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True patriotism

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

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

For the people to be able to earn their livelihoods democratically or independently in accord with the law, democracy cause and human rights are being promoted in line with the constitution

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein sent a message to the Speakers of the third regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw and the third regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw which commenced today. The following is the translation of the message.

To

Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw/Amyotha Hluttaw

Subject: Sending Message

1. I wish good health and happiness to the Speakers of the third regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw/Amyotha Hluttaw, which has commenced to make discussions and negotiations in the interests of the nation and the people, and all Hluttaw representatives.

2. As the Hluttaw Speakers and representatives are earnestly discussing and deciding legislative and policy affairs in the interests of the nation and the people, the Union Government and region and state governments are also working steadfastly in accord with the policy programmes of the new Union Government laid down at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30-3-2011.

3. As promised to the nation and the people, the government is striving its utmost for prevalence of State peace and stability, the rule of law and national reconsolidation, promoting of democratic practices, emergence of good governance and clean government, enabling the people to have the fundamental rights of a citizen, raising of education and health standards, reformation of the economy, development of socio-economy of the nation and the people and environmental conservation tasks.

4. Particularly, we are placing greater emphasis on prevalence of State peace and stability, emergence of a modern, developed nation, development of socio-economy of the people and enabling the people to earn their living democratically or independently in accord with the law.

5. As for State peace and stability, different policies are being exercised based on the nation's prevailing conditions and lessons of the past so as to ensure eternal peace in the Union. Talks and negotiations have been held with the 11 national race armed groups, which have not yet made peace with the government. Out of them, preliminary peace agreements have been signed with six groups. And negotiation with the remaining groups is under way. Overall, we are taking good strides in our peace process. So, we will make continued efforts for ensuring lasting peace.

6. In order to forge national unity for State peace and stability, efforts have been made sidelining different views and seeking common ground in the interests of the people. Moreover, we have taken necessary measures to ensure all-inclusiveness in national political processes. We have also extended our invitation to the citizens living abroad for various reasons to be able to participate in nation-building endeavours. As a result, national consolidation has improved with internal political stability.

7. With a view to developing the State and improving people's socio-economy, we are steadfastly working on reforming the social, economic, education, health and agricultural sectors. We are reviewing our monetary, financial, trade and investment policies and taking necessary reform measures with accelerated momentum in order to reform and develop the

whole economic structure of the nation. In particular, we are taking steps to create sound environments so that more foreign investments can flow into the nation. In addition, procedures and formalities are being relaxed for the convenience and development of trade and export/import activities.

8. In accordance with one of the provisions of the constitution stating that assistance shall be rendered as much as possible to develop the socio-economy of the people, farmers and workers, rural development and poverty alleviation tasks are practically being carried out nationwide. Eight work sectors have been laid down and responsible people are conducting field trips up to the grass-roots areas so as to implement the tasks in cooperation with the rural people.

9. For the people to be able to earn their livelihoods democratically or independently in accord with the law, democracy cause and human rights are being promoted in line with the constitution.

10. While serving the interests of the nation and the people through reform processes in all aspects, extensive measures have been taken as well to promote international relations. And as a result, Myanmar has been in a position to have more amity and understanding with the international community.

11. In successfully reforming the all sectors of the nation for the sake of the people and the nation, we had to promulgate 15 new laws and make amendments and supplements. Now, I would like express my thanks to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for encouraging and supporting the abovementioned tasks including the promulgation of new laws and amendments.

12. We found it difficult to study and make parliamentary procedures when Hluttaws emerged as our nation had been unfamiliar with multi-party democracy system for over 40 years. Yet, thanks to the efficient leadership of Hluttaw Speakers and cooperative efforts of Hluttaw representatives, I am delighted and honoured to see that success has been achieved in passing important new laws, amending and supplementing the existing laws and adopting important policies for the sake of the State and the people.

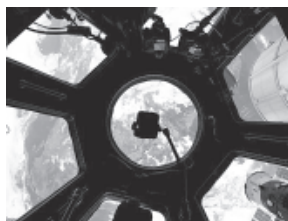
13. Similarly, I sincerely hope that at the third regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw/Amyotha Hluttaw, all the participants will be able to achieve more success in discussing and carrying out legislative affairs, policy affairs and Union affairs essential in the interests of the nation and the people.

14. Our Union Government side by side with the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw will strive for the emergence of a modern, developed democratic nation with worldly values such as justice, freedom and equality and for the long-term existence of the Union.

Sd

Thein Sein
President

Russian cargo vessel takes off for space station



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Suriname forest reveals 46 new species



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Erding relieved at Rennes move from PSG

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Nadal tops Federer in Australian Open semifinal



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PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 27 January, 2012

The land of justice, freedom and equality

Hluttaws are now in session. The message sent to the first day session reads, "Our Union Government side by side with the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw will strive for the emergence of a modern, developed, democratic nation with worldly values such as justice, freedom and equality and for the long-term existence of the Union." National anthem born of Myanmar's independence struggle comes into mind.

Hluttaw sessions, convened once from 31 January to 30 March 2011 and once from 22 August to 25 November 2011 and now, are filled up with justice, freedom and equality. Our people's representatives are discharging duties harmoniously in the interests of our country in the infancy of 11-month-old democracy as they vowed in the national anthem.

The people's representatives enthusiastically discussed and decided legislative and policy issues. Thanks to their harmonious efforts, dramatic reforms in favour of the State and its people were tangible. Consequently, these steps won high praises from its own people and international community.

As pledged its ambitions to the people, the new administration is going through reforms at its best for peace and stability of the State, the rule of law, national reconciliation, flourishing of democratic practices, emergence of good governance and clean government, granting citizens fundamental rights as prescribed in the constitution, improving education and health standards, reviving its economy, enhancing socio-economic prospects of the State and its people and environmental conservation.

Fifteen laws were enacted and amended in the interests of the State and its people as Hluttaws worked in harmony with the government. Hluttaws succeeded in introducing democratic practices to the country, which was in the absence of multiparty democracy system for 40 years.

This is because they have vowed with all their hearts to perpetuate the heritage of the Union and to benefit the State and its people. And these are fruits of capacity, understanding, oneness and keeping the interests of the country and people at the fore.

Maximizing these successes, we hope MPs will continue to bring better future of the land of justice, liberty and equality with a firm belief that they may bring about invaluable happenings in favour of the State and people.

Road To Victory Golf Tournament continues

YANGON, 26 Jan—Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, the Road To Victory Golf Tournament, a qualifier, has been continuing at Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club in Mingalardon Township this morning, aiming at achieving victory at Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012 Golf Tournament to be held from 2 to 5 February, 2012.

After the 18 cups on the third day, Zaw Zaw Latt is leading to the event with 214 strokes, following Naybala Win Myint with 216, Aung Win, 219, Soe Moe Win, 219, Thein Zaw Myint, 220, Myo Win Aung, 220, Soe Kyaw Naing, 222, Naing Ye Lin, 223, Bo Bo, 224, Hla Myo, 224, Naing Naing Lin, 225, Myint Shwe, 226, Zaw Zin Win, 228, Yan Myo Aye, 229, Yin Aung Latt, 230, Maung Maung Oo, 231, Ye Htet Aung, 234, Aung San Win, 235 and Yan Naing Phyo, 239, respectively.

At 10 am of 27 January, the 18 cups for fourth day event is taking place at Yin Golf Club.—MNA

Union Health Minister receives President of The Johns Hopkins University

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—President of The Johns Hopkins University of the United State of America Mr Ron Daniel, Director Professor Karl Jackson and party paid a call on Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin and, at his office here this morning.

They discussed matters related to development of rural health care, giving training for promoting the quality of health staff, supply of medicine and medical equipment, study of public health at Johns Hopkins University, training of medicine, better programme for selection of students at Universities of Medicine, prevention and fight against infectious diseases, prevention and cure of non-infectious diseases, maternal, infant and child health care, nourishment programme, availability of immunization and promotion of immunization programme.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Director-General Dr Than Zaw Myint of Medical Science Department and the deputy directors-general from Health Department.—MNA

Dy L&F Minister inspects construction of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine lab

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye inspected progress in construction of ASEAN-standard vaccine production lab for foot-and-mouth disease with the aid of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in compound of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Insein Township of

Yangon Region on 24 January.

He was conducted around the centre by Director-General Professor Dr Myint Thein and the in-charge of the lab. He met staff at Research and Disease Control Division and called for speeding up preventive measures against blue-ear disease, spreading in neighbouring countries.—MNA

Dy Culture Minister meets Nepalese Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin received Nepalese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ms. Guna Laxmi Sharma at the Ministry of Culture here this morning.

Both sides discussed matters related to bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the field of culture and archaeology.

It was attended by the directors-general and officials concerned of the Ministry of Culture.

MNA

Deputy Culture Minister Daw Sanda Khin receives Nepalese Ambassador Ms. Guna Laxmi Sharma.—MNA



LOCAL SPORTS

Winners in cricket tournament awarded

YANGON, 26 Jan—The prize presentation for the Inter-Basic Education School Cricket Tournament for 2011-2012 academic year, jointly organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation and Yangon Region Basic Education Department, was held here on 24 January.

After the final match, Joint third prize went to Thingangyun BEMS No 3 and Tamway BEHS No 2, the second prize to Mingaladon BEMS No 6 and the first prize to Ahlon BEHS No 4.

President of MCF U Nyunt Win and executives, Staff Officer U Aye Min of BED No. 3 and officials awarded the winners.—MCF

Myanmar Open Chess Tournament commences

YANGON, 26 Jan—The Myanmar Open Chess Tournament, jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Chess Federation, was opened at Aung San Gymnasium, here, yesterday afternoon.

President of Myanmar Chess Federation U Maung Maung Lwin launched the tournament with the first move.

Altogether 146 players are taking part in the tournament that lasts up to 3 February. The outstanding chess players in the tournament will be allowed to take part in the National Chess Championship 2012.—MNA



Myanmar Open Chess Tournament in progress at Aung San Gymnasium.
MNA

US commandos rescue two hostages in Somalia

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan—US commandos saved two individuals from Somali kidnappers Tuesday night in an operation ordered by President Barack Obama, Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said Wednesday.

The rescue mission freed Jessica Buchanan, a US employee of the Danish Demining Group, and her Danish colleague, Poul Thisted. The two were kidnapped in October at gunpoint by criminal suspects near Galcayo, Somalia, Panetta said in a statement.

Panetta said he was "grateful" that there was no loss of life or injuries to US



The rescue mission freed Jessica Buchanan, a US employee of the Danish Demining Group, and her Danish colleague, Poul Thisted.—INTERNET

personnel during the operation, which was coordinated between the

Department of Defence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Buchanan and Thisted have been transported to a safe location where they will receive health checks and arrangements will be made for them to return home, the statement said.

Before making his State of the Union address to the Congress on Tuesday night, Obama greeted Panetta and praised him for doing a "good job tonight." The rescue operation was carried out by two US helicopters in a night raid, involving exchange of fire with the Somali hostage takers, according to Danish media reports. It remained unclear how many kidnappers were killed in the process.

Xinhua

UN Chief praises Myanmar, plans visit there soon

UNITED NATIONS, 26 Jan—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday praised the government of Myanmar for its democratic reforms and said he planned to visit the Southeast Asian nation soon.

"I am very pleased and encouraged by what the current Myanmar authorities led by President U Thein Sein has been leading, including the releasing of political prisoners," Ban told reporters in New York.

"I have been engaging in direct talks with the leaders of Myanmar," he said. "I am also planning to visit in the near future Myanmar to have further discussions with the Myanmar authorities."

Ban's announcement that he intends to make a third trip to Myanmar—he last went there in 2009—comes after a visit last month by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Separately, Ban also announced that he had appointed his chief-of-staff, Vijay Nambiar of India, as his special envoy to Myanmar.

MNA/Reuters

Two killed, seven injured in rocket attack in Afghan Kapisa Province

KABUL, 26 Jan—Two civilians were killed and seven others were injured Wednesday when two rockets fired by suspected Taliban militants hit a house in the country's Kapisa Province.

"A mother along with her three-year-old child was killed and seven members of the same family injured as two rockets fired by enemies of peace hit their house in Alasay District of Kapisa Province this morning," the country's Interior Ministry said in a Press release.

The incident occurred at around 11:30 am local time Wednesday, the release said, adding that all the injured were shifted to a hospital by Afghan police shortly after the attack.

The release blamed Taliban militants

for the attack.

A total of 1,462 Afghan civilians have been killed in the first half of 2011 which indicates a 15 percent rise in non-combatants' deaths compared with the same period in 2010, according to a United Nations mid-year report released in Kabul in July, 2011.

