rose to about $99 per barrel while the dollar rose against the euro and the yen.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose 1 percent to 8,876.61. South Korea's Kospi fell 0.1 percent to 1,947.43 and Australia's S&P/ ASX 200 added 0.9 percent to 4,263.10. Benchmarks in Singapore and New Zealand rose, while shares in Indonesia and the Philippines fell.

Markets in Hong Kong, mainland China and Taipei remained closed for Chinese New Year. Japan's powerhouse export sector got a lift from a moderation in the yen's strength even as the country reported its first annual trade deficit since 1980. A strong yen, which hit multiple historic highs last year against the dollar, shrinks the value of overseas earnings when repatriated and makes Japanese products less competitive.

Honda Motor Corp surged 4.2 percent. Mitsubishi Motor Corp jumped 4.4 percent and Sony Corp added 4.4 percent. Tire-maker Bridgestone Corp added 4.1 percent.

Technology stocks were elevated after Apple Inc reported earnings that sailed past analyst estimates. Apple said late Tuesday said it sold 37 million iPhones in the last three months of 2011.

Internet

IMF and Germany at odds over how to rescue Europe

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan— Global leaders are sharply at odds over how to rescue Europe from its escalating debt crisis: Should they focus more urgently on economic growth or on budget cuts?

Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde gestures during her speech about the economic Challenges in 2012 in the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin, on 23 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

The disagreement presents another obstacle to solving the region's financial crisis, and it pits one of the world's most important lenders against Europe's strongest economy.

The International Monetary Fund said Tuesday that encouraging growth should be policymakers' highest priority. It issued the warning on a day when the lending organization cut its estimates for global growth this year and predicted a recession in Europe.

But Germany, the economic engine of Europe, is afraid it could get stuck paying much of the cost to bail out its weaker European neighbours. It is pushing instead for budget cuts, which the IMF says could weaken growth further and undermine market confidence.

The IMF is already lending to the region's bailout fund and has a lead role in monitoring the progress that nations such as Greece make in reducing their government deficits. Germany, meanwhile, is also a large contributor to the bailout fund.

"There is a fundamental divergence in points of view," said Eswar Prasad, a former IMF official and economics professor at Cornell University. The IMF's emphasis on growth is "a subtle but important shift in the prioritization of the reforms."

Internet

Business

science

First patients shown to improve with embryonic stem cells

NEW YORK, 25 Jan— Before treatment, the 51-year-old graphic artist was legally blind, unable to read a single letter on a standard eye chart. She has suffered from Stargardt's disease, the most common form of macular degeneration in young patients, since she was a teenager, and it was getting progressively worse.

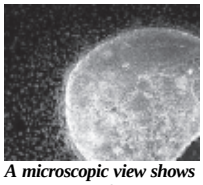
A second patient, aged 78, suffered from dry macular degeneration — the leading cause of blindness in the elderly — and could not even see well enough to go shopping.

But after being treated with stem cells from a donated human embryo, both women have improved dramatically, researchers said on Monday. Stem cells are master cells that can differentiate into any of the 200 kinds of cells in the human body.

Their results are the first-ever report of the medical use of stem cells taken from human embryos, making them crucial barometers of whether the controversial technique will ever find widespread therapeutic uses.

In a paper published online in The Lancet on Monday, physicians at the University of California, Los Angeles, and scientists at biotechnology company Advanced Cell Technology report that the first two patients in the clinical trial suffered no adverse health effects from the treatment and seem to have benefited from it.

Reuters



A microscopic view shows a colony of human embryonic stem cells (light blue) growing on fibroblasts (dark blue) in this handout photo released to Reuters by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, on 9 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Sumatran elephants could be extinct in 30 years

JAKARTA, 25 Jan — The Sumatran elephant could be extinct in the wild within three decades unless immediate steps are taken to slow the breakneck pace of deforestation, environmentalists warned Tuesday.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature recently listed the animals as "critically endangered" after their numbers dropped to between 2,400 and 2,800 from an estimated 5,000 in 1985.

The decline is largely because of destruction of their habitat, with forests all across the Indonesian island of Sumatra being clear-cut for timber, palm oil and pulp and paper plantations.

Sumatra has some of the most significant populations of Asian elephants outside of India and Sri Lanka and is also home to tigers, orangutans and rhinos.

"The Sumatran elephant joins a growing list of Indonesian species that are critically endangered," Carlos Drews of the conservation group WWF said in a statement Tuesday. "Unless urgent and effective conservation action is taken these magnificent animals are likely to go extinct within our lifetime."

***In this 12 Jan, 2012 photo, a Sumatran elephant is seen in Perawang, Riau Province, Indonesia.* INTERNET**

Indonesia's endangered elephants sometimes venture into populated areas searching for food and destroy crops or attack humans, making them unpopular with villagers.

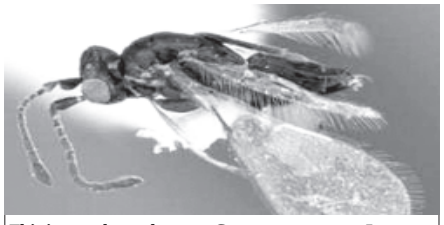
Some are shot or poisoned with cyanide-laced fruit, while others are killed by poachers for their ivory.—*Internet*

Tiny European wasp makes US home

RIVERSIDE, 25 Jan— A tiny wasp found in upstate New York in 2010 that had never been seen before in the United States has turned up in California, researchers say.

A University of California, Riverside, entomologist who made both discoveries says it strongly suggests the fairyfly wasp, originally from Europe, is well established in the United States.

Called Gonatocerus ater, the wasp lays its eggs inside the eggs of leafhoppers, and the wasp larvae that hatch consume the leafhopper eggs.



This image shows the wasp Gonatocerus ater.—INTERNET

"This wasp was accidentally introduced in North America," Serguei Triapitsyn, director of the university's Entomology Research Museum, said in university release Tuesday. "It most likely got here in parasitized eggs of the leafhoppers in twigs of Lombardy poplar seedlings coming from Europe, perhaps long ago." "I identified the wasp as Gonatocerus ater by comparing it to wasps from upstate New York and also Europe," he said. "It would not surprise me if this wasp is found wherever Lombardy poplars are located because its likely leafhopper host prefers these trees for feeding."

The wasp poses no known ecological risk, he said, other than killing leafhopper eggs.

"It actually helps naturally control leafhopper numbers," he said. "In its absence, leafhopper populations could have skyrocketed.—*Internet*

Yahoo delivers another listless performance in 4Q

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 Jan— Yahoo slipped further behind in the online advertising race during the fourth quarter as the Internet company entered the fourth year of a revenue slump.

The results announced Tuesday marked the latest in a succession of disappointing performances. The persisting malaise led to the firing of Carol Bartz as CEO four months ago.

Yahoo Inc recently replaced Bartz with PayPal executive Scott Thompson, anointing him as the fourth CEO in less than five years to try to snap the company out of a funk that has depressed its stock. Thompson, who was hired just three weeks ago, promised to move quickly to fix the problems.

"There is no question we need to do better and we will," Thompson assured analysts in a Tuesday conference call.

The company earned $296 million, or 24 cents per share, in the October-to-December period. That is down 5 percent from $312 million, or 24 cents per share, a year earlier. The earnings matched analysts' estimates, but the company missed Wall Street's revenue target.

Internet

In this 4 Jan, 2012 photo, the Yahoo company logo is displayed at their headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif Yahoo Inc, reports quarterly financial earnings Tuesday, on 24 Jan, 2012, after the market close.—INTERNET

TECHNOLOGY

Google to merge user data across more services

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan— Google announced a plan Tuesday to link user data across its email, video, social-networking and other services that it says will create a "beautifully simple and intuitive" user experience. But critics raised privacy concerns like those that helped kill the search giant's Buzz social networking service.

The changes, which take effect 1 March, will remove some of the legal hurdles Google Inc faces in trying to link information across services from Gmail to YouTube to the Google Plus social network that replaced Buzz.

More than 70 different company policies are being streamlined into one main privacy policy and about a dozen others. Separate policies will continue to govern products including Google's Chrome Web browser and its Wallet service for electronic payments.

The company said the new system will give users more relevant search results and information, while helping advertisers find customers — especially on mobile devices.

For example, if you spend an hour on Google searching the Web for skateboards, the next time you log into YouTube, you might get recommendations for videos featuring Tony Hawk, along with ads for his merchandise and the nearest place to buy them.

"If you're signed into Google, we can do things like suggest search queries — or tailor your search results — based on the interests you've expressed in Google (Plus), Gmail and YouTube," the company says on a new overview page for its privacy policies. "We'll better understand (what) you're searching for and get you those results faster."

The changes follow the shutdown of Buzz last month.

Internet

Fold-up car of the future unveiled at EU

MADRID, 25 Jan—A tiny revolutionary fold-up car designed in Spain's Basque country as the answer to urban stress and pollution was unveiled Tuesday before hitting European cities in 2013.

The "Hiriko", the Basque word for "urban", is an electric two-seater with no doors whose motor is located in the wheels and which folds up like a child's collapsible buggy, or stroller, for easy parking.

