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5th Waxing of Tabodwe 1373 ME

Saturday, 28 January, 2012

Appointment of Chief Minister for Taninthayi Region Government

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—The President Office issued Order No. 5/2012 today.
The translation of the order is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Order No. 5/2012

4th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1373 ME

(27 January, 2012)

Appointment of Chief Minister for Taninthayi Region Government

In accord with the Section 264, Subsection (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Section 82, Subsection (a) of the Union Government Law; and Section 56, Subsection (a) of Region or State Government Law, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Myat Ko of Taninthayi Region Government, who has been approved by the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw, was assigned duty as Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region Government.

Sd/Thein Sein
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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.

Significant night
temperature
(27-1-2012)

Pinlaung	(0° C)
Namhsam	(1° C)
Heho	(1° C)
Haka	(3° C)
Mogok	(3° C)

First Pyithu Hluttaw in session for second day Seven questions asked and answered, two new proposals submitted, one bill discussed at today's session

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—The third regular session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the second day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here, attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 377 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Seven questions were asked and answered, two new proposals submitted and one bill discussed during the today's session.

U Tha Win from Yankin Constituency asked **if there is lowest fixed price for paddy and other crops in advance of the harvest to help farmers avert price manipulation of purchasers** and Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint replied that Reserve Rice Supervisory Committee was formed with ten members. The price offer of the committee will be changing depending on time and place. Currently, the committee is purchasing Emahta rice directly from farmers at the regions where the rice price is low, offering K 330,000 for hundred baskets of Emahta rice weighing 46 pounds. Purchase of beans and pulses at fixed price is also on the agenda of the committee.

U Sai Aung Kyi of Mongton Constituency asked **if there is a plan to open BP. 1 Gate on Mongton-Pungpahkyem BP. 1 route linking Mongton and Zhenloun of Thailand when the regional stability prevails** and the Union Commerce Minister replied that Taunggyi-Loilem-Namhsan-Mongnai-Mongpan-Tahsan-Mongton-Pungpahkyem route is 298 miles long and Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek-Monghsat-Mongton-Pungpahkyem route is 346 miles long. Both of the routes are in need of major repair to deal with heavy trucks and are not serviceable for smooth commodity flow. Currently, villagers from BP. 1 Gate go to the neighbouring country to receive medical treatment and there is no trade. Opening of border check-point calls for bilateral agreement in addition to security, smooth transportation and opening of related departments and currently there is no such agreement to start border trade or open border check-point.

With peace negotiations in progress to ensure lasting peace, upon completion of the infrastructures required for border trade camp that is proposed to open at BP 1 Gate on Mongton-Pungpahkyem BP 1 route linked with



Pyithu Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book.—MNA

Mongton in Shan State (East) sharing border with Thailand, it will be reported to the Union government for further measures.

U Than Soe of Thazi Constituency asked to **repair wooden bridge across Nyankan Creek in Thazi Township** and Deputy Border Affairs Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win replied that a total of K 22.99 million was spent on repair of that bridge until 2011-2012 fiscal year. A total of K 103.73 million will be needed to reconstruct the bridge with concrete foundation, wooden beams and floors, which will be done in 2011-2012 fiscal year with the additional fund of Mandalay Region.

U Kyi Maung of Myittha Constituency asked to **reconstruct Panlaung river-crossing bridge in Nwagugyi Village-tract of Myittha Township** and the deputy minister replied that Panlaung wooden bridge was swept away in the water release from Kinta Dam in 2006. In 2007, local villagers themselves built a 235-ft long and 4-ft wide bridge 150 feet downstream from the original place.

There is not enough fund to build a new bridge as 315x14x15 feet one with wooden piers, steel truss and wooden floor which is estimated to cost K 110.25 million, but it will be started commencing 2012-2013 fiscal year.

(See page 8)

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 28 January, 2012

Living alive

According to the Buddha, it is extremely rare for us to be born as human beings. Our lifespan is very short. During this short period of time, we should do good deeds and serve the interests of our own as well as of others. A person who does not serve his or her interest and other interests is like one who is living without being alive. Such kind of person is not said to be alive. "It's a very short trip, while alive, live," said a US world famous author and publisher Malcolm Forbers. People of different age would have to sail our life ship. Every youth has to spend their life by perusing their education. While learning different kinds of subjects, they should serve the others' interests. But the life of middle-age people is much busier than youths. They are busy dealing with economic, prosperity, social and religious affairs. Serving the people's interest is a milestone in the short period of lifetime. Even when we become older, we are not out of the boundary of being alive. We could run out of economic boundary. But we have to continue engaging in religious and social affairs as long as we are still alive. We all would have to stay alive by serving own interest as well as others till the end of our life.

DISTRICT NEWS

Danger of drugs talked

MYITKYINA, 27 Jan—Myitkyina Special Anti-Drug Squad is expediting its works to eradicate drug addicts and possessors in Kachin State.

On 6 January, a talk on narcotic drug elimination was held at Mohnyin Degree College. IP Khin Maung Yi of Myitkyina Special Anti-Drug Squad explained disadvantage of drug addicts and seizures of drugs by the squad in 2011.

The deputy commissioner and officials viewed round the posters on drug elimination displayed at the hall.

Township IPRD

Fire drill demonstrated

MANDALAY, 27 Jan—A demonstration on fire fighting was held at Kaung Zaw Hein fuel station on 84th Street between 38th and 39th streets in Mahaangmye Township on 18 January.

Officials of Mandalay Region Fire Services Department inspected oil tanks and fire extinguishers. Head of District FSD U Mya Kyaing explained fire preventive measures to members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade. Later, they demonstrated use of fire fighting.

Myanma Alin



Union FM arrives back from India

NAV PYI TAW, 27 Jan—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin arrived back in Myanmar by air after paying a goodwill visit to India from 22 to 26 January.

Accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to India U Zin Yaw and Myanmar delegation, the Union Minister called on Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at the Prime Minister Office on 24 January. They discussed promotion of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues.

The Union Minister also met Minister for External Affairs of India Mr SM Krishna at Hyderabad House in New Delhi in the afternoon and attended the Myanmar-India bilateral talks. They exchanged views on further strengthening the existing good neighbourly relations and promotion of the multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries. They touched on a wide range of issues concerning infrastructure development, cooperation in the areas of



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin calls on Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at Prime Minister Office.

MNA

energy, agriculture, human resource development and capacity building, promotion of trade, finance and investment, cooperation in maintenance of security, peace and stability in the border areas.

The Indian Minister for External Affairs hosted a luncheon in honour of the Union Minister and party.

On 25 January, the Union Minister talked about Myanmar: A Country in Transition to Democracy at

the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in New Delhi.

In the evening, the Union Minister met embassy staff at the residence of Myanmar Ambassador in New Delhi.

MNA

Workshop on Public Private Partnership Readiness held



Public Private Partnership Readiness Workshop in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 27 Jan—Public Private Partnership Readiness Workshop, jointly organized by Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP), took place at UMFCCEI here yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Deputy Minister U Myo Aung, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Dr Noeleen Heyzer of UNESCAP and experts, Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Maj-Gen

Anup Kumar Chakma, diplomats from embassies of Indonesia and Laos, Secretary General Mr Toshihiro Mizutani of JETRO in Yangon, Chairman Mr Shiro Asahina of JCCY in Yangon, Economic Advisor to the President Dr U Myint and Myanmar experts, UMFCCEI President U Win Aung and vice-presidents, CEC members, executives, departmental heads, officers and guests.

At the ceremony, UMFCCEI President U Win Aung and Dr Noeleen Heyzer and Union Minister U Soe Thein delivered speeches.

Four resource person—two from UNESCAP, one from Myanmar Investment Commission and one entrepreneur—submitted papers.—MNA

Sports training courses 12 March-6 April

YANGON, 27 Jan—Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports will conduct the sports training courses in Nay Pyi Taw, Regions and States.

The sports courses namely football, volleyball, track & field, weightlifting, boxing, judo, table tennis, basketball, martial arts, canoe, ball, aerobics, Taekwondo, gymnastics, Wushu, Sepak

Takraw, badminton, cycling, tennis, chess, rowing, karate-do, body-building/physical culture, sailing, hockey, archery, swimming, baseball, cricket, shooting, golf, billiards and bowling will be

provided to the trainees from 12 March to 6 April.

Those wishing to attend the courses may take out applications at respective sports federations and dial 400431 and 400893 of SPED (Public Sports and Education Branch-Yangon) at Kyaik-kasan Grounds.—MNA



Security forces inspect the scene of a car bomb attack in Sadr City eastern of Baghdad, Iraq, on 24 Jan, 2012. Two separate car bombs exploded in the Shiite district of Sadr City killing and wounding several people, police said.
INTERNET

IMF sees Myanmar as Asia's next economic bright spot

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently commended Myanmar's economic reform efforts, saying that the nation has the potential to become the next economic bright spot in Asia. "The new government is facing a historic opportunity to jump-start the development process and lift living standards," the Washington-based body said in a statement released earlier

this week after a consultation with Myanmar.

"Myanmar has a high growth potential and could become the next economic frontier in Asia, if it can turn its rich natural resources, young labour force, and proximity to some of the most dynamic economies in the world, into its advantage," the global lender said.

An IMF mission headed by Meral Karasulu visited Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon between 9 and 25 Jan. Karasulu noted

that Myanmar's recent reform efforts "go in the right direction." The Asian country "would benefit from broader consultation with stakeholders and using the best international practices distilled from other countries' experiences," the mission head said. The IMF has projected Myanmar's real gross domestic product to grow about 5.5 percent this fiscal year and 6 percent next fiscal year.

MNA/Xinhua

Obama, Gov Brewer exchange words in Ariz

PHOENIX, 27 Jan—Arizona Gov Jan Brewer greeted President Barack Obama in Phoenix Wednesday with a letter and what political analysts said appeared to be a piece of her mind. Observers who could not hear what the two were saying said the president and the governor appeared to be talking at the same time, a pool reporter traveling with the president said. At one point, Brewer, a Republican and advocate of cracking down on illegal immigrants, pointed her index finger at Obama. Obama apparently walked away from the governor while she was talking. She later told reporters the president left while she was in the middle of a sentence.

Brewer said the letter was a handwritten invitation to discuss the "Arizona comeback" and to visit the Mexican border with her. She

said she offered to give Obama lunch on the trip. "He was a little disturbed about my book, 'Scorpions for Breakfast.' I said to him that I have all the respect in the world for the office of the president," Brewer said. "The book is what the book is. I asked him if he read the book. He said he read the excerpt. So." An Obama spokesman released a statement on the exchange: "The governor handed the President a letter and said she was inviting him to meet with her. The President said he'd be glad to meet with her again, but did note that after their last meeting, a cordial discussion in the Oval Office, the governor inaccurately described the meeting in her book. The President looks forward to continuing taking steps to help Arizona's economy grow."—Internet



US President Barack Obama speaks at Conveyor Engineering and Manufacturing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on 25 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Ahmadinejad says Iran ready for nuclear talks

TEHRAN, 27 Jan—President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says Iran is ready for nuclear talks with the world powers amid toughening sanctions aimed at forcing Teheran to sharply scale back its nuclear programme. Ahmadinejad, however, says sanctions won't force Iran to capitulate to Western demands. The United States and allies want Iran to halt uranium enrichment, which they worry could lead to weapons-grade material. Iran says it only seeks reactors for energy and research. Ahmadinejad made the remarks in Kerman, southeastern Iran on Thursday. Iran had previously indicated that it is ready for a new round of talks with the five permanent Security Council members plus Germany. A senior UN nuclear agency team is expected to visit Teheran on Saturday.—Internet

Abbas: Palestinians to leave peace talks

RAMALLAH, 27 Jan—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said his side would walk away from deadlocked exploratory peace talks with Israel Thursday and weigh its next moves.

"If we demarcate the borders, we can return to negotiations, but the Israelis do not want demarcation of borders," Palestine news agency Wafa quoted Abbas as saying.

The Palestinian National Authority says it wants Israel to accept, as a basis for negotiations, Israel's borders before the 1967 Six-Day War that led to Israel's West Bank and Gaza occupation. It also wants Israel to halt Jewish settlement construction—deemed illegal under international law—in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

US President Barack Obama called last May for a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the creation of a non-militarized Palestinian State based on Israel's prewar borders, modified by land swaps—a proposal Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu immediately rejected, calling the borders "indefensible" and counter to earlier US commitments.

Netanyahu urged Palestinian negotiators to return to the talks without preconditions, rejecting the Palestinian demand to halt settlement building.

"They would be making a mistake if they are looking for excuses to leave the table," an Israeli official quoted by the British newspaper *The Independent* said. "Walking away ... is not going to solve anything."

Israeli and Palestinian representatives met five times this month in Amman as part of a Jordanian effort to advance a plan by international mediators to resume formal peace talks.

The plan, presented in September by the Quartet—the United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia—set a Thursday deadline for both sides to present proposals on borders and security.

Israel said the Palestinian-approved deadline was "artificial" to create an "artificial crisis," *The Independent* said. "Israel chose to [promote] settlements over peace," a Palestinian official quoted by *The Independent* said.

