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True patriotism

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

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

First day third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw kicks off President's message recorded, joint committee formed, duties assigned, bills submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—First day third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw took place at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today. It was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 588 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives. Putting President's message on record, formation of joint committees and assignment of duties and submission of bills were carried out.

At the meeting, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker extended greetings, saying that the aim of holding the third regular session is to discuss National Planning Bills to be submitted by Union Government to the Hluttaw, supplementary Union Budget Allocation Bill and Union Budget Bill for 2012.

To be able to discuss this subject, it has been introduced by holding paper reading session since the second regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was held. Today, respective representatives are going to submit National Planning Bill (2011-2012), National Planning Bill (2012-2013), Supplementary Union Budget Allocation Bill (2012) and Union Budget Bill (2012-2013).

After submitting the bills, National Planning Bills will be discussed and approved as a first phase. As a second phase, a discussion on Supplementary Union Budget Allocation Bill (2012) will be held based on the approved Bills and on National Planning



First day third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

Bill (2011-2012) as a third phase, he said. In doing so, it is to be accord with Amyotha Hluttaw Rule from paragraphs 85 to 95.

Nowadays, the Republic of the Union Myanmar is trying harder for the prevail-

ing of democratic society in the country. Democracy administration is the public administration system. So, collection of receipts and allocation of public finance is to be accord with public's desires, and it is also

necessary for public to be content with it. In doing so, he urges those to take all best possibilities into consideration, including national interest.

(See page 8)

Internally displaced persons being provided with cash assistance

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Ngan Hsai comforted patients at Myitkyina General Hospital yesterday and provided cash assistance.

The chief minister also inspected the extended construction of Basic Education High School in Sitapu ward and made cash donations.

On arrival at

Sukngaitaung Baptist Church in the ward, the chief minister consoled the families of IDP who fled from conflicts, provided cash assistance and inspected dining hall, mass room and hostels.—MNA

Mayangon Township Music Association holds AGM

YANGON, 31 Jan—The Mayangon Township Music Association held its annual general meeting at Basic Education Middle School No. 5 in Mayangon Township here on 28 January.

Chairman of the Township Music Association U Hlaing (Thamaing Ko Ko Hlaing) and Township Administrator U Tint Lwin made speeches on the occasion.

The chairman read

a message sent by the chairman of Myanmar Music Organization (central). And those responsible presented annual reports and financial matters, which brought the meeting to an end.—MNA



UN human rights envoy arrives

PAGE 8

Scientists shift on brain speech centre



PAGE 5



Juventus hit with another racism fine

PAGE 14

Espanyol sign Brazilian starlet on loan



PAGE 14

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 1 February, 2012

Stability, Peace, Independence and Human Rights

Asian countries saw economic growth during the 1990s. In those days, Asian countries were named "Asian Tigers". In the world political sphere, a word called "Asian Values" was a popular taking one. "Asian Values" is totally different from western ideas and philosophy. Thanks to strategic managements of country and people's values, Asian Tigers could achieve the development.

Now, the countries expect that Myanmar would become a next Asian tiger. Myanmar is now practicing discipline, democratic system and there would no turning back on the way to the democracy. During the short period, Myanmar has taken concrete steps toward the future national building endeavors. We must march towards the discipline, democratic country in unison.

Discipline is only a necessity that supports the perpetuation of democracy, not a limit. "Security and stability" would be bitter word for those who suffered from the consequences of the abuse of power in the administration the past. In reality, it is essential for our society to have word called "security and stability". Liberty, Human rights, security and stability have interrelationship.

BEPS holds school family day

MUDON, 31 Jan—The school family day was held in conjunction with the prize presentation for outstanding students for 2011-2012 academic year at the hall of Basic Education Primary School on Sarsin Road in Mudon on 3 January.

Headmaster U Min Thuang Han and members of the School Board of Trustees awarded 75 prize winning students.

The headmaster presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who participated in all round development of the school and donated refreshments to students.

Township IPRD

Danger of drugs, crime reduction talked

HSENWI, 31 Jan—A talk on drug eradication and crime reduction was given at Aungmyingala town hall in Hsenwi on 25 January morning.

Police Captain Ye Naing talked about eradication of narcotic drugs. Police Captain Yin Maung Swe explained matters related to crime reduction. IP Min Naing (Lashio) disseminated prevention against trafficking in person.—Township IPRD

AIM Bazaar 2012 to be held on 5 Feb

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—In a bid to further cement touch of peoples between Indonesia and Myanmar, Association of Indonesian in Myanmar at 7/C in Golden Valley Street in Yangon plans to hold "AIM Bazaar 2012" market festival on 5 February at the Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon.—MNA

Coord meeting on production and trade development held

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—A coordination meeting on production and trade development was held at the Ministry of Commerce here this afternoon with an address of Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

Union Minister U Win Myint in his address said that the prices of basic commodities such as rice, edible oil, salt, chili and onion is stable in the time of the new government, adding that the majority of farmers were subject to loss due to the decline in the prices of paddy. And steps are therefore being taken for the purchase of reserve paddy at reasonable prices while striving for consumers to have access to quality commodities at fair prices, he noted.

Nowadays, imported commodities for consumer protection need to carry FDA recommendation with an

expired date of one year at least. Mawtaung border trade centre will soon be opened for border trade development with plans for opening of other border trade centres to handle marine products, he said. The Union minister also urged those present to make suggestions on difficulties and proper approaches in dealing with trade development.

This was followed by a general round of discussions with the participation of deputy ministers, directors-general and managing directors, those from Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay City Development Committees and region and state governments and those from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and brother associations.

MNA

Undertakings for development of Naga region discussed



Coordination meeting on development of Naga region in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation held a coordination meeting on development of Naga region at its hall yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than explained distribution of paddy and other crop seeds to Naga Self-Administered Zone as it is not sufficient in domestic consumption and rendering assistance of quality strain perennial crops including cardamom and rubber together with cultivation methods to the region for its long-

term economy.