Dreamt up by Boston's MIT-Media lab, the concept was developed by a consortium of seven small Basque firms under the name Hiriko Driving Mobility, with a prototype unveiled by European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso.

Demonstrating for journalists, Barroso clambered in through the fold-up front windscreen of the 1.5-metre-long car.

"European ideas usually are developed in the United States. This time an American idea is being made in Europe," consortium spokesman Gorka Espiau told *AFP*. Its makers are in talks with a number of European cities to assemble the tiny cars that can run 120 kilometres (75 miles) without a recharge and whose speed is electronically set to respect city limits.

They envisage it as a city-owned vehicle, up for hire like the fleets of bicycles available in many European cities, or put up for sale privately at around 12,500 euros. Several cities have shows interest, including Berlin, Barcelona, San Francisco and Hong Kong. Talks are underway with Paris, London, Boston, Dubai and Brussels.—*Internet*

The "Hiriko", the Basque word for "urban", is an electric two-seater whose motor is located in the wheels and which folds up like a child's collapsible buggy, or stroller, for easy parking.—INTERNET

Obama pledges new efforts on clean energy

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—President Barack Obama on Tuesday pledged new government incentives to boost clean energy, warning that the United States risked being left behind in the new industry by China and Germany.

But in a nod to political realities, Obama acknowledged in his annual State of the Union address that the deeply divided Congress would not approve comprehensive legislation to fight climate change.

Obama urged Congress instead to renew tax credits to support clean energy and repeated calls for an end to subsidies for oil companies, which he said were already profitable.

Obama, whose administration has been expanding the areas of potential use for solar, wind and other green technologies, set a goal of powering three million homes through renewable energy on public lands.

"The differences in this chamber may be too deep right now to pass a comprehensive plan to fight climate change. But there's no reason why Congress shouldn't at least set a clean energy standard that creates a market for innovation," Obama said, according to his prepared remarks.

"I will not cede the wind or solar or battery industry to China or Germany because we refuse to make the same commitment here. We have subsidized oil companies for a century. That's long enough," Obama said.

Legislation backed by Obama to fight climate change died in the US Senate in 2010 amid staunch opposition from the rival Republican Party, many of whose members question scientists' view that carbon emissions are behind rising temperatures.

Republicans have hammered Obama over a $535 million government loan for Solyndra, a now bankrupt solar firm, and his administration's rejection of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline project from Canada.

Internet

Foreign actors perform during a temple fair held in the Chaoyang Park of Beijing, capital of China, on 23 Jan, 2012. Nearly 200,000 local residents and tourists visited parks in Beijing on Monday as a series of celebrations were hosted to mark the first day of the Chinese lunar New Year, the city's park administration said.—XINHUA

Shooter pleads not guilty to Obama assassination bid

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—An alleged gunman accused of opening fire on the White House pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to trying to assassinate President Barack Obama.

Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez, who is said to have opened fire on the White House when Obama was not in residence, has been formally indicted with 17 charges including assaulting an officer with a deadly weapon and discharging a firearm during a crime of violence. If found guilty he risks life imprisonment. His lawyer, David Bos, pleaded "not guilty to each count of the indictment" on his client's behalf in front of a federal judge Deborah Robinson.

Psychiatric tests have concluded that Ortega-Hernandez, 21, is mentally fit to stand trial and he appeared at the court-room wearing a blue prisoner outfit, and a thick beard, but with no handcuffs.

Ortega-Hernandez of Idaho Falls, Idaho, has been in custody since 16 November after being arrested near Pennsylvania's border with Indiana, some 300 miles (480 kilometres) from the US capital.

Oscar Ortega-Hernandez

He is accused of taking several shots at the residential area of the White House, at least one of which struck the mansion. Neither Obama nor members of the first family were home at the time of the shooting.

Authorities had located an abandoned vehicle in Washington registered to him containing a semi-automatic assault rifle "with a large scope mounted on the top portion of the weapon," along with ammunition and nine spent shell casings.—*Internet*

EU expects G20 to help boost IMF resources in February

BRUSSELS, 25 Jan—The European Union (EU) expected G20 finance ministers to agree next month to boost the resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help countries counter the fallout of the eurozone debt crisis, a senior EU official said on Tuesday. Olli Rehn, EU economic and monetary affairs commissioner, said he wanted G20 finance ministers to pledge increased contributions to the IMF when they meet in Mexico in February.

Rehn's remarks came a day after the IMF's managing director Christine Lagarde urged the eurozone's own rescue fund to be expanded first before more money is to be put into the IMF. Earlier last week, officials of the United States and Canada said Europe must put up more of its own money to resolve its sovereign debt crisis.

Speaking at a Press conference after a meeting of EU finance ministers, Rehn said "it would be wrong to turn the discussions into a "political game" of conditions and counter-conditions potentially leading to deadlock." He also said the European Commission had "advocated reinforcement of the comprehensive financial firewall of the EU, composed of the both the European Financial Stability Fund (EFSF) and the new European Stability Mechanism (ESM), as well as additional IMF resources."

"We see that it is important that we can move on with this matter and discuss it among ourselves and in parallel discuss it with our international partners," Rehn added.—*Xinhua*

Wildlife officials taking care of a pygmy elephant calf on Borneo island, in Malaysia's Sabah state. The male calf, which is less than a month old, was pulled out of a deep moat surrounding a palm oil plantation in remote Sabah State.
INTERNET

German airports report record number of passengers in 2011

BERLIN, 25 Jan—German airports registered a record number of passengers in 2011, with passengers arriving and departing through airports across Germany totaled 198.2 million, German Airport Association (ADV) said on Tuesday.

Despite the figure was up by 5 percent over the previous year, it still fell short of the ADV's target of 200 million.

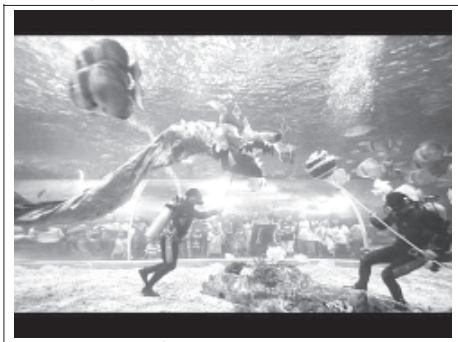
"The airports in Germany are also not immune to the generally weaker economic development of the world, and particularly vulnerable to the so-called Aviation Tax which was introduced a year ago, as the negative impact of which become increasingly more obvious," ADV Chief Executive Ralph Beisel said.

Despite the strong growth for the whole aviation market, two thirds of German airports, most of which are medium and small ones, saw numbers of passengers remaining unchanged or declining, according the ADV's statistics.

German airlines and airports have long been complaining about the imposition of the so-called Aviation Tax, which was initiated since the beginning of 2011. Most airlines then transfer the additional costs into the ticket prices and pass overcharges onto the passengers eventually.

For departures from German airports, the tax is a progressive one along with the distance, it ranges from 8 euros (10.4 US dollars) due on the intra-European flights, to 25 euros for flights with a distance between 2500 and 6000 km, and further to 45 euros for flights that stretch over 6,000 km. (1 euro=1.3 US dollars).

Xinhua



Scuba divers perform a "dragon dance" at the Manila Ocean Park to celebrate the upcoming Lunar New Year of the Dragon.—INTERNET

Russia, Iran agree to closer anti-drug cooperation

MOSCOW, 25 Jan—Russia and Iran would enhance cooperation in fighting drug trafficking, visiting Iranian Interior Minister said Tuesday.

Concluding his visit here, Mostafa Mohammad Najar expressed his satisfaction with the anti-drug cooperation with Russia, saying the interaction "gains an absolutely new meaning" amid the current developments in the region.

Najar and the head of Russia's Federal Anti-drug Service, Victor Ivanov, have signed a protocol on cross-border cooperation and a plan of joint actions to prevent drug trafficking from Afghanistan and in the Caspian Sea region in 2012-2014.

The visiting minister also thanked Russia for vetoing the UN's resolution on Syria and said Russia "has a good opportunity" to establish economic cooperation with Iran, Iraq and Syria.—*Xinhua*

BTE pipeline transports 4.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas in 2011

BAKU, 25 Jan—Some 4.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas have been transported via the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum Pipeline (BTE) in 2011, the State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan said in a statement on Tuesday.

According to the statistics, this figure is 400 million cubic meters less as compared with that of 2010. During 2010, the pipeline exported 4.9 billion cubic meters of gas, which, in its turn, is 300 million cubic metres less than in 2009.

The 692km-long BTE pipeline has been designed to transport gas from the Shah Deniz gas field in the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea, through Georgia's Tbilisi to Turkey's Erzurum. The BTE pipeline is capable of carrying up to 7 billion cubic meters of gas per year. First deliveries of gas to Turkey commenced reportedly in Sept. 2006.—*Xinhua*

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Indian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January 2012, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr S M Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Australian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26 January 2012, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Kevin Michael Rudd, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Commonwealth of Australia.—*MNA*

3rd Meeting for Asian Programme for Regional Capacity Enhancement for Landslide Impact Mitigation commences

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of the Ministry of Transport and Thailand-based Asian Disaster Preparedness Center-ADPC jointly organized the 3rd Meeting for Asian Programme for Regional Capacity Enhancement for Landslide Impact Mitigation (RECLAIM) in Asia at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon this morning.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung delivered an address.