Internet

Suicide bomber kills 31 in Baghdad attack

BAGHDAD, 27 Jan—A suicide bomber detonated his explosive-filled taxi near a Shi'ite funeral procession in Baghdad on Friday, killing 31 people and bringing the death toll from violence since an Iraqi political crisis erupted in December to more than 400. The bomber exploded his vehicle near the group of mourners passing by a small market street in the mainly Shi'ite Zafaraniya neighborhood in the south of the Iraqi capital, police officials and hospitals said.

The Shi'ite-led government often blames Sunni Islamist insurgents for attacks targeting Shi'ites, saying they are trying to stoke the kind of sectarian slaughter which killed tens of thousands of Iraqis at the peak of the war in 2006-2007. "I was in the old Zafaraniya market when a funeral came by and just as it passed, a car bomb exploded," said Ali Mohsen. "I helped evacuating the dead and injured people, their blood covered the ground."

The funeral was for a Shi'ite real estate agent who was killed by gunmen in Baghdad a day earlier, police said. The motive for his murder was not clear.



A resident inspects the site of a bomb attack inside a coffee shop in Baghdad today.—INTERNET

But the suicide car bomber appeared to target the funeral near Zafaraniya police station, blowing himself up close to shops and the market, said an official at the office of Baghdad security spokesman Qassim al-Moussawi.—MNA/Reuters

Nigeria arrests 200 after attacks

KANO, 27 Jan—Nigeria has arrested 200 people, mostly Chadian "mercenaries," after last week's attacks in the north, a police source said Thursday, as pressure mounts on the security forces to stem the violence.



Coordinated gun and bomb attacks in the northern City of Kano last Friday killed at least 185 people, the deadliest ever assault claimed by the shadowy Islamist sect Boko Haram.

They have been blamed for scores of other attacks across northern Nigeria. "Many arrests have been made since the attacks," the police source said on condition of anonymity.

"We have arrested around 200 attackers and 80 percent of them are Chadians. They came in as mercenaries."

There were indications the Chadians had been paid to participate in the recent attacks attributed to Boko Haram, the source added.

Nigerian security forces have long suspected Boko Haram of smuggling arms into the country through the porous northeastern border with Chad and Niger.

Internet

Residents inspect a police patrol van outside Sheka police station in northern Nigerian City of Kano following coordinated gun and bomb attacks in the city.
INTERNET

Health Tip: Create the right environment for sleep

It's important to create the right environment to help you fall asleep and stay asleep.

The National Sleep Foundation offers these guidelines:

- * Keep your room quiet or use earplugs or a white noise machine.
- * Keep your room at the right temperature — not too hot and on the cooler side.
- * Make sure the room is dark.
- * Allow plenty of room in your bed to stretch out and get comfortable. Choose a comfortable mattress and pillow.
- * Address issues that affect your sleep, such as snoring or television watching, with your partner.

Internet

Faulty heart drugs toll nears 100 in Pakistan

LAHORE, 27 Jan—Around 100 Pakistani heart patients have died after taking faulty medicine made locally and dozens more are in a critical condition in hospital, government officials said Thursday.

"Nearly 100 patients have died due to a reaction to

heart drugs," said Shahbaz Sharif, the head of the government in central Punjab Province. The victims were mostly poor patients who received free drugs from the state run Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC), he said.

The government said another 287 people had been

admitted to hospitals in Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city, after taking the drugs. Police have arrested owners of three pharmaceutical companies suspected of supplying the medicine.

"Police registered a case on Tuesday after reports of deaths of people due to



Pakistani heart patients arrive at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology in Lahore. Around 100 Pakistani heart patients have died after taking faulty medicine made locally and dozens more are in a critical condition in hospital, government officials said.—INTERNET

Cosmetic surgery unaffected by French implant scare



Cosmetic surgery is booming worldwide and unaffected by the health scare prompted by a French breast implant company that used substandard silicone, a global body of plastic surgeons said Friday.—INTERNET

PARIS, 27 Jan—Cosmetic surgery is booming worldwide and unaffected by the health scare prompted by a French breast implant company that used substandard silicone, a global body of plastic surgeons said Friday.

The Paris-based IMCAS which represents plastic surgeons and dermatologists, said in a new study that beauty procedures worldwide including liposuctions, breast implants, and botox injections grew 10.1 percent year-on-year in 2011 to

between 3.2 to 3.8 billion euros (\$4.1 to 4.9 billion).

The figure this year is set to grow 11.12 percent, said the study, "demonstrating the sector's dynamism." IMCAS, or the International Master Course on Ageing Skin, is starting its annual conference in Paris on Friday.

More than 400,000 women around the world are believed to have received implants made by now-defunct French firm Poly Implant Prothese (PIP) which was found to have been using industrial-grade silicone gel that caused abnormally high rupture rates.

"One thinks that the PIP affair will have short-term impact," said Laurent Brones, one of the authors of the study.

Internet

reaction of drugs for cardiovascular diseases," police spokesman Haroon Rashid told AFP.

Initial investigations show that drugs supplied by local manufacturers were "sub-standard," police said.

The patients died due to a sudden drop in white blood cells, platelets and bone marrow damage. The problem was first detected in December when contaminated drugs in at least one batch of medicine caused 23 deaths.

Sharif said samples of the suspect drugs have been sent to laboratories for tests in Pakistan, London and Paris. "Action will be taken against those found guilty," he said.

Government official Khwaja Salman Rafiq said most of the deaths were due to "at least one of five medicines which PIC had been prescribing".

The medicine has since been removed from hospitals and stores, he told AFP. Doctor Javed Akram, involved in the investigation, said 46,000 patients receive drugs from PIC every month.—Internet



Starbucks profit beats, Europe weakness



An empty cup is left on a table outside a Starbucks coffee shop in London on 1 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

LONDON, 27 Jan—Starbucks Corp reported a quarterly profit that topped Wall Street's view, but its shares fell as investors in the world's biggest coffee chain focused on softness in Europe rather than strength in the United States.

The company's shares, up roughly 45 percent from a year ago and hovering near all-time highs, were off 2.2 percent at \$47.26 in extended trading after closing at \$48.34.

Starbucks and other top-performing restaurant chains like McDonald's Corp have been on a tear and their stocks often sell off on anything but absolutely pristine results.

Sales from cafes open at least 13 months were up just 2 percent for the Europe, Middle East and Africa region, versus the 9 percent gain for the much larger America unit,

chiefly from the United States.

Chief Financial Officer Troy Alstead said on a webcast that Starbucks has been underperforming internal targets in Europe — where debt worries and high unemployment weigh heavily on consumers — and that the company has taken steps to improve results there.

Operating margin for the EMEA unit was 6.5 percent in the first quarter, down from 9.7 percent a year earlier.

Starbucks said the margin contraction was primarily due to higher distribution costs related to moving to a consolidated distribution center in its UK market.—Reuters



Shoppers look at Samsung Electronics devices at the company's showroom in Seoul, South Korea, on 27 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET



Kia Motors 2011 earnings up 30.4 percent

SEOUL, 27 Jan—South Korea's second largest automaker, Kia Motors, said on Friday it posted a record profit last year thanks to brisk overseas sales and increased returns in investment in affiliated firms.

Net profit surged 30.4 percent from the previous year to 3.5 trillion won (\$3.1 billion) in 2011, the company said in a statement. Sales jumped 20.6 percent on-year to 43.2 trillion won in 2011, with operating profit up 41.6 percent to 3.5 trillion won.

It sold 2.48 million cars last year, up 18.6 percent, thanks to solid sales of new models and the company's improved brand image, the automaker said.

Overseas sales were



Kia Motors' Naimo concept car, pictured at the 2012 International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 11 Jan.—INTERNET

particularly brisk despite the eurozone crisis and the global economic slowdown, it said. Sales in the United States surged 36.3 percent to 485,000 cars last year while domestic sales crept up a mere 1.7 percent to 492,000.

Sales in China surged 29.9 percent to 433,000, while those in the European market increased 12.2 percent to 290,000. Sales in other regions rose 18.4 percent to 778,000.

Internet

Samsung 4Q profit rises 17 pct on smartphone sales

SEOUL, 27 Jan—Samsung Electronics Co reported a 17 percent jump in fourth quarter profit on the strength of smartphone sales even as the company battled claims it had copied Apple's iPhone. Samsung said Friday in a regulatory filing that its net profit reached 4 trillion won (\$3.5 billion) in the three months that ended in December. The company earned 3.4 trillion won in the same quarter a year earlier.

The Suwon, South Korea-based company said its operating profit jumped 75.8 percent to 5.3 trillion won in the fourth quarter. The figure was closely in line with the company's estimate earlier this month of a 73 percent rise.

The company, however, posted an operating loss of 220 billion won in its display division in the fourth quarter despite a sales increase of 19 percent from the previous year.

"If profit in handsets continues to stream in, this year will also likely be a solid one for Samsung," said Jae Lee, an analyst at Daiwa Securities in Seoul. "The biggest threat would be if the global economy worsens." Samsung, the world's biggest manufacturer of memory chips and liquid crystal displays, said demand for semiconductors in mobile products and servers remained solid despite weakness in personal computers, which face stiff competition from the rising popularity of tablets.—Internet

Medical sensor is powered by music

WEST LA FAYETTE, 27 Jan—A new type of implantable medical sensor can be powered by external sounds like music — and rap music works best, its US inventors say.

Researchers at Purdue University say the miniature medical sensor is powered by acoustic waves, including those found in music such as rap, blues, jazz and rock.

The sensor contains a vibrating cantilever, a thin beam attached at one end like a miniature diving board. Music within a certain range of frequencies, from 200-500 hertz, causes the cantilever to vibrate, generating electricity and storing a charge in a capacitor, Purdue engineering professor Babak Ziaie said in a university release Thursday.

"The music reaches the correct frequency only at certain times, for example, when there is a strong bass component," he said. "The acoustic energy from the music can pass through body tissue, causing the cantilever to vibrate."

When the music stops or the frequency falls outside of the proper range, the cantilever stops vibrating, automatically sending the electrical charge to the sensor, which takes a pressure reading and transmits data as radio signals. "You would only need to do this for a couple of



A new type of miniature pressure sensor designed to be implanted in the body is powered by acoustic waves from music.—INTERNET

minutes every hour or so to monitor either blood pressure or pressure of urine in the bladder," Ziaie said. "It doesn't take long to do the measurement." Playing simple tones within a certain frequency range also can be used.

"But a plain tone is a very annoying sound," Ziaie said. "We thought it would be novel and also more aesthetically pleasing to use music." "Rap is the best because it contains a lot of low frequency sound, notably the bass," Ziaie said.—Internet

First 'cloaking' of a 3D object announced

AUSTIN, (Texas), 27 Jan—US researchers say they have "cloaked" a three-dimensional object, making it invisible from all angles for the first time.

The process uses a shell of what are known as plasmonic materials that create a "photo negative" of the object being cloaked, effectively canceling it out.

However, the demonstration has only been achieved for waves in the microwave region of the electromagnetic spectrum, not for visible light.

Andrea Alu and colleagues at the University of Texas at Austin have made a 7-inch-long cylinder invisible

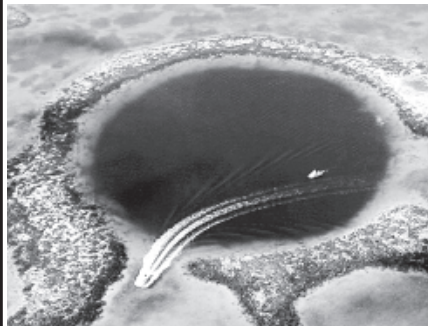
to incoming microwave light.

The success with the cylinder suggests further work with different wavelengths of light is worth pursuing, Alu said.

"It's a real object standing in our lab, and it basically disappears," he told BBC News.

While the technique is unlikely to work at the visible light part of the spectrum, Alu said, the approach could be applied to the tips of scanning microscopes to yield an improved view of even smaller wavelengths of light.

Internet



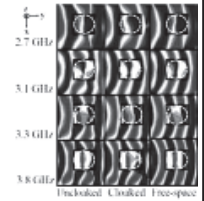
Blue hole off the coast of Belize.—INTERNET

Life in ocean 'blue holes' studied

GALVESTON, (Texas), 27 Jan—Life found in underwater caves in the Bahamas could give clues to what types of marine life might be found on distant planets and moons, researchers say.

Discoveries made in so-called blue holes by Texas A&M University at Galveston researchers include specialized forms of bacteria life at different depths, suggesting that microbial life in such caves is continually adapting to changes in available light, water chemistry and food sources. "These bacterial forms of life may be similar to microbes that existed on early Earth and thus provide a glimpse of how life evolved on this planet," marine biologist Tom Iliffe said in a Texas A&M release Thursday.

"These caves are natural laboratories where we can study life existing under conditions analogous to what was present many millions of years ago." There are tens of thousands of underwater caves scattered around the world, but less than 5 percent have ever been explored and scientifically investigated, Iliffe said. "We know more about the far side of the moon than we do about these caves right here on Earth," he said. "There is no telling what remains to be discovered in the many thousands of caves that no one has ever entered.—Internet



A near-field mapping of the disruption in the electric field distribution during the testing.