Deputy Minister U Khin Zaw elaborated on availability of water for agricultural purpose in villages of Naga Self-Administered Zone for their long-term development of economy and effectively utilizing of vacant and virgin lands and water resources.

Officials reported on cooperation in enhancement of socio-economic life of the people in Naga-Self-Administered Zone.—MNA

Club House of Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club opens

YANGON, 31 Jan—Opening ceremony of Club House of Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club took place at the club in Mingaladon Garden City here this morning. Chairman of Education, Health and Culture Committee Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Khin Shwe unveiled the signboard of club house.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan and Dr Khin Shwe delivered speeches and presented gifts to designers Dr Zaw Tun and Mr David Wei. Union Minister U Tint Hsan and Yangon Region Electricity and Industry U



Opening ceremony of Club House of Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club in progress.—NLM

Nyan Tun Oo, Vice-President of Zaygaba Co Ltd U Zay Thiha and director Daw Zay Zin Latt

opened the club house. Then, the Union Minister and guests visited Club House where Zaygaba

Myanmar Open Golf Tournament will be held and played golf.

NLM

Mdy Mayor's Cup Floricultural Contest kicks off on 12 Feb

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Tenth Mandalay Mayor's Cup Floricultural Contest will be held at Kandawgyi Public Recreation Garden in Mandalay on 12 February.

Intended contestants may send their entries to the supervisory office of the garden not later than 4 pm on 11 February. For more detail, one may contact Gardens and Playgrounds Department and the supervisory office (Ph: 02-59170) under Mandalay City Development Committee.

MNA

Afghan officials, Taliban may hold talks in Saudi Arabia

KABUL, 31 Jan—The Afghan government hopes to hold talks with Taliban representatives in Saudi Arabia in the coming weeks, according to a senior Afghan official, in a move that threatens to cloud already delicate and fragile steps to negotiate an end to the United States' longest war.

The senior official, speaking anonymously as he was discussing sensitive diplomatic issues, said there were plans for a meeting between militants and Afghan officials in Saudi Arabia. Yet, he added, the plans were at such an early stage that it was not clear who — including American officials — would attend or when any talks would be held.

The US has acknowledged that it has held

discussions about opening a Taliban office in Doha, Qatar, as well as the possibility of transferring some Taliban prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay as part of American support for Afghan reconciliation efforts.

"The principle is that although there is now an agreement — almost — to set up an office in Doha, that doesn't necessarily mean that all conversations will take place in Doha," the official said. "We will talk to the same or different individuals (from the insurgency) in a different location. Obviously, Saudi Arabia has been supportive of the recent agenda and has hosted talks in the past. It is likely that we are heading there in the future for meetings."

He said the dates and participants were still being

worked out and insisted that any Saudi discussions would



feed into the Qatar process. This is "absolutely not in opposition to the Qatar process," he added, calling the talks in that Gulf state "a very substantive step forward."

Importantly, while the

Taliban fighters pictured after joining Afghan government forces for a ceremony in Ghazni Province on 16 January.—INTERNET

Afghan official was unable to say whether the Americans would attend any talks held in Saudi Arabia, he insisted, "The US is supportive of the idea. It is far too early to discuss any specifics about this."—*Internet*

Indian navy to host multi-nation exercise this week

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan—The Indian Navy will host a six-day multi-nation exercise from Wednesday off the strategic Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal, local media reported on Tuesday.

Warships and delegations from 14 countries of the Asia-Pacific region would be taking part in the "Milan" exercise which will focus on countering maritime terrorism, piracy and poaching as well as search and rescue operations and capacity building, the *Times of India* quoted officials as saying.

The participants include Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, the Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Maldives, the Seychelles and Mauritius.

"Milan basically is a biennial conglomeration of Asia-Pacific navies, hosted by the Indian Navy, to foster bonds of 'friendship across the seas', boost interoperability and share views on common maritime issues.

From four navies in 1995, it has grown to include 14 navies now," an official said.

An important priority in the Asia-Pacific region is the protection of sea lanes around Malacca Strait since around 60,000 ships sail through it every year, transporting around 30 percent of the world trade in goods.

For India, the stakes are clearly high, with the strategic Andaman and Nicobar Islands dominating the approaches to Malacca Strait, the report said.—*Xinhua*



US President Barack Obama (R) meets with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 30 Jan, 2012. Obama on Monday offered his support for Georgia's accession to NATO and a possible free trade agreement between the two countries.—XINHUA

Abducted Mexican ambassador freed in Venezuela

CARACAS, 31 Jan—The Mexican ambassador to Venezuela, Carlos Pujalte, and his wife were freed early Monday, hours after being kidnapped in the capital city of Caracas, said a spokesman of the Mexican embassy.

The couple had been kidnapped Sunday night on returning home in Valle Arriba, a neighbourhood in

northeastern Caracas and three kilometres from the embassy, *Xinhua* quoted media reports as saying.

The authorities responded with a rescue operation coordinated by officials from the Penal and Criminal Investigation Group (CICPC), the National Guard (GN) and the National Bolivarian Police (PNB), forcing

the kidnappers to release the couple after several hours. Both were released in their vehicle in Chapellin, a neighbourhood in eastern Caracas. According to Mexican embassy spokesman Fernando Gondini, both—the ambassador and his wife—were fine and an investigation was now underway.

Internet

British navy can now intercept supersonic missiles

LONDON, 31 Jan—Britain's Royal Navy is building a new defence system that would be able to intercept enemy missiles travelling at supersonic speeds.

The Sea Ceptor missiles fired from navy warships can reach speeds of up to 3 Mach—more than 3,200 km per hour—and can protect an area of around 1,300 square km over land or sea, *Sky News* reported.

The missiles will initially be used on the navy's Type 23 frigates.

"This new weapon system will equip our frigates to deal with the type of sophisticated missile threat expected in the coming decades," said navy chief Admiral Mark Stanhope.

A contract worth 483 million pounds (USD 760 million) to develop the Sea Ceptor system has been awarded to MBDA, reportedly the world's second-largest arms manufacturer after Raytheon.