Deputy Executive Director Mr NMSI Arambepola of ADPC extended greetings. Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway Dr Oddvar Kjekstad gave an introductory speech.

Altogether 10 representatives from Geological Survey and Exploration Department, Relief and Resettlement Department and departments of Yangon Technological University, 27 representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Pakistan, Thailand and Norway totalling 37 in addition to experts from ADPC took part in the meeting.

MNA

Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives substituted

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 8/2012
2nd Waxing of Tabodwe, 1373 ME
(25 January, 2012)

Two Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives substituted

According to the request made in accord with Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substitute two Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in first multiparty democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted two Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives stated hereunder in Notification No. 1/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 with personnel shown against them.

(1)	BC 23275 Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Oo	(Substitution)	BC 20771 Lt-Col Khin Maung Thant
(2)	Air 2692 Major Wai Phyo Htut	(Substitution)	Air 2485 Major Yan Naing Htoo

By order

(Win Ko)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

***Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung gives a speech at 3rd Meeting for Asian Programme (RECLAIM).*—MNA**

MPs arrive Nay Pyi Taw to attend third regular sessions of Hluttaws

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Representatives of respective Hluttaws, to attend the third regular sessions of First Pyithu Hluttaw and First Amyotha Hluttaw to be commenced tomorrow, reported to the Hluttaw Office here today.

A total of 597 Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives reported to the Hluttaw Office today and personnel of the office have arranged accommodation, catering and transportation facilities for them in advance.—*MNA*

Dy Health Minister on inspection tour of hospitals in Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin on 22 January arrived Kawhmu Township People's Hospital of Yangon Region to meet officials concerned, doctors, nurses and medical staff.

The deputy minister, there, donated western medicines and traditional ones to basic medical staff so as to care for rural people in the township, and so did she at Kungyangon Township People's Hospital.

Then, the deputy minister together with Ayeyawady Region Minister for Social Affairs U San Maung was present at the meeting on rural development and poverty alleviation, held at Shwephone Pwint Shwephone Myint Pagoda Dhamayon in Dedaye Township.

At the event, Deputy Health Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and her husband U Aung Zaw Myint made a cash donation amounted K 0.1 million for taking measures for rural development and poverty reduction and K 500,000 for the renovation of Dhamayon to the officials concerned.

In that evening, the deputy minister inspected Dedaye People's Hospital where she met with medical superintendent, doctors, nurses and hospital staff who received her medical donation.—*MNA*

Kayin State Chief Minister meets gold mining entrepreneurs

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—The sapling growing and sowing ceremony for contributing to the Kayin State environmental conservation 2012 was held at Zwegabin Nursery in Hpa-an on 18 January.

Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min and party drew saplings and sowed 20,000 seeds of various plants.

At the hall of Kayin State government in the afternoon, the Chief Minister met entrepreneurs of gold mining companies in Kayin State. Senior Engineer U Win Tin of Mining Department reported on matters related to gold mining and production. Secretary of the state government U Ohn Myint gave a supplementary report.

In the evening, the State Chief Minister inspected cultivation of 25 acres of hybrid paddy strain with the use of water from Shwebok Dam near Htilon Village of Hlaingbwe Township.

On 19 January, the MICS meeting took place at Hotel Zwegabin in Hpa-an. The State Chief Minister made a speech. Ms Yumi Bae of UNICEF extended greetings.

Director Daw Thway Thway Chit of Planning Department discussed child development, water and sewerage and HIV/AIDS, nutrition, child health and reproductive health and Project Officer U Than Nyunt of UNICEF, child care, educative works, mortality rate, sample census plot and data.

MNA

UMFCCI officials meet Japanese guests

YANGON, 25 Jan—General Secretary of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Dr Myo Thet and CEC members met a three-member delegation led by Senior Consultant Mr Makoto Fuse of Japan Telecommunications Engineering & Consulting Service (JTEC) at the federation, here, on 20 January.

They discussed promotion of cooperation in human resources development between the two countries and holding of IT workshop.

MNA

BEMS Branch inspected in Pobbathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Nay Pyi Taw Council supervises sanitation of basic education schools, promotion of education standard of students and availability of safe water in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Than Htay today inspected Basic Education Middle School No. 97 Branch in Pobbathiri Township and gave instructions on promotion of education standard of students, systematic use of electricity, fire preventive measures in the school compound and cultivation of shade trees, vegetables and flower plants.

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo gives a speech in meeting with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townselders of Kyunsu Township.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo looks into regional development…

(from page 16)

education, health, agriculture and transportation requirements of the region. He then elaborated on exercising of legislative, executive and judicial powers in compliance with the constitution, stability of the State and rule of law, bringing armed conflicts to an end and building lasting peace, improvement in international relations and economic cooperation, rural development and poverty alleviation, and promotion of education and health standards. He then enquired the attendees about the regional conditions with cordiality.

The Vice-President and party then went to Kyunsu Township Hospital where he inspected the land plot for extension of the hospital and operation theatre of the hospital. Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint contributed K 2 million to the medical funds of the hospital.

The Vice-President and party then visited Kyunsu Township Basic Education High School. He viewed students learning their lessons and condition of classrooms. Deputy Education Minister U Aye Kyu donated K 2 million to the school.

The Vice-President and party then went back to Myeik by craft and proceeded to Myeik University. At the conference room of the university, the Vice-President met rectors, professors and lecturers of Myeik Technological University, Myeik University of Computer Studies and Myeik University. He explained plans for promotion of national education, calling for a shift to teaching methods designed to encourage student's creativity and curiosity. He also urged them to teach what is practical for the life and work, stressing the need for mastery of specialized subjects.

The Vice-President and party then went to BEHS (branch) of Myeiktaung Myothit where he inspected the land plot for extension of the school and gave necessary instructions.

The Vice-President and party then flew to Bokpyin from there and met departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders at Thabyay Hall of Bokpyin Township.

Bokpyin Township administrator U Nyunt Tin reported to the Vice-President on facts about the region and regional development tasks, followed by reports of two senior citizens on education and transportation requirements of the region. Region Acting Chief Minister U Myat Ko made a supplementary report.

The Vice-President then coordinated with the ministries concerned to fulfill the education, health, agriculture and transportation requirements of the region. He then gave a detailed account of current political, economic, social conditions and international relations of the country.

The Vice-President then went to Bokpyin Township BEHS and coordinated with the Education Ministry for renovation of the school. Deputy Education Minister U Aye Kyu presented K 2 million to the school.

The Vice-President and party viewed irrigation system—piping of torrents from the waterfall—in oil-palm plantation of South Dagon Oil-Palm Cultivation Project. The Vice-President then went to basic education primary school in the farm opened for offspring of oil-palm workers where 420 students including over 100 locals are pursuing education. The Vice-President looked round the classrooms and mess. He coordinated with the Education Ministry to upgrade the school into BEMS level in consideration of the students for their continued learning.

The Vice-President then inspected the 20-bed worker's hospital of the farm and observed production process at South Dagon raw oil mill. South Dagon Oil-palm Cultivation Project was launched on 15 May, 1999 and the project area covers 13245 acres. So far, 8646 acres have been under oil-palm plantation and palm

(See page 9)

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo at raw oil mill of South Dagon Oil-Palm Cultivation Project.

MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects Basic Education High School of Kyunsu Township.

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo looks into regional development…

(from page 8)

trees are bearing fruits on 6097 acres of plantation. One acre of oil-palm yields 6.7 tons of fruits and the average weight of a bunch of fruits is 6.65 viss.

The raw oil mill with capacity of 7.5 tons of oil per hour was built in 2002, followed by another mill in 2006 which can produces 30 tons per hour. The oil-palm trees started to bear fruits in 2003-2004 and 186066.73 tons of fruits have yielded and 38896 tons of oil has been produced till December last year.

The project has workforce of 1008 and 2023 in total including the families of workers who were properly accommodated with access to electricity and water.

For the workers families and the locals as well, the management of the project has constructed hospital, school and low-priced commodity shops and sports grounds in addition to roads and bridges for regional development. There is also a jetty open to the locals apart from works of the project.

The Vice-President and party then went back to Myeik in the evening.

MNA

Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, meets WAO, MMCWA of Taninthayi Region

***Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, donates cash to Taninthayi Region, District and Township Women's Affairs Organizations and Maternal and Child Welfare Association*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, met members of Region, District and Township Women's Affairs Organizations and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Taninthayi Region in Dawei on 23 January.

She extended greetings.

Chairpersons of the Region WAO and MMCWA explained about functioning and strength of members.

Daw Khin Saw Hnin presented cash donations to the organizations through officials.—*MNA*

Pakistani President-led delegation concludes visit to Myanmar

YANGON, 25 Jan— A Pakistani delegation led by Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistani President, arrived in Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw by special flight at 12: 45 pm today.