The report attributed 80 percent of the civilian deaths in the first six months of 2011 to the attacks of Taliban militants and other armed groups opposing the Afghan government, a claim rejected by Taliban as baseless.

Another 14 percent of the deaths were attributed to Afghan and NATO-led forces and the remaining 6 percent were unattributed in the report.

Xinhua



Soldiers of Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) take part in a drill to strengthen sergeants' practical ability to command on hills near Moshav Amikam, North Israel, on 18 Jan, 2012. XINHUA

Colombian Gov't to help release kidnapped officers

BOGOTA, 26 Jan—The Colombian government will help release six Colombian officers kidnapped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Defence Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon said Wednesday.

In a Press conference, Pinzon said the government will keep its promise to help "these Colombians return safe to reunite with their families."

He also said the FARC has no right to risk the lives of the officers who have been in captivity for more than 10 years.

If the FARC wants to release the kidnapped officers, it only has to say where they are and the government will go to find them, Pinzon said.

In return for releasing the officers, FARC has demanded the government stop military operations in the zone where the officers will be released. The group has also demanded that foreign aircraft be used to pick up the hostages.

On Wednesday, the FARC commander known as Ivan Marquez announced in a video that the group will release Colombian Army Corporal Luis Beltran, National Police Sergeant Cesar Lasso and Second Lieutenant Carlos Duarte.

In December 2011, the FARC had already announced it would release another three officers, namely Second Lieutenants Jorge Trujillo, Jorge Romero, and Jose Libardo.

Formed in 1964, the FARC is the oldest guerrilla group in Colombia.

Xinhua



An Afghan woman clad in burqa waits for alms in a cold morning in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 25 Jan, 2012. INTERNET

Taleban rocket kills woman, child in Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 Jan—Officials say a rocket fired by Taliban militants has killed a woman and her child in eastern Afghanistan.

President Hamid Karzai and NATO's commander for Afghanistan, Gen John Allen, condemned the militants on Thursday for firing the rocket in Kapisa Province.

The provincial governor's chief of staff, Abdul Sabor Wafa, says militants fired a mortar round during a battle with Afghan

army soldiers trying to clear militants from a stronghold in Alasay District on Wednesday.

He says the mortar hit a civilian house, killing a woman and her daughter and wounding at least six others.

Allen called the violence a "deliberate attack on the people of Afghanistan." The NATO statement quoting Allen did not mention any battle in the area at the time.

Internet

Suspected Abu Sayyaf member nabbed in S Philippines

MANILA, 26 Jan—A suspected member of the extremist Abu Sayyaf group was arrested early Thursday in the southern Philippine Province of Basilan, police said.

Harun Jaljalis, alias Indal, was nabbed in Mahayahay Village in Maluso town at around 1:00 am, said Philippine National Police spokesman Chief Superintendent Agrimero Cruz Jr.

The suspect, who has 350,000-peso (8,124-US dollar) bounty on his head, was apprehended by virtue of a warrant of arrest issued by a Regional Trial Court in Basilan, said Cruz.

The Abu Sayyaf, active in the southern Philippines, was founded in the 1990s and has perpetrated a number of high-profile attacks, including kidnapping, bombing and beheading.

The Philippine military estimates the Abu Sayyaf, which has links with external terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda, currently has less than 400 members.—Xinhua



Afghan policemen display packages of drugs in Herat Province, Afghanistan, on 24 Jan, 2012. Afghan police captures two drug smugglers with 180Kg drugs during their operations in Herat Province, police chief said. XINHUA

Study of freakish mystery illness finds no cause

ATLANTA, 26 Jan—Imagine having the feeling that tiny bugs are crawling on your body, that you have oozing sores and mysterious fibers sprouting from your skin. Sound like a horror movie? Well, at one point several years ago, government doctors were getting up to 20 calls a day from people saying they had such symptoms.

Many of these people were in California and one of that state's US senators, Dianne Feinstein, asked for a scientific study. In 2008, federal health officials began to study people saying they were affected by this freakish condition called Morgellons.

The study cost nearly \$600,000. Its long-awaited results, released Wednesday, conclude that Morgellons exists only in the patients' minds.

"We found no infectious cause," said Mark Eberhard, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention official who was part of the 15-member study team.

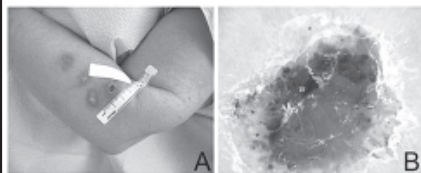
The study appears in PLoS One, one of the Public Library of Science journals.

Sufferers of Morgellons (mor-GELL-uns) describe a variety of symptoms, including fatigue, erupting sores, crawling sensations on their skin and — perhaps worst of all — mysterious red,

blue or black fibers that sprout from their skin. Some say they've suffered for decades, but the syndrome wasn't named until 2002, when "Morgellons" was chosen from a 1674 medical paper describing similar symptoms.

Afflicted patients have documented their suffering on websites and many have vainly searched for a doctor who believed them. Some doctors believe the condition is a form of delusional parasitosis, a psychosis in which people believe they are infected with parasites.

Last May, Mayo Clinic researchers published a study of 108 Morgellons patients and found none of them suffered from any unusual physical ailment. The study concluded that the sores on many of them were caused by their own scratching and picking at their skin.—Internet



This photo provided by Centers for Disease Control shows a case-patient with skin lesions, left, and a close-up of one of the lesions with mysterious blue fibers sprouting from the skin, published as part of a CDC study on Morgellons. Results of the CDC study released on 25 Jan. 25, 2012.—INTERNET



Studies: Avastin may fight early breast cancers



This undated photo provided by Genentech Inc on 31 Jan, 2011 shows a vial of Avastin. INTERNET

NEW YORK, 26 Jan—Surprising results from two new studies may reopen debate about the value of Avastin for breast cancer. The drug helped make tumors disappear in certain women with early-stage disease, researchers found. Avastin recently lost approval for treating advanced breast cancer, but the new studies suggest it might help women

whose disease has not spread so widely. These were the first big tests of the drug for early breast cancer, and doctors were cautiously excited that it showed potential to help.

In one study, just over one third of women given Avastin plus chemotherapy for a few months before surgery had no sign of cancer in their breasts when doctors went to operate, versus 28 percent of women given chemo alone. In the other study, more than 18 percent on Avastin plus chemo had no cancer in their breasts or lymph nodes at surgery versus 15 percent of those on chemo alone.

A big caveat, though: The true test is whether Avastin improves survival, and it's too soon to know that — both studies are still tracking the women's health. The drug also has serious side effects. "I don't think it's clear yet whether this is going to be a winner," Dr Harry Bear of Virginia Commonwealth University said of Avastin. But he added, "I don't think we're done with it."

Bear led one study, in the United States. Dr Gunter von Minckwitz of the University of Frankfurt led the other in Germany. Results are in Thursday's *New England Journal of Medicine*. Avastin (uh-VAS'-tihn) is still on the market for some colon, lung, kidney and brain tumors. In 2008, it won conditional US approval for advanced breast cancer because it seemed to slow the disease. Further research showed it didn't meaningfully extend life and could cause heart problems, bleeding and other problems. The government revoked its approval for breast cancer in November.

Now doctors can prescribe Avastin for breast cancer but insurers may not pay.

Treatment can cost \$10,000 a month. The drug is made by California-based Genentech, part of the Swiss company Roche. It is still approved for treating advanced breast cancer in Europe and Japan.

Internet

Netflix shares surge as customer base grows

LOS ANGELES, 26 Jan—Netflix Inc signed up more US subscribers than expected in the fourth quarter, reversing a wave of defections triggered by a series of high-profile missteps last year and pushing its shares up 13 percent. That return to customer growth reassured Wall Street that the video rental company, which outraged customers with a surprise price hike and a botched attempt to split off its DVD-mail service in 2011, was holding its own despite stiffening competition.

CEO Reed Hastings, who grew the company into a major disruptive force within the traditional media industry, shrugged off competition from Amazon.com Inc and Hulu Plus

in a letter to shareholders on Wednesday, saying both services offered far less content. Hastings said he expected Amazon.com to establish a separate paid-streaming service similar to Netflix's, but cheaper. Still, he stressed that Amazon now had less than 10 percent of Netflix's total viewing hours.

The company's most formidable competition would be cable networks going mobile, or so-called "TV Everywhere," he said. "Every major network is investing in their Internet application, on tablets, smart TVs, phones, game consoles, and laptops," Hastings said.

Netflix added 610,000 net new subscribers in its home US market, helping revenue leap 47 percent to \$876 million.

Reuters



Netflix's Chief Executive Officer Reed Hastings speaks during an interview with Reuters in Buenos Aires on 7 September, 2011.—INTERNET



Specialist John Urbanowicz, left, watches a screen at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange as the rate decision of the Federal Reserve is announced, on 25 Jan, 2012. The Fed said it's unlikely to raise its benchmark interest rate before late 2014, extending its time frame by at least a year and a half.—INTERNET



Brent rises above \$110 as Fed vows low interest rates

SINGAPORE, 26 Jan—Brent crude rose above \$110 on Thursday, extending gains on hopes of demand growth revival after the US Federal Reserve said it would keep interest rates low for much longer than previously planned to help speed economic recovery.

Markets cheered the Fed's rate outlook and Asian shares, base metals, gold and the euro all rose as the comments helped counter concerns among investors about Greece's debt crisis worsening and hurting the global economy. For oil, added support came from worries about supply because of tensions with Iran.

Front-month Brent crude gained 87 cents to \$110.68 a barrel by 0535 GMT, reversing two days of losses. US crude gained 69 cents to \$100.09, rising for a second day.

"Markets are supported because of concerns about Iran, while the uncertainty over Europe is making it difficult for oil to exit its current trading range," said Ken Hasegawa, a derivatives manager with brokerage Newedge in Tokyo. "For today, the Fed's comments have triggered selling in the dollar, and that has helped oil and commodities across the board to rise."

The dollar index slipped 0.17 percent.

The twin push and pull factors will keep the US benchmark trading in a range between \$95 and \$104 a barrel, Hasegawa said.

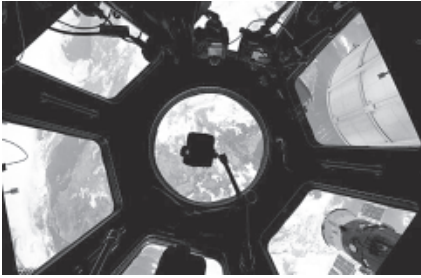
Further optimism about growth in the world's biggest

oil consumer came after three major US manufacturers reported better-than-expected quarterly earnings, and as they stuck to their forecasts for this year.—Reuters



Oil tanks at a refinery in Wuhan, Hubei Province on 27 November, 2008.—INTERNET

Russian cargo vessel takes off for space station



NASA image released on 6 Jan, 2012, photographed through the Cupola on the International Space Station. The Russian cargo ship Progress M-14M was launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan early Thursday, bringing water and fuel to the International Space Station, the mission control centre said.—INTERNET

MOSCOW, 26 Jan—The Russian cargo ship Progress M-14M was launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan early Thursday, bringing water and fuel to the International Space Station, the mission control centre said. Progress was successfully launched at 05:06 Thursday (2306 GMT Wednesday) carrying some 2.6 tonnes of mainly water and fuel, Russian news agencies cited the Russian control centre as saying.

It is due to dock with the ISS on Saturday at 0009 GMT. There are currently six men aboard the orbiting space station; three Russians, two Americans and a Dutchman.

The Russian space industry suffered a bad year in 2011, with five failed launches. Last August a Soyuz rocket and the Progress supply ship it was carrying crashed minutes after blast off from Baikonour, due to a motor failure, paralysing such launches towards the ISS for three months.

In October investigators said "negligence" was to blame. Earlier this month a much-vaunted Mars probe launched in November crashed into the Pacific Ocean.

Internet

Suriname forest reveals 46 new species

PARAMARIBO, 26 Jan—A "cowboy frog" and a "crayola katydid" are among 46 new species that have been discovered in the dense forests of the tiny South American nation of Suriname, scientists said Wednesday.

The caramel-coloured frog displays white fringes along its back legs and a spur on its heels, while the unusual katydid earned its nickname from the striking hues on its body and wings. Other discoveries included a two-inch (five-centimetre) catfish, and larger catfish covered with a spiny armour to protect it against predators in the

piranha-filled river.

The findings were made by an expedition of international scientists, indigenous people and university students as part of a three-week river expedition organized by Conservation International.