The five-year project would also offer 500 new jobs across the country, the ministry of defence said.—*Internet*



Young Nigerian girls walk past a vehicle burned in Damaturu, Yobe State, northeastern Nigeria, in November.—INTERNET



Taliban fighters (R) attend a surrender ceremony in western Afghan Province of Herat, on 30 Jan, 2012. Thirty more Taliban rebels surrendered in the Afghanistan's western province of Herat on Monday, a provincial police source said.—XINHUA

Four militants killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 31 Jan—Four armed militants were killed during joint Afghan and coalition operations in four provinces, the Afghan Interior Ministry said Tuesday.

"Afghan National Police (ANP), Afghan National Army and NATO-led Coalition Forces launched five joint operations in Laghman, Khost, Pakhtia and Wardak provinces over the past 24 hours," the ministry said in a statement issued here on Tuesday morning.

"As a result of these operations, four armed militants were killed and five others were arrested by the ANP," it said. The joint

forces also discovered and confiscated three AK-47 guns with five magazines besides defusing one anti-vehicle mine. Afghan forces and NATO-led coalition troops have intensified cleanup operations throughout the post-Taliban country. Over 90 militants have been killed and 380 others detained since the beginning of this year, according to official figures released by Interior Ministry.

The Taliban militants, who launched in May 2011 an offensive against Afghan and NATO forces, have yet to make comments.

Xinhua

Blast kills suspected militant leader

ISLAMABAD, 31 Jan—

A blast Monday in the outskirts of Peshawar, Pakistan, killed a suspected militant leader and two others, police said. Another seven people were wounded critically, police said.

The explosion took place outside the home of Haji Akhundzada, suspected leader of Ansarul-Islam, a militant group operating in northwest Pakistan, police official Tahir Ayub said.

Akhundzada was killed, Ayub said. The attack could be a result of militant infighting, and it could be the work of Lashkar e-Islam, a rival militant group, Ayub said. The explosion was caused by a suicide bomb made of five kilograms of explosives, said Hukkam Khan, leader of the bomb disposal squad.

Internet

Health Tip: Healthy fats? They exist

All fats shouldn't be treated equal. Your body craves certain "healthy" fats, which are unsaturated fats mostly found in plant-based foods.

The womenshealth.gov website says these foods are good sources of "healthy" fats:

- * Olive, canola and peanut oils.
- * Most types of nuts.
- * Avocados.
- * Safflower and sunflower oils.
- * Corn oil, soybean oil and cottonseed oil.
- * Fatty fish, such as salmon, mackerel and trout, as well as flaxseed, all of which are good sources of omega-3 fatty acids.

Internet



Asher Stewardson was born on 26 Jan, 2012, weighing 13 pounds, 13 ounces. He measured 23 1/2 inches. He is believed to be the biggest baby ever born at Mercy Hospital without a surgical delivery. —INTERNET

US approves new drug for common skin cancer

NEW YORK, 31 Jan—US authorities approved a new drug to treat the most common form of skin cancer, ...

US authorities on Monday approved a new drug to treat the most common form of skin cancer, basal cell carcinoma, which is rarely lethal but can spread if left untreated.

Erivedge (vismodegib) is made by Genentech, a US subsidiary of the Swiss drug giant Roche, and was approved by the Food and Drug Administration after an expedited review for drugs that offer the potential for major advances in treatment.

The drug is the first of its kind for patients whose basal cell carcinoma has spread either locally or to other parts of the body, or metastasized.

A trial of 96 patients showed that 30 percent of those who had metastatic disease saw a partial shrinkage of their cancerous lesions after taking the drug, which comes in the form of a once-a-day pill.

Among those whose cancer had spread locally, 43 percent saw a complete or partial shrinkage of lesions.

"The drug is intended for use in patients with locally

Tasar silk could help heal damaged hearts

LONDON, 31 Jan—Silk is set to make a leap from dressing Indian brides to potentially growing replacement tissue for damaged hearts, keeping them healthy and evergreen. Max Planck scientists in Germany have succeeded in loading cardiac muscle cells onto a 3D scaffold (framework), created using the Tasar silk produced by a tropical silkworm.

Of all the body's organs, the human heart is probably

the one most primed for performance and efficiency. Damaged heart muscle cannot be regenerated. Scar tissue grows in place of the damaged muscle cells.

In their attempt to develop a treatment for the repair of cardiac tissue, scientists are pursuing the aim of growing replacement tissue in the lab, according to a Max Planck statement.

"Whether natural or artificial in origin, all of the

tested fibres had serious disadvantages," says Felix Engel, who led the research at the Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research, Germany. "They were either too brittle, were attacked by the immune system or did not enable the heart muscle cells to adhere correctly to the fibres."

Chinmoy Patra, who works in Engel's lab, said the fibre produced by the tasar silkworm displays several advantages over the other substances tested. "The surface (of the fibre) has protein structures that facilitate the adhesion of heart muscle cells. It's also coarser than other silk fibres." This is the reason why the muscle cells grow well on it and can form a 3D tissue structure.

"The communication between the cells was intact and they beat synchronously over a period of 20 days, just like real heart muscle," says Engel. However, clinical application of the fibre is yet far away as the findings have to be extrapolated on human cardiac cells, said Engel. —Internet

advanced basal cell cancer who are not candidates for surgery or radiation and for patients whose cancer has spread to other parts of the body," said the FDA. —Internet



US authorities approved a new drug to treat the most common form of skin cancer, basal cell carcinoma, which is rarely lethal but can spread if left untreated. —INTERNET



A customer (R) selects food at a supermarket in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 28 Jan, 2012. During the week-long Spring Festival holiday which started on 22 Jan, shops and restaurants across the country pocketed 470 billion yuan (74.4 billion US dollars) in sales volume, with that of clothes, jewelry and foods up 18.7 percent, 16.4 percent and 16.2 percent respectively, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. —XINHUA

S Korean banks' net profits jump 29 pct in 2011

SEOUL, 31 Jan—South Korean bank executives saw their net profit for 2011 jump 29 percent from a year earlier due mainly to lowering loan-loss reserves and one-off gains from the sale of a stake in a local builder, the financial watchdog said on Tuesday.