Courtesy of The University of Texas at Austin.—INTERNET

Nokia profits dive as new phones slow to take off

HELSINKI, 27 Jan—Nokia Oyj reported a 73 percent fall in fourth-quarter earnings as sales of its new Windows Phones failed to dent the dominance of Apple Inc's iPhone or compensate for diving sales of its own old smartphones.

The world's largest cellphone maker by volume unveiled a year ago a major strategy shift to Microsoft Corp software for its smartphones in an attempt to challenge Apple and Google Inc's Android. But Apple's phones in particular have proved far more popular.

Apple reported earlier this week sales of 37 million iPhones for the December quarter. Nokia has sold over 1 million Windows 'Lumia' Phones, since its launch in mid-



November. "It is more than some were expecting, but it's not going to worry Apple or Google," said analyst Nick Dillon from research firm Ovum.

Nokia said it expected its phone business' underlying earnings to be around breakeven in the first quarter, well below analysts' forecasts, with sales falling more than usual in the seasonally weaker quarter. "The report highlights that the start of the Windows strategy is slow, and we have very little concrete data to predict its success at this point," said analyst Michael Schroder from FIM Securities.

"There are a lot of uncertainties. These are critical times for the future of the whole company. The next months will be extremely important."—Reuters



A text message of the Q4 Nokia results is seen on the screen of an early Nokia mobile phone in this photo illustration taken in Paris on 26 January, 2012.

INTERNET

Google Earth 6.2 released, gives our planet a makeover

SAN FRANCISCO, 27 Jan—Google rolled out its latest version of Google Earth on Thursday. Calling it "the most beautiful Google Earth yet," the update has managed to eliminate the "patchy" look of some of its images and now presents users with a more realistic depiction of how our planet really looks from up high.

In a post on the official Google blog, Google Earth product manager Peter Birch explained the new, smoother look: "We're introducing a new way of rendering imagery that smooths out this quilt of images. The end result is a beautiful new Earth-viewing experience that preserves the unique textures of the world's most defining geographic landscapes—without the quilt effect."

Both mobile and desktop versions of the software will utilize the improved imagery, and while previous releases of Google Earth will also incorporate it, the



The third rock from the sun looks a little more beautiful today—that's if you're looking at it using Google Earth.

INTERNET

latest version—Thursday's 6.2 release—promises the optimum viewing experience using the new data.

It comes as little surprise to see that the new version of Google Earth now integrates Google+, with the option to, for example, share a screenshot through its social networking service.—Internet

Twitter may censor tweets in individual countries

SAN FRANCISCO, 27 Jan—Twitter has refined its technology so it can censor messages on a country-by-country basis. The additional flexibility announced Thursday is likely to raise fears that Twitter's commitment to free speech may be weakening as the short-messaging company expands into new countries in an attempt to

This screen shot shows a portion of the Twitter blog post of 26 Jan, 2012, in which the company announced it has refined its technology so it can censor messages on a country-by-country basis.—INTERNET

broaden its audience and make more money.

But Twitter sees the censorship tool as a way to ensure individual messages, or "tweets," remain available to as many people as possible while it navigates a gauntlet of different laws around the world. Before, when Twitter erased a tweet it disappeared throughout the world. Now, a

tweet containing content breaking a law in one country can be taken down there and still be seen elsewhere. Twitter will post a censorship notice whenever a tweet is removed. That's similar to what Internet search leader Google Inc has been doing for years when a law in a country where its service operates requires a search result to be removed.

Like Google, Twitter also plans to share the removal requests it receives from governments, companies and individuals at the chilling effects.org website.—Internet



S Korean troops to join US-led drill in Thailand

SEOUL, 27 Jan—South Korean Navy and Marines Corps will take part in a US led multinational military exercise to be held next month in Thailand, the Navy said here Thursday.

Some 320 South Korean troops, an armored amphibious vehicle and a 2,600-ton landing ship tank will join six other countries, including the United States, Thailand and Japan, for the Cobra Gold exercise slated for 5 to 17 Feb.

The troops will participate in a field training

exercise, a command post exercise and a humanitarian and civic assistance action project, the Navy said in a statement.

The annual joint drill, in which South Korea served as an observer member state between 2002-2009, is designed to help improve multinational interoperability and strengthen military partnerships among the participants. Among the nine observers this year are China, Russia and New Zealand.

Xinhua



A 22-metre-high giant dragon and phoenix lantern is seen in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, on 25 Jan, 2012, to celebrate the traditional Chinese lunar year of the dragon. The lantern was made of 1,000 red lanterns and a pair of 15-metre-high dragon and phoenix lantern. —XINHUA

India, Thailand to carry out cooperation at strategic level

NEW DELHI, 27 Jan—India and Thailand have agreed to elevate their ties to strategic partnership by signing six pacts in the fields of defence, security, trade, combating terrorism and piracy, local media reported Thursday. During talks between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Thai counterpart Yingluck Shinawatra, who

began a visit to the country Wednesday, the two countries agreed to expedite their negotiations on a free trade area agreement in goods, services and investments by July.

Six agreements were signed after the talks, which included transfer of sentenced persons, a memorandum of understanding on defence

cooperation and amending the framework agreement for establishing FTA. The two countries will promote cooperation in science and technology, cultural exchange and cooperation between Thailand's Chulalongkorn University and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) at the India Studies Centre of the Thai university. —Xinhua

on bilateral relations with the commitment that the cooperation between the two countries should be further enhanced during the years to come, reported Associated Press of Pakistan.

Gilani spoke of the support of the French government within the fold of the European Union for pro-actively pursuing the grant of waiver to Pakistani exports to the EU market.

He said that Pakistan has the will, capacity and resolve to defeat the scourges of militancy and extremism.

The French ambassador said that Pakistan's contributions for peace-keeping were commendable.

French investors were keen to invest in Pakistan in the sector of energy, he said, adding that trade between the two countries had been showing positive trends and both the countries should endeavour to keep up this trend. —Internet



Visitors watch a porcelain jar with dragon decoration of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 25 Jan, 2012. To celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dragon, Nanjing Museum held exhibitions with the theme of dragon during the Spring Festival holiday. XINHUA

Hackers crash Israeli hospital website

JERUSALEM, 27 Jan—Unknown hackers on Wednesday morning succeeded in downing the website of a major Israeli hospital via a Denial of Service (DNS) attack, local media reported. Officials at Sheba Hospital at the Tel Hashomer Medical Centre near Tel Aviv told Army Radio that over a

million page requests hit the site at 2:00 am local time (GMT 0000), crashing its servers. As of noon, the site was still unavailable. Meanwhile, Israel's National Cyber Command (NCC) and Counter Terror Bureau (CTB) on Wednesday launched their first combined official emergency exercise, the Ynet news site reported.

The attack and drill took place against an increasing number of tit-for-tat cyber attacks in recent weeks between reportedly Palestinian-supporting Arab hackers in Saudi Arabia and

elsewhere, and Israeli counterattacks at banking and commercial sites in Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and other Arab countries. Officials, however, said the drill had been planned prior to the attacks. The multi-day "Lights Out" drill will simulate a series of hacker attacks on national infrastructure sites, like the Israel Electric Corporation and the Water Authority, in order to test their readiness and ability to foil DNS and other attempts to damage and corrupt operating systems.

Xinhua



A resident takes photos of ice lanterns in a park in Xining, capital of northwest China's Qinghai Province, on 24 Jan, 2012, the second day of the Chinese lunar New Year. —XINHUA

UN launches web portal to help young women

NEW YORK, 27 Jan—The United Nations launched a new web portal on Tuesday focusing on helping girls and women access job opportunities, training and career advice in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector.

The website—girlsinct.org—was designed to inspire and help young women between the ages of 11 and 25 prepare for and pursue careers in technology by providing them with useful resources such as links to scholarships, internships, ICT contests and awards, tech camps and online networks where they can interact with other women working in an industry that is largely male-dominated. "It's a little-known fact that women were the original programmers of ENIAC, the US Government's first ever computer. But while teenage girls now use computers and the Internet at rates similar to boys, they are five times less likely to consider a technology-related career," the UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU) said in a news release. "Research consistently shows that girls tend to choose careers where they feel they can 'make a difference'—healthcare, education, medicine. With this new portal, we're trying to show them that there's much more to ICTs than writing computer code," said ITU Secretary-General Hamadoun Touré. —Internet



A Bugatti Veyron, Grand Sport, is on display during the 6-day Qatar Motor Show, in Doha, capital of Qatar, on 25 Jan, 2012. —XINHUA

Iranian lawmakers to approve a plan to cut oil exports to Europe

TEHERAN, 27 Jan—An Iranian lawmaker said Wednesday that in a preemptive move, Iranian parliament is mulling over a plan to cut oil exports to the European Union (EU) member states, the local English-language *Tehran Times* daily reported.

"Majlis (parliament) representatives are seeking to approve a plan, according to which all European countries that have imposed sanctions against Iran will not be able to

buy even one drop of oil from Iran," Nasser Soudani, a member of Iran's Majlis Energy Commission was quoted as saying.

Foreign ministers of the EU countries on Monday decided to ban the oil and oil products from Iran. Although the embargo will be started from 1 July to allow major EU importers like Greece, Italy and Spain to find alternative suppliers, investors were still worried about the security of global oil supply as Iranian authorities have threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping lane for the oil trade, and disrupt oil supplies in retaliation against the ban. —Xinhua

Religion gives people more self-control

LONDON, 27 Jan—People muster greater self-control when they are given unrelated tasks, especially after thinking about religion. For instance, participants, given a sentence containing five words to unscramble, with some containing religious themes and others not, exercised more restraint.

"After unscrambling sentences containing religiously oriented words, participants in our studies exercised significantly more self-control," says psychology graduate student Kevin Rounding from the Queen's University, who led the study. Self-control involved tasks that included enduring discomfort, delaying gratification, exerting patience, and refraining from impulsive responses, adds Rounding, according to a Queen's statement. "Our most interesting finding was that religious concepts were able to refuel self-control after it had been depleted by another unrelated task," says Rounding.

"In other words, even when we would predict people to be unable to exert self-control, after completing the religiously themed task they defied logic and were able to muster self-control." "Until now, I believed religion was a matter of faith; people had little 'practical' use for religion," Rounding explains. "This research actually suggests that religion can serve a very useful function in society."

"People can turn to religion not just for transcendence and fears regarding death and an after-life but also for practical purposes," Rounding concluded. —Internet

Farmers get pre-payment for selling high-yield rice

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—A private company has made pre-payment to farmers as part of efforts for purchasing Palethwe high-yield hybrid strain rice at the rate of K400,000 for 100 baskets.

The ceremony to make the pre-payment to farmers was held at the 368.80-acre rice plantation near Alyinlo Village in Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana Township today.

It was attended by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

An official of Ayeyahintha Co Ltd made payment to farmers in Alyinlo Village in Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana Township at the rate of K200,000 per acre today at the presence of union ministers.

During the ceremony to make payment to farmers, Union Minister U Win Myint said the ministry would buy rice from farmers at rate of price which can guarantee reasonable profit to farmers.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing stressed the need for providing assistance to farmers to transform the situation of "paddy for poverty" caused by low profits from rice to the "paddy

for prosperity".

He also called for active participation of the private sector in providing assistance such as capital, farming methods, farming machinery and inputs to farmers.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan called on businessmen and ricer traders to invest in the farming sector along with the government, and urged the farmers to work hard to achieve an agricultural system which can supply rice to international market regularly. He also called for encouraging the scientific cultivation of rice across the country.

The opportunity to boost the rice production and to reach the global rice market is within the reach of the farmers as the global rice trading volume has reached



over 34 million tons in a year because about half of the 7000 million population of the world has consumed rice as a staple food, he said.

He also stressed the need for utilization of soil and water effectively and for

growing quality strains of rice as part of efforts for transition to the scientific cultivation system.

The rice trading company made payments to 203 farmers from the village of Alyinlo and sold farming

machinery to the farmers at special price.

After the ceremony, they

visited the high-yield Palethwe hybrid plantation.

MNA

Union A & I Minister U Myint Hlaing making a speech at the payment making by Ayeyahintha Co Ltd at Alyinlo Village.—MNA



Long, magnificent Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku)



Facts and Figures

Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), the longest bridge in Myanmar lies between Nyaung U in Nyaung U District of Mandalay Region on the eastern bank of Ayeyawady River and Pakokku in Pakokku District of Magway Region on the western bank of Ayeyawady River.

The main bridge is 11431 feet (2.16 miles) long and the motor road 13537 feet (2.16 miles) and the railroad 20597 (3.90 miles).

Its foundation is of RC type bored piles with steel truss. It can withstand 75 tons of loads per vehicle. The approach railroad is 5420 feet long on Pakokku bank and 3746 feet long on Letpanchepaw bank, totaling 9166 feet. The approach motor road is 1378 feet on Pakokku bank and 728 feet on Letpanchepaw bank, 2106 feet in total length. Its clearance

is 262 feet (80 meters) in width and 52 feet (16 meters) in height. The railroad is 7.91 miles long in total and the tracks 9.28 miles.