The journey took them along the Koetari and Sipaliwini rivers, where they also found intriguing new rock carvings, or petroglyphs, along the border with southern neighbour Brazil.

"As a scientist it's exciting to do research in such remote areas where countless new discoveries await you,"



The *hypsiboas* sp (also known as a "cowboy frog") was discovered on a small branch during a night survey in a swampy area of the Koetari River in southwest Suriname.—INTERNET

said Trond Larsen, director of the Rapid Assessment Programme survey for Conservation International. The petroglyphs were found on caves near the Trio village

of Kwamalasamutu, a site that Conservation International is helping local communities preserve as an ecotourism destination.

Internet

Fusion: X-ray laser zaps solid to 2 million degrees

LOS ANGELES, 26 Jan—The quest to create nuclear fusion may have come a step closer when scientists heated solid matter to two million degrees with the world's most powerful X-ray laser, a study reported Wednesday.

A team of researchers working at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in Menlo Park, California used the rapid-fire laser — a billion times brighter than any other man-made X-ray source — to flash-

heat a minuscule piece of aluminum foil.

In so doing, they created a form of plasma known as "hot dense matter," reaching temperatures hotter than two million degrees Celsius (3.6 million degrees Fahrenheit).

The whole process lasted less than a trillionth of a second. Gas-like plasma is often called the fourth state of matter after solids, liquids and gases. While uncommon on Earth, it makes up over 99 percent of the visible universe,

including the interior of stars such as the Sun.

"Making extremely hot, dense matter is important scientifically if we are ultimately to understand the conditions that exist inside stars and at the center of giant planets within our own solar system," said lead author Sam Vinko, a researcher at the University of Oxford.

Scientists have long been able to create electrically-charged plasma by heating gases, which can

rip away electrons from their atoms.

But up to now no tools existed for doing the same thing at solid densities that cannot be penetrated by conventional laser beams.

In the experiments, reported in the journal *Nature*, scientists used ultra-short wavelengths of X-ray laser light to blast the aluminum foil and create, for the first time, a uniform patch of plasma, a cube about one thousandth of a centimetre per side.

Internet

Symantec tells customers to disable pcAnywhere software

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 Jan—Symantec Corp took the rare step of advising customers to stop using one of its products, saying its pcAnywhere software for accessing remote PCs is at increased risk of getting hacked after blueprints of that software were stolen.

The announcement is the company's most direct acknowledgement to date that a 2006 theft of its source code put customers at risk of attack.

Symantec said it was only asking customers to temporarily stop using the product, until it releases an

update to the software that will mitigate the risk of an attack.

It acknowledged that some customers would need to continue using the software for "business critical purposes," saying they should make sure they were using the most recent version of the product and "understand the current risks," which include the possibility that hackers could steal data or credentials.

Still, it is highly unusual for a software maker to advise customers to disable a product completely while engineers develop an update



Symantec's pcAnywhere software in an image courtesy of the company.

INTERNET

to fix bugs. Companies typically recommend mitigating factors that will

reduce the risk of an attack.

"That's crazy. That's pretty much unheard of to just say 'Stop using it.' Especially a vendor as large as Symantec," said HD Moore, chief architect of Metasploit, a platform that security experts use to test whether computer systems are vulnerable to attack.

PcAnywhere is a software programme that is also bundled with some titles in Symantec's Altiris line of software for managing corporate PCs, Symantec said in a white paper and note to customers released on its website overnight where it disclosed the warning.

Reuters

Harvard study warns of injury through tablet use

HARVARD, 26 Jan—Of course, tablet computers can cause injuries in a variety of ways. Dropped from a great height onto someone's head will likely have the same damaging effect as being on the receiving end of one hurled Frisbee-like across a room.

Thankfully, there are up to now no recorded cases of such incidents, though researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) are warning of other injury risks associated with tablets. While many of us will have experienced a degree of wrist, back or neck pain at some time or other from our interaction with desktop computers, researchers are now turning their attention to ergonomic issues related to tablets such as Apple's iPad.

In an interview with Amy Roeder on the HSPH website, the director of the school's Occupational Biomechanics

and Ergonomics Laboratory, Jack Dennerlein, said: "The beauty of tablets and other mobile devices is their flexibility. You can use them almost anywhere and in different ways. You can hold them in your lap; you can hold them in your hand. The problem is that some of the postures people are in when using a tablet can be awkward and lead to discomfort with prolonged use."

In the study, Dennerlein and his team gave 15 people already familiar with tablets an iPad 2 and a Motorola Xoom, together with a case. The subjects, all aged under 40, were then asked to carry out a set of simulated tasks. Their various postures were analyzed using an infrared three-dimensional motion analysis system.

The researchers found that when using tablets, participants' necks were bent more compared to when using a desktop or laptop computer, especially when the tablet was placed on the user's lap.

Internet



In this 25 March, 2011 file photo, customers wait outside the Apple store in Munich before the start of sales of the iPad2.—INTERNET

Apple briefly passes Exxon as most valuable Co

NEW YORK, 26 Jan—Apple briefly surpassed Exxon as the most valuable US company after an excellent quarter, though the oil company has regained the lead at the market's close. Apple's stock rose as much as 8 percent, while Exxon's fell as much as 2 percent during trading Wednesday.

Exxon Mobil Corp's stock closed up 4 cents at \$87.22 for a market capitalization of \$418 billion. Apple's increased 6 percent to \$446.66 for a market cap of about \$415 billion.

Apple said Tuesday that net income in its latest quarter more than doubled, while revenue grew 73 percent.

Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple first topped Exxon in August, then fell back to second place. Irving, Texas-based Exxon had held the top spot since 2005.

Apple overtook Microsoft Corp, now in the No 3 slot, in 2010.—Internet



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental personnel and locals on inspection tour of Kawthoung



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsenders in Kawthoung.—MNA

YANGON, 26 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and his entourage arriving in Myeik of Taninthayi Region left for Kawthoung yesterday. They were welcomed at Kawthoung Airport by departmental officials, townsenders and social organization members.

They proceeded to oil palm growing project of Yuzana Co Ltd in Khamaukkyi Sub-township where Chairman of Yuzana Co Ltd U Htay Myint and staff members welcomed them.

The Vice-President viewed thriving oil palm plantations and called for extension for plantations.

The Vice-President and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin planted an oil palm plant in commemoration of the trip, and so did Union ministers and other officials.

On arrival at Yuzana Mini Market in the project site, they viewed foodstuff, clothing, personal goods and electronic devices, and then inspected oil production process at crude palm oil mill (60 tons per hour).

The Vice-President and party also viewed crude palm

oil, fruitful results came about now, he continued, calling for meeting of 500,000 targeted acres, coordination of entrepreneurs to refine oil from crude to edible oil.

Yuzana Co Ltd had made arrangements of free water and electricity supply, free healthcare service and transport and services for 12,040 employees.

The Vice-President and party then met departmental personnel, social organization members and townsenders at Myintzuthaka Hall in Kawthoung.

Kawthoung Township Administrator U Pasi reported



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo visits 60-ton Yuzana Crude Palm Oil Mill.

MNA

oil sample milled from oil palm fruit, and organic fertilizer produced from byproducts.

Company Chairman U Htay Myint briefed the Vice-President on growing of 166,390 acres of oil palm plantations by the end of 2011 which started with 250 acres in 1999, expected extension of 30,000 acres in 2012-2013, growing 1,200,000 saplings to be grown in monsoon of 2012, workforce, housing for staff, school opened for children of staff, opening of a hospital, and construction of palm oil refinery and crude oil mill (60 tons per hour).

Pokaung Co Ltd Chairman U Aye Maung and Golden Oil Palm Co Chairman Dr Ko Ko Htwe gave account of Oil palm growing project.

Pokaung Co Ltd had grown 12,100 acres of oil palm in 2010 of 27,550 acres in Bokpyin Township.

The Vice-President said that over 300,000 acres of oil palm had been grown in Taninthayi Region of 500,000 targeted acres. Despite difficulties at the early

on data of the region and development tasks. Deputy Commissioner U Myint Than gave a supplementary report.

Next, townsenders presented matters relating to education and transport requirements of the region.

Acting Chief Minister U Myat Ko gave a supplementary report and deputy ministers touched upon ministry-wise undertakings and assistance to be provided for the region.

The Vice-President in coordination with related ministries fulfilled education, health, communication and transport requirements presented by officials and locals.

In response to reports, the Vice-President said that as Kawthoung is a border town, it is required to be in line with laws and procedures in working with the bordering country, highlighting prevention of human trafficking through educative talks, continuing of flourishing oil palm growing tasks and paddy sufficiency in the region.

After explaining current economic, social and international relations of the State, the Vice-President cordially greeted locals and enquired about local condition.

The Vice-President and party left Kawthoung by flight and arrived in Yangon in the evening.—MNA



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo grows oil palm plant at oil palm cultivation project of Yuzana Co Ltd.—MNA

First day third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw held

Today's session includes formation of one commission and one committee, reformation of Hluttaw committee, reply to five questions by respective Union Ministers, submitting one bill sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendment, and submitting one bill and two proposals

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—First day third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw was held in Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today.

Today's session was attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and 211 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker said in his greetings to the Hluttaw: Bills to be submitted by the Union government such as national projects and State Budget will have to be mainly discussed in the third regular session. Representatives are suggested to attend the session regularly and review the bills extensively as it is an important matter. The subject has been introduced to the representatives by holding paper-reading session in the second regular session.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker has received 2011-2012 Supplementary State Budget Bill and 2012-2013 Union Budget Bill. These will be shared to all Hluttaw representatives for their consideration. For the third regular session, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is chief. The bills could only be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Respective Union ministers and Region and State chief ministers, if required, will be invited to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for detailed explanation in respects of national projects bill, supplementary budget bill and Union budget bill. As the project and budget have to be considered in parallel, they will be requested to explain both the

project and the budget.

According to Hluttaw Law and Rules, daily session has to be finished as in agenda. Although it is designed to finish the agenda at 4 pm in principle, the time could even be 10 pm by approval of the Hluttaw. The national projects and budgets will have to be reviewed in the light of people's desire and happiness and reality of the State.

The thorough reading of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Rules is recommended. In discussing such important laws and rules, representatives have to strictly adhere to Hluttaw law and rules. While abiding by these law and rules, representatives should put forward the proposal on amendment if any provisions in law and rules that should be amended are found.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker read out the message sent by the President to the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Financial and Legal Affairs Commission and Non-governmental Organizations Committee were established and other Hluttaw committees reconstituted.

Newly formed Financial and Legal Affairs Commission is chaired by U Aung Tun of Magway Region Constituency (11), alongside Secretary U Ye Myint of Bago Region Constituency (4). It is formed with 11 members in total.

Non-governmental Organizations Committee is chaired by U Win Naung of Yangon Region Constituency (5), alongside Secretary U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region

Constituency (6). It is formed with 15 members in total.

In reorganizing Hluttaw committees, the Hluttaw approved U Mya Nyein of Yangon Region Constituency (7) as chairman of Bill Committee, U Thein Win of Sagaing Region Constituency (9) as chairman of Public Accounts Committee, U Mya Nyein of Yangon Region Constituency (7) as chairman of Hluttaw Rights Committee, U Aung Tun of Magway Region Constituency (11) as chairman of Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee, U Than Swe of Magway Region Constituency (7) as chairman of Hluttaw Representatives Vetting Committee, the change in name of National Races Affairs and Internal Peace Committee as National Races Affairs Committee, U Sai Paung Nat of Shan State Constituency (12) as chairman of National Races Affairs Committee, Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency (1) as chairman of Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democratic Rights and Human Rights Committee, Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency (9) as chairman of Education, Health and Culture Committee, Professor Dr Mya Oo of Bago Region Constituency (9) as chairman of Women and Children Affairs Committee, U Aung Nyein of Magway Region Constituency (2) as chairman of Public Complaints and Petitions Committee, Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative Col Maung Htoo as chairman of UN, ASEAN, AIPA and

International Relations Committee, Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency (8) as chairman of

secretaries and membes.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay answered questions

thayauk-Zajan-Myingan road) is 21 miles and seven furlongs long and currently has four furlongs long 12 feet



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint attends first day third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

Farmers and Local and Foreign Workers Committee, and name lists of secretaries and members.

National Planning, Economic, Monetary and Customs Committee was divided into three committees, namely National Planning Committee, Monetary and Customs Committee and Commerce Committee. The Hluttaw approved U Zaw Myint Pe of Mandalay Region Constituency (5) as chairman of National Planning Committee, U San Tun of Kachin State Constituency (11) as chairman of Monetary and Customs Committee, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye of Kachin State Constituency (6) as chairperson of Commerce Committee and name lists of

raised by three Hluttaw representatives regarding development affairs.