Combined net income of 18 local banks reached 12 trillion won (10.65 billion US dollars) in 2011, up 29.2 percent from the previous year, according to the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS).

The on-year jump came as costs against bad loans sharply declined to 11.8 trillion won last year from 15 trillion won in 2010 when local lenders set aside huge loan-loss reserves amid large firms' restructuring and rising sour loans in the real estate project-financing field.

Seven banks reaped one-off gains last year,

including Kookmin Bank and Citibank, which raked in a combined pre-tax profit of 3.2 trillion won after selling their stakes in the country's top builder Hyundai Engineering & Construction in the second quarter.

By income sources, interest income of domestic lenders came to 39.3 trillion won in 2011, up 3.4 percent from a year before due to a rise in lending rates and growth in assets that offer interest returns, according to the FSS. Non-interest income expanded 14 percent on-year to 8.3 trillion won last year. Meanwhile, local banks' profitability improved slightly. The average rate of return on assets (ROA) for local lenders stood at 0.68 percent in 2011, up 0.14 percentage points from the previous year, while the return on equity (ROE) reached 8.55 percent last year, up 1.33 percentage points from a year before. —Xinhua

Singapore's unemployment rate hits 14-year low in 2011

SINGAPORE, 31 Jan—Supported by strong employment creation, Singapore's unemployment rate fell to a 14-year

low last year.

The Manpower Ministry said the unemployment rate in December was unchanged from a quarter ago at 2 percent.

Japan's jobless rate rises to 4.6 pct in Dec

TOKYO, 31 Jan—Japan's jobless rate rose to 4.6 percent in December 2011, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous month, the government said on Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted figure marked the first deterioration in two months.

For 2011, the country's unemployment rate, excluding prefectures hit by the twin disasters in March, declined to an average 4.5 percent, down 0.5 percentage point from the previous year, according to government data. The number of unemployed stood at 2.84 million in 2011, down 330,000 from 2010. The number of the employed people stood at 59.77 million, down 30,000. —Xinhua

The key findings of the ministry's "Employment Situation 2011" report showed that employment growth remained strong in 2011.

Preliminary estimates show total employment growing by 36,300 in the fourth quarter of 2011.

This brings growth for the whole year to 121,300—slightly higher than the gains of 115,900 in 2010.

Associate Professor Shandre Thangavelu, labour economist from the National University of Singapore, said: "In 2010 we had a very strong growth, a double digit growth. In 2011, the flash estimate from MTI is around

4.8 percent growth for the whole year.

"So, what it shows is that we are very much input-driven in 2011 because the employment creation was very large. That's a good sign, but also a bad sign... we want a more technology-driven and more capital-driven economy rather than a labour-input driven economy." The Manpower Ministry said the median income of Singaporeans also increased, amid the tight labour market.

Even for low-income Singaporeans at the 20th percentile, real income has grown over the last five years.

Internet



German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends a Press conference after EU's informal summit at EU headquarters in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 30 Jan, 2012. All EU member states except Britain and the Czech Republic would join and sign a new fiscal treaty designed to enshrine tighter deficit and debt discipline, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said here late on Monday. —XINHUA



Scientists shift on brain speech centre

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—The part of the brain used for speech processing is in a different location than originally believed, according to a US study Monday that researchers said will require a rewrite of medical texts.

Wernicke's area, named after the German neurologist who proposed it in the late 1800s, was long believed to be at the back of the brain's cerebral cortex,

behind the auditory cortex which receives sounds.

But a review by scientists at Georgetown University Medical Centre of more than 100 imaging studies has shown it is actually three centimetres closer to the front of the brain, and is in front of the auditory cortex, not behind.

"Textbooks will now have to be rewritten," said neuroscience professor Josef Rauschecker, lead author of

the study which appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "We gave old theories that have long hung a knockout punch."

Rauschecker and colleagues based their research on 115 previous peer-reviewed studies that investigated speech perception and used brain imaging scans—either MRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) or PET (positron emission tomography).—Internet



Healy Hall, at Georgetown University's main campus in Washington, DC in 2011. The part of the brain used for speech processing is in a different location than originally believed, according to a US study that researchers said will require a rewrite of medical texts.—INTERNET

Researchers find cancer in ancient Egyptian mummy

CAIRO, 31 Jan—A professor from American University in Cairo says discovery of prostate cancer in a 2,200-year-old mummy indicates the disease was caused by genetics, not environment.

The genetics-environment question is key to understanding cancer.

AUC professor Salima Ikram, a member of the team that studied the mummy in Portugal for two years, said Sunday the mummy was of a man who died in his forties.

She said this was the second oldest known case of prostate cancer.

"Living conditions in ancient times were very different; there were no pollutants or modified foods, which leads us to believe that the disease is not necessarily only linked to industrial factors," she said. A statement from AUC says the oldest known case came from a 2,700-year-old skeleton of a king in Russia.

Internet

Britain to be scoured for black squirrels



CAMBRIDGE, 31 Jan—British researchers are asking the public for help in determining the extent of invasive black squirrels in the country, first seen 100 years ago.

Black and the more common gray squirrels are the same species, and scientists from Anglia Ruskin University say they want to find if the darker, less common squirrels carry the

"gray squirrel pox" disease that can infect Britain's native red squirrels. About 100 gray squirrels were introduced to more than 30 sites across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and there are currently more than 2 million of them in Britain, the BBC reported. A mutation in the gene that governs coat pigmentation is responsible for the black coloring of some of the squirrels. The first "official UK sighting" of a black squirrel was in 1912, lead researcher Helen McRobie said, and they have only been spotted in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.—Internet

Pythons apparently wiping out Everglades mammals

WEST PALM BEACH, 31 Jan—A burgeoning population of huge pythons—many of them pets that were turned loose by their owners when they got too big—appears to be wiping out large numbers of raccoons, opossums, bobcats and other mammals in the Everglades, a study says.