The bridge is located on India-Myanmar-Thai Tripartite Highway. It was built as major bridge for the Tripartite Highway.

Benefits

The benefits of the bridge are enormous as it is situated on Kalaywa-Myoma-Chaungma-Yinmabin-Linkataw-Letsekan-Pakokku-Letpanchepaw-Bagan-Kyaukpadaung-Pyawbwe-Oattwin-Htantabin-Kyaukkyi-Shwekyin-Donzayit-Theinzayat-Thaton-Mawlamyine-Mudon-Kawkaireik road from Tamu at India-Myanmar border to Myawady at Myanmar-Thai border, 1360 kilometers or 845 miles in total length. The route has become the major highway in linking India and ASEAN nations, contributing to regional

countries. The rail-cum-road bridge has now been completely constructed across Ayeyawady River meeting the set standards, facilitating smooth travelling and commodity flow.

The bridge will connect Taungdwingyi-Bagan-Myingyan railroad in service on eastern bank of Ayeyawady River and Kyangin-Pakokku railroad under construction on the western bank of Ayeyawady River, aiding development of regions on western bank. The railroad of the bridge is also linked with Thitthaung Station on Bagan-Myingyan railroad and Pakokku University Station on Kyangin-Pakokku railroad.

Moreover, continuous rail travel has become available between Patheingyi, Kyangin, Pakokku, Kalay, Minbu, An and (See page 8)

First Pyithu Hluttaw in session for second day

(from page 1)

U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Constituency asked about “water supply to urban areas and water-scare rural villages within Mahlaing Township” and the deputy minister replied that tube-wells were dug in three out of nine villages facing water shortage and between 2012 and 2015, tube-wells will be dug for the remaining six villages.

The water demand of Mahlaing with 15392 people in four wards is 0.3 million gallons per day. The water supply coverage is about 80 per cent as urbanites have dug 256 tube-wells and 10 wells on self-reliance basis. If gravity flow system is used for water supply after digging of a new tube-well at the water resource in use, building 50000-gallon capacity water tank and piping, it is expected to supply additional quantity of up to 120,000 gallons of water per day, reaching total water supply coverage of the township.

Mahlaing Township Development Affairs Committee will handle the construction work

in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

U Tun Aung Khaing of Pauktaw Constituency asked “if the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has plans to reconstruct anti-tide farmers dykes in Pauktaw Township as part of embankment construction project” and Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing replied that there are 394 farmers dykes in Rakhine State that need to be built big and strong.



Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thein Zaw of Myitkyina Constituency.

MNA

His ministry has asked government's subsidy to repair the 86 dykes in urgent need of repair. Of those 86, 14 are from Pauktaw Township and repair works will be started soon to complete before rainy season.

U Soe Aung of Thaegon Constituency asked to “remove the embankment dam in Inma Lake in Thaegon Township or to build more sluice gates otherwise” and the Union minister replied that his ministry has asked funds from the government to dredge Milaung Creek and Aungkon Creek. For the time being, the



Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Myitha Constituency U Kyi Maung shoots queries.—MNA

ministry is trying to ensure proper flow of water by dredging those two creeks earlier opening of sluice gates in Inma Diversion Weir while personnel of Irrigation Department are surveying for details. Only after the survey decision will be made whether to remove the embankment dam or build more sluice gates or take other necessary instructions.

U Thein Zaw of Myitkyina Constituency proposed to “form leading committee for enhancing socio-economic life of nationalities and preserving and promoting cultural



Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Mongton Constituency U Sai Aung Kyi shoots questions.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win replies to queries.

MNA



heritages in regions and states.”

Daw Dwebu Ingyanyan Constituency, U Than Oo of Myawady Constituency, U Zaung Khaung of Hsawlaw Constituency and U Sai Tun Sein of Mongpyin Constituency seconded the proposal and the Hluttaw passed the proposal.

U Tin Hlaing of Kalay Constituency proposed for “special farming of cattle of pedigree mythun, a precious commodity of Chin State, through artificial insemination for poverty alleviation and

development of Chin State.”

The proposal will be discussed on 30 January and representatives interested in the proposal registered at the Hluttaw Office for discussion.

The Bill Committee, Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee and Hluttaw representatives discussed the amendments made to the Virgin, Vacant and Fellow land Management Bill by Amyotha Hluttaw and sought for approval of Hluttaw.

The third regular session of the Hluttaw continues at 10 am 30 January.—MNA

Taninthayi Region Hluttaw holds special meeting 1/2012



First special meeting 1/2012 of Taninthayi Region Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

Long, magnificent Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku)...

(from page 7)

Sittway on the western bank of Ayeyawady River and to Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Taunggyi, Yangon, Mawlamyine and Dawei across the nation.

Responses

“Previously, Z-craft was the Hobson's choice for us to go to the other bank. So, hardly ever I went to Bagan-NyaungU. Now there is the bridge and I can pay homage to pagodas in Bagan everyday.”

Ma Nyein Nyein, Pakokku local

“In the past, we, villagers in Pakokku Township, had to cross the river by boat or powered schooner or Z-craft in going to NyaungU. And it took a very long time sailing across. I am happy.”

Ko Soe Min Naing, Pakokku local

“The short distance between my home town and Pakokku and surrounding townships was lengthened much by Ayeyawady River. I had witnessed tragedies-causalities and loss of properties as the crafts capsized due to terrible weather in rainy season. I believe Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) the longest bridge in

Industry Ministry secures champion in Inter-Ministry Men's Volleyball Tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—In the final of the 5th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men's Volleyball Tournament at Zabuthiri Township volleyball ground this afternoon, Ministry of Industry beat Ministry of Border Affairs 3-1.

Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu presented prizes to the respective winning teams.

Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan gave championship shield and duplicate shield to Ministry of Industry.—MNA

Myanmar will not only contribute to economy, social affairs, education and health of people in Magway Region but also makes transportation much better.”

U Phone Kyaw, NyaunU local

Translation:TKK

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan —Taninthayi Region Hluttaw held its first special meeting 1/2012 at the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw Office today.

It was attended by Acting Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko, Speaker of Taninthayi Region Hluttaw U Htin Aung Kyaw and 25 representatives of the Hluttaw.

The message sent by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the special meeting was read out by the Speaker of the Hluttaw and it was put on record.

A proposal of the President to assign Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Myat Ko as Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region Government according to the Section 261, subsection (b), para (1) and para (2) of the Constitution was sought for the approval at the Hluttaw. The Hluttaw announced the agreement to the proposal as there was no rejection to the proposal.

The Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region took an oath before the Speaker of the Hluttaw when the meeting resumed at 1 pm.

The meeting ended with an address of the Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region.

MNA

Education of displaced students in Myitkyina discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — Head of schools in Myitkyina and Kachin State Minister for Social Affairs held a coordination meeting today on education of students from displaced families due to current conflict in Myitkyina.

During the meeting at Myitkyina No.1 Basic Education High School No.1, Kachin State Minister for Social Affairs Daw Bauk Jar discussed matters on education of the students and conducting the examination for them.

Kachin State Education Officer U Khin Maung Htway and head of schools reported on teaching the students in Myitkyina.

Daw Bauk Jar has assisted in education of the students.

MNA

First Amyotha Hluttaw in session for second day

(From page 16)

Monywa-YeU-Kalewa-Kalay road, Monywa-Yinnabin-Pale-Gangaw-Kalay Road, Monywa-Yagyi-Kalay Road and Myitha Bridge (Kalay) have been built along the road from Monywa to Kalay. Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road will be upgraded to be used all the year round.

The Ministry of Construction supervises construction of Monywa-YeU section through BOT system on Monywa-YeU-Taze-Mahamyaing-Kalewa Road. There is no plan to build a bridge across Chindwin River on Monywa-YeU-Kalewa Road and the project will be included in the future long-term plan.

U Pe Thauung of Kachin State Constituency No. 6 asked **whether there is a plan to seek better ways for improvement of roads and bridges on Shwebo-Myitkyina Union Highway in Kachin State.** The Union Minister replied that the 121 miles long section of Shwebo-Myitkyina Road is located in Kachin State and it is an asphalt facility. Taukpa Kyethayay Zartimayay Construction Co Ltd is allowed to upgrade roads and bridges along the 88 miles and one furlong long section from mile posts No. 169/0 to 256/0 and Ledo Highway Co Ltd, that of the 32 miles and seven furlongs long section from mile posts 256/1 to 289/0 through BOT system.

Road Construction Project Special Group No. 14 is undertaking maintenance of the damaged road sections under the arrangements of the state government while Mohnyin District Public Works is also maintaining the roads. Road Construction Project Special Group No. 15 is trying utmost for completion of building RC bridges namely 60 feet long Bawdi Creek Bridge, 60 feet each long Nweni Creek Bridge and Hsahmaw Creek Bridge and 120 feet long Bilu Bridge by March 2012.

The Ministry of Construction supervises the construction companies of national entrepreneurs to upgrade the roads and bridges meeting set standards through BOT system.

A total of 420 bridges of under 50 feet long, 10 bridges of 50-100 feet long, six bridges of 100-180 feet long and six bridges of above 180 feet long are located on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road Section in Kachin State.

Priority was given to construction of many bridges

along the highway to emerge bailey, iron frame and wooden bridges. The 350 feet long Nantkhwin RV Bridge was opened in March 2011.

Five bridges are being upgraded to the RC facilities by spending the maintenance fund in 2011-2012 fiscal year and these bridges will be completed in this fiscal year.

The Ministry of Construction will upgrade the bridges in Kachin State depending on the allotted annual funds. Encouragement is being given to private companies to upgrade the roads and bridges meeting set standards through BOT System.

U Tun Lwin of Kachin State Constituency No. 9 asked **matters related to upgrading Hante Bridge at the exit of Bhamo in Kachin State.** The Union Minister replied that Hante Bridge is located between mile posts 368/3 and 368/4 on Mandalay-Lashio-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road, south of Bhamo in Bhamo District.

The 86 feet long and 12 feet wide bridge was built with the use of iron beams and wooden floor in 1959. It can withstand 13-ton loads. Along Mandalay-Lashio-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road and Shwegu-Bhamo Section, Special Project Group No. 2 that is building Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) has upgraded 16 wooden bridges to RC facilities in 2011-2012 fiscal year. A plan is underway to upgrade Hante Bridge to an RC facility in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Dr Win Myint Aung of Sagaing Region Constituency No. 4 asked **whether there is a plan to consider the allowed tons of respective vehicles at toll gates and to supervise collection of fines under the law.** The Union Minister replied that the Ministry of Construction allows the trucks with loads in conformity with the prescribed weights based on ASEAN standards so as to minimize the damages on the highways and bridges and to use them in long run. So far, a total of 29187 under 3-ton trucks, 37988 above 3-ton trucks, 15269 timber trucks, container carriers and concrete mixers, 266236 saloons and 19927 passenger buses, totalling 368,697 vehicles have been registered up to 30 November 2011.

Because of heavily overloaded vehicles, the Union highway with estimated lifespan of 10 years was damaged within one

year. Due to the overloading of less than 100000 vehicle owners, roads and bridges built to serve over 60 million people were damaged much earlier before its lifespan. The Construction Ministry has successfully enforced on various kinds of overloaded vehicles. And that drivers, vehicle owners and brokerages are taking anti-overload movement as reason for high commodity prices is just because they want to get the same profits when they overloaded.

It is found that trucks only carry limited amount of loads in neighbouring ASEAN countries. Myanmar also signed the ASEAN vehicle standard and thus standardization here was introduced in line with rules and regulations. Vehicles are re-assembled illegally, which are used for overloading. Vehicles that break the regulations are fined as announced and it is legal action.

Especially, it is



Representative Dr Win Myint Aung of Sagaing Region Constituency No (4) asking question.—MNA

unacceptable that industrial zone-produced vehicles are assembled as necessary for overloading and they have to be manufactured in accordance with the set standard. These vehicles should be checked whether they meet the set standards or not and action should be taken against illegal acts.

When checked on the day of license application, vehicles are found to have set structure. But then, axles and frames are added to, with body structure and tyre sizes changed for overloading.

The Ministry of Transport has signed the ASEAN vehicle standard agreement, Ministry of Rail Transportation has fixed the weight of loads, Ministry of Commerce allows importation of vehicles that are in line with ASEAN norms, and Ministry of Industry ensures vehicles manufactured at industrial zones are made as standard. And the Construction

Ministry is effectively enforcing overloaded vehicles in coordination with these ministries.

According to the highway laws, the Ministry of Construction is the most responsible ministry for preservation of Union highways.

The toll has changed from 60 pyas per mile about 14 years ago to 2 kyats per mile now and BOT toll rate from 4 kyats 13 pyas to five kyats per mile following the changes in basic prices of 16 kinds of commodities. The meeting 18/2011 of the Union government on 18 August, 2011 agreed re-fix the weights of loads allowed in compliance with ASEAN Standardization, which came into effect on 1 October, 2011. The meeting 24/2011 of the Union government on 29 September, 2011 passed the new toll rates of private companies undertaking with BOT system, which came into effect on 1



Representative U Thein Hlaing of Sagaing Region Constituency No (8) asking question.—MNA

October, 2011. Thanks to the fine for breaching regulations system, 95 per cent of trucks follow the rules.