U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency (6) asked about "upgrading Taungtha-Natogyi road section and Nyaungtha-Taungtha-Myingyan road sections for regional development". The Union minister answered: Ten border area development tasks, 48 rural development tasks and 19 rural/urban water supply tasks, totally 77, were carried out, spending K 4400.20 million, according to requests of Hluttaw representatives in the second regular session. Taungtha-Natogyi Road is 18 miles and three furlongs long. Currently, it has three furlongs long and 12 feet wide tarred road, 4 miles and 3 furlongs long 12 feet wide gravel road and 13 miles and five furlongs long earth road.

The fund of K 447.92 million is needed to built eight miles long and 20 feet wide earth road, 15 miles and six furlongs long and 12 feet wide gravel roads, one concrete culvert and one stone-embedded retaining wall. Six furlongs long gravel road will be implemented in 2011-2012 fiscal year with the fund of development affairs committee. Remaining road sections will be implemented in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 fiscal years.

Nyaung U-Taungtha-Myingyan road (Nga-

wide gravel road, two miles long and eight feet wide cobblestone road and 19 miles and three furlongs long earth road.

For enabling to use the road in all weathers, 21 miles and three furlongs long gravel road and five concrete culverts will be built. The fund of K 899.37 is needed. The tasks will be carried out with the supplementary fund of Mandalay Region in 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Dr Win Myint Aung of Sagaing Region Constituency (4) asked "whether there is plan to upgrade three miles and 4.4 furlongs long gravel roads on Monywa-Thazi village road into tarred road and to recognize Monywa-Thazi village road and Naunggyai-Mukangyi-Yekyiwa-Seikkhon-Shwebo road as roads under the Ministry of Border Affairs". The Union minister answered: Monywa-Thazi village road was formerly a rural development tarred road and has nine miles and four furlongs long tarred road, three miles and four furlongs long gravel road and the length of 13 miles. Paving, tarmacking, and repairing the road and construction of three concrete bridges and one wooden bridges were carried out spending K 105.57 million from the fund of Monywa Township Development Affairs Committee.

(See page 8)



Representatives attending first day third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

First day third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw...

(from page 7)

The estimated cost for tarmacking remaining three miles and four furlongs long section, is K 161.5 million. It will be carried out by Monywa Township DAC with yearly plans. It is planned to tarmac seven furlongs long road section in 2012-2013 fiscal. The remaining road section will be finished by 2013-2014 fiscal year.

27 miles and seven furlongs long Naunggyiai-Mukangyi-Yekyiwa-Seikkhon-Shwebo road links three townships. Ayadaw Township has 10 miles and six furlongs long earth road, Dabayin Township has three miles and seven furlongs long earth road and Shwebo Township has six miles and two long gravel road and seven miles long tarred road.

Out of seven miles long tarred road in Shwebo Township, three miles long section from Chipajunction to Shwebo is under Public Works and the others under Township DACs.

Repairs of six miles and two furlongs long gravel road section of Yekyiwa-Tebin-Seikkhon road and one furlong long tarred road section of Seikkhon-Chipajunction tarred road in Shwebo Township are being carried out in 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Though, fund of Township DACs is not sufficient for upgrading Naunggyiai-Mukangyi-Yekyiwa-Seikkhon-Shwebo road linking three townships. Yearly plans will be drawn and upgrading will be carried out within three fiscal years.

U Zaw Naing Oo of Mon State Constituency (12) asked "whether there is plan to repair key inter-village production roads in Bilin Township of Mon State this year". The Union minister answered: Among three inter-village roads in Bilin Township, the road from Bilin to Hninpale, Shwehlay, Nyaungpalin, Nyaunglan and Leikkhon villages is seven miles and one furlong long. Bilin-Hninpale road section under the Ministry of Construction is one mile and seven furlongs long and Hninpale-Leikkhon earth road, constructed by Correction Department in Aungmyay Sugarcane Project, is five miles and two furlongs long.

The second is the road from Taungzun village-tract to regional villages and Yangon-Mawlaikine Highway, six miles and five furlongs long and implemented by Correction Department. The originally tarred road is now badly deteriorated.

The third is the road from Yekkanthema village-tract to Mayangon village-tract constituted with 16 villages is two miles and three furlongs long gravel road, now in condition of earth road.

Of three roads, Yekkanthema inter-village road is the route for transporting agricultural produce and others are gravel production routes of the Correction Department.

To upgrade all three roads, Township

DAC has not enough fund. The No (3) Yekkanthema inter-village road will be upgraded to gravel road with the financial aid of the State in 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Repairing others will be carried out in coordination with the Correction Department as these are its gravel production routes.

Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay answered questions raised by two Hluttaw representatives.

Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.1 raised question on "whether there is any oil reserve system for regional energy sufficiency and security based on future population growth".

Oil consumption of the country is equivalent to 60,000 barrel per day. But the domestic production is one third of the consumption and the rest is to be imported yearly. Import had reached 781 million USD in 2006-2007 financial year, which was the most import value. Price of imported oil is much more than that of domestic production. The country's domestic daily gas consumption is about 570 million cubic feet. The 240 million cubic feet of gas is being distributed, which is 40 percent of consumption. The future oil and gas demand of the country has been calculated based on standards such as growth rates of GDP, population, industrial sector and agricultural sector. It is expected that till 2015-2016 fiscal year, increased rate of crude oil demand would be 7.3 percent yearly and gas, 4.5 percent yearly. The 1.5 percent of GDP goes to the energy sector in the world. That is to say, Kyat 1.5 is used to increase K 1 of GDP. To fulfill the demand of increased industrial sectors and the country's energy, the country is doing oil and gas explorations at 38 onshore and offshore blocks in cooperation with over 30 foreign gas and oil exploration companies. Plans are under way to give permissions to eight companies to do at 10 of 18 onshore blocks. Due to the recent changes in political and economic policies, International oil companies are having discussions.

Oil and gas exploration needs tasks such as collection, exploration, survey, drilling of test oil well and development works for commercial use. It takes times from three to five years to use oil well even after finding it as commercial use.

According to the survey, the stockpiling of Asian countries such as Japan, the Republic of Korea, China, Thailand and European countries' diesel for contingency use is only for 90 days. These countries have no oil deposits without exploring oil in the earth. For energy security, only US keeps oil and gas reserves in oil and gas deposits.

For energy security of the country, Myanmar has signed ASEAN Petrol Security Agreement-APSA in March 2009 as a regional cooperation. According to that, in case of a member country faces ten percent shortage of regular domestic crude oil demand for 30 days consecutively, the rest

countries are to help that country.

To meet the domestic demand, the country is extending oil and gas explorations in cooperation with foreign companies while for the country's energy security, oil reserves are kept to be able to use in the time of emergency.

U Sai Tin Aung of Kachin State Constituency No.5 raised the question on "whether there is any plan to sell oil for agricultural equipment to farmers at reasonable prices."

He answered that oil filling stations across the country have been sold to the privates. As of June 2010, the government has given permissions the privates to import and distribute oil freely. Entrepreneurs are allowed to sell oil at variable prices by giving taxes on imported oil and taking reasonable profits. Since its inception, the private filling stations have been selling diesel and 92 Rom gasoline based on the world's market prices.

The government sold home-produced

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Zaw Naing Oo of Mon State Constituency No. 12 raising question.
MNA



available at market prices at private filling stations across the country. Private filling stations' retail oil price is much cheaper than foreign countries'.

A total of 261 filling stations have been handed over to private entrepreneurs. Among them, 260 stations run well till now. The number of filling stations granted by Ministry of Energy has reached 137 until today. So, the stations across the country are 397 in total. Blessings will be given to 545 new stations.

Regarding selling price of petroleum products produced from Ministry of Energy, imported petroleum products, the government is not only selling them at a loss according to market-oriented economic system but also trying not to be high prices for customers. The Ministry has changed the system of adding few profits on production costs.

After that, Hluttaw announced the nomination of Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss environmental conservation

Member of Union Election Commission U Myint Naing submits a proposal.
MNA



gasoline at the same price of K 2500 per gallon across the country. In practice, it brought benefits only to entrepreneurs, not general public. According to Hluttaw's desires and the Union Government's permission, without bearing the loss any longer, the government has started selling at K 3000 per gasoline gallon as of 1-1-2012. It should no longer cause a loss to government as well as putting price restrictions on entrepreneurs.

So, the government has allowed sale of oil at reasonable prices. For public awareness, approximate oil price that should be sold by entrepreneurs are announced via media. So, there is no significant change in oil price. Thanks to that condition, sale and purchase system of oil at variable prices will work well.

According to the statistics of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, there are 10341 tractors, 202405 power-trillers, 62 paddy transplanting machines, 184218 water pumps, 1494 harvesters and 38121 winnowing across the country.

A few number of paddy transplanting machines run on gas-o-line and almost all agricultural equipments, diesel. Diesel needed for agricultural equipments is easily

bill confirmed by Amyotha Hluttaw, which was sent by Pyithu Hluttaw. Member of Union Election Commission U Myint Naing submitted the proposal on **bill amending the Union Election Commission Law to be discussed in Amyotha Hluttaw** and it was approved by Hluttaw. After that, Hluttaw announced the nomination of Hluttaw representative wishing to discuss it.

U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No.6 submitted the **proposal on asking Union Government to change from Imperial Unit system to Metric Unit System** and the Hluttaw agreed to discuss it. Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.1 also submitted proposal on **asking Union Government to extend maternity leave for pregnant women** and the Hluttaw agreed to discuss it. The first day third regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw came to an end at 1.30 pm. The meeting will go on at 10 am tomorrow.

Today's session included formation of one commission and one committee, reformation of Hluttaw committee, reply to five questions by respective Union Ministers, submitting one bill sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendment, and submitting one bill and two proposals.—MNA

Norwegian Foreign Minister concludes visit

YANGON, 26 Jan—Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein received Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Jonas Gahr Store at Konbaung Hall of Traders Hotel here at 9:45 am today.

The party led by the Union Minister held a discussion with the Norwegian Foreign Minister at Tagaung Hall of Traders Hotel.

It was attended by Deputy Minister U Myo Aung, Leading adviser for commercial affairs of the President Dr U Myint, Director-General U Chit Shein of Labour Department of the Ministry of Labour, Norwegian

Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ms. Katja Nordgaard and officials concerned. The meeting concentrated on bilateral cooperation between the two countries in undertaking reforms of business and investments.

After the meeting, Union Minister U Soe Thein and the Norwegian Foreign Minister answered the queries shot by local journalists.

In the evening, the Norwegian Foreign Minister and party left Yangon by special flight.—MNA

Myanmar to cooperate with Johns Hopkins University

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe met President of The Johns Hopkins University of the United States of America Mr Ron Daniel, Director Professor Karl Jackson and party, at his office this morning.

The meeting focused on cooperation between universities under the Ministry of Education and The Johns Hopkins University, including other universities in the US, sending of Myanmar students,

cooperation in research, exchange of students from both countries, upgrading of machines used in advanced research, easy access to reference books and papers from internet website and training of basic education teachers for promotion of English proficiency skill.

It was also attended by Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department and officials concerned.

MNA

Third regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw commences

Chairmen and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee, Hluttaw Rights Committee and Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee submit reports to Hluttaw



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann attends third regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan — The third regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw kicked off at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building here today.

Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 379 representatives attended the first day meeting.

First, Lt-Col Khin Maung Thant, Maj Zin Myo Latt and Maj Yan Naing Htoo took oath as representatives of the Tatmadaw in the presence of the Speaker.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said in his introductory speech that at a time when the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being held, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives become Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives although they are representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw at its session. The main theme to convene today's Hluttaw session is to approve the remaining bills of the second regular session, and the representatives as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives are to scrutinize and approve the bill on supplementary budget for 2011-2012 fiscal year and the bill on budget and national planning for 2012-2013 fiscal year to be submitted by the Union government. Moreover, tasks for proposals, questions and bills to be submitted by the Hluttaw representatives will be undertaken depending on the time allowed.

With regard to submis-

sions of the Union government for systematic spending of public funds on development, management and social development sectors of the State, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives, on behalf of the people, are to scrutinize how to allot and spend the public funds and how about effectiveness of spending funds for the public. And then, he pointed out that it is necessary to focus on supporting, suggesting and amending the various matters.

He stressed the need to discuss various items by calculating the actual possibilities and consider the short-term and intermediate-term plans on the related tasks for coming years.