The study, published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that sightings of medium-size mammals are down dramatically—as much as 99 percent, in some cases—in areas where pythons and other large, non-native constrictor snakes are known to be lurking.

Scientists fear the pythons could disrupt the food chain and upset the Everglades' environmental balance in ways difficult to predict.

"The effects of declining mammal populations on the overall Everglades ecosystem, which extends well beyond the national park boundaries, are likely profound,"



Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar, right, Ron Bergeron, second from left, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service Supervisor Ranger Al Mercado, second from left, and Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla, left, hold a 13-foot python in the Everglades, Fla, on 17 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

said John Willson, a research scientist at Virginia Tech University and co-author of the study.—Internet



Twitter faces censorship charges, blackout call

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—Twitter, championed as a tool of free expression during the Arab Spring, was facing censorship charges on Friday after announcing it can now block tweets on a country-by-country basis if legally required to do so.

San Francisco-based Twitter stressed the move in no way compromised its commitment to free speech, but the backlash was immediate with critics taking to the service by the thousands to tweet disappointment and outrage.

"This is very bad news," said Mahmoud Salem, the Egyptian pro-democracy activist and blogger who tweets using the handle @sandmonkey. "Is it safe to say that #Twitter is selling us out?" "Yet another loss for free speech," said Jannis Leidel, or @jezzdez. Some Twitter users called for a boycott of the service on Saturday, punctuating their tweets with the hashtag #TwitterBlackout. Others questioned whether Twitter's move was related to a \$300 million investment in December by billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal of

Saudi Arabia, a country with strong Internet censorship.

Olivier Basille, director of Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (RSF), expressed "deep concern" in a letter to Jack Dorsey, executive chairman and co-founder of Twitter, which has over 100 million active users.

"By finally choosing to align itself with the censors, Twitter is depriving cyber-dissidents in repressive countries of a crucial tool for information and organization," Basille said. "Are you going to block the accounts of Syrian cyber-dissidents if the Syrian authorities tell you to do so?" he asked.

Basille questioned whether Twitter's move was motivated by a desire to enter China, where the service is currently blocked. "Is it possible that one day there will be a sanitized Chinese version of Twitter that has been rid of any reference to the Chinese Nobel peace laureate Liu Xiaobo?" he asked.

In its blog post, Twitter said the ability to block tweets by specific country would allow the rest of the world to continue to see them.

Internet



Plastic from synthetic clothes threaten food chain

LONDON, 31 Jan—Microscopic plastic debris that are released from washing synthetic clothes are accumulating in the marine environment and could be entering the food chain, a study has warned. Researchers traced the microplastic to synthetic clothes, which released up to 1,900 tiny fibres per garment every time they were washed, BBC reported citing the US-based research network National Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis.

An earlier research showed plastic smaller than one mm were being eaten by animals and getting into the food chain.

The findings appeared in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*. "Research we had done before showed that when we looked at all the bits of plastic in the environment, about 80 percent was made up from smaller bits of plastic," said co-author Mark Browne, an ecologist now based at the University of California.

Browne, a member of the National Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, said the tiny plastics were a concern because evidence showed they were making their way into the food chain. "Once the plastics had been eaten, it transferred from the animals' stomachs to their circulation system and actually accumulated in their cells," he told BBC.—Internet



Chemistry research may help free environment of toxins

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—A researcher is studying materials that use light or darkness to purify air filled with toxins that are harmful to human health and the environment.

The research, conducted by Manindu Weerasinghe from Kansas State University, Sri Lanka, could one day lead to filters, humidifiers and other devices that can detoxify air in windowless rooms, manufacturing facilities and other indoor areas.

"Indoor pollutants can come from things like asbestos, markers and new carpet, and are very harmful in just small amounts," Newsweek quoted Weerasinghe as saying.

"A room like an office or a laboratory that may have few or no windows will have higher levels of indoor air pollutants than a room that has lots of windows. Also, if the room does not have good ventilation those levels would increase," she said. For her research, Weerasinghe is testing and analysing photocatalysts and dark catalysts, materials made by chemically bonding a metal to oxygen. Photocatalysts react to light while dark catalysts react to darkness.—Internet



Design drawing of the Sea Tree, a multi-tiered structure comprising of layered green habitats by Dutch architect Koen Olthuis. This is a water-based park, which will offer favourable living areas for wild animals, also bring positive green effects to urban environments.—INTERNET

Raul Castro defends Cuba's one-party system

HAVANA, 31 Jan—President Raul Castro delivered a full-throated defence of Cuba's one-party political system on Sunday, and a sharp warning to Communist Party delegates to fight corruption he said was a greater threat to the revolution than anything the United States could dream up.

In a stern closing speech to the party's national conference, Castro reiterated a pledge to institute term-limits for Cuban officials, saying a constitutional

amendment would be required but that leaders should begin to adopt the practice even before it is formalized. Castro has spoken previously about limiting high-ranking officials including himself to two, 5-year terms.

The US threat to Cuba and the limits it placed on reform was a continuing theme of the speech. Cuba's President upbraided those who were hoping to see more fundamental changes come out of the two-day meetings

—or any new faces amid the aged upper ranks of the party and government hierarchy.

"There has been no shortage of criticism and exhortations by those who have confused their intimate desires with reality, deluding themselves that this conference would consecrate the beginning of the dismantling of the political and social system the revolution has fought for for more than half a century," he said.

Internet



Cuba's President Raul Castro, right, and Cuba's Vice-President Jose Ramon Machado Ventura attend the closing ceremony of the Communist Party Conference in Havana, Cuba, on 29 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

India not to cut oil imports from Iran

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan—India has said it won't cut down its oil imports from Iran, apparently making it clear that it would not buckle to any pressure from the United States or western countries which have imposed sanctions on Teheran, local media reported Monday.

"It is not possible for India to take any decision to reduce the imports from Iran drastically, because among the countries which can provide the requirement of the emerging economies, Iran is an important country amongst them," Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee was quoted as saying during a visit to the United States on Sunday.