They were welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, regional ministers and officials concerned at Yangon International Airport.

The Pakistani delegation paid respects to King Zafar Shah's Tomb situated on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township.

In the evening, on their departure at Yangon International Airport, the delegation was seen off by the Chief Minister, the regional ministers, Pakistani Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Qazi M. Khalilullah and officials concerned.—*MNA*

***Pakistani President Mr. Asif Ali Zardari and delegation pay tributes to King Zafar Shah's Tomb on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township.*—MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee Chairman receives Executive Director of Geneva-based ILO Office

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo received Executive Director Mr Guy Ryder and party of Geneva-based ILO Office at the Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Hall No. 1 of Hluttaw Building, here, this morning.

They discussed endeavours of Hluttaws for the State and the people, realization of the people's wishes by the government, the Hluttaw and political parties, emphasizing the provisions of ILO by Myanmar being its member, and undertakings of the Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee. Also present at the call were Secretary of the Committee U Tin Maung Win and committee members.

MNA

Despite cold weather, Chaungtha Beach remains a unique destination

Although temperature in Chaungtha Beach dipped since second week of January, it is still receiving more and more visitors at weekends.

Night temperatures in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions went down and are not expected to rise till the end of February. An official of Meteorology and Hydrology Department forecasted that especially delta will continue to endure the extreme temperatures till the end of February.

Despite concerns of the local people over cold temperature, squalls in coastal region, there is no possibility of storm. According to hotels in Chaungtha Beach, many holidaymakers are flooding into the beach resort. Many visitors flock the mostly visited site by local visitors on weekends and public holidays. Some make a day trip from Yangon.

"Visitors are very much interested why the weather is so cold and breezy. The number of visitors does not decline and even soars on holidays. Most of them could not touch the sea as it is chilly and windy. On their vacation at the beach, they rest and taste local foods as always," a staff of Max Hotel said.

Chaungtha Beach is a holiday destination for local visitors due to its easy and cheap accommodation while Ngwehsaung Beach is receiving tourists.

Current extreme temperature is usual once two weeks. C old wind from India enters Myanmar as its sea immediate to India is losing temperature, chilling the delta. The area came under the spell of cold weather from 13 to 18 January. The temperature increased later. It is forecasted to repeat on 27 and 28 January. Lower Myanmar and many other regions also endured the fall in night temperature, following entrance of cold squalls from India.

Translation: HKA

(Myanma Alin: 25-1-2012)

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Holidaymakers enjoy themselves at Chaungtha Beach in Ayeyawady Region.

Iran: EU oil sanctions 'unfair' and 'doomed to fail'

TEHERAN, 25 Jan — Iran has said an oil embargo adopted by European Union foreign ministers over the country's nuclear programme is "unfair" and "doomed to fail". The measures would not prevent Iran's "progress for achieving its basic rights", foreign ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said. The sanctions ban all new oil contracts with Iran and freeze the assets of Iran's central bank in the EU.

Catherine Ashton: "There is no question that if Iran responds positively the sanctions can eventually be lifted"
INTERNET

The EU currently buys about 20% of Iran's oil exports. "European officials and other countries which are under America's political pressure... should consider their national interests and not deprive themselves of Iran's oil to help US officials achieve their secret aims," Mr Mehmanparast added.

He accused the US of trying to create "problems with energy supply requirements in countries which are America's economic rivals". US President Barack Obama has welcomed the EU sanctions, saying they show international unity against the "serious threat" posed by Iran's nuclear programme.
Internet

French Guiana gold diggers killed in gun battle

DORLIN , 25 Jan — Nine gold diggers have been killed in a gunfight between rival gangs at a remote site in French Guiana, say police in the territory. The clash happened early on Saturday in the Dorlin area, which is well-known for illegal gold panning. It coincided with a visit by President Nicolas Sarkozy to French Guiana, which is an overseas department of France in South America.

He promised to step up the fight against illegal gold prospectors. In addition to the nine people killed, two others were injured in the violence, say police in the capital, Cayenne. The clashes were between two groups fighting for control of the area. "This is a gang which possesses assault rifles, weapons of war," a police commander, Colonel Didier Laumont, told the *AFP* news agency.

President Sarkozy was informed of the shoot-out during a visit to a police station where he was shown a presentation on illegal gold extraction.

On display was equipment seized by the police from illegal gold prospectors, including guns. The authorities in French Guiana estimate that between five and 10 tonnes of gold are extracted illegally in the territory each year. By contrast only three tonnes are produced legally.
Internet

LA arson suspect pleads not guilty

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan— A German man pleaded not guilty Tuesday to 100 counts of arson-related charges for dozens of fires set in the Los Angeles area between 30 Dec and 2 Jan. Harry Burkhart, 24, could face more than 80 years in prison if found guilty of the charges, which include 75 counts of arson, 19 counts of arson of an inhabited dwelling, two counts of arson of an uninhabited dwelling, two counts of attempt to burn and two counts of possession of flammable materials, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

Burkhart has been connected to 49 of the 51 fires that took place during the New Year's weekend in the Los Angeles area, officials said. Investigators said they connected the suspect to the fires through DNA evidence, as well as a photo of a device he threw out when he entered the German Consulate. Witnesses have also identified Burkhart as being near the scene of some of the fires.

LA police said Burkhart was motivated by the recent imprisonment of his mother, who was facing deportation, and federal immigration officials said they believe Burkhart's visa was due to expire 18 Jan.—*Internet*

President Sarkozy, who is visiting French Guiana, was shown equipment seized from gold diggers.
INTERNET

The remains of a 300-year-old warship are to be raised from the sea bed, according to reports. —INTERNET

HMS Victory 'set to be recovered' from seabed

LONDON , 25 Jan — The remains of a 300-year-old warship are to be raised from the sea bed, according to reports. The wreck of HMS Victory, a predecessor of Nelson's famous flagship, was found near the Channel Islands in 2008.

The British warship, which went down in a storm in 1744 killing more than 1,000 sailors, could contain gold coins worth an estimated £500m. *The Sunday Times* says the Maritime Heritage Foundation is set to manage the wreck's raising. It also reports that the charity will employ Odyssey Marine Exploration to carry out the recovery. The American company found the ship four years ago, with the ship's identity confirmed by a bronze cannon.

The newspaper says the guns and other reclaimed artefacts will be displayed in British museums, but under the laws of salvage Odyssey is likely to receive the bulk of any treasure found. A Ministry of Defence spokeswoman said: "Efforts to protect key parts of British Naval history such as the wreck of HMS Victory 1744 are very welcome and we hope to make an announcement shortly."
Internet

New Zealand whale stranding kills 36, threatens 40

WELLINGTON, 25 Jan— A mass-stranding of whales on a New Zealand beach has left 36 of the creatures dead and threatens 40 more. Department of Conservation area manager John Mason said 99 pilot whales stranded themselves Monday on Farewell Spit on the South Island. By Tuesday, 36 whales had died and another 40 remained stranded and were still in danger.

Mason said conservation staff and volunteers had successfully refloated 17 whales, which had swum out to deeper water. Another six whales remained unaccounted for. The 40 beached whales were briefly swimming in shallow water early Tuesday afternoon but became stranded again by the evening as the tide went out. Mason said volunteers would try to keep the whales cool and wet until dark. He said after that, all they could hope for was that the whales would swim away on the next high tide during the night.

Pilot whales grow to about 20 feet (6 metres) and regularly strand themselves in large numbers during the New Zealand summer months. Experts describe Farewell Spit as a whale trap due to the way its shallow waters seem to confuse whales and diminish their ability to navigate.
Internet

6-year-old girl missing in frigid Oregon river

ESTACADA, 25 Jan—An Oregon man raced along the rain-swollen Clackamas River but couldn't keep up with his 6-year-old daughter who had fallen into the stream and was swept downriver, authorities said. Rescue workers searched without success Monday for Vinesa Snegur, who fell into the river Sunday afternoon. The waterway is running fast and cold from a recent winter storm.

About 50 ground searchers and divers suspended their search at nightfall Monday. A helicopter with thermal imaging equipment also was used to scan the river. The Clackamas County sheriff's office said the search would resume on Tuesday."It was just a second of inattention," sheriff's Sgt James Rhodes said of the little girl's fall, explaining that her father turned away, "then splash, and she fell in.

He ran and tried to keep up with her, but he was unable to."Rhodes said the girl and her parents, Igor and Marina Snegur, are from southeast Portland and drove Sunday to play in the snow.

They parked near Austin Hot Springs in the Mount Hood National Forest where a road is close to the stream.

The spot is about 60 miles southeast of Portland. There's no cell service, and the family couldn't call for help until they got to a phone at a ranger station an hour later, Rhodes said.
Internet

Dualit coffee machines . — INTERNET

Dualit has over twenty years experience in the production of coffee machines

LONDON , 25 Jan — Dualit has been manufacturing for the British Market for 65 years and has always been in touch with what British people want. Dualit has over twenty years experience in the production of coffee machines. They've honed their skills in the field and combined them with their manufacturing and design expertise. Dualit make quality product and their coffee machines are durable and design-led. It's tricky to know which coffee machine would best suit you, especially if this is your first purchase. You know the coffee machine you choose has to fit seamlessly into your lifestyle, but how do you know which one that is?Dualit have devised coffee machines to match every kind of coffee drinking personality. Their coffee makers are a reflection of your needs. When the match is right, it's perfect. —*Internet*

Flights rerouted as massive solar storm slams Earth

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan— Solar radiation from a massive sun storm — the largest in nearly a decade — collided with the Earth's atmosphere on Tuesday, prompting an airline to reroute flights and skywatchers to seek out spectacular light displays.