Although the Hluttaw representatives are not scholars or economic experts in analyzing the allotment of public funds, they will participate in the discussions after reviewing the points on advantages for the people through their political will and logical thinking. Thus, their discussions will be designed to fulfill the wishes of the people through the legislative ways and means.

In scrutinizing the national plans, some projects are to be implemented within one year and some are to be undertaken through short- and intermediate-terms. In this regard, the efforts of

of the Union and the people, they are walking on the way to same goal. That is why they all will march towards the goal that the Union will be built through democracy.

He expressed his pleasures that he saw endeavours of the representatives to be able to dutifully take out the tasks of the Hluttaws in accord with the constitution. In conclusion, he urged them to pour out their greater efforts for harmoniously serving the interests of the mother land and citizens.

Afterwards, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann read out the message sent by the President to the Pyithu Hluttaw and put it on record.

During the meeting, works which were carried out

9, December, 2011, the visit of the Myanmar delegation led by Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann to India from 11 to 17 December, 2011, at the invitation of Speaker of the upper house of India Mohammad Hamid Ansari and Speaker of the lower house Kumar, Smt Meira and the message sent from the Republic of Belarus to the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

In the duty substitution session, U Win Myint of Myingyan constituency has been assigned as secretary of banks and monetary development committee, U Maung Maung Soe of Thakayta constituency as a member of the committee, and U Thin Maung, Director (Retd) of Myanmar Investment

Myanmar Accountancy Council has conducted certified public accountancy courses, diploma in accountancy courses, basic accountancy courses, advanced accountancy courses (grade-1, 2, 3) and special courses on financial rules and regulations with the aim of producing skilled accountants who support the economic development of the country.

For the government employees in Nay Pyi Taw, the council has conducted the diploma in accountancy courses at the Union Attorney-General's Office in Nay Pyi Taw as from 3 March, 2009, producing 224 accountants per year.

Therefore, the Union Auditor-General's Office



Attendees at third regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA

Hluttaw committees play a key role, depending on the allotment of respective budgets.

With regard to necessary procedures, targets, aims and actual implementation, the Hluttaw committees are to cooperate with ministries concerned for building relationship with the Hluttaw like the relations between legislative and executive bodies without beyond the check & balance ideology prescribed in the constitution. Moreover, the committees are to build the better relations with the executive body.

Although they have different duties and procedure in serving the interests

by the Speaker and representatives were reported and put on record, substitution and duties assigned, 12 questions were raised and answered, reports of the three committees were presented and five new proposals were submitted.

Among the works which were put on record were the clarification of the Speaker at the meeting with members of the Pyithu Hluttaw legal affairs and special cases assessment commission, chairmen of the committees of Pyithu Hluttaw, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region, the Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw and guests at the office of the commission on

Commission and Lecturer Dr Tin Latt of Myanmar Accountancy Council of the Union Auditor-General's Office as members of the legal affairs and special cases assessment commission.

During the question session, **Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) constituency asked Myanmar Accountancy Council how it arranged to produce more accountants and auditors as the country would need more skilled accountants and auditors when it became a fully-fledged member of ASEAN economic community in 2015.**

Deputy Auditor-General U Myo Myint replied that the

would accept 360 trainees for the diploma in accountancy course (1st part) of the 2012-2013 academic year which would open on 1st, February, 2012, at newly constructed Nay Pyi Taw training school. So far, 1971 certified public accountants and 3888 diploma in accountancy holders.

Besides, B.Com graduates and accountancy graduates, outstanding trainees of the diploma in accountancy courses (2nd part) were allowed to attend the certified public accountancy course as from the course No. 37 which was conducted in February, 2011.

(See page 10)

Third regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw...

(from page 9)

A new curriculum meeting the international standard will be prescribed for the CPA (Part I) and the diploma in accountancy course (Part I) courses as from the 2012-2013 academic year.

As from the CPA course (part I) No. 38, trainees would have options to receive on-job training during the two-year course or to receive on-job training after completing the part I and part II.

The trainees of the CPA courses No. 1 to 16 received their on-job training at the governmental departments, from 17 to 21 at the governmental departments and private audit firms and as from course No. 22, they received on-job training at private audit firms. As part of producing new generation of accountants of the governmental departments, trainees would be sent to the governmental departments as from course No. 39.

To fulfill the need for Continuing Professional Education (CPE), Myanmar Certified Accountants Society has organized monthly educative talks as from August, 2008, and issued licenses to accountants only when they meet the CPE hours.

For small and medium businesses, Myanmar accountancy standard and Myanmar auditing standard have been prescribed. For companies, Myanmar accountancy standard has been amended and efforts are being made to prescribe the accountancy standard for the state-owned sector.

Myanmar Accountancy Council has changed its ways to produce more accountants and to improve their skills.

Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min replied questions raised by five representatives.

Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) constituency asked whether Ministry of Rail Transportation had a plan to extend the commuter train routes starting from Dagon University passing North Dagon Township, Pale, Shwepaukkan, Htaukkyant and Hlawgar for the people in grass-root level.

The Union Minister replied that the ministry has implementing rail road projects according to the priority list as the rail road projects cost huge amount of money. The rail route passing Dagon University, Pale, Htaukkyant and Moegypyit has not yet included in the list for the 2012-13 fiscal year. To improve the characteristics of Yangon which is the commercial city of Myanmar, the city development plan is being drawn by the experts from foreign countries. Besides, foreign firms have been inviting to invest in a economic zone at near Thilawa and Yangon River and over and underground rail projects are included in the projects.

U Than Soe of Thazi constituency asked whether the Ministry had a plan to run one more train service from Thazi to hilly region for convenience of travellers from plane and hilly areas and speedy flow of commodity.

The slopes in Thazi - Shwenyaung section and the engine has limited the number of coaches, allowing five passenger coaches from Thazi to Lebyin and three coaches to Shwenyaung.

The number of passengers who take the No. 143-Up train at Thazi Station has reached around 150. Of them, 100 take the train for Lebyin/Shwedwin. Therefore, current coaches are enough to carry passengers daily.

Commodity from Yangon, Mandalay and Myingyan arrived Thazi, and then they were transported to hilly areas. The daily average weight of goods which are transported to hilly areas has reached only 15.54 tons. When goods to be transported to hilly areas pile up at Thazi Station, a coach which can load 32 ton is connected to the train.

The No. 143-Up train is enough to transport current passengers and good to hilly areas and there is no plan to run one more train service on the route. The Ministry is keeping on watch the commodity flow and will add one more train service when necessary.

U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe constituency asked when two underpasses would be constructed in Pyawbwe for the convenience of local people.

The Union Minister replied that Myanmar Railways has already been inspected the two sites to construct the underpasses as there are traffic congestion at the junction of railway and motor roads in Pyawbwe. A design has been drawn to construct one underpass near the mile post No. 287/189 and the work on construction will be launched in early March, 2012.

U Moe Zaw Hein of Katha constituency asked the minister whether the ministry has a plan to sell more tickets of high class and ordinary class of No. 56 Down Train and No. 42 Up Train.

The Union Minister replied that the No. 56 Down Train has two upper class coaches providing 80 seats, one first class coach providing 62 seats and eight ordinary class coaches providing 496 seats. A total of 32 stations along the route has to share the seats.

The No. 42 Down Train has two high class coaches providing 80 seats, one first class coach providing 62 seats, one postal coach and four ordinary class coaches providing 248 seats. The seats are shared by 44 stations along the route according to the number of passengers at the stations



Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Constituency raising question.

MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Mi Yin Chan of Kyaikmaraw Constituency.

MNA

and their destinations.

The Ministry has a plan to increase the sales of ticket up to 21 seats at Katha and Naba stations.

Besides, the ministry will make a plan to sell 15 seats for ordinary class from Katha to Kawlin and five seats from Naba to Kawlin on the No. 56 Down Train.

U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Palaw constituency asked whether the construction of bridge across the Kard River on Dawei-Myeik Road would be included a motor road.

The Union Minister replied that the Ministry has a plan to construct a reinforce concrete type 404-ft long bridge across the 360-foot-in-width Padauk Crek on the Boakchan-Palaw Road section of the Dawei-Myeik Railroad section. The bridge will be designed so that bicycles, motorcycles and tri-cycled motorized vehicles can run on it. The bridges constructed by Myanmar Railways after 1988 are reinforced bridges and they are rail-cum- road bridges.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replied questions of six representatives.

Daw Mi Yin Chan of Kyaikmaraw constituency asked whether the Ministry of Construction has a plan to construct a bridge across Chaunhnikwa (Itaran) River on the Mudon-Myawady Road.

The Union Minister replied that travelers have crossed the river by motorized boats and one Z craft of the Inland Water Transport has handled the vehicles to transport them across the river. However, it is learnt that the Z craft could not be moored to quay for two months when the river was in flood in this rainy season.

The Attaran River is 500 feet wide. If a bridge is constructed over the river, length of the bridge will be about 1000 to 1500 feet long according to height of ships.

The Construction Ministry has no plan to construct the bridge over the river yet and plan for bridge construction will be forwarded.

U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Constituency said in his question that **there was no underpass for locals of Natsonhmaw Village to cross the expressway near**

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replies to queries.

MNA



milepost No. 269/5 of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on the west side of Pyawbwe, asking arrangement for convenience and whether or not roads will be constructed due to the expressway that made previous roads vanish.

In response, the Union Minister said Pyawbwe Township is located between milepost Nos. 261/2 and 276/3, 15 miles and one furlong in length on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. In order to fulfill health, economic, social and education needs of locals of Pyawbwe Township alongside Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, two bridges for vehicle, seven bridges for cart and fences on both sides were constructed.

Natsonhmaw Village lies about one mile east of milepost No. 269/5 of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. For convenience of the people of Natsonhmaw Village to do their farming works on west side of the expressway, one bridge for vehicle and three bridges for cart had been constructed. Photo taken on 25-1-2012 by an in-charge engineer of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway project shows bullock carts passing bridges in rainy season, and bullock carts, Trawlergies and light vehicles in open season.

U Win Thein of Pinlebu Constituency asked about **construction of (Pinlebu-Inngon) Moo River spanning bridge on Pinlebu-Phaungpyin Road, Pinlebu Township of Sagaing Region.** In response, the Union Minister said that the Moo River is streaming near milepost No. 65/0 of Pinlebu-Phaungpyin Road. The Construction Ministry maintained Pinlebu-Phaungpyin Road beginning 2006-2007 fiscal year, and is now carrying out upgrading works.

If a bridge over the river is constructed, people not only from Pinlebu Township but also from Phaungpyin, Homalin, Htaminthi and Hkamti townships will be able to make their journey easily.

The Construction Ministry earmarked K 300 million fund for construction of Moo River crossing bridge on Pinlebu-Phaungpyin Road in 2012-2013 fiscal year. Construction works will run according to fund available.

U Win Myint of Myingyan Constituency asked **whether upgrading works of Myingyan-Natogyi-Myttha-Yewun Road (53.7 miles) will be carried out as quickly as possible according to provisions of agreement for social, economic and health cases of locals.** In response, the Union Minister said that Gulf Energy Construction Co Ltd legally took over upgrading works of 53.7 miles long Myingyan-Natogyi-Myttha-Yewun Road between milepost Nos. 2/3 and 56/2 from Asia Myanmar Company and carried out works on 22-1-2011 through BOT system.

Under the leadership of the Construction Ministry, minister for transport of Mandalay Region and engineers from region, district and township supervised upgrading works many times.

As works of Gulf Energy Construction Co Ltd were found unsatisfied, responsible persons of the company were given warnings and instructions many times. Watchful eyes are to be set on progress of the road.

Minister for transport of Mandalay Region and district superintending engineers inspected repairs of road between milepost Nos 20/0 and 36/5 on 8-1-2012.

(See page 11)

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses coord...

(from page 16)

successfully holding the 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012 on a grand scale. He added that necessary management committee and subcommittees have been constituted in the previous meeting. He expressed his thought that there may be no difficult as the ceremonies to mark the Union Day and Independence Day have a few differences. He said that although the people residing in Nay Pyi Taw region attended the ceremony to mark the Independence Day, the ceremony in commemoration of this year's Union Day will be attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives from States and Regions.

Thus, he said that invitation, reception and accommodation subcommittee is to focus on systematic accommodation for the representatives and the security subcommittee to make necessary preparations for the representatives. The previous meeting approved the message to be sent by the President, the Union Day

National Objectives, postcards and billboards, he said, adding that the funds have been issued in advance to the subcommittee for smoothly running of their machinery.