Fining ten times more than original amount to overloaded vehicles is not aimed at making profits but reducing the number of running overloaded vehicles and in consideration of the longer lifespan of roads and bridges as well. There are 261 toll gates auctioned to the private companies by the Ministry of Construction for toll service in regions and states. Region/State governments have auctioned them in March 2011 for 2011-2012 fiscal year.

In the contracts, the rates of toll were clearly defined along with actions against overloading. On 12-5-2011, the ministry summoned the eligible bidders and warned them that overcharging would face warning for the first time, one-month closure



Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing submits proposal.—MNA

for the second time during which the Ministry of Construction itself will charge the toll and invalidation of the contract for the whole financial year for the third time.

However, some toll gates overcharged and thus actions were taken against 16 toll gates in Mandalay Region, four toll gates in Sagaing

from 5-10-2011 to 18-10-2011.

BOT companies working in partnership with the Construction Ministry have to pay 5 to 10 percent of their bridge/ admission fees and overload fines yearly. In addition, those companies have to upgrade and repair the roads they are responsible for. The more money the BOT entrepreneurs make, the more taxes have to be paid to the State.

Measures for banning overloaded cars on roads, bridges and toll gates installed with scales according to BOT permit are being taken in accord with the law enacted by the Union Government and ASEAN norms and standards laid down by Directorate of Road Transport. As it is serving the public interests, it is not possible to adjust the permitted tons of loads according to the type of vehicle. Such measures have to continue in the interests of the majority of disciplined car owners rather than undisciplined ones.

There were cases in which taking advantage of permitted 0.9 ton of overloads, some vehicles carried 0.9 ton of overloads in advance. Overload fines are just temporary and action will be taken against overloaded vehicles later in accordance with the law. In some nations, overloaded cars are only allowed to pass through a restricted area with a fence by the roadside and action is taken against them. In neighbouring Laos, a car was allowed to carry 8.1 tons of excel loads and now 9.1 tons can be carried in accord with ASEAN standards. As vehicles are using the roads carrying the limited loads, roads still seem to be in good condition. It is learnt that overloaded vehicles can be seized in the State's possession, owners will be blacklisted. The ministry's action to fine cars tenfold for overloading is temporary for

(See page 10)



Representative U Tun Lwin of Kachin State Constituency No (9) asking question.—MNA

Region, five toll gates in Magway Region, one toll gate in Shan State (South) totaling 26 toll gates.

Road and bridge secure and enforcement committee started measures for banning overloaded cars in March, 2009 with the use of educative talks, pamphlets and the notices in state-run newspapers. Before October, 2011, Directorate of Road Transport under the Ministry of Rail Transportation permitted light trucks with less than 15 feet in length to carry 2 to 5.5 tons of loads according to ASEAN standards. So, trucks with more than 15 tons of loads have to pay a fine tenfold.

The scales at toll gates also allow up to 0.9 ton of loads. Although 33 scales were repaired to ensure smooth flow of vehicles on Union roads in March, 2011, malfunctions happened in some scales due to large trucks. So, 43 scales were repaired for the second time

First Amyotha Hluttaw in session for second day

(From page 9)

the convenience of carrying commodities.

Answering the question raised by U Saw Ohn of Mon State Constituency-9 'whether there is any plan to build a bypass in Thaton, Mon State, the responder said that Sittoung-Mawlamyine road section in Mon State is 102 miles long. The Ministry of Construction permitted Shwe Thanlwin Co to build it with BOT system and construction is supervised by Public Works and the Mon State government.

This road section passes through Thaton about four miles and measures are being taken to reduce road accidents as it is in the busy downtown area. There can be two routes if a road is to be built to bypass Thaton. The first is 24-mile Inter-district Road No.2 linking Yangon-Myeik Road Mile Post No.153/0 and the villages of Kyapan, Weshawsha and Theinseik. The second route is 5-mile Thaton bypass starting from Yangon-Myeik Road Mile Post No.153/0 to the fields to the western part of the two.

Permission to construct Thaton bypass has to be submitted to departments concerned and the Ministry of Construction needs to coordinate with Shwe Thanlwin Co.

Then, Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi tabled a motion to Amyotha Hluttaw to decide the social security bill of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the Hluttaw approved it. Then, it was announced that any name list can be submitted to discuss the bill.

Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Then tabled a motion to

Amyotha Hluttaw to decide the foreign investment bill of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the Hluttaw approved it. Then, it was announced that any name list can be submitted to discuss the bill. Regarding the proposal, Hluttaw representatives U Win Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No.2, Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.8, U Steven Tha Bikes of Chin State Constituency No.4 and Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye of Kayin State Constituency No.6 discussed and approved the proposal submitted by U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region constituency No. 6 on asking for Union government to change imperial unit system to metric system.

Nowadays, the government is making strenuous efforts in all aspects to keep abreast of international community with added momentum. Metric Unit System that has been used since colonial era should be changed with internationally-accepted Imperial Unit System. Change in the system could face few difficulties. To get used to it would take time to a certain extent. Countries in the world are now using metric system. This system is put in the school syllabus. This system is being used by engineers and in big Markets. Engineers and Departments and organizations dealing with foreign countries and ASEAN countries should start using this system. This system should be used across the country. Nowadays, the country has to deal with Asian countries as well as European countries and other countries. It would be appropriate only when the measurement system being used in the fields of education, science and technology and economy are

changed into metric system.

With respect to the proposal, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo replied that parallel units system being used in Myanmar is Myanmar traditional unit system which have been used since Myanmar Kings, English unit system which have been used since English colonial rule and metric system for packed goods.

In using the parallel units systems together, Myanmar traditional unit system has no fixed multiples. So it has to face difficulties such as not being easy to make calculation, regional variance in counting, differences in weight of different goods having same masses and differences in weight of same goods having same masses.

Standardization department under Central Research Department formed research team since the 1970s and studied the change to metric system and complied Weight and Measurement Act(bill).

In 1996, Ministry of Science and Technology was established. The standardization department of the Myanmar Science and Technology Research Department has made cooperation with ASEAN-New Zealand aid programme. An expert from New Zealand conducted survey in 2007 and submitted draft form of Legal Metrology Law being drafted in Cambodia and Laos with the help of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which has been adapted for use in Myanmar. Coordination is being made in accord with prevailing laws in order that it can be passed as a law because it includes detailed technologies and has to deal with so many departments. According to that law, international System Units (SI unit) would be used as official unit.

The Standardization Department is giving educative talks on changing the use of metric system in trading, manufacturing and production, at brokerage, merchants associations and industrial zones. Metric system is to be used officially at a time when law is passed. According to ASEAN standard, label put on packed goods must be SI Unit. Giving educative talks, compilation of papers, writing articles on change in use of metric system have been made since 2007.

The aim of change to metric system is to boost the country's export sector and to easily make integration with the world's economy. Although most of the country worldwide is now using metric system as an official unit, traditional units are still in use as parallel unit.

It can be seen that change to metric system becomes in the form of evolution rather than revolution. The majority of country in the world takes long time to make change to the metric system. SI unit and accurate conversion of old unit to SI unit would be jointly used in Legal metrology law being drafted by the Ministry of Science and Technology. At a time when people become accustomed to it, metric system will be used. Only after the law is passed, emphasis would be placed on supervision and spreading knowledge on measurement tools. After that, supervision will be made whether it meets the set standards or not. Prescriptions regarding manufactures and users of measurement tools will include in it no so as to have malpractices in making measurement.

Hluttaw representatives Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 8, Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 4 and U Sai Paung Nat of Shan

State Constituency No. 12 discussed the proposal submitted by Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 1.

With regard to the discussion, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board U Kyaw Thu said that the researches on civil service laws of bordering countries, ASEAN countries and regional countries conducted by UCSB show that maternal leave of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Bangladesh, Cambodia and the Republic of Korea is 90 days the same as maternal leave of Myanmar.

The Philippines sets maternal leave as two months (60 days), and Singapore as eight weeks with pay (56 days). Although the maternal leave of Vietnam is allowed to get four months or six months more than that of Myanmar, there is an exception according to nature of work and no exact description.

Paragraph (88, 89, 90) of excerpt from Civil Service Rules issued by State Council Office in 1984 currently exercised in Myanmar and paragraph (10, 11) of provisions for leave case prescribed by Union Civil Service Board say that a pregnant woman is allowed to take three months of maternal leave which is still being used until now.

At present, new management mechanism of the State had been reformed. So, in order to accurately fix duty and rights of civil service agreeable to current situation, "Bill on Union Civil Service" had been submitted to Attorney-General's Office on 13-10-2011. When the Attorney-General's Office gives advices, the bill approved by the President will be sent to Hluttaw and come into force with the permission of the Union Government.

Concerning rights for taking leave prescribed in Chapter 6 of "Bill on Union

Civil Service" Maternal leave will be put into Section 15(f).

When "Union Law and Rule of Civil Service" are enacted, it is required to set the law whether maternal leave period for pregnant staff should be three months or not, or whether maternal leave period should be extended or not. If needed to extend the period, necessary arrangements for female service personnel will be made in coordination with Health Ministry, Labour Ministry, Immigration and Population Ministry, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and other scholars to know of how many days should be increased.

Hluttaw approved the said proposal.

U Tin Maung Win of Mandalay Region Constituency No.3 submitted a proposal urging that the **Union Government should amend restrictions and school admission rules looking forward to brighter future of graduate general workers who have been assigned duty by Education Ministry to attend Teacher Training School and then to assign them as PAT.** Hluttaw approved the proposal to be discussed.

Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 8 submitted a proposal urging the **Union Government to review and reform education system of Myanmar.** Hluttaw approved the proposal to be discussed.

Second day of third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw ended at 2.40 pm and third day of third session starts at 10 am on 30 January.

At today session, seven question were answered by Union ministers, two bills were submitted, and two proposals presented yesterday were discussed and two proposals were submitted.—MNA

Icy trip for tourists as HK cable car stalls

HONG KONG, 27 Jan—Hong Kong suspended its popular cable car on Thursday after a malfunction left hundreds of tourists dangling in icy weather during the Chinese New Year holiday. Around 800 passengers were left hanging in the air in temperatures below three degrees Celsius (37 degrees Fahrenheit) after the cable car broke down Wednesday for the fourth time in six weeks, an official said.

A spokeswoman for the state-run Ngong Ping 360 said a decision was made to stop the 5.7-kilometre (3.5-mile) system because the haul rope was "not operating

smoothly". Passengers were stranded in the gondolas for more than 30 minutes. "It was freezing cold up there, and the wind was blowing hard. We did not know what happened and there was no announcement or anything," one furious passenger was quoted as saying by *The Standard* newspaper.

Another told the *South China Morning Post*: "It was like we were sitting in a fridge, not knowing what was going on. All we could see was fog and rain. Our holiday has been spoiled now."

The company refunded ticket holders. An adult round-trip fare costs \$HK125 (\$15).

The company spokeswoman said operations would be suspended for 10 days from Thursday while checks were carried out to remedy the recurring problem.—Internet



Hong Kong suspended its popular cable car on Thursday after a malfunction left hundreds of tourists dangling in icy weather during the Chinese New Year holiday.
INTERNET

Smoking, hypertension the biggest killers in Japan

TOKYO, 27 Jan—Even though the Japanese have the world's highest life expectancy, smoking and high blood pressure (BP) still remain the biggest health hazards, reveals a study. An analytical study, led by Nanyu Ikeda from the University of Tokyo, found that in 2007, tobacco smoking and high BP among adults aged 30 years and above accounted for 129,000 and 104,000 deaths respectively in Japan.

Physical inactivity took 52,000 lives, high blood glucose and high dietary salt intake accounted for 34,000 lives, and alcohol use reported 31,000 deaths, the journal *Public Library of Science-Medicine* reported.

Furthermore, the authors found that life expectancy at age 40 would have been extended by 1.4 years for both sexes if exposure to multiple cardiovascular risk factors had been reduced to an optimal level, said a university statement.

In order to sustain the trend of longevity in Japan in the 21st century, additional efforts in a variety of fields are required for decreasing adult mortality from chronic diseases and injuries.—Internet

Prisoner at hospital freed at gunpoint

BURY ST EDMUNDS, 27 Jan—A prison inmate was freed at gunpoint Wednesday during a visit to a hospital in eastern England, police said. Andrew Farndon, 26, was being escorted by two prison officers on the trip to West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds, the *Norfolk Eastern Daily Press* reported. Farndon needed treatment after being stabbed at Highpoint Prison.

Staff at the hospital and the prison officers said they were approached by a man with a gun in the emergency department just before 7 pm.

The gunman and Farndon ran from the hospital across the parking lot and are believed to have left by car.