US carrier Delta Air Lines said it had adjusted flight routes for transpolar journeys between Asia and the United States to avoid problems caused by the radiation storm, a spokesman said.

NASA confirmed the coronal mass ejection (CME) began colliding with Earth's magnetic field around 10:00 AM (1500 GMT) Tuesday, adding that the storm was now being considered the largest since October 2003.

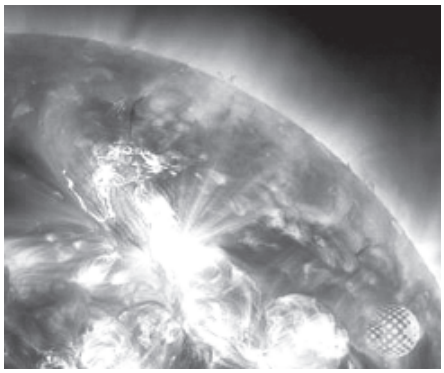
Radiation storms are not harmful to humans, on Earth at least, according to the US space agency. They can, however, affect satellite operations and short wave radio.

The storm's radiation, likely to continue bombarding Earth's atmosphere through Wednesday, and its possible disruption to satellite communications in the polar regions prompted the flight rerouting, airline officials said.

Atlanta-based Delta, the world's second largest airline, said "a handful" of routes had their journey adjusted "based on potential impact" of the solar storm on communications equipment, spokesman Anthony Black told *AFP*.

Routes from Hong Kong, Shanghai and Seoul took a more southerly route after the solar flare erupted on Sunday.

The airline said it would continue to monitor solar activity before return flights to their normal routes.—*Internet*



***This 23 January, 2012 image provided by NASA, captured by the Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO), shows an M9-class solar flare erupting on the Sun's northeastern hemisphere at 03:49 UT.—*INTERNET**

Latest avalanches in northeastern Afghanistan kill eight

FAYZABAD, (Afghanistan), 25 Jan—Two new avalanches in northeastern Afghanistan have killed at least eight more people, including a pregnant woman, provincial officials said on Tuesday. It comes just a week after a series of avalanches killed more than 40 others.

One of the two latest avalanches occurred on Sunday in the Barikab Pass in Badakhshan, a remote and mountainous province which faces severe snow every year between October and April. The second avalanche happened in the Yaftal Bala area on the outskirts of Fayzabad.

In the Barikab Pass, a group was buried when they were transporting two pregnant women to the Badakhshan Civil Hospital. A governor's spokesman said the avalanche killed three men, two children and a pregnant woman. The second pregnant woman was rescued by locals.

In the second avalanche, in the Yaftal Bala area, two more people were killed while a third person was injured.

Earlier this month, on 16 January, at least 41 people were killed and more than 60 others were injured when a series of avalanches devastated villages in the province. More than 500 houses are believed to have been buried under the snow, including up to 80 houses in Zech village alone.

Internet

***In this photo, Afghan villagers search for avalanche victims in Raghistan, Badakhshan Province, north of Kabul, Afghanistan.—*INTERNET**

***Pounding rains continue to flood homes and isolate towns in Australia.—*INTERNET**

New floods hit northeastern Australia

SYDNEY, 25 Jan— Flooding in northeastern Australia caused thousands of homes to lose power on Tuesday and prompted authorities to start evacuations, around a year after deadly floods devastated the region.

Up to a dozen homes were evacuated on Brisbane's northern outskirts as Australia's third-largest city was hit by heavy rain, reports said, and authorities urged more people to leave their homes.

Almost 10,000 homes were blacked out and rising waters forced the closure of roads in Brisbane, which ground to a halt for several days in early 2011 due to flooding.

Last year's floods inundated tens of thousands of homes, wiped out huge tracts of farmland, crippled the coal mining industry and killed some 35 people. It was followed by a top-strength cyclone, which worsened damage.

In Brisbane on Tuesday, a waterfront childcare centre had to be evacuated, and three people swam to safety after their car was flooded, television network the ABC said.

Internet

Iraqi authorities hang 34 people in a single day

BAGHDAD, 25 Jan—More than 30 people were executed by Iraqi authorities on Thursday following their conviction for various crimes, the United Nations reported on Tuesday. It is the largest number of confirmed executions within a single day in years.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said she was shocked to learn that 34 people, including two women, were executed in Iraq on Thursday. "Even if the most scrupulous fair trial standards were observed, this would be a terrifying number of executions to take place in a single day," she said.

The United Nations believes at least 1,200 people have been sentenced to death in Iraq since 2004, but the government is reluctant to release official figures. The UN said at least 63 people are thought to have been executed since mid-November of last year.

"Given the lack of transparency in court proceedings, major concerns about due process and fairness of trials, and the very wide range of offences for which the death penalty can be imposed in Iraq, it is a truly shocking figure," Pillay said about Thursday's executions. Iraq lists 48 crimes for which the death penalty can be imposed, including non-fatal crimes such as damage to property.

"Most disturbingly," said Pillay, "we do not have a single report of anyone on death row being pardoned, despite the fact there are well documented cases of confessions being extracted under duress. I call on the Government of Iraq to implement an immediate moratorium on the institution of death penalty."

Tuesday's report comes just two days after Human Rights Watch warned that Iraq risks falling back towards authoritarian rule amid allegations that security forces have tortured detainees at a secret prison, cracked down on freedom of expression and attacked peaceful protesters as well as journalists. Executions were commonly used by the government of Saddam Hussein.

Internet

Fireworks accident kills three in central Thailand

BANGKOK, 25 Jan—At least three people were killed Tuesday night in a fireworks accident in central Thailand's Suphan Buri Province, Thai media reported.

Another 30 people were injured after sparks from a fireworks display for the Chinese New Year set about 50 wooden houses on fire in a nearby residential area, the *Bangkok Post* reported on its website.

Firefighters were still trying to contain the blaze, it added.

Xinhua

Bangkok

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to host TV show

LONDON, 25 Jan—Julian Assange, the founder of the controversial whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks, on Tuesday announced he will be hosting a series of TV specials to interview political figures about 'the world tomorrow'.

WikiLeaks said in a statement that the series. produced by Quick Roll Productions, will begin airing in mid-March in ten weekly half-hour episodes. It said 'initial licensing commitments' cover more than 600 million viewers across cable, satellite and terrestrial broadcast networks but gave no other details. It also asked broadcasters to contact them to license the series.

"Through this series I will explore the possibilities for our future in conversations with those who are shaping it," Assange said in the statement. "Are we heading towards utopia, or dystopia and how we can set our paths? This is an exciting opportunity to discuss the vision of my guests in a new style of show that examines their philosophies and struggles in a deeper and clearer way than has been done before." WikiLeaks said Assange will draw together 'controversial voices' from across the political spectrum to hear their views on the world tomorrow and their ideas on how to secure a brighter future. The website did not say which guests Assange plans to interview on his TV show.

Assange is currently fighting extradition from Britain to Sweden where he faces allegations of sexual molestation, unlawful coercion and rape. A London court dismissed Assange's appeal in November 2011 and he is expected to appeal the ruling in the United Kingdom's highest court next month.

The accusations are unrelated to Assange's work for the whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks which brought diplomatic earthquakes to the United States when it began releasing classified documents it had obtained. Assange has claimed the cases have been politically-linked, arguing that the sexual encounters with the two women in Sweden were consensual.—*Internet*

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(For.Domnern Somgiat & Boonma, Attonerys at Law, Thailand)

Dated. 26 January,2012.

A waitress serves at Huxinting Tea House in the Chenghuang Temple in Shanghai, east China, on 24 Jan, 2012. Many tourists and local residents came to the tea house to drink Yuanbao Tea, or Gold Bullion Tea during the Spring Festival holidays, to make a good wish to the future. —XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DIANA BOLTEN VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIANA BOLTEN VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2012 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 MARTRADE SHIPPING+ TRANSPORT GMBH

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

A girl performs Tiaofan, or flag waving in Jian'ou, southeast China's Fujian Province, on 24 Jan, 2012. Originated from northern Fujian more than 340 years ago, the performance of Tiaofan requires both skills and strength. Jianou is well-known for its unique Tiaofan performances.—XINHUA

Al-Shabaab claims suicide truck bomb attack in central Somalia

MOGADISHU, 25 Jan—Al-Shabaab militants in Somalia on Tuesday claimed responsibility for a suicide truck bomb attack on an Ethiopian military base in the central Somali town of Beledweyn. Although no casualties were confirmed as a result of the attack on the Ethiopian military base, the radical Islamist group said it carried out what it termed as a martyrdom operation and that at least 33 Ethiopian troops were killed in the blast. The claim cannot be independently verified.