In conclusion, he invited the suggestions from subcommittee and management committee to successfully organize the ceremony to mark the 65th Anniversary Union Day.

Chairman of the Management Committee Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt reported on National Objectives of the 65th Anniversary Union Day, distribution of the message to regions and states after seeking approval, invitation to representatives, entertainment of national race cultural troupes at the dinner, arrangements for transport, accommodation and food services for representatives, putting up of billboards, publishing of postcards and car passes.

Chairmen and officials of subcommittees reported on their respective sectors.

Member of the central committee Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan submitted reports on attendance of reporters and entertainments of national race traditional cultural troupes of the Ministry of Culture at the dinner and

Chairman of the Management Committee Union Minister U Thein Nyunt, preparations for the ceremony and rehearsal, accommodation of representatives who will attend the ceremony and greetings of the President to the representatives.

After that, the Vice-President coordinated necessary matters related to the reports. In his conclusion address, the Vice-President said that as there are some changes in the agenda of previous years' ceremonies to mark the Union Day, the ceremony to mark the 65th Anniversary Union Day will be smooth in its process without any difficulty. The reception and entertainment subcommittees are to make arrangements in better procedures in conformity with the Union Day. He stressed the need to systematically organize the rehearsal and dressed rehearsal for the Union Day ceremony on the designated dates and to scheme the agenda on greetings of the President to the representatives. All subcommittees and management committee are to carry out their tasks dutifully so as to successfully observe the ceremony to mark the 65th Anniversary Union Day.

MNA

Third regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw...

(from page 10)

Works permission will be taken out if works are found unsatisfied.

Instructions had been given with regard to upgrading of Myingyan-Nahtogyi-Myittha-Yewun Road (53.7 miles).

U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Palaw Constituency asked **whether the Union Government will upgrade 512.6 miles long Union Highway from Kawthoung to Mahlwetaung border in Taninthayi Region.** In response, the Union Minister said that in Taninthayi Region, Yangon-Myeik Union Highway is 512 miles and six furlongs long from Mahlwetaung to Kawthoung from south to north. Inspection trips were made in 2011-2012 in Taninthayi Region to know about road and bridge condition. According to findings, in order to repair and upgrade Yangon-Myeik Road, the Construction Ministry assigned repairing and upgrading of 30-mile-long Dawei-Mahlwetaung road section between milepost Nos. 0/0 and 30/0 to Dawei District Group, between milepost Nos. 30/0 and 81/6 (51 miles and six furlongs) to Road Construction Special Group No. 16, Dawei-Myeik road section between milepost Nos. 0/0 and 45/0 (45 miles) to Dawei District Group, between milepost Nos. 45/0 and 95/0 (50 miles) to Airport Construction Special Group No. 6, between milepost Nos. 95/0 and 154/6 (59 miles and six furlongs) and Myeik detour (50 miles and four furlongs) to Myeik District Group.

Respective groups along Union Highway are now carrying out upgrading and repairing works.

Starting from 2012-2013 fiscal year, upgrading works will be carried out through short- and long-plans. The said

road will be upgraded as a 24-foot-wide one like roads in bordering countries.

U Khin Maung Myint of Yaksawk Constituency said in his question that **in three-mile-long Yaksawk-Pindaya road section of Yaksawk-Pindaya-Aungban Road, tarmacking had been made for five miles, asking that the remaining 27-mile-long section will be upgraded to tarred road from gravel one.** In response, the Union Minister said that Pindaya-Yaksawk road section of Aungban-Pindaya-Yaksawk Road in Shan State (North) is 32 miles long between milepost Nos 24/0 and 56/0. Till 31-5-2011, length of tarred road is eight miles and two furlongs long, gravel road is 13 miles long and hard road is 10 miles and six furlongs long.

Funds allotted for 2011-2012 fiscal year to maintain road were spent on tarmacking the road for three miles and three furlongs.

Due to rains, damages in Pindaya-Yaksawk road sections of Aungban-Pindaya-Yaksawk Road between milepost Nos. 29/0 and 29/4 and between milepost Nos. 30/0 and 30/4 are being repaired by spending K 500 million from capital fund allotted for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The seven miles and one furlong long road section will be upgraded to tarred one if capital fund is allotted for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

In reporting session, chairmen and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee, Hluttaw Rights Committee and Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee submitted reports to Hluttaw. The reports will be discussed on 30 January and representatives wishing to discuss may enlist their name in the evening.

In proposal submitting section, U Thein Zaw of Myitkyina Constituency submitted proposal for **setting up a fund in the Union Government under the title of peace**

making fund in the country.

U Zon Taint of Chibwe Constituency and U Myo Swe of Tanai Constituency discussed the proposal and Hluttaw approved it.

U Aung Thein Linn of South Okkalapa Constituency submitted proposal for **amendment to trade tax for being the same tax collection of raw material imports and finished product imports, and more relaxation to be paid to tax on raw material imports than on finished product imports.** U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency submitted proposal for **bill on Control of Money Laundering Law, bill on penal code and bill on Bar Council Act.**

The proposal of U Aung Thein Linn will be discussed on 30 January and representatives wishing to discuss may enlist their name in the evening.

In response to the first proposal of U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko said that as procedures and directives of the law have been perfect in current situation, there is no need to amend the law.

In response to the second proposal of U Thein Nyunt, Judge U Soe Nyunt of Union Supreme Court said that the provisions of the law are not scratching media men, aiming to protect people including media men living under law. The provisions are agreeable to current situation.

In response to the third proposal, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin said that Attorney-General's Office is taking measures to submit bill on amendment to the law to Hluttaw. So, there is no need to submit the proposed bill.

U Thein Nyunt redrew his first and third proposals and asked for recording his second proposal. Hluttaw decided to record it.

The session ended at 3.55 pm and second-day session starts at 10 am tomorrow.—MNA

Severe flooding, landslides kill six in Fiji

SUVA, (Fiji), 26 Jan—Severe flooding and landslides in Fiji have killed six people and left hundreds more homeless.

The permanent secretary of information for the South Pacific nation said Thursday

that heavy rain since last weekend has forced 3,500 people into temporary shelters. Sharon Smith-Johns also says some people have lost all their possessions.

She says a landslide Wednesday killed a family

of four, including two toddlers, in the remote Tukuraki Village on the main island of Viti Levu. She says two farmers also died in separate incidents as they tried to rescue livestock on the islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

Western regions of Viti Levu have been worst hit. Smith-Johns says a break in the weather Thursday is giving people hope that the worst is over.—Internet

Floodwaters rise on the main shopping street of Nandi, Fiji, on 26 Jan, 2012. Authorities said that severe flooding and landslides have killed several people and forced thousands into temporary shelters.

INTERNET



Irish government websites targeted by cyber attack

DUBLIN, 26 Jan—Websites for the Irish Department of Justice and Department of Finance were both taken offline for a time in the early hours of Wednesday morning following an apparent cyber attack.

Both websites were down for around an hour after being targeted with a distributed denial of service (DDOS) attack.

These attacks often result in a website's servers being overloaded with huge numbers of simple requests that bring the site down.

In a statement, the Department of Justice confirmed the websites were attacked.

"This is not an attempt

to extract information from the website but is instead an attempt to stop access to a service. There appears to be no damage done to the website," the statement said.

The department said there seemed to be no damage done to the website but a review is being undertaken and the situation will be monitored continuously.

A Twitter account under the name Anonymous Sweden appeared to claim responsibility for the cyber attack. The account said in a tweet that the attack was in protest against planned new copyright legislation in Ireland. Subsequent tweets revealed email addresses and home phone numbers for all Irish government ministers.

There had been a growing campaign in the country in recent weeks against the proposed introduction of legislation that would allow music publishers and other parties take internet service providers to court in a bid to prevent their customers accessing "pirate" material.

On online petition against the plans has received over 32,000 signatures since it went live on Tuesday.

Xinhua

**Take Fire
Preventive
Measures**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (621)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (621) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Bill Gates, the co-founder of Microsoft Corp and co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, reacts while meeting with president of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso at the European Union headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, on 24 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

British MPs slam military personnel cuts

LONDON, 26 Jan—A powerful group of British MPs has strongly criticized cuts in the country's army, navy and air force as "grotesque" in a report published on Wednesday.

In their annual report on military financing, the MPs criticized the decision to make redundant up to 15,000 soldiers, sailors, and air force personnel, some of whom had fought in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The stark and shocking

differences between redundancies in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) require an exceptionally persuasive explanation," said James Arbuthnot, chairman of the House of Commons Defence Select Committee.

The MPs were especially angered by the contrast between the compulsory redundancies for the service personnel, and the voluntary redundancy scheme for civilian personnel working for the MoD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (337)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (337) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Tornado hits eight areas in Indonesia's main island of Java

JAKARTA, 26 Jan—Tornado hit eight areas in Indonesia's main island of Java on Wednesday, damaging hundreds of house.

The National Agency of Disaster Mitigation (BNPB) recorded that the eight areas are Seribu Islands and South Jakarta in Jakarta Province, regencies and cities of Situbondo, Kediri, Blitar and Malang of East Java Province and regencies of Indramayu and Sukabumi in West Java Province.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, head of Data Centre, Information and Public Relations at the BNPB said in a Press statement that in Seribu Islands, 35 people were injured and 459 houses got mild to moderate damage.

According to Nugroho, one person was killed in South Jakarta. In Situbondo, he said, tornado attacked six sub-districts, damaging hundreds of house. In Kediri, several public facilities and houses were ruined. Meanwhile, in Blitar, trees fell due to tornado attack, damaging one car and injuring five people.

"In Malang, two people have to be treated in a hospital due to injury," Nugroho said, adding that in Sukabumi and Indramayu, tens of houses were ruined. "In Indramayu, about 97 houses in two villages were ruined," he said. He urged people to stay alert.—Xinhua

difference between the application of compulsion in redundancy to the two branches of service in the MoD," the report read.

It also strongly criticized the MoD for poor accounting, and failing to comply "with international reporting standards on the treatment of some contracts."

According to the report, some 5.2 billion pounds (about 8.1 billion US dollars) worth of military equipment was unaccounted for due to bad auditing practices.

Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Sud-Chemie Aktiengesellschaft, of Munchen, Lenbachplatz 6, Federal Republic of Germany, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg. No. 346/1976

in respect of "chemical products used in industry, especially bleaching earths".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for Sud-Chemie
Aktiengesellschaft
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 27 January 2012

A man buys bottled water at a supermarket in Liuzhou City, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 25 Jan, 2012. The Guangxi Jinhe Mining Co Ltd has been held responsible for discharging cadmium pollutants, contaminating the Longjiang River in Hechi City of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, local authorities confirmed Wednesday. The incident caused panic buying of bottled water in Liuzhou city at the lower reaches of the river over the past few days. However, city authorities have taken proper control of the situation by publishing real-time water sample test results via local media and ensuring the prices and market supply of bottled water.—XINHUA



Nigerian President sacks police chief

ABUJA, 26 Jan—Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan on Wednesday sacked the under fire the country's Police boss, Hafiz Ringim, replacing him with an Assistant Inspector General (AIG), Mohammed Dahiru Abubakar.

Ringim proceeds on terminal leave with effect from 25 Jan, a statement issued by the office of the president said. The Nigerian President also approved the retirement of all Deputy Inspectors General of Police with immediate effect.

The new acting police chief was chauffeur into the Presidential Villa and was ushered into the office of the president. His confirmation came after his over one hour's meeting with the president.

He has as first task the responsibility of comprehensive reorganization and repositioning of the Nigeria Police Force to make it more effective and capable of meeting emerging internal security challenges. The president has also established a Special Committee to oversee the urgent reorganization of the Nigeria Police Force. The committee is to be chaired by the Chairman of the Police Service Commission, Parry Osayande. Abubakar who hails from Gusau, Zamfara State, was born 5 May, 1958, and enlisted into the police force as a cadet officer on 30 July, 1979.—Xinhua



A damaged grave is seen during the sunset in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 23 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

Merkel calls for "even greater changes" to Europe

BERLIN, 26 Jan—German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday called for "even greater changes" to the status quo of the crisis-mired eurozone, while warning that pampering debt-wrecked eurozone member countries would do a "disservice" to the future of the euro currency.

Merkel, who has come to the limelight of controversy with her stubborn attitude to impose the rigorous budgetary stringency to other eurozone member countries, made the remarks in a joint interview with six leading European newspapers.

She urged all the parties concerned to make greater efforts and realize "a very, very big change."

"If we stop short of pushing forward these efforts, but only be simply nice to one another and attenuate all the initiatives to reform, then that could be a disservice to Europe," Merkel said.