Farndon is the second prisoner to be freed at gunpoint this week in England. John Anslow, a suspect in a gang murder, escaped after an attack on the prison van driving him to a court appearance in Stafford. A judge gave Farndon an indefinite sentence with a three-year minimum in 2007. He was convicted of grievous bodily harm, dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle theft.—Internet

Iran fighter plane crashes in south, two pilots die

TEHRAN, 27 Jan—Iran's semi-official *Fars* news agency says a US-made F-14 Iranian fighter jet has crashed in Bushehr Province in southern Iran.

Provincial governor Mohammad Hossein Jahanbakhsh says both the pilot and the co-pilot were killed in Thursday's crash. The *Fars* report says the fighter plane crashed due to technical failure and that authorities have

recovered the wreckage outside Bushehr, a port city with the same name as the province. Bushehr is known as the location of Iran's first nuclear power plant.

Iran purchased many US-made planes, including F-14s before the 1979 Islamic Revolution and during the rule of the late pro-Western Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Internet



Cars damaged in a fireworks accident are seen in Suphan Buri, Thailand, on 24 Jan, 2012. At least four people were killed and more than 50 people were injured Tuesday night after sparks from a fireworks display for the Chinese New Year set wooden houses on fire in a residential area in central Thailand's Suphan Buri Province.—XINHUA

Two buildings collapse in Rio, injuring at least four

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 Jan—At least four people were injured when two buildings collapsed in Rio on Wednesday evening after office hours.

The two buildings, one with 17 storeys, the other with 11, were located in Rio's downtown area, a commercial district full of pedestrians.

According to the local Civil Defence, 60 firefighters are now working on the scene, trying to find more victims.

Four subway stations have been closed due to the accident. The area has been closed off, and electricity has been cut off to prevent fires. Technicians are trying to close the underground pipes which supply gas to the buildings.

Rio's Mayor Eduardo Paes and Health Secretary Sergio Cortes are both at the site, and the mayor is expected to make a statement in the next hours.

The cause of the

collapses remains unknown.

Neighbours reported that three floors of one of the collapsed buildings were undergoing renovations. Witnesses said there was an explosion, and the larger building came down as if it had imploded.

There may also have been a gas leak, which was the cause of a major explosion which hit another building in downtown Rio last year, killing three people.

Xinhua



A firefighter searches for survivors in a building that collapsed in downtown Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 25 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Bill Gates pledges \$750 million to troubled AIDS fund

DAVOS, 27 Jan—Microsoft chairman and philanthropist Bill Gates pledged a further \$750 million to the troubled global AIDS fund on Thursday and urged governments to continue their support to save lives. "These are tough economic times, but that is no excuse for cutting aid to the world's poorest," he said in Davos at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria announced two days ago that its executive director, Michel Kazatchkine, was stepping down early following criticism over misuse of funds and cuts in funding.

The public-private organization, based in Geneva, accounts for around a quarter of international financing to fight HIV and AIDS, as well as the majority of funds to fight TB and malaria. But it has been forced to cut back and said last year it would make no new grants or funding until 2014.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is giving \$750 million through a promissory note — a fresh injection in addition to the \$650 million that the Gates charity has



Microsoft founder Bill Gates addresses the European Parliament in Brussels on 24 January, 2012.—INTERNET

contributed since the fund was launched 10 years ago. Reuters

New York ranks 13th in nation for teacher quality

NEW YORK, 27 Jan—The National Council on Teacher Quality released a report on Wednesday that ranked New York State 13th out of all US 50 states. It gave New York teachers a "C," up from a "D+" two years ago. Florida was ranked highest with a B while Montana was lowest with an F. No state got an A in the report for 2011.

The study ranks states by criteria including how well prepared teachers are, what measures are in place to retain good teachers and how easy it is to dismiss bad teachers.

"Rethinking how teacher performance is evaluated and tying teacher

evaluations to student achievement mark an important advance in teacher effectiveness policy," said Kate Walsh, president of the council, a non-partisan group supported by Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

The report came as the state and New York City are wrangling with the issue of teacher evaluations. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo told school districts early January that they must settle on a new teacher evaluation system or lose their share of a proposed 4 percent increase in education spending.

Xinhua

Cuban Communist Party to hold National Conference

HAVANA, 27 Jan—The Cuban Communist Party (CCP) is to hold a national conference on Saturday in Havana to promote reforms that will "update" the country's socialist model.

According to top CCP officials, the national conference will be held under the watchword of former leader Fidel Castro that "Revolution is to change all what must be changed."

The concept coincides with current leader Raul Castro's call to "banish the mentality of inertia, in order to preserve the socialist future of Cuba." Top on the meeting's agenda are changing the working method and style of the CCP and updating its structures and leadership policy, including expanding and revamping the CCP Central Committee.

"We have to transform the mentality of our government and party officials.

The psychological barrier created for decades is the hardest obstacle to overcome," Raul Castro said at the opening of a CCP congress last April. In the run-up to the congress, Cubans held discussions over some 300 reforms designed to shape the future political and economic model of the island country.—Xinhua



Thailand PM Yingluck Shinawatra (L) talks to the media as Indian PM Manmohan Singh looks on during a ceremonial reception at the Presidential Palace in New Delhi.—INTERNET

Britain' debt reaches one trillion pounds

LONDON, 27 Jan—Britain's debt mountain has risen to one trillion pounds (over USD 1.5 trillion) for the first time, *The Sun* reported Wednesday.

Ministers have confirmed the long-expected milestone is equivalent to 16,400 pounds per citizen of the country.

Government debt now stands at 1,003.9 billion pounds — 64 percent of Britain's GDP. It is up from 883 billion pounds a year ago and the highest since records began in 1993.

Internet

Search underway for missing Indian troopers in avalanche in Indian-controlled Kashmir

SRINAGAR, 27 Jan—The search for missing six Indian troopers hit by a snow avalanche near line-of-control (LoC) in Indian-controlled Kashmir continued for the second day, officials said Wednesday. The avalanche hit the troopers and swept them Tuesday morning at Farkiyani Gali of Machil sector in frontier Kupwara District, 140 km northwest of Srinagar City, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir.

Body of an officer of India's border guards, Border Security Force (BSF), retrieved from the sound bound area, was brought to Srinagar for wreath laying ceremony. Top officials of BSF were present on the occasion.

"The body of the officer was retrieved after hectic efforts," said a spokesman of BSF. "Search for other missing personnel is underway."

Five Indian army soldiers and two Border Security Force personnel were hit by the snow avalanche while they were clearing the track for movement. Massive rescue operation involving helicopters and sniffer dogs were launched to the missing troopers, who by now are feared to be killed. Indian-controlled Kashmir experienced heavy snowfall in the past two weeks.—Xinhua

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**TENDER NO.(1) (ADM:) AMD (2011-2012)**

1. Open Tenders are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following stores (in Myanmar Kyats.)

Sr. No	Description	Quantity
1.	Tyre, Tube & Flap	4 Items
2.	Battery	3 Items
3.	Hino 4D, TE 11/21 Spare Parts	82 Items
4.	Nissan Condor Spare Parts	23 Items
2.	Tender Closing date: 3-2-2012, 16:00 hrs	
3.	Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD office No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours. Only Tenders Purchased from AMD will be accepted.	
4.	For more details, Contact; 067-431219, 067-431243	

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**TENDER NO.(4)(T)AMD-FR(2011-2012)**

1. Opened Tender are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for the supply of the following stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr. No	Description	Quantity
1.	Raw Material	1 Lot
2.	Paint	1 Lot
2.	Tender Closing date: (3-2-2012) (Friday) (16:00 HR)	
3.	Tender documents are available at the Factory & Research Section of Agricultural Mechanization Department, Building No.(50), Nay Pyi Taw, during the office hours.	
4.	For further details please call 067-431242	

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**TENDER NO.(2) (ADM:) AMD (2011-2012)**

1. Open Tenders are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following vehicle (in Myanmar Kyats.)

Sr. No	Description	Quantity
1.	Super Custom	1 Unit
2.	Tender Closing date: 3-2-2012, 12:00 hrs	
3.	Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD office No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours. Only Tenders Purchased from AMD will be accepted.	
4.	For more details, Contact; 067-431219, 067-431243	

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

INVITATION TO TENDER**TENDER NO(5) (ES) A.M.D (2011-2012)**

1. Sealed Tender are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following stores (in Myanmar Kyats.)

LOT: No	Description	Quantity
1.	Tractor Tyre & Tube	5 Items
2.	Battery	1 Item
2.	Tender Closing date: 3-2-2012, 16:00 hrs	
3.	Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD office No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours from (26-1-2012). Only Tenders Purchased from AMD will be accepted.	
4.	For more details, Contact; 067-431243	

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (292)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (292) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (107)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (107) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.1.2012 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



A view of the iconic Tower Bridge over the river Thames, right, and The Shard, left, a newly-constructed high-rise building in London, on 17 Jan, 2012. The Shard is the tallest building in western Europe and looks like a slice of glass balancing on the edge of the city's financial district. The 310 metre (1,016 ft) building is designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano and financed by the Qatar government. It will be also the biggest mixed use building, filled with offices, upmarket restaurants, a hotel and viewing platforms.—INTERNET



Indian Border Security Force soldiers ride camels down Rajpath during the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on 26 January, 2012. India celebrated its 63rd Republic Day under heavy security and a large military parade.—INTERNET

IED attacks up in Afghanistan

KABUL, 27 Jan— The number of improvised bombs used in Afghanistan last year increased 9 percent with civilians increasingly likely targets, the military says.

The International Security Assistance Force, the NATO operation in Afghanistan, said 16,554 improvised explosive devices detonated or were cleared in 2011, up from 15,225 in 2010 and 9,304 in 2009, USA Today reported. The number of Afghans who were wounded or killed by IED explosions was up 10 percent.

The number of IED "events" in 2011 was

a new record. The high number of civilian casualties suggests that Mullah Omar and other top Taliban leaders have less control over a group that is becoming decentralized, an ISAF spokesman said.

"Despite orders from Mullah Omar to quit harming civilians, we saw increased use of IEDs harming Afghan adults and children," Lt Col Jimmie Cummings said.

One big problem in Afghanistan is militants' ability to get bomb-making material from Pakistan.

Internet

Cyber threats looming high over Australian spy agencies

SYDNEY, 27 Jan—The Independent Review of the Intelligence Community (IRIC) has revealed that a riding wave of information on the internet has been observed.

This was first of such review in Australia over seven years and the unclassified report was released on Wednesday by the government.

It has said that six key agencies have entered a new epoch with cyber communications stretched to all corners of the globe.

"All of these changes are taking place in what has now become an age of information abundance. There is a rising ocean of open source information and yet, at the same time, covert intelligence is increasingly difficult to obtain," the report stated. The review specifically stressed on the need to

counter the growing threat of cyber world, *The Age* reports.

"While recognizing that terrorism, espionage, proliferation and people smuggling remain clear and present dangers, we need to build a stronger national capability to meet the challenges of the multi-polar and cyber worlds," report added. The recommendations are confidential but mostly circle around geo-political and technological change, and the necessity to uphold the performance of the agencies.

The six agencies, which are mentioned in the report, are Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO), Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS), Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organization (DIGO), Defence Intelligence Organization (DIO), the Defence Signals Directorate (DSD) and the Office of National Assessments (ONA).—Internet



A government veterinarian worker sprays anti-bird flu disinfectant over birds and fowls at Medan City market in North Sumatra Province on 26 January, 2012. Indonesia on 20 January, 2012 reported its second human death from bird flu this year.—INTERNET

Snakes, gator seized from apartment

Authorities in Florida said they seized five snakes and a small alligator from the apartment of a man who did not have permits for the reptiles. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said officers seized a red-spitting cobra, a puff adder, a uracoan rattlesnake, two false cobras and the alligator from the Boca Raton apartment of Tyler Nolan, the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* reported Wednesday.

The snakes were turned over to a licensed facility and the alligator was released back into the wild, the commission said. Officials said Nolan told officers he was in the process of obtaining licenses for the animals. He was cited on violations including possession of venomous reptiles without a permit.



Police in a British City said they are considering new driving rules after an officer totaled an unmarked car during a test drive.

Police officer totals car on test drive

Police in a British City said they are considering new driving rules after an officer totaled an unmarked car during a test drive.

A spokesman for the Greater Manchester Police declined to give specifics on how the officer crashed the Volkswagen Golf R in

December but said the department is "reviewing its policy on officers test driving cars," the BBC reported Wednesday.

The spokesman said no other vehicles were involved in the crash and the incident is under investigation.

News Album

Purse snatched from back of toilet

Police in Florida said a woman reported her purse was stolen from the back of a restaurant toilet when another woman reached over from a neighbouring stall. The woman told Boynton Beach police she was using the restroom at Two Georges restaurant just prior to 8 pm

Tuesday and a woman reached over from the next stall and grabbed her purse from the back of the toilet, the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* reported Wednesday.

Police said the purse contained a cellphone, \$500 cash, a \$2,000 check, check books and credit cards.

Investigators said a man and a woman were seen fleeing the area on bicycles and a man was later apprehended when he was found to be in possession of the stolen purse. Police did not reveal the suspect's name or whether the contents of the purse were intact.