The military spokesman for Al-Shabaab, Sheikh Abu Musab, said the attack was successfully carried out as the explosives laden vehicle managed to get into the government building used as a base by the Ethiopian troops.

Witnesses in Beledweyne, 300 km north of the Somali Capital Mogadishu, said a truck laden with explosives speeded to the entrance of the base in the city and a huge explosion erupted causing extensive damage to the building and setting fire to cars inside.

"The small van ran into the building which housed Ethiopian troops and some Somali government and big blast followed which partly destroyed the building," Ali Yare, a resident, told *Xinhua* by phone.

The town of Beledweyne was retaken by allied Ethiopian and Somali government forces from the Islamist fighters in December after two years under Al-Shabaab's control.

Internet

Photo taken on 24 Jan, 2012 shows the beautiful snowscape of Lushan, a famous mountain in Jiujiang City, east China's Jiangxi Province. A snowfall started on 22 Jan, endowing Lushan a special charm.—XINHUA

Deadly landslide strikes Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY, 25 Jan—A deadly landslide dumped tons of rock and dirt on two villages in a mountainous region of Papua New Guinea, burying dozens of people, authorities said. China's official *Xinhua* news agency, quoting local media reports, said Wednesday at least 40 people were killed and another 20 were reported missing in the disaster that struck Tuesday morning while people slept in the island state's Southern Highlands.

Australian Broadcasting Corp quoted witnesses as saying the landslide spread destruction across more than a half mile down a mountainside near Tari. Estimates of the number of people buried in the rubble varied from a few dozen to more than 100. It was not clear what caused the disaster.

Radio New Zealand reported the landslide struck in an area of liquefied natural gas fields.

Pacific Scoop reported rescuers had recovered several bodies. It said initial reports indicated an entire side of nearby mountain had collapsed, cutting off some off the roads.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was reported to have arrived at the scene and other Papua New Guinea officials were expected Wednesday to inspect the damage and set up relief operations. Petroleum and Energy Minister Francis Potape was quoted as telling Radio Australia he feared there could be more landslides as the region remained unstable, *ABC* reported.

"There are people buried under the ground and a number of them are children," he was quoted as saying.—*Xinhua*

A Delta airliner is deiced before take-off in the snow at General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee, USA.—INTERNET

Businessman jailed for asbestos exposure

VANCOUVER, 25 Jan—A Vancouver, British Columbia, businessman was sent to jail for 60 days Tuesday for repeatedly exposing his demolition workers to asbestos.

The sentence meted out to Arthur Moore in British Columbia Supreme Court was considered light but still welcome by Jim Sinclair, president of the British Columbia Federation of Labour.

"Thankfully, at least one time in all the time I've been in this province, an employer is going to jail for basically giving the death sentence to a whole lot of workers," Sinclair said.

The *Canadian Broadcasting Corp* reported the provincial Workers Compensation Board had asked that Moore be given a prison term of six months to one year for his contempt conviction. Moore was found to have ignored court orders he halt all demolition work after failing several times to provide protection for his employees while they handled the cancer-causing material.

Court documents alleged Moore hired recovering addicts to do demolition work where they were exposed to asbestos. Some of his workers were as young as 14.

The *CBC* said Moore, who was arrested in October, operated under various names, including AM Environmental, Tri City Hazmat, Surrey Hazmat and Pro Scan Environmental.

"Over the last few years, he has exposed at least 50 different workers to asbestos products in the demolition," said Lee Loftus, spokesman for the British Columbia and Yukon Building and Construction Trades Council.

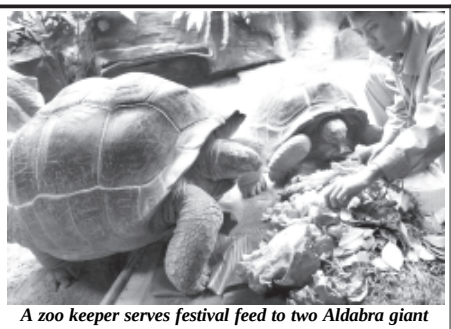
Internet

Sumo brings confidence to 448-pound woman

A 448-pound British woman training with the Japanese national women's sumo wrestling team said the sport taught her to love her body.

Sharran Alexander, 46, of London, said she took up sumo six years ago and used to train with a women's team in Derby, but the team has now shrank so far that she is its sole member, *The Sun* reported Monday.

"There's not many sports women my size can do, so when I found sumo six years ago it changed my life," *The Sun* reported Monday. "I used to be ashamed of my size and wore unflattering clothes — but after taking up sumo up I learned to love my body." Alexander, who has won four gold medals at international sumo competitions, said she is training with the Japanese team this month.



A zoo keeper serves festival feed to two Aldabra giant tortoises at the Shanghai Zoo in east China's Shanghai Municipality, on 22 Jan, 2012, the final run-up to the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Bonnie and Clyde's guns auctioned in Mo

A Missouri auction house said an online bidder won a .45-caliber Thompson submachine gun and a 12-gauge shotgun believed to have belonged to Bonnie and Clyde.

Robert Mayo of Mayo Auction & Realty in Kansas City said the anonymous buyer bid $130,000 for the Tommy gun and $80,000 for the 1897 12-gauge Winchester shotgun said to have belonged to the 1930s gangster couple, the Kansas City (Mo) Star reported Monday.

Mayo said the guns were believed to have been left behind when the bank robbing duo of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow had a shootout with police at their Joplin, Mo, hideout.

"This is a piece of history," Mayo said of the guns.

Hash found in Israeli prison-bound bread

Israeli authorities said the driver of a truck delivering bread to a prison was arrested after 6 ounces of hashish was found stashed inside a loaf.

Investigators said the 56-year-old driver, whose name was not released, was arrested Thursday by Kfar Saba Police when the drug was found stuffed into a loaf of bread that arrived at HaSharon Prison, *Ynetnews* reported Monday.

The driver told police he was not responsible for loading the truck and did not know anything about the hashish. "We always come across different smuggling methods of drugs, weapons and cellular devices — some are carried out through civilian drivers who bring supplies to the prison," said Lt Col Natan Paz, an Israeli Prison Service commander.

"We must not generalize, but some drivers have been involved in such acts. It's usually those drivers who have been persuaded by the prisoners to do the smuggling. We always need to be on the lookout."

Expert: Ballet, yoga good for bull riding

A champion bull rider told children attending a rodeo camp in Texas that ballet and yoga can be helpful training tools for his sport.

Tate Stratton, a two-time competitor in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association World Championship, told the children at the association's rodeo camp Sunday at the Fort Worth Stock Show that ballet and yoga can be a good way to improve strength and balance when training for bull riding, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported Monday.

"I do yoga; it's calming and helps with balance ... . Nerves will get to you," Stratton said. "You have to calm yourself down, relax and not worry about what's about to happen. Then you'll have a better shot at success." Stratton said perseverance is also an important aspect of bull riding. "Nothing is impossible if you desire it enough. It's been proven," he said. "As long as my hand is still in that rope, I still have a chance."

News Album

Dolly announces Nashville park plan

Dolly Parton, a cast member in the motion picture musical comedy "Joyful Noise", attends the premiere of the film at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles on on 9 January, 2012.

INTERNET

NASHVILLE, 25 Jan— Dolly Parton has announced plans for a $50 million water and snow park to be built across from Nashville's Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Centre.

The as-yet-unnamed joint venture between Dollywood and Gaylord Entertainment Co is to open in 2014, *USA Today* said.

"This project is what we need to attract more families and more individuals to Nashville," the *Tennessean* newspaper quoted Nashville Mayor Karl Dean as saying.

"With the business travelling sector already locked up, by adding this component to boost our ability to attract leisure travellers, Nashville is going to be unstoppable as a tourist destination."

Parton can now be seen in the music-themed movie "Joyful Noise."

Internet

Peter Andre has kung-fu ambition

LONDON, 25 Jan—Singer Peter Andre is hoping to get a black belt in kung-fu within a year.

The 38-year-old and his six-year-old son, Junior, are taking lessons in the martial arts sport, reports contactmusic.com.

"Now the kids are back at school, they're back into having Greek lessons, and me and Junior have been having some more kung-fu lessons. We've got a private tutor who comes round to the house - it's brilliant," said Andre.

"I'm hoping to be a black belt by this time next year and Junior wants to reach the child's equivalent. We are not to be messed with," he added.—*Internet*

Singer Peter Andre

Houston in financial crisis

Singer-actress Whitney Houston

LONDON, 25 Jan—Singer-actress Whitney Houston is reportedly facing financial crisis.

The 48-year-old, who recently underwent medical treatment for her cocaine addiction, has allegedly spent all of her fortune and is being financially supported by her record label Arista, reports RadarOnline.com.

"Whitney's fortune is gone. Music industry heavy hitters are supporting her and her label is fronting her cash against her next album, but no one knows when that will be released...She might be homeless if not for people saving her. She is broke as a joke," said a source.—*Internet*

Cheryl Cole planning to get rid of 'Mrs C' tattoo

Cheryl Cole

LONDON, 25 Jan—Cheryl Cole, who ditched her love rat hubby Ashley Cole ages ago, now plans to get her "Mrs C" tattoo lasered or altered.