She added that it would be pointless to promise more money without tackling the causes of the crisis.

The German Chancellor also cautioned that Germany itself had to watch out in order not to run out of steam as pressure from the financial assistance and rescue packages kept mounting. "After all, our capacities aren't infinite, and overstretching ourselves wouldn't help us or the EU as a whole," she said.—Xinhua

Stephen Colbert shuts down exploratory bid

Comedian Stephen Colbert packed in his presidential exploratory committee after his attempt to rally South Carolina voters behind Herman Cain bombed. Despite Cain receiving a "massive 6,324 votes" in the state's primary Saturday, Colbert said it was time to end his dabbling with a 2012 run, Politico reported.

"It is with a heavy heart and a spastic colon that I'm re-suspending Herman Cain's suspended campaign. Also, I'm hereby officially ending my exploratory committee to run for the president of the United States of South Carolina," Colbert told his audience Monday during "The Colbert Report" on Comedy Central.

The funnyman also wondered how he could reclaim control of his super-PAC, which he turned over to colleague and "The Daily Show" host Jon Stewart before announcing his



exploratory committee. The Huffington Post posted Stewart's e-mail to "supporters" explaining Colbert's request (in part):

"Today he asked me if he if he could retake control of The Definitely Not Coordinating With Stephen Colbert Super PAC. I told him, with all due respect, to go take a long walk off a short go-f#%#-yourself." "Are you kidding me? This thing is a pile

of money, sitting on top of a heap of cash, sitting on top of a mountain of moolah. And I'm going to spend it. But in a legal, responsible way. ..."

News Album

'School' misspelled on New York road

People in a New York neighbourhood said the word "school" has been misspelled as "SHCOOL" for months on the street outside of a high school. The residents said sign — Stanton Street, outside of Marta Valle High School on the Lower East Side — was painted "SHCOOL X-NG" during the summer and officials have failed to correct it for several months, the *New York Post* reported Tuesday.

"Nothing surprises me anymore at this school," said Linda Surlis, PTA president at the school. "What's ironic is that the principal has probably painted the lunchroom and rooms inside over about five times since 2010." *The Post* said it was unable to reach any officials at the school. A Department of Transportation spokesman said the misspelling was the work of a utility provider and the company is responsible for correcting the error. "We are contacting them to correct the error promptly," the spokesman said.

Newspaper carrier saves rival from fire

A newspaper delivery woman in Washington state may have saved a carrier for a rival paper from burning to death in his van. Jackie Mincey helped Florentino Martinez, who lost a leg to diabetes, get out of the van Saturday morning, the *Yakima Herald-Republic* reported. Mincey was also the one who spotted flames coming from under Martinez's van.

"She saved my life," Martinez said. Martinez's troubles began when he got stuck in the snow while delivering the *Herald-Republic* to a house in Prosser. Mincey, delivering the *Tri-City Herald* to the same house, helped push him free twice. As Martinez tried to drive off the property, Mincey saw the flames. She tried to use snow to douse the fire and then helped Martinez get out with his walker.

Martinez said Mincey stayed with him until the firefighters and his wife got to the house.

Kennedy hearse auctioned in Arizona

The 1964 white Cadillac hearse that transported the body of President John F. Kennedy sold for \$176,000 at an Arizona auction. Barrett-Jackson Auction Co said Colorado real estate developer Stephen Tebo purchased the hearse, which carried the as-sassinated president's body in 1963 from Parkland Memorial Hospital to Dallas Love Field, for \$176,000 at the auction in Scottsdale, *The Dallas Morning News* reported Tuesday.

Other classic cars sold at the auction include a 1955 Mercedes Gullwing for \$4.6 million, The Arizona Republic reported. The auctioneer, which specializes in classic cars, said it has sold nine cars for more than \$1 million thus far this year, giving it its best year since 2008.



Supermodel Kate Moss

Kate Moss new face of Mango

LONDON, 26 Jan — Supermodel Kate Moss is the new face of Spanish high street store Mango.

The 38-year-old is the latest celebrity to appear in a campaign for the store, following in the footsteps of Scarlett Johansson, Penelope Cruz and Olivia Palermo, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"I'm really excited to be working with Mango for S/S (spring-summer) 2012, we had a great time shooting the campaign, the team are so easy to work with and shooting with Terry is always fun," said Moss.

The ad has been shot by photographer Terry Richardson. —*Internet*

Daniel Radcliffe finds his girlfriend 'nice'

LONDON, 26 Jan — Actor Daniel Radcliffe says his girlfriend is very supportive.

The 23-year-old has been in a relationship with production assistant Rosie Coker for over two years.

"She's like the nice half of my brain - the part of my brain that doesn't dislike me - that's her. She encourages me which is nice," showbizspy.com quoted Radcliffe as saying.

"She knows me so she knows this is what I'm like. She knows I love my job and there's nothing I would ever do to not be doing my job," he added. —*Internet*



Marilyn was incredibly clever: Michelle Williams

LOS ANGELES, 26 Jan — Michelle Williams who plays Marilyn Monroe in the film "My Week With Marilyn" believes the late actress was an incredibly clever woman and had control over her own image.

"I think she was an incredibly clever woman but also kind of gulleible, a bit like a child. She always had such control over her own image and what the world knows of Marilyn - the images that we see, the interviews that she gave - was all very controlled," Williams said.

"There's this incandescence, this mixture, this woman-child. She gave the impression of having the body of a woman but the mind and the heart of an innocent, and that was an intoxicating



Michelle Williams

combination," she added.

Marilyn was an icon and has been an inspiration for numerous books and films, including two diaries written by English filmmaker Colin Clark, who worked and befriended Marilyn during the making of 1957 movie "The

Prince and the Showgirl". These memoirs now form the narrative for a new film, "My Week With Marilyn", with Williams playing the role of Marilyn.

"Marilyn is an icon, and I must say that I have never been so affected by somebody's beauty until I started spending a lot of time with her. I have always been drawn to Marilyn," said the 31-year-old "Brokeback Mountain" star. —*Internet*

Milian to guest star on 'Gifted Man'

NEW YORK, 26 Jan — Singer and actress Christina Milian is to guest star on a February episode of the US dramas series "A Gifted Man," CBS announced Tuesday.

Milian will play Shawnee Baker, a successful pop star suffering from unusual symptoms in the installment, which will be directed by recurring guest star Eriq La Salle, the network said.

"We're thrilled that Christina will be bringing her acting and singing talents to 'A Gifted Man,'" executive producer Neal Baer said in a statement. "She'll play a spoiled pop star who complains of a mysterious ailment zapping all her energy that even Dr Michael Holt finds puzzling." This episode also marks of the reunion of "ER" alums LaSalle and Michael Beach, who plays Shawnee's manager.

Milian has appeared in the feature films "Love Don't Cost a Thing," "Be Cool," "Pulse" and "Ghosts of Girlfriends Past," as well as TV's "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation." —*Internet*



Christina Milian attends the NBC Universal Press Tour All-Star Party in Pasadena, California on 6 January, 2012. —*INTERNET*

Demi Moore faces health issues

LOS ANGELES, 26 Jan — Actress Demi Moore has entered a treatment facility for exhaustion and health issues.



Actress Vanessa Hudgens

The 49-year-old was reportedly hospitalised Monday after paramedics were called to her home. Now she is seeking "further professional assistance," reports tmz.com.

The reason why Moore was taken to hospital is still unclear. But her representative stated: "Because of the stresses in her life right now, Demi has chosen to seek professional assistance to treat her exhaustion and improve her overall health. She looks forward to getting well and is grateful for the support of her family and friends."



Actress Demi Moore

The actress is going through a rough patch in her personal life since her recent split from husband Ashton Kutcher.

—*Internet*

Hudgens to auction award gown for charity

LONDON, 26 Jan — Actress Vanessa Hudgens is auctioning off the dress she wore to the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards to raise cash for a cancer charity.

Bidding for the couture gown began Monday, and the auction will continue on eBay.com, an online shopping portal till 2 Feb, reports contactmusic.com.

"I am proud to continue to support Stand Up To Cancer and all the incredible work they do. Cancer touches all of our lives in some way and I am honoured to donate this gorgeous Candie's Couture gown to help to raise funds and awareness for this important initiative," the 23-year-old said.

All proceeds from the sale will benefit Stand Up To Cancer, a charitable organization.

—*Internet*

Bellamy sends Liverpool into League Cup final

LIVERPOOL, 26 Jan—Craig Bellamy scored the decisive goal against his former club as Liverpool reached the League Cup final on Wednesday by beating Manchester City 3-2 on aggregate, prompting manager Kenny Dalglish to go all teary-eyed.

A thrilling semi-final second leg finished



Liverpool's Welsh forward Craig Bellamy (R) celebrates with Liverpool's English midfielder Jordan Henderson after scoring during the English League cup semi final second leg football match between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield, in Liverpool. Bellamy came back to haunt his former club City as Liverpool booked their first Wembley appearance for 16 years after a dramatic 2-2 draw—INTERNET

2-2 at Anfield but the advantage carved out in Manchester a fortnight ago booked Liverpool a date at Wembley next month where they will face Cardiff City, another of Bellamy's old clubs.

"It couldn't be a better final for me," Bellamy, who left the pitch to a standing ovation when he was substituted late on, told Sky Sports.

"Cardiff means so much to me, it's where I'm from, I've never played at Wembley and to beat a club like Man City with all the players they have, it was just so fitting for us to get to the final."

City started without striker Mario Balotelli after deciding not to appeal his four-match ban for stamping on Tottenham Hotspur's Scott Parker at the weekend.

Against the run of play, City drew level on aggregate when Nigel de Jong's 31st-minute cracker but nine minutes later Liverpool had their noses in front again when captain Steven Gerrard converted a penalty as he had done in the first leg.

City keeper Joe Hart had kept his side in the game with a succession of excellent saves before Edin Dzeko put the Premier League leaders 2-1 ahead on the night with a 67th minute tap-in.—Reuters

Man City dispute 'has cost Tevez £9.3mn'

MANCHESTER, 26 Jan—Carlos Tevez's long-running dispute with Manchester City has cost the striker £9.3 million (\$14.5m) in wages, fines and lost bonuses, according to reports in several British media outlets on Wednesday.

The Argentina striker has reportedly not been paid his estimated £200,000-a-week salary since the end of November and has been fined £1.2m for gross misconduct over his unauthorised exile in his homeland. Tevez has appealed against the fine.

He is also believed to have forfeited £6m in loyalty bonuses over his repeated requests to leave the club.

The 27-year-old has not played for City since apparently refusing to come on as a substitute during a Champions League game at Bayern Munich on September 27, which saw him fined two weeks' wages for breach of



In this 20 Dec, 2010 file photo, Manchester City's Carlos Tevez reacts during their English Premier League soccer match against Everton at City of Manchester Stadium, Manchester, England. Manchester City's chairman criticized AC Milan on 24 Jan, 2012. INTERNET

contract.

City are seeking to sell Tevez in the current transfer window, but mooted moves

to AC Milan, Inter Milan and Paris Saint-Germain have failed to materialise.

In a rare move, the club's chairman, Khaldoon al-Mubarak, spoke out to criticise the conduct of Milan, who Tevez has identified as his preferred destination.

"As things stand, AC Milan are not an option for Carlos," Al-Mubarak told Abu Dhabi's *The National* newspaper.

"If they want to be a consideration in this transfer window, they would do better to stop congratulating one another and begin to look at how they would meet our terms," Carlos remains a player with contractual obligations to Manchester City for the next two-and-a-half seasons.

"Unless we receive an offer we deem appropriate, the terms of his contract will be enforced.

Internet

Erding relieved at Rennes move from PSG



Newly recruited striker Turkish Mevlut Erding attends a press conference at Stade Rennais football club headquarters in Rennes, western France. INTERNET

PARIS, 26 Jan—Turkish international striker Mevlut Erding on Wednesday spoke of his relief at leaving Ligue 1 leaders Paris Saint-Germain for Breton top flight side Rennes. The 24-year-old, born in France of Turkish

parents, signed a three-and-a-half-year deal after completing a medical for a move reportedly worth between seven and eight million euros to end a nightmare at the Parc des Princes this season. Erding capped 13 times - arrived at PSG in June 2009 from Sochaux but has been a fringe player this term after scoring just one goal in 11 matches.