"We (India) imports 110 million tons of crude per year. We will not decrease imports from Iran. Iran is an important country for India despite US and European sanctions on Iran," said Mukherjee.

Xinhua



Relatives of Thai men shot dead by paramilitaries mourn during their burial at a cemetery in Thailand's restive southern province of Pattani, on 30 January. Thai paramilitaries shot dead four people including an elderly man and a teenager in the kingdom's violence-torn far south because they feared they were under attack, according to police.

INTERNET

Four shot dead by troops in Thai south

BANGKOK, 31 Jan—Thai paramilitaries shot dead four people including an elderly man and a teenager in the kingdom's violence-torn far south because they feared they were under attack, police said on Monday.

The victims were male relatives returning from a funeral in a truck, the driver of the vehicle told police in Pattani, one of three southernmost provinces plagued by a long-running militancy.

"Army rangers saw a pick-up truck and asked it to stop. They heard a gunshot

and assumed they were being fired on, so they pounded the truck with gunfire, killing four men and injuring five others," said a police report on the incident on Sunday evening.

A 70-year-old and an 18-year-old man were among the dead, while five men and boys were also hurt including three teenagers, aged 14, 15 and 19, and a 76-year-old.

Two guns were found in the truck, although the report did not reveal whether either had been fired. Police said the driver told officers that the weapons did not belong

to anyone on the truck.

"We will have to investigate this incident carefully and I will interview both the rangers and survivors to ensure justice to both sides," said Police Colonel Chonnawee Chamareuk, Nongkik District police chief.

Thailand's three southernmost provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, near the border with Malaysia, have been riven by a complex militancy, waged without clear aims. There is a heavy presence of government troops, supported by armed paramilitaries.—Internet

Search goes on for thousands of Japan's tsunami missing

ISHINOMAKI, 31 Jan—Leadens winter skies lour on a coastguard boat as it cuts its way through the seas off Japan's tsunami-wrecked shores.

Somewhere under these unforgiving grey waters lie hundreds, perhaps thousands of bodies; the unfound, unclaimed dead of one of the country's worst ever disasters.

Even though the hunt on these sullen seas goes on every day, Yoshifumi Suzuki says none of his coastguard colleagues has seen a single corpse since the partial remains of a man were untangled from a fishing net in November.

But they are not prepared to give up. "If we don't do this, nobody will," Suzuki said. "We want to continue the search until we find the very last one. I want to return people to their families not because it is my official duty, but because it is my duty as a human being."

"The (missing) person is in the mind of his or her family but they still want proof that the person lived in this world. I think it's hard for them to accept the reality" without a body, he said. The massive tsunami that pummeled Japan in March last year claimed more than 19,000 lives. One-in-six of the



File photo of family members offering flowers to lost children at the site where a school was washed away in Ishinomaki.—INTERNET

dead has never been found. In the ravaged port city of Ishinomaki and the adjacent town of Onagawa, 20 percent of the 4,700 victims are still officially listed as missing, although no-one believes they will be found alive.—Internet

Indian teacher chosen for US space programme

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—A teacher from Maharashtra in India has been chosen for the US Space Foundation's elite 2012 Flight of Teacher Liaisons programme.

Vandana Suryawanshi of Vidya Valley School in Maharashtra is a middle school educator who has been teaching biology, earth science and general science for 20 years. He joins 19 other outstanding educators selected for their active promotion of space and science education.

The new flight of Teacher Liaisons will serve as advocates for space-themed education across the curriculum and will use Space Foundation-provided training and resources to further integrate space principles into the classroom, the Colorado Springs based non-profit leader in space awareness activities, educational programmes announced.

The highly regarded Space Foundation Teacher Liaison programme has more than 270 active participants.

The teachers are selected by a panel comprising experienced Teacher Liaisons and representatives from the space industry and the military.

The 2012 Teacher Liaisons will be publicly recognized at the Space Foundation's 28th National Space Symposium, which is being held on 16 to 19 April at The Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In addition to the recognition activities, the 2012 Teacher Liaisons will participate in workshops and education programmes at the 28th National Space Symposium.

Following the symposium, Teacher Liaisons can take advantage of specialized training and instruction at Space Foundation and NASA workshops with optional graduate-level credit; exclusive science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professional development experiences with optional continuing education credit; and special space-oriented student programmes created just for Teacher Liaisons.—Internet

Gunmen attacked a police station in Nigeria's flashpoint city of Kano at dawn on Monday, setting off a gun battle with police, residents said.

INTERNET



Gunmen attack police station in northern Nigeria

KANO, 31 Jan—Gunmen attacked a police station in Nigeria's flashpoint City of Kano at dawn on Monday, setting off a gun battle with police, residents said.

It is the second time in three days that the Mandawari

police station has come under attack in Kano, the country's second biggest city and the scene of one of the deadliest attacks blamed on the Islamist sect Boko Haram.

"It was crazy. These guys came on motorcycles and opened fire on the police station but they met tough resistance from the police, and it lasted around 20 minutes," Jamilu Muham-mad, who lives across the police station, told AFP. Witnesses said it was not yet clear if there were any casualties, and police were not immediately available for comment.

"From my house I heard

gunshots at exactly 5:50 am (0450 GMT) coming from around the police station," said a local journalist who lives in the neighbourhood.

He said motorcycles were racing up and down his street as the sound of gunfire rang around the police station.

The attack took place in the Mandawari neighbourhood, not far from the palace of the emir of Kano, the most important traditional leader in the city. Boko Haram was blamed for a series of bombings and shootings in Kano on January 20 that mainly targeted police stations and killed at least 185 people.—Internet

PUB to spend S\$750m to improve drainage capacity



SINGAPORE, 31 Jan—Over the next five years, water agency PUB will be spending S\$750 million to improve the capacity of Singapore's drains by 30 to 40 percent.

More resources will be put into retaining rainfall upstream to reduce the speed at which water flows into the drains. Earlier this month, a panel of experts had recommended better ways to deal with increasingly intense rainfall.

On Monday, PUB said it has accepted these recommendations and laid out

a comprehensive plan to tackle the problem.