The former 'X Factor' judge was going to get the tat removed two years ago after splitting with the England ace but changed her mind.

But now, one of her New Year resolutions is to remove the painful inky reminder from the back of her neck.

"Cheryl has been thinking about getting the tattoo lasered or altered for years but she's told friends she's now ready to actually do it," the *Daily Star* quoted a source as saying.

"There's no chance of her getting back with Ashley and she no longer wants the reminder of his cheating ways on her skin.

"She's been looking at ideas and now just needs to decide whether to get it removed or reworked," the source added.

Internet

Jolie plans full-time direction

Actress Angelina Jolie

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan— Actress Angelina Jolie says she won't mind giving up acting and going behind the camera forever, if she doesn't get impressive acting offers.

"I still love acting - if I can find those roles that matter. But if I don't, it's nice to be able to shine the spotlight on another actress your think is extremely talented and give her the spotlight," showbizspy.com quoted Jolie as saying. The 36-year-old made her directorial debut with movie "In the Land of Blood and Honey".

Internet

Lovato on Twitter break

LONDON, 25 Jan—Singer-actress Demi Lovato says she is taking time off from micro-blogging site Twitter to avoid getting herself into "trouble".

The 19-year-old has 5,635,222 followers with whom she shares many issues related to her personal life, including her treatment for an eating disorder, reports contactmusic.com.

In a series of tweets, she wrote: "Can't please everyone...Twitter break. It's for the best actually. Who allows me to have this thing anyways?!!! I just get myself in trouble! Haha. Anyway...BYE!(sic)"

Internet

Singer-actress Demi Lovato

Mali edge past Guinea in west African derby

Guinea's forward Ibrahima Traore (L) vies with Malia's Adama Tamboura during the African Cup of Nations (CAN) football match Malia vs Guinea at the Stade de Franceville. Mali won the match 1-0.
INTERNET

GABON, 25 Jan—Mali edged neighbours Guinea 1-0 in the west African derby at the Africa Cup of Nations here on Tuesday evening.

It was a case of history repeating itself as Mali also triumphed when both countries last clashed at this level in the 2004 edition of the competition in Tunisia.

"We are very disappointed with this result. We were not lucky and that's why I'm disappointed," said Guinea coach Michel Dussuyer.

"We played better in the second half, but we failed to score. We needed to be more precise, more accurate in front of goal.

"But I still believe we can do something against Botswana and Ghana in our next two games."

Mali coach Alain Giresse said it was important to win the opening game of the competition.

"It was important to start well and so three points was the best thing for us. We are satisfied," said the Frenchman.

"We controlled the first half, but thereafter we made some mistakes and Guinea were good and had some possibilities to equalise."

Internet

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho gives a Press conference on the eve of the Spanish Cup "El clasico" football match against Barcelona. Mourinho is fed up with bad relations in the dressing room and repeated losses to Barcelona and wants to leave at the end of the season, according to the sporting Press.
INTERNET

Mourinho 'wants to leave Real Madrid'

MADRID, 25 Jan—Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho is fed up with bad relations in the dressing room and repeated losses to Barcelona and wants to leave at the end of the season, the sporting press said on Tuesday.

"Mourinho has let it be known to the people around him that he would like to leave before 30 June," said the front-page headline of Madrid-based *sports daily AS.*

On the same page, splashed alongside a photo of a grumpy looking Mourinho in black tracksuit, the paper added: "Mr Indispensable becomes Mr Mysterious."

Barcelona-based *daily Mundo Deportivo* said the story that emerged of Mourinho's possible exit at the end of the season would not be his first such threat.

Mourinho used the same tactic to convince the club to give him an extra striker last season, Mundo Deportivo said.

According to *AS*, Mourinho met after Real Madrid's victory over Athletic Bilbao on Sunday with Real Madrid president Florentino Perez and managing director Jose Angel Sanchez.

"The Portuguese told those close to him that at the end of the season he is going, whatever happens," the paper said.

Internet

Fiorentina sign exiled Amauri from Juventus

ROME, 25 Jan—Italo-Brazilian striker Amauri has joined Fiorentina from Juventus for a reported fee of 500,000 euros, the two clubs announced on Tuesday.

Amauri has not featured for the 'Old Lady of Turin' this season since being frozen out of the first-team picture for refusing various moves over the summer, including transfers to French side Marseille and Turkiush outfit Trabzonspor.

The striker joined the Turin-based side from Palermo in 2008 but lost his place in the starting lineup last season and was sent on loan to Parma in January for the remainder of the 2010-11 campaign.

Born in Brazil, the 31-year-old gained Italian citizenship in April 2010 and made his only appearance for Italy in a friendly against the Ivory Coast in August that same year.

Internet

Italo-Brazilian striker Amauri, pictured in 2009, has joined Fiorentina from Juventus for a reported fee of 500,000 euros, the two clubs announced on Tuesday.
INTERNET

Barcelona will play natural game, says Guardiola

BARCELONA, 25 Jan—Barcelona manager Pep Guardiola said Tuesday that if his side was content to simply "play for a result" in Wednesday's second leg of their Spanish Cup quarter-final against holders Real Madrid they would be knocked out.

Having come from a goal down to win the first leg 2-1, Guardiola insisted Barca, who lost to Real in the final last season, would only be thinking about victory in front of their own supporters.

***FC Barcelona's coach Pep Guardiola gives a Press conference at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on the eve of the Spanish Cup "El clasico" football match Barcelona vs Real Madrid.—*INTERNET**

"If we only play for the result, they will eliminate us for sure. I understand playing for a result in the last five minutes, but not before. We can't play by just looking at the scoreboard. We will have to again play a very good match. "I imagine a very tight quarter-final, where the two sides will have chances to go through.

Internet

Nadal, Federer to meet in Australian Open semis

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan—The intensity was vintage Rafael Nadal.

On the stroke of midnight, he thrust his arms up and punched the air, sealing the victory that sets up the most anticipated semifinal at the Australian Open in quite some time.

Roger Federer did his part to put this in place. In the previous match on Rod Laver Arena, he beat 2009 US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 in a quarterfinal marking his 1,000th tour-level match.

A Federer-Nadal semifinal had been looming since the draw for the season's first major — the first time the pair have been in the same half at a Grand Slam tournament since 2005.

Playing with a new racket and a heavily taped right knee, Nadal was at his demonstrative best, rallying after losing the first set to beat Tomas Berdych 6-7 (5), 7-6(6), 6-4, 6-3.—*Internet*

Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts during a break in his quarterfinal against Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, on 24 Jan, 2012.
INTERNET

Sharapova, Kvitova set up Aussie Open semifinal

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan—Former and reigning Wimbledon winners Maria Sharapova and Petra Kvitova will meet in the Australian Open semifinals after both won in straight sets on Wednesday.

Sharapova won 6-2, 6-3 against fellow Russian Ekaterina Makarova, who knocked out five-time champion Serena Williams in the previous round.

Kvitova earlier reached the semifinals at Melbourne Park for the first time with a 6-4, 6-4 win over unseeded Italian Sara Errani.

Kvitova beat Sharapova in last year's Wimbledon final to claim her first Grand Slam title.

"Obviously it was a tough one at Wimbledon," Sharapova said. "She's full of confidence and playing the best tennis right now. I look forward to it."

Sharapova and Kvitova also kept alive their chances of claiming the top ranking, which Caroline Wozniacki will vacate on Monday after her quarterfinal loss to Kim Clijsters.

The fourth-seeded Sharapova must repeat her 2008 Australian title win. Kvitova only has to match or better the run of Victoria Azarenka, the only other player still in the running this week for the No 1 spot.

***Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a return to Ekaterina Makarova of Russia during their women's singles quarter-final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 25 Jan, 2012.—*INTERNET**

Sharapova has dropped one set and lost 21 games en route to her first Australian Open semifinal since she won the 2008 final — the last of her three major titles.

"It's been a long road back to this stage," said Sharapova, who spent 10 months off court with a shoulder injury that required surgery later in 2008.—*Internet*

Second string Juve outclass full strength Roma

ROME, 25 Jan—Juventus maintained their unbeaten record in all competitions this season as despite fielding a second string side they overwhelmed a full strength AS Roma 3-0 in their Italian Cup quarter-final on Tuesday.

Emanuele Giaccherini set them on their way in the sixth minute as the vertically challenged Italian international forward broke the offside trap to score his second goal in as many matches, having hit the back of the net against Atalanta on Saturday.

Veteran Juventus icon Alessandro Del Piero doubled their lead in the 30th minute, the 37-year-old unleashing an unstoppable shot into the left hand corner of Maarten Stekelenburg's goal. Roma didn't improve their chances of a comeback when they were reduced to 10 men in the 68th minute, Argentinian Erik Lamela being sent from the pitch after fouling Giaccherini right in front of the linesman.

Fabio Quagliarella set up Alessandro Matri for Juventus's third in the final minute of the match and set up a semi-final against the winners of Thursday's tie between AC Milan and Lazio.