"I am relieved to have signed - I no longer had a future at Paris and it was really weighing me down that I had not played for almost six months after five full seasons," said Erding, who had managed a goal every two games in his first season in the capital.—Internet



Ekaterina Bobrova and Dmitri Soloviev of Russia perform during the Ice Dance Short Dance on day three of the ISU European Figure Skating Championships at the Motorpoint Arena in Sheffield.—INTERNET

Injury ends German pair's European title defence

BERLIN, 26 Jan—Germany's triple world champion and four-time European pairs champions Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy will not be able to defend their continental title as Savchenko has a left thigh injury. The German couple pulled out after the warm-up on the rink, a few hours before the short programme on Wednesday. Savchenko has not recovered fully from the injury she suffered in training on 12 January.

"It was a very tough decision to take because we have come this far but we cannot take the risk of

aggravating the injury," said their coach Ingo Steuer.

In their absence Russian pair Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov led after the short programme with 72.80 points, in front of compatriots Vera Bazarova/Yuri Larionov (66.89) and another Russian couple Ksenia Stolbova/Fedor Klimov (58.66).

Russia also led in the Dance competition, Ekaterina Bobrova and Dmitri Soloviev somewhat surprisingly holding an advantage over the defending champions from France Nathalie Pechalat and Fabian Bourzat after their short programme.—Internet

E Guinea reach last eight and eliminate Senegal

BATA, 26 Jan—Rank outsiders Equatorial Guinea reached the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals Wednesday and eliminated Senegal with a shock 2-1 triumph at rain-soaked Estadio de Bata. Iban "Randy" Iyanga put a team ranked 151 in the world ahead on 62 minutes, Moussa Sow equalised a minute from time but David Alvarez snatched the winner four minutes into stoppage time. Defender Alvarez, who plays Spanish third-tier football, had a night to remember as he created the opening goal with a pin-point cross before rifling home the winner after the ball was cut back to him outside the box.

The one-time 125/1 outsiders and tournament co-hosts have a maximum six points and a draw with Zambia in Malabo Sunday will ensure



Senegal's Souleymane Diawara (L) vies with Equatorial Guinea's Javier Angel Balboa Osa during the Africa Cup of Nations at the Bata stadium in Bata. Rank outsiders Equatorial Guinea reached the 2012. INTERNET

a team that hired Brazilian coach Gilson Paulo less than three weeks ago top the final table. Victorious captain Juvenal said: "We were a little lucky to score the second goal in the last few seconds! It's fantastic for us and our supporters. We're very hopeful for the future.—Internet

International Sports

Sharapova into Australian Open final vs Azarenka

MELBOURNE, 26 Jan—Maria Sharapova has avenged her Wimbledon loss to Petra Kvitová and returned to the Australian Open final for the first time since winning 2008 title. Sharapova broke Kvitová's serve in the last game to finish off a 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 victory and set up a championship match against third-seeded Victoria Azarenka. The third-seeded Belarusian ousted defending champion Kim Clijsters earlier Thursday to reach her first Grand Slam final.

Whoever wins the final will also gain the No 1 ranking. Sharapova lost to second-ranked Kvitová in the Wimbledon final last year,



Maria Sharapova of Russia eyes on the ball for a return shot to Petra Kvitová of the Czech Republic during their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, on 26 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

her first major final since returning in 2009 after a long time off the tour following a shoulder operation. She has won three majors, but none

since the Australian four years ago.

"In the third set, I felt she always had the advantage because I was always down on my serve," said Sharapova, who served five double-faults in the third set and 10 in the match. "I just told myself you just gotta go for it, don't let her finish off the points like she likes to." Azarenka won the early semifinal 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, twice recovering from periods when a resurgent Clijsters seemed to have the upper hand, breaking the veteran Belgian's serve three times in the third set to secure victory in only her second appearance in a major semifinal.—Internet



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus reacts after winning a point against Kim Clijsters of Belgium during their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, on 26 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

MELBOURNE, 26 Jan—Victoria Azarenka reached her first Grand Slam final and staked a claim for the No 1 ranking, beating defending champion Kim Clijsters 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 in the Australian Open

Azarenka into women's final at Australian Open

semifinals Thursday.

The third-seeded Azarenka recovered twice in periods when a resurgent Clijsters seemed to have the upper hand, breaking the veteran Belgian's serve three times in the third set to secure victory in only her second appearance in a major semifinal.

The 22-year-old Belarusian will play Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová or 2008 Australian Open champion Maria Sharapova in the final Saturday night. Azarenka, Kvitová and Sharapova can all finish the tournament with

the No. 1 ranking.

After a strong start, Azarenka's serve deserted her in the second set and Clijsters dictated play with her solid groundstrokes and some amazing defense.

But after getting the momentum back, it was Clijsters who blinked first in the third set, dropping serve in the second game and again in the fourth. She got two of those service games back, including one when she rallied from 40-0 down to win a game to get the score back to 4-3. But Azarenka rallied immediately again, breaking serve.—Internet

DISTRICT NEWS

Laterite roads opened in Nyaunglebin

NYAUNGLEBIN, 26 Jan—Pagoda Road and School Road were inaugurated in Thauangyi Village of Nyaunglebin Township on 22 January.

Wellwishers cut the ribbon to open the roads.

The Pagoda Road is 1500 feet long and 12 feet wide laterite facility and the School Road, 800 feet long and 18 feet wide laterite facility.

Kyemon

Control of bird flu, new castle diseases disseminated

MOMAUK, 26 Jan—An educative talk on control of animal diseases, avian influenza and new castle disease was given at the hall of Momauk Township General Administration Department on 16 January.

Officials of Bhamo District and Momauk Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department shared knowledge about control of animal diseases, avian influenza and new castle diseases and distributed posters and pamphlets on bird flu and blue-ear pig disease and vaccine for new castle.

They vaccinated 214 herds of cattle in Mannaung Village and sprayed poultry farms and cow sheds.

LBVD

Nadal tops Federer in Australian Open semifinal



Spain's Rafael Nadal, left, celebrates a point win against Switzerland's Roger Federer during their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, 26 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

MELBOURNE, 26 Jan—One round earlier than they usually meet in a Grand Slam, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer still treated it like a final.

Nadal outlasted Federer 6-7 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-4 in an Australian Open semifinal on Thursday night between longtime rivals who had met in eight major finals. It was the first time they'd played in the semis of a Grand Slam since 2005. Two weeks ago, Nadal injured his right knee and wasn't sure he'd be able to start the tournament. Now, he can barely believe he's in the final.

"If you tell me that two Sundays ago, I really cannot imagine," Nadal said. "For me, it's a dream to be back in a final of the Australian Open."

Nadal will have the opportunity to capture an 11th major title on Sunday night when he plays the winner of Friday's semifinal between defending champion Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-1-12 09:30 am ~
28-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Overseas Transmission

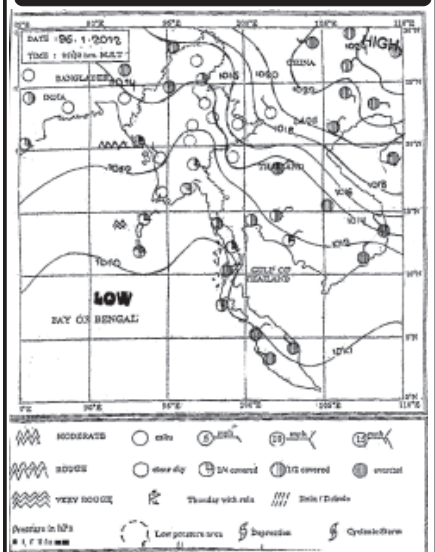
- * News
- * Pleasant Place for Pleasure
- * News
- * A Seminar: Victoria University College
- * The Eldest Woman On Earth?
- * News
- * Living with the Love of the Nature
- * News
- * Songs for you
- * Water Colour Hla Han Art Workmanship Solo Show
- * News
- * Youth of the Future (Puppet)
- * News
- * Orchid Survey in Hponkanrazi
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * National Expo & Car Show (2012)
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * "Me N My Travel" Pyay (Part-3) Night Market of Pyay
- * Myanmar Movies
- * "Implicated Attachment"

MYANMAR TV

(27-1-2012) (Friday)

- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
- 2. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm
- 3. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:30 pm
- 4. Dance Of National Races
- 4:40 pm
- 5. Songs Of Yester Years
- 4:50 pm
- 6. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (Myanmar)
- 5:05 pm
- 7. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:10 pm
- 8. Myanmar Language
- 5:45 pm
- 9. Sports Highlight
- 6:20 pm
- 10. Internet Garden
- 7:00 pm
- 11. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 12. News
- 13. Just For Laughs (Gags Asia)
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 15. Song Lovers

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather for 27th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	27/81	10/50	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	26/82	04/39	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	34/93	14/57	Generally fair weather	
4	Chin	19/66	01/34	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sgawing	27/81	09/48	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sgawing	29/84	13/55	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	19/66	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	31/88	14/57	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	32/90	12/54	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	30/86	13/55	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	33/91	17/63	Generally fair weather	
12	Yangon	33/91	15/59	Generally fair weather	
13	Rakhine	28/82	11/52	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	24/75	07/45	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	26/79	05/41	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	28/82	07/45	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	30/85	16/61	Generally fair weather	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	32/90	12/54	Fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	15/59	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	13/55	Fair weather	

During the past (24) hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Tanintharyi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sgawing Region, Kachin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (5°C) below January average temperatures in Bago Region, (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Upper Sgawing, Mandalay and Yangon Regions, Chin, Shan, Rakhine Kayah and Kayin States and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Loxley (-1°C), Namhsan and Heho (0°C) each, Pindag (1°C) and Haka (2°C).

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

Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days
Likelihood of continuation of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar Areas.

Seven killed in Indonesian storms

JAKARTA, 26 Jan—Seven people were killed and 51 injured as heavy rains lashed Indonesia, bringing down trees and powerlines and damaging hundreds of homes, an official said Thursday.

"Seven people died, 51 wounded and 1,012 houses were damaged in 23 districts and cities due to rainstorms on Wednesday," National Disaster Management Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said via text message.

"Those killed were crushed by falling trees."

Rainstorms and strong winds were brought about by Tropical Cyclone Iggy in the Indian Ocean, south of the resort island of Bali and nearby Nusa Tenggara islands, Nugroho said.

"Tropical cyclone Iggy resulted in wind speeds of more than 60 kilometres (37 miles) per hour and waves four-to-six metres (20 feet) high in the waters in several parts of Indonesia."

The Jakarta Globe newspaper reported a ferry carrying more than 200 people, including five Australians, heading to the Gili islands off Bali nearly capsized after being caught in waves up to three metres high, but there were no casualties.

Storms, landslides and floods are common in Indonesia during the annual rainy season, which peaks between December and February.

Internet



An overflowing river surrounds a hut in Pemancingan village on Bali island in 2007.—INTERNET

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attend reception to mark Republic Day of India

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin pose for documentary photo with guests at the reception to mark Republic Day of India.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attended the reception to mark the Republic Day of India which is founding day of the Republic of India at the residence of the Indian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Diplomat Road in Dagon Township, here, this evening.

Also present on the occasion were Union Minister for

Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, the commander of Yangon Command, the Yangon mayor, departmental heads, ambassadors of foreign embassies to Myanmar, Charges d'Affaires and military attachés and guests.

At 6.30 pm when Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin arrived at the residence of the Indian Ambassador, they were welcomed

by Indian Ambassador Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri.

First, national anthems of Myanmar and India were played. After that, the Vice-President and wife posed for documentary photo with the Indian Ambassador and those present. Later, the Indian Ambassador hosted a dinner to Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin and those present.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses coord meeting of 65th Anniversary Union Day Organizing Central Committee



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses second coordination meeting of Central Committee for Organizing the 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—In accord with the national objectives: to build the Union for its perpetual existence through the strength of national unity, all the national people to uphold Our Three Main National Causes forever, to endow the national people with Union Spirit, to strive for ensuring eternal peace for all the national races, and to build a modern and developed Union by

practising discipline-flourishing democracy in accord with the constitution, the 65th Anniversary Union Day Organizing Central Committee held the second coordination meeting at the hall of the Union government, here, this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk

Kham.

Also present at the meeting were members of the central committee and management committee, chairmen of subcommittees and secretaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that today's meeting is aimed at (See page 11)

Significant night temperatures (26-1-2012)

Loilem	(-1°C)
Namhsam	(0°C)
Heho	(0°C)
Pinlaung	(1°C)
Haka	(2°C)

Objectives of the 65th Anniversary Union Day

- * To build the Union for its perpetual existence through the strength of national unity
- * All the national people to uphold Our Three Main National Causes forever
- * To endow the national people with Union Spirit
- * To strive for ensuring eternal peace for all the national races
- * To build a modern and developed Union by practising discipline-flourishing democracy in accord with the constitution