This includes setting aside S\$750 million to increase drainage capacity particularly at six major canals such as Geylang River and Rochor Canal. More importantly, there will be measures such as water retention ponds and rooftop tanks to contain water in localised areas. PUB will also come up with new flood protection guidelines for buildings within a year.

It said this approach is in recognition that Singapore

has to move beyond widening drains and building flood barriers to resolve its flood problem. One reason is that with land being a premium, there is a limit as to how much can be set aside for drains. The panel also recommended better data. The PUB said it will be piloting a system over the next two years to better forecast where and when floods will occur.

They will be getting information on rainfall from the Meteorological Service and data from their own canal sensors. PUB is not, at this point, able to say how much advance warning it can give but it said that even a few minutes will be helpful to the public.

As for Stamford Canal, in the immediate term, PUB will be coating its walls with a polymer lining to reduce friction and increase water speed. It will also remove the sewer and Newater pipes that are placed inside the canal to allow the canal to hold more water.—*Internet*

Officers checking robbery find five dead in Ala home

BIRMINGHAM, 31 Jan—Police investigating a possible robbery at a Birmingham home early Sunday instead found five people dead inside, authorities said.

Birmingham Police Sgt Johnny Williams said officers arrived at the house around 3:30am Sunday after getting a call that a robbery was in progress and soon discovered the five victims. He told reporters that investigators are interviewing potential witnesses but so far have made no arrests. "Someone out there knows more information," said Williams. "We know someone is going to do the right thing."

The victims' identities and the causes of death were not immediately released. Birmingham authorities launched a homicide investigation and police

believe more than one person was involved.

"It obviously appears to us this horrific crime was not a random act of violence," said Birmingham Police Chief AC Roper. The two-bedroom house, which is made partly of cinderblocks, was built along a busy street in west Birmingham. Vacant homes sit beside houses where some residents have lived for years. One is Beatrice Houston, who lives across the street from the home where the bodies were found.

Houston, who is 64, said she believes a woman, her son and her brother had lived in the house for the last year or so. She said she didn't know the neighbours' names, but started worrying when she saw groups of young men hanging around the house at odd hours. Still, she said, her neighbours



Unidentified Birmingham police officers stop Ravenn Carlton, second from right, whose husband's body was found inside the house, and her cousin Nakia Carlton, far right, from getting close to the scene where five people were found dead inside a house at 3113 Avenue S in Birmingham, Ala, on 29 Jan, 2012.—*INTERNET*

didn't cause many disturbances. "I never had any problem with them," she said. "They were cordial. I just kept to myself."

Doreatha Moss lived in

the house, a white building with green trim now surrounded by police tape, until late 2010. She doesn't know who moved in to take her place.—*Internet*

Philippines arrests foreign trio in big drugs bust

MANILA, 31 Jan—Philippine police arrested three men on Sunday in a sting operation that netted illegal drugs worth over two million dollars, officials said.

The three were caught selling more than two kilos (4.4 pounds) of the banned stimulant crystal methamphetamine hydrochloride, more commonly known as "ice" or "shabu", to an undercover agent, police said. Agents also found drugs in the suspects' vehicle.

"We believe they are selling two kinds of 'shabu', one priced lower and one with

a higher price imported from another country," task force head Superintendent Ismael Fajardo said on national radio.

He said the bogus transaction took place at a car park of a hospital in Manila and agents pounced on the trio after marked money changed hands.

The Philippines has been stepping up its fight against drug traffickers after concerns the archipelago country's vast shoreline made it a favourite shipment point for illegal drugs.

Internet

South Sudanese soldiers overlook the shutting down of the Petrodar oil concession during a shutdown on oil production by South Sudan. Sudan on Sunday released three oil tankers held in a dispute with breakaway South Sudan, which has accused Khartoum of theft, the foreign ministry said.

INTERNET



Sudan frees ships held in S Sudan oil row

KHARTOUM, 31 Jan—Sudan on Sunday released three oil tankers held in a dispute with breakaway South Sudan, which has accused Khartoum of theft, the foreign ministry said. "Today the three ships left. The last one departed at three o'clock (1200 GMT)," foreign ministry spokesman Al-Obeid Meruh told *AFP*.

He added that President Omar al-Bashir had ordered the tankers' release even though they had not paid fees for using the Red Sea port. The vessels contained 2.2 million barrels of South Sudanese oil. A Sudanese official announced on Saturday in Addis Ababa, where the two sides failed to

resolve a dispute over oil fees, that the ships were free to go as a goodwill gesture.

Sudan had hoped the South would reverse a protest shutdown of its oil facilities as a result, but Juba's petroleum and mining minister, Stephen Dhieu Dau, said freeing the ships would not be enough.

"The stolen crude must be paid back to South Sudan," Dau said. South Sudanese President Salva Kiir last week accused Khartoum of stealing \$815 million worth of crude oil since December, largely by blocking four ships in Port Sudan and preventing four others from collecting their purchases.

In November, Sudanese

officials announced the country would take 23 percent of the south's vital oil exports as payment in kind during the fee dispute.

Landlocked South Sudan split from Sudan in July after decades of war. It took with it three quarters of the country's oil, but all pipeline and export facilities are controlled by Sudan.

The two countries disagree over how much Juba should pay for using the north's pipeline, port and other infrastructure.

With talks stalled, the South said on Sunday it had nearly completed a shutdown of its oil production — the fledgling nation's top revenue source.—*Internet*

Australia's NSW floods force road closures, isolate residents

SYDNEY, 31 Jan—Heavy rain and localized flooding have forced the closure of the Pacific Highway at the town of Grafton in northern New South Wales (NSW) of Australia, authorities said on Monday.

The NSW Department of Transport said they were unsure when the road would reopen but that diversions were in place. More heavy rain is expected on Monday, increasing the likelihood of minor flooding in Nambucca and Murrumbidgee valleys, according to the Bureau of Meteorology.