Internet

Juventus' midfielder Emanuele Giaccherini celebrates after scoring during the Italian serie A football match between Atalanta and Juventus at Atleti stadium in Bergamo.
INTERNET

International Sports

US women top Mexico 4-0, on to do-or-die semis

VANCOUVER, 24 Jan— The US women's soccer team was still on the field, having dispatched rival Mexico, when Abby Wambach gathered her teammates for a little speech.

The message: "We haven't done anything yet."

The Americans avenged one of their most shocking losses Tuesday night, and did so emphatically. A pair of early goals put to rest any notion of another upset by the neighbor to the south, and Carli Lloyd scored her first international hat trick in a 4-0 victory that clinched first place in the Americans' group and put them a major step closer to the London Olympics.

But hang on. Next up is the one game in this tournament that matters most, the London-or-bust semifinal against Costa Rica on Friday. The winner gets one of the two available berths for the Olympics; the loser stays home.

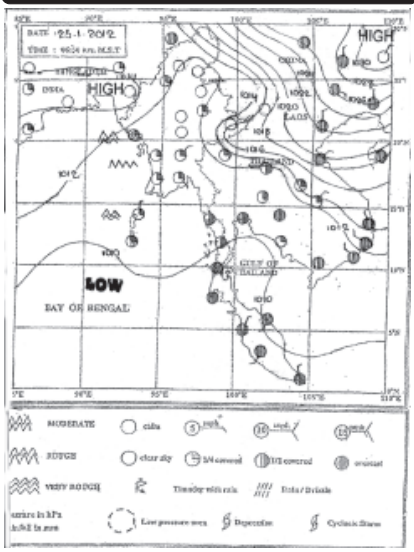
"The next game is the game that we need to be prepared for, and that matters the most," goalkeeper Hope Solo said.

***USA's Heather O'Reilly (9) celebrates her goal against Mexico during the first half of CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying soccer at BC Place in Vancouver, British Columbia Tuesday, 24 Jan 2012.—*INTERNET**

"She made sure that we didn't celebrate too much today." Wambach and her teammates remember all too well the sting from a 2-1 defeat against Mexico in Cancun in a World Cup qualifier 14 months ago, the only time in 28 tries the Mexicans have beaten the Americans. That loss forced the U.S. into a backdoor playoff just to qualify for the World Cup — and served as a wakeup call that the top-ranked team in the world can't take important games for granted any more.

Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather for 26th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F) Maximum	Minimum	For Tomorrow Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	26/79	09/48	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	30/86	04/39	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	35/95	17/63	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	18/64	-01/30	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	26/79	10/50	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	32/90	13/55	Generally fair weather	
7	Tanintharyi	34/93	20/68	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	33/91	15/59	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	32/90	12/54	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	30/86	13/55	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	34/93	19/66	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	35/95	15/59	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	29/84	13/55	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	25/77	08/46	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	26/79	04/39	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	28/82	07/45	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	32/90	18/64	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	34/93	11/52	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	15/59	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	13/55	Generally fair weather	
Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, light rain has been isolated in Tanintharyi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (5°C) below January average temperatures in Chin and Kayah States, (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Regions, Eastern Shan and Rakhine States, (3°C) above January average temperatures in Tanintharyi Region and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Haka (-1°C), Loilem and Pinlaung (0°C) each, Namhsam and Hebo (1°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Kawthoung (0.08) inch.				
Bay Inference	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 Myanmar waters.				
Outlook for subsequent two days.	Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar Areas.				

DISTRICT NEWS

Bhamo Township gets rural health centre

BHAMO, 24 Jan—A new building of rural health centre was opened in Maubin Village-tract of Bhamo Township on 3 January morning.

Medical Superintendent Dr Win Aung of Bhamo General Hospital and officials formally opened the centre.

The village administrator handed over documents related to the rural health centre comprising a delivery room and laboratory to officials of the Health Department.

The rural health centre provides health care services to local people of 15 villages.—*District IPRD*

Talks on drug disadvantages given

YANGON, 24 Jan—Yangon Region Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Dagon Myothit (East) Township Police Force jointly organized an educative talk on disadvantages of drugs and pill abuse at Basic Education High School No. 2 (Branch) of No 3 Department of Basic Education in Dagon Myothit (East) Township on 17 January.

Director (Education) of No. 3 DEB U Thein San Aung made a speech. Officials talked disadvantages of drugs and pill abuse.

Education

Health care given to the aged

PATHEIN, 24 Jan—A specialist team led by Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Tin Tin Wai of Pathein General Hospital comprising an orthopaedic specialist, ear, a nose and throat specialist, eye specialist, a dental specialist and two physicians provided medical check-up to 40 older persons of Settawya Home for the Aged in Pathein on 14 January and gave medical treatments to them.

Moreover, they donated pharmaceuticals and clothes to the aged.

Myanma Alin

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(26-1-12 09:30 am ~ 27-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Overseas Transmission

* News
* A Village Where Old Traditions Prevail
* Let's Go and Enjoy Nature's Beauty
* News
* Ayeyawady ... not a Divider Ayeyawady Bridge(Sinkan) (Part - I)
* News
* Ayeyawady ... not a Divider Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkan) (Part - II)
* Music Gallery
* 2nd Solo Show of Artist Shwe Kyaw Lin
* Youth of The Future (Graffiti)
* Against All Odds
* Record Album
* MI People's Celebrities "Chit Thu Wai"
* Daw Sein Poe D and Her Journey of Arts
* Visitation to Mawlamyine" (Part - II)
* Myanmar Movies ''Twin Brothers In Different Lives"

MYANMAR TV

(26-1-2012) (Thursday)

4:00 pm
1. Martial Song

4:10 pm
2. Musical Programme

4:20 pm
3. Cute Little Dancers

4:30 pm
4. One Village & One Product

4:45 pm
5. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

4:55 pm
6. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Botany)

5:10 pm
7. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:25 pm
8. Music Series

5:40 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

Murray joins Nadal, Federer in Aussie semis

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan—Andy Murray did his part to enforce the status quo in men's tennis, as have Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. Now it's up to Novak Djokovic to ensure that the top four players get through to the Australian Open semifinals. The fourth-ranked Murray joined Nadal and Federer in the Australian Open final four on Wednesday when the British hope beat Kei Nishikori of Japan 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.

Next up Wednesday on Rod Laver Arena, No 1-ranked Djokovic will attempt to join the players ranked Nos 2-4 with a quarterfinal win over fifth-seeded David Ferrer.

No 2-ranked Nadal and third-seeded Federer won their quarterfinal matches on Tuesday to set up their first Grand Slam semifinal meeting since the 2005 French Open.

It has been rarely possible since because the pair held the top two spots for most of the time between 2005 and 2010, meaning they could only meet in the finals.

Murray, for his part, is also surprised to be not facing Nadal in the semifinals.

"It has been amazing, I pretty much drew to be in Nadal's half ... almost every Slam," Murray said. "I can't remember the last time I wasn't in his half of the draw. It's been a long time.

"It doesn't make a huge difference. Not like the match on Friday's going to be easy, because Novak's obviously playing great tennis and David's excellent, as well. It doesn't change too much." He said the scoreline against Nishikori didn't reflect the challenge in the first two sets, which included a 42-shot rally in the second game.

"That was a long point. ... Right after the point I thought I'm going to quit this match," Nishikori said, smiling. "After a couple games, I was OK."—*Internet*

***Andy Murray of Britain hits a forehand return to Kei Nishikori of Japan during their quarterfinal at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, on 25 Jan, 2012.—*INTERNET**

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Indian Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.—*MNA*

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Australian Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26th January 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.—*MNA*

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo felicitates Indian Vice President

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2012, Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India.—*MNA*

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham sends message of felicitations to Indian Vice President

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2012, Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India.—*MNA*

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo looks into regional development in Kyunsu, Bokpyin townships

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and party visited Kyunsu and Bokpyin townships in Tanintharyi Region yesterday.

On arrival at Kyunsu wharf from Myeik by watercraft, the Vice-President and party were welcomed by departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townselders.

The Vice-President met departmental officials, members of social organizations and senior citizens at Kyun Yadana Hall of Kyunsu Township.

Kyunsu Township administrator U Aung Moe reported to the Vice-President on facts about the region and regional development undertakings. Region Acting Chief Minister U Myat Ko made a supplementary report.

Next, some senior citizens reported on requirements of health, transportation and regional development of the region. Union ministers and deputy ministers explained duties and affordable assistance of ministries concerned for regional development.

The Vice-President then coordinated with the ministries concerned to fulfill the

(See page 8)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo views learning of students at Basic Education Primary School for children of oil palm workers from South Dagon Oil Palm Cultivation Project in Bokpyin.—MNA

Significant night temperatures (25-1-2012)

Haka	(-1°C)
Loilem	(0°C)
Pinlaung	(0°C)
Namhsam	(1°C)
Heho	(1°C)

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and party

PAGE 2

Sumatran elephants could be extinct in 30 years

PAGE 5

Chemicals linked to lower vaccine response in children

PAGE 4

Mali edge past Guinea in west African derby

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