Fla motorist arrested after five crashes

Authorities in Florida said they arrested a man who crashed his sport utility vehicle into other vehicles in five separate incidents on a single day.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office said deputies received reports of a Kia Sorrento driving erratically

and the vehicle finally came to a stop when it struck a parked patrol car while a deputy was putting out a spike strip in an attempt to stop the motorist, the Orlando Sentinel reported Tuesday.

Deputies said the Kia struck five vehicles,

including the patrol car, before it stopped.

No serious injuries were reported.

Curtis Gunter, 47, of Fort Meade was arrested on charges of leaving the scene of a crash with property damage and reckless driving.

Hammer arrested for pot cookies, brownie

SIERRA BLANCA, 27 Jan—Actor Arnie Hammer spent a day in a Texas jail after police said they caught him with three medicinal marijuana cookies and a brownie.

Hammer, 25, starred in "The Social Network" and "J Edgar." His upcoming projects include the high-profile movies "The Lone Ranger" and "Mirror Mirror."

TMZ said the actor was released from jail after posting \$1,000 bail a day after his 30 Nov, 2011, arrest for alleged pot possession at a border patrol checkpoint in Sierra Blanca.

Willie Nelson and Snoop Dogg were previously arrested on the same charge in Sierra Blanca.

Internet



Film actor Arnie Hammer spent a day in a Texas jail after police said they caught him with three medicinal marijuana cookies and a brownie.

INTERNET



Trace Adkins sings the national anthem before game 2 of the World Series between the Texas Rangers and the St Louis Cardinals in St Louis on 20 October, 2011.—INTERNET

Adkins plans 'Songs & Stories' stage tour

NASHVILLE, 27 Jan—Country music star Trace Adkins says he plans to bring his "Songs & Stories" concert tour to theaters around the United States this spring.

The series of stage shows is to kick off 8 March in Des Moines, Iowa, and wrap up 17 May in Atlanta. So far, 21 shows have been scheduled, but more dates are expected to be added.

"I've had many narrow escapes and blessings in my

life," Adkins said in a statement. "The right song at the right time has been my saving grace and that's something I have in common with the audience. Sharing meaningful songs, stories and some laughs 'around the campfire' is the country music tradition and I'm looking forward to it."

Adkins released his 10th studio album, "Proud to Be Here," last summer.

Internet

Ne-Yo to handle A&R at Motown

NEW YORK, 27 Jan—Grammy Award-winning recording star Ne-Yo has been made an executive of Motown Records, the US label said. Ne-Yo is to serve as senior vice president of Motown's Artists and Repertoire division, serving as a producer and mentor to the company's artists, and seeking out and signing new talent to the label, said Barry Weiss, chairman and chief executive officer of Universal Republic and Island Def Jam Motown, and Ethiopia Habtemariam, senior vice president of Motown Records.

"Ne-Yo is an enormously talented artist, songwriter, and producer," Weiss said in a statement. "In fact, he's one of the greatest songwriters of our times."

His track record of success at Def Jam will always be a benchmark. But this move to Motown will provide new and inspiring challenges for Ne-Yo, as both an artist and a key member of the new senior management team that is taking



American singer Ne-Yo performs at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on 8 October, 2011.—INTERNET

form at the label in 2012." "We are honoured and humbled to have Ne-Yo as a part of the Motown family, as both a recording artist and in an A&R role," said Habtemariam. "We are committed to discovering, developing and nurturing R&B/soul superstars here at Motown and in Ne-Yo we have both a global superstar and arguably one of the best songwriters in music. His presence on the executive team only strengthens our

commitment to the very best in R&B." "I'm a combination of excited, honored and terrified all at once!" said Ne-Yo. "Excited about a new beginning here at Motown, honored that I've been given such a prestigious title and trusted with such responsibility, terrified because I know that playing this role, in the fashion of one of my idols and career role models, Mr. Smokey Robinson, these are big shoes to fill.... but trust, I can handle it."—Internet

Cannabis turned Pitt into 'doughnut'

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan—Actor Brad Pitt admits that addiction to cannabis had turned him into a recluse. "I got really sick of myself at the end of the 1990s. I was hiding out from the celebrity thing, I was smoking way too much dope, I was sitting on the couch and just turning into a doughnut and I really got irritated with myself," hollywoodreporter.com

quoted Pitt as saying.

Last year, the 48-year-old star, who was nominated for the best actor Oscar, even quit smoking cigarettes regularly after he was caught puffing by two of his children — daughters Zahara and Shiloh. Pitt currently raises six kids with partner Angelina Jolie, who is reportedly pregnant with another of their child.—Internet



Meryl Streep arrives for the New York Film Critics Circle Awards at the Crimson Club in New York on 9 January, 2012. INTERNET

Streep to narrate Arctic IMAX movie

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan—Actress Meryl Streep, who received her 17th Oscar nomination this week, is to narrate "To the Arctic 3D," the documentary's producers said. The film is to open exclusively in IMAX theaters starting 20 April, IMAX Corp, MacGillivray Freeman Films and Warner Bros Pictures announced. The documentary follows the lives of a mother polar bear and her two 7-month-old cubs as they navigate the changing Arctic wilderness they call home, a synopsis said.

"The most enduring relationship is that between a mother and child, which is powerfully portrayed through the polar bear family in 'To the Arctic,'" said Greg Foster,

chairman and president of IMAX Filmed Entertainment, in a statement. "To the Arctic" was filmed entirely in 15/70mm with spectacular shots designed to take full advantage of the IMAX 3D format, and the story and setting will be made even more powerful by Meryl Streep's unmatched artistry," said Greg MacGillivray, president of MacGillivray Freeman Films and director of "To the Arctic."

Streep most recently earned a Golden Globe Award and Oscar nod for her leading role as Margaret Thatcher in Phyllida Lloyd's film "The Iron Lady."

Streep has won Oscars for her work in "Sophie's Choice" and "Kramer vs Kramer."—Internet



Actor Brad Pitt arrives at the 23rd Annual Producers Guild Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif on 21 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Rooney signs for team in Florida (honest!)



LONDON, 27 Jan—John Rooney, the younger brother of England and Manchester United striker Wayne, today signed for Orlando City following his release by the New York Red Bulls. Former Macclesfield midfielder Rooney, 21, was on New York's books last season but did not secure a regular first-team place and moves on to join a team in the third tier of professional football in the United States, managed by former Everton favourite Adrian Heath.

The deal is pending approval from the United States Soccer Federation. Heath said on Orlando's official website: "I've known John for a long time, from the early days in England. We're delighted to have him. He'll be a really good piece for us. He can play multiple positions in the midfield, which is a very good thing for us." —*Internet*



Chelsea ready to snap up Man United starlet

LONDON, 27 Jan—Chelsea are plotting a deadline raid on rivals Manchester United for midfielder rebel Paul Pogba.

Andre Villas-Boas sent a top two-man delegation to watch the star in action on Thursday night ahead of making an offer of around £3million. Pogba is refusing to sign a new deal with the champions, who may cash in on him now rather than see him quit for less when his contract expires.

United boss Alex Ferguson is fuming at the Pogba camp's decision to reject new terms and has left the young Frenchman out of his side, despite ongoing injury problems in midfield. Chelsea rate Pogba highly and think they can tempt him to sign in England despite big interest from Inter Milan. An added attraction with Pogba is that he would be free to play for the Stamford Bridge side in the Champions League this season. —*Internet*

International Sports

Rafael Nadal: Happy with his progress in the 2012 Season

MELBOURNE, 27 Jan—World No 2 Rafael Nadal is very happy with his progress in the 2012 season, so far. The Spaniard meets Novak Djokovic in the 2012 Australian Open final on Sunday. Spaniard Rafael Nadal once again proved that he saves the best for the Grand Slam, as he beat his greatest rival Roger Federer at the Australian Open on Thursday and made it to his fifteenth Grand Slam championship final.

Nadal looked quite satisfied and happy after the win, as he quoted "To start the season with the final here is a fantastic start and that gives me a lot of confidence. He further added that "At the same time, it gives me confidence about how I am



World No 2 Rafael Nadal

working. I played not bad in the second half of the season in 2011. Not bad, but not very well. So I really need to win points to stay in the top positions of the Rankings."

Nadal played fantastically against Federer on Thursday and registered a came from behind victory. The Spaniard asserted that "I am happy about how I am doing. When I am able to play inside, to play aggressively, I think my game is working

fantastic. I don't know if it's going to be enough against Novak or against Andy. I'm going to try my best to play a fantastic final, and hopefully I will have my chances."

Nadal is gunning for his eleventh Grand Slam title. When asked about whom does he want to face in the Aussie Open final? The Spaniard chuckled, "I would prefer the player who is going to play worse that day. But if my opponent plays better than me and he beats me, I'm going to go home very happy about my tournament. I'm going to go home knowing that the way I am working is working very well... and it will give me good success in the months to come." —*Internet*

Roger Federer: Eying future challenges after Aussie Open loss

MELBOURNE, 27 Jan—Sixteen Grand Slam titles winner Roger Federer of Switzerland lost to Rafael Nadal in the semi-final of the 2012 Australian Open on Thursday. Federer has urged his fans not to feel too bad about this loss, as he is eyeing substantial success in future.

In an epic semi-final encounter of the 2012 Australian Open on Thursday, World No. 2 Rafael Nadal registered a came from behind victory over World No. 3 Roger Federer with a 6(5)-76-27-6(5)6-4 scoreline and secured his berth in the final. This loss came as a big shock for the ever-swelling fan base of Roger Federer.

After the loss to his greatest rival Rafael Nadal, the Swiss Maestro quoted, "Don't feel too sorry for me. You look at that I haven't lost in five months or something - it's not that bad. Obviously



Sixteen Grand Slam titles winner Roger Federer of Switzerland.

INTERNET

I would have loved to have come through and gotten a crack, a chance, at winning the title here again. It's been one of the most successful tournaments in my life here. It's the ninth straight time I am in the semi-finals."

Like a true gentleman of this game, Roger Federer asserted, "Clearly I'm disappointed. But then again,

what's important is the reaction from now... 'Where do I go from here?' I need to have a good reaction like I showed after the US Open."

With this win, Nadal improved his record to 18-9 against Federer. When asked about it the Swiss said, "I respect it. I think he's doing great against me. It is what it is. At the end I care about my titles, if I'm happy or not as a person. Head to heads for me are not the most important. If I beat Andre Agassi 10 times in a row or Lleyton Hewitt many times in a row, at the end of the day I don't care."

When asked about his shattered Aussie Open dream this time around, the Swiss admitted "I was slightly disappointed, obviously, leaving centre court, because I felt like my game was good and I could have done something in the final potentially." —*Internet*

Transfer Gossip

Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish is plotting a move to bring Napoli's Uruguayan striker Edinson Cavani, 24, to Anfield before the end of the transfer window.

Tottenham are holding talks with Sao Paulo over Brazil Under-20 defender Bruno Uvini.

West Brom want Russia striker Pavel Pogrebnyak, 28, on loan from Stuttgart with a view to a permanent move.

Fulham manager Martin Jol is looking to bolster his midfield with a move for the 25-year-old Colombian Carlos Sanchez from French side Valenciennes.

Chelsea have not given up in their attempts to sign Ajax's 23-year-old defender Gregory van der Wiel.

Fulham striker Andy Johnson, 30, has attracted attention from Russian club Rubin Kazan and Turkish side Galatasaray.

Sunderland are considering offering Bolton Wanderers' 34-year-old striker Kevin Davies a permanent deal in order to clinch his move to the Stadium of Light.

David Moyes's search for a striker to revive Everton's season has led to an inquiry about taking 27-year-old Guillaume Hoarau on loan from Paris St-Germain.

Swiss international right back Scott Sutter, 25, is closing in on a move from Young Boys of Bern to Blackburn Rovers.

Internet

Levin, Stanley opens with 62s to lead at Torrey

SAN DIEGO, 27 Jan—Spencer Levin and Kyle Stanley knew they had to post low scores on the easier North Course at Torrey Pines to get off to a good start Thursday in the Farmers Insurance Open. It went even better than they expected. Stanley made eagle on his final hole for a 10-under 62, his best score in two years on the PGA Tour. Levin shot 29 on the back nine and had a 62, matching his career best on tour. "I played the pro-am on the North Course yesterday. There were just a lot of birdie opportunities out there, so I knew there was a good score—maybe not 10 (under), but I'll take it," Stanley said. They were a shot ahead of FedEx Cup champion Bill Haas, who had a double bogey on his 15th hole and still managed a 63. The top 12 on the leaderboard played the North, which played slightly more than 3 1/2 strokes easier than the South Course, which hosted the US Open four years ago. The best score from the South was Marc Turnesa at 66.

Phil Mickelson, meanwhile, went south on the South. The three-time champion and San Diego favorite thought his game was rounding into form when he came home from the Humana Challenge. Instead, he hit into 11 bunkers, missed a 3-foot birdie putt on the final hole and signed for a 77. It was his highest score at Torrey Pines since a 78 in the third round of 2005. —*Internet*



Spencer Levin reads the green on his last hole of the first round in the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament on 26 Jan, 2012, in San Diego.