About 2000 residents in Macleay, Bellinger, Brunswick, Tweed and areas along the Clarence River on the north coast of NSW are already isolated by floodwaters, the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) said. Residents in some northern communities have been told to prepare for further flooding, as water rushes downstream from Queensland over the next two weeks.

A major flood warning has been issued for residents around the Paroo River, in northwest NSW, after heavy rain fell in the Upper Paroo River valley.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Police officers attend a ceremony in Manila in 2011. Philippine police arrested three men on Sunday in a sting operation that netted illegal drugs worth over two million dollars, officials said.

INTERNET

Blizzard disrupts traffic in NE China

SHENYANG, 31 Jan—A blizzard swept across parts of northeast China's Liaoning Province on Tuesday morning, forcing authorities to impose traffic restrictions on six major expressways.

The blizzard mainly hit southeast Liaoning's Dandong and Dalian cities, with the snow having reached up to 6 mm from 3 am to 9 am in Dandong, the Shenyang Central Observatory reported. More heavy snow will continue to fall in those areas on Tuesday, the observatory predicted.

Meanwhile, low temperature will lead to icy roads and the traffic will be further disrupted, it said.

Warnings against more severe snow have been issued in those areas, it added.—*Xinhua*

First day Third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw...



Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun makes clarification.—MNA

(from page 1)

In record-putting sector, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker submitted the messages that allowed the resignation of Union Minister at President Office U Kyaw Swa Khaing as of 6-1-2012 and that assigned U Myat Ko as Taninthayi Region Chief Minister in line with respective laws, and the Hluttaw put it on record.

The Hluttaw also recorded the formation of Ministry of Industry by combining Ministry of Industry-1 and Ministry of Industry-2, which was approved at the second regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

In the joint committee formation sector, Joint Bill Committee comprising same members as in bills Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw was formed and duties assigned for detailed scrutinizing bills to be discussed and passed only at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw before discussing it at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The joint bill committee approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw includes U Mya Nyein of Yangon Region Constituency No.7 as Chairman, U Saw Hla Tun of Chaung U Constituency as secretary; U T Khun Myat of Kutkai Constituency, Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency, U Thauang of Mawlaik Constituency, U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu Constituency, U Ngown Moun of Haka Constituency, U Soe Soe of Htigyaing Constituency, U Khin Maung Myint of Zeegon Constituency, U Khin Maung Nyo of Pauk Constituency, U Khin Maung Shwe of Tamu Constituency, U Soe Yal of Dimawhso Constituency, U Steven of Kengtung Constituency, U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency, Dr Soe Moe Aung of Bilin Constituency, U Aung Mya Than of Nyaungdon Constituency, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye of Kayin State Constituency No.6, U Swan Doko of Chin State Constituency No.6, U Thein Win of Sagaing Region Constituency No.9, U Than Myint of Taninthayi Region Constituency No.10, U Myint Tun of Bago Region Constituency No.10, U Soe Myint of Magway Region Constituency No.6, U Zaw Myint Pe of Mandalay Region Constituency No.5, U Hmat Gyi of Mandalay Region Constituency No.9, U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State Constituency No.2, Dr Myat Yananna Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No.4, U Tin Yu of Yangon Region Constituency No.11, U Hsai Paung Tun of Shan State Constituency No.12, Defence Services personnel Amyotha Hluttaw representative Col Hla Tun and U San Tun of Kachin State Constituency No.11 as members.

In order to take over financial affairs from Pyithu Hluttaw, Joint Public Accounts Committee comprising the same numbers of members of Public Accounts Committees both from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw was formed.

In Joint Public Accounts Committee, U Mya Nyein of Yangon Region Constituency No.7 was assigned as chairman, U Maung Toe of Minhla Constituency as secretary, and U Thurein Zaw of Kawkaik Constituency, U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mongyal Constituency, U Man Maung Maung Nyan of Pantanaw Constituency, Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency, U Khun Maung Thauang of Pinlaung Constituency, U Khun Lain of Falam Constituency, U Soe Myint of Nyaunglebin Constituency, U Thant Zin of Gyobingauk Constituency, U Nyi Nyein Myint of Ottwin

Constituency, U Hauk Khant Man of Tonzang Constituency, U Aung Linn Hlaing of Bokpyin Constituency, Dr Win Myint of Hline Constituency, Daw Mi Yin Chan of Kyaukmaraw Constituency, U Moe Zaw Hein of Katha Constituency, U Thein Win of Sagaing Region Constituency No.9, U Bran Sean of Kachin State Constituency No.3, U Man Kan Nyunt of Kayin State Constituency No.2, U Zon Hlal Htan of Chin State Constituency No.2, U Steven Thabeik of Chin State Constituency No.4, Dr Khin Maung Lay of Bago Region Constituency No.8, U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No.12, Daw Yi Yi Myint of Mon State Constituency No.1, Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No.7, U Ohn Tin of Rakhine State Constituency No.10, Dr Sai Hsai Kyauk Hsam of Shan State Constituency No.6, U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.6, Defence Services personnel Amyotha Hluttaw representatives Col Maung Maung Htoo and Major Maung Maung Gyi, and U Nu of Yangon Region Constituency No.10 were assigned as members.

In bill submitting session, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein on behalf of the Union Government reported on national planning bill to Hluttaw.

Representatives wishing to discuss the bill may sign on by 3 February.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun reported on Union supplementary Budget Division Bill (2012) and Union Budget Bill (2012) to Hluttaw.

Representatives wishing to discuss Union supplementary Budget Division Bill (2012) may sign on by 6 February and income and expenditures of the bill may sign on by 10 February with briefed discussing points.

Representatives wishing to discuss Union Budget Bill (2012) may sign on by 10 February and receipt and payment of the bill may sign on by 17 February with briefed discussing points.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker notified Hluttaw representatives that they are to state the ministry relating to their discussion.

Today's session ended at 2:30 pm and second day starts at 10 am tomorrow.—MNA

Union Health Minister receives Chairman of General Electric Corporate-Asia Pacific and ASEAN Headquarters

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Chairman Mr Stuart Dean and party of General Electric Corporate