INTERNET

Mickelson dumbfounded after woeful Torrey Pines start

SAN DIEGO, 27 Jan—Phil Mickelson, an unabashed fan of Torrey Pines where he has triumphed three times, was totally perplexed after battling to a five-over-par 77 in the opening round of the Farmers Insurance Open on Thursday.

In near-perfect scoring conditions on the South Course picturesquely laid out on bluffs above the Pacific coastline, Mickelson mixed seven bogeys with two birdies to end a glorious day of sunshine a distant 15 strokes off the lead.

He had a golden opportunity to finish his round with two consecutive birdies but missed a three-

foot putt at the par-five 18th to match his second highest score at an event he has played 23 times.

"I had some good days of practice and I was ready to play," a dumbfounded Mickelson told reporters. "I don't know what happened. I just wasn't able to focus."

"Obviously, I made some bad swings just in the wrong spots and so forth, but I felt like my game was ready heading in. I don't know what to say about the score because it was pathetic."

Asked why he had difficulty in focusing, Mickelson replied: "I just didn't put the ball where I



Phil Mickelson hits a driver off the fifth tee of the south course at Torrey Pines during first round play at the Farmers Invitational PGA golf tournament in San Diego on 26 Jan, 2012. —*INTERNET*

wanted to and see it clearly. I ended up making a lot of swings where I missed the ball in the wrong spot."

Reuters



Djokovic edges Murray, sets up final vs Nadal

MELBOURNE, 27 Jan—Defending champion Novak Djokovic has moved into an Australian Open final against Rafael Nadal after edging Andy Murray in a five-set, almost five-hour semifinal late Friday night.

Despite appearing tired and sore from the second set, Djokovic rallied to beat Murray 6-3, 3-6, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 7-5 in a rematch of the 2011 final at Melbourne Park to reach his third consecutive Grand Slam final.

The 24-year-old Serb finished last year at No. 1 after winning three of the four majors, with his only loss at a Grand Slam coming against Roger Federer in the French Open semifinals.

He beat Nadal in six tournament finals last year.

Nadal, the 2009 Australian Open winner, beat four-time champion Federer to advance.

Internet



Russians win Australian Open women's doubles

Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova, left, and compatriot Vera Zvonareva, right, hold the trophy after winning their women's doubles final against Italy's Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia on 27 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET



MELBOURNE, 27 Jan—Svetlana Kuznetsova and Vera Zvonareva of Russia captured the Australian Open women's doubles title on Friday, beating Italian duo Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

Kuznetsova, a two-time Grand Slam singles champion, and Zvonareva are both known primarily for their singles play, although each has one previous Grand Slam doubles title with a different partner.

The unseeded duo hadn't played together since the French Open last year. "We were a last-moment sign-up for doubles and I think we were pretty good at it," Kuznetsova said to the crowd at Rod Laver Arena after the match. Errani and Vinci were playing in their first Grand Slam final together. Their previous best result was reaching the quarterfinals of the US Open last year.



Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova, left, and compatriot Vera Zvonareva, right, pose with the trophy, surrounded by ball boys after winning their women's doubles final against Italy's Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia on 27 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

The Italians started off strongly, breaking the Russians four times to win the opening set. But they only converted one of 13 break chances the rest of the match, wasting five break points in the final game of the third set alone. "I think we had chances in the beginning of the second set.

We lost three games with 15-40 when they were serving. Also in the last game, we had some balls to make the break but we didn't make it. It happens," Errani said. Kuznetsova and Zvonareva are the first unseeded pair to win the Australian Open women's doubles title since Alona and Kateryna Bondarenko did it in 2008. Zvonareva previously won the 2006 US Open with Nathalie Dechy, and Kuznetsova captured the 2005 Australian Open with Alicia Molik.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(28-1-12 09:30 am ~ 29-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Overseas Transmission

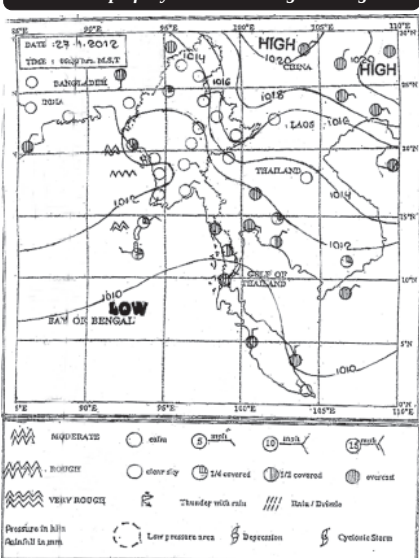
- * News
- * Fortune of Human Correlated with Astro Science
- * "Motion and constitution of Planets and Stars"
- * News
- * Graduation Ceremony of New Fashion Designer Group
- * News
- * Today's Efficient Youth "Brighter Future"
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * Taxidermy for Eternity
- * News
- * Photography: The Art of Framing the Nature
- * News
- * A Simple and Peaceful Life
- * VCD Centre
- * News
- * Secret Places for Yummy Food "Milihu Cuisine"
- * Welcome to Ngwe Hsawng Beach Resort
- * News
- * Ancient Shwe San Taw Pagoda (Taungoo)
- * Versatile Toddy Palms
- * Myanmar Movies
- * "Miss Arrogant"

MYANMAR TV

(28-1-2012) (Saturday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:30 am
- 2. Morning News
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:40 am
- 4. International News
- 11:00 am
- 5. Martial Song
- 1:00 pm
- 6. Delicious Dishes
- 1:15 pm
- 7. TV Drama Series
- 2:05 pm
- 8. Song Of National Races
- 2:40 pm
- 9. One Village & One Product
- 4:25 pm
- 10. Cultural Dances
- 5:05 pm
- 11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:15 pm
- 12. Beautiful "ASEAN"
- 6:45 pm
- 13. Teleplay (Health)
- 7:00 pm
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 16. Cartoon Series
- 17. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather for 28th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		Forecast	
		Maximum	Minimum		Percent
1	Kachin	27/81	10/50	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	28/82	06/43	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayah	35/95	14/57	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	19/66	02/36	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	26/79	12/54	Generally fair weather	
6	Lower Sagaing	31/88	12/54	Generally fair weather	
7	Tanintharyi	34/93	20/68	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	32/90	15/59	Generally fair weather	
9	Mandalay	32/90	14/57	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	30/86	14/57	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	35/95	16/61	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	34/93	15/59	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	28/82	12/54	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	25/77	05/41	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	25/77	04/39	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	27/81	07/45	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	30/86	16/61	Generally fair weather	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	34/93	12/54	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	34/93	15/59	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	14/57	Generally fair weather	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

During the past (24) hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Yangon and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (°C) to (°F) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayah and Mon States and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Pindag (0°C), Namkham and Heho (1°C) each, Heho and Mong Hsat (2°C) each.

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

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar Areas.

Health care for mother and children explained



YANGON, 27 Jan—The family organizing and disciplinary committee of Shwepyitha Township Police Force held an educative talk on health knowledge at its office on 22 January.

Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Soe Moe made a speech. Head of Township Health Department Dr Mi Mi Khaing talked about health care for mothers and children.

Altogether 150 family members of Township Police Force attended the talk and participated in the discussions.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

Sowing of Palethwe paddy strain demonstrated

KYAUKME, 27 Jan—A demonstration on sowing of Palethwe strain summer paddy was held in Webu Village of Kyaukme Township on 24 January.



Additional Manager of Shan State Myanmar Agriculture Service U Myint Thein explained matters related to good agriculture pattern.

Township Manager Daw Nan Lwin Lwin Sein of MAS demonstrated transplanting of Palethwe paddy strain. Kyaukme Township set a plan to put 892 acres of farmlands under Palethwe strain summer paddy.

Myanma Alin

First Amyotha Hluttaw in session for second day

Seven questions answered, two bills submitted, two proposals discussed and two proposals submitted at today's session

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—The third regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the second day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 10 am today, attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and 209 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replied to queries on roads and bridges raised by seven Hluttaw representatives.

U Sai Tin Aung of Kachin State Constituency No. 5 asked for **matters related to upgrading of Mohnyin-Nantmon-Nyaungbin-Whetka motor road in Kachin State to the all-season facility for smooth transport of passengers and commodities.** The Union Minister replied that the Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Border Affairs are taking responsibilities of construction for sections on Mohnyin-Nantmon-Nyaungbin-Whetka road to link Mohnyin, Mogaung and Phakant townships of Mohnyin District in Kachin State. The Ministry of Construction is building Mohnyin-Zigon Village section and the section from Taungchay to Nantmon-Nyaungbin while the Ministry of Border Affairs is taking charge of building two road sections. The section from Mohnyin to Zigon is 12 miles long asphalt road and the section from Taungchay to Nantmon-Nyaungbin, 32 miles long gravel road, totalling 74 miles and six furlongs. Taukpa Kyethayay Zartimay Co Ltd was allowed to upgrade the Mohnyin-Zigon section which is a part of Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina Road and Jade Land Construction Co Ltd to upgrade the section from Taungchay to Nantmon-Nyaungbin through BOT system. The ministry is encouraging the companies to undertake upgrading of roads and bridges meeting the set standards.

Under the supervisions at various superior levels, Mohnyin Township Development Affairs Committee will submit the fund to be spent on upgrading the Zigon-Taungchay section and Nyaungbin-Whetka section in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

With regard to the questions raised by U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 6 on **construction of bridges crossing Chaungma Creek (Kyaukpadaung Township), Hsimeegan Creek (Taungtha Township) and Kaing Creek (Taungtha Township),** the Union Minister replied that 70 feet wide Chaungma Creek, 300 feet wide Welaung Creek, 450 feet wide Hsimeegan Creek and 600 feet wide Kaing Creek on Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Highway between Kyaukpadaung and Taungtha Townships.

The 300 feet long reinforced concrete bridge was built in the place of former bailey bridge across Welaung Creek and it was opened on 20-3-2011. Due to yearly flow of water and speedy current rate in the rainy season, the bridge was built across Welaung Creek in the past.

Vehicles could pass through the remaining three creeks at lowest level of water, but they waited for passing it at a time when the water level was high. As there was heavy rainfall and effectiveness of dams upstream of the creek, the vehicles waited for the chances to pass through the creek from 1 day to five days in heavy rains.

The Ministry of Construction gives priority to build bridges on Chaungma, Hsimeegan and Kaing creeks on



Amyotha Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book.—MNA

Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Highway between Kyaukpadaung and Taungtha townships in coming fiscal year.

U Thein Hlaing of Sagaing Region Constituency No. 8 asked **whether there is a plan to upgrade Kalewa-Mahamyaing-YeU-Monywa Road for the first phase to ensure better transport in Kalay region, northern Chin State and Tamu-Kabaw region and a Chindwin River bridge near Kalewa Township for the second phase to be able to fulfill the requirements of the local people.** The Union Minister replied that Monywa-YeU-Mahamyaing-Kalewa Road in Sagaing Region comprises Monywa-YeU section and YeU-Taze-Kalewa section. Monywa-YeU road is 54 miles long all-season used asphalt facility.

YeU-Taze-Kalewa section is 105 miles and four furlongs long. Up to 31-5-2011, the road comprises 17 miles and six furlongs long asphalt section, 40 miles and five furlongs long gravel section, 36 miles and four furlongs long hard road section and 10 miles and five furlongs long earth section.

Although YeU-Taze-Kalewa section is in a good condition, from mile post No. 13/0 (Taze) to mile post No. 83/0 (Thekkekyin) was degraded to the earth section due to use of timber trucks. The road section becomes worse in the rainy season. Thus, the road is repaired by roller in open season for smooth transport of vehicles as much as possible.

With regard to damage of the road, the Sagaing Region Government and Myanma Timber Enterprise held a meeting

to construct the alignment for temporary timber extraction road along Chindwin River during the timber extraction period and then the timbers are to be transported along the course of Chindwin River. After that, the timbers are to be transported by train. They discussed that if timber is to be transported by car, a temporary timber extraction road is to be constructed along the road of Ministry of Construction. As such, the road works can be undertaken meeting the set standards.

The maintenance funds allotted in 2011-2012 fiscal year is being spent on maintenance of roads, construction of concrete culverts and retaining walls, and building of wooden bridges.

A plan was adopted to complete these tasks in coming March. Moreover, the tasks of smooth transport will be carried out on YeU-Taze asphalt section and the gravel section from Taze to Kanthuma Village in open season.

In 2012-2013 fiscal year, the 20 miles long earth road section will be upgraded to the hard road section by spending the capital fund. The Ministry of Construction has built 21 bridges of above 180 feet long in Sagaing Region after 1988. Two Chindwin River bridges namely Chindwin River Bridge (Hsinbyushin) and Chindwin River Bridge (Monywa) have been commissioned into service.

At present, Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanatheinga) and 11 bridge of under-180 feet long are under construction.

(See page 9)



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin calls on Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at Prime Minister Office.

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Cosmetic surgery unaffected by French implant scare



PAGE 4



Medical sensor is powered by music

PAGE 5

Life in ocean 'blue holes' studied

PAGE 5

Rooney signs for team in Florida (honest!)

PAGE 14



Roger Federer: Eying future challenges after Aussie Open loss

PAGE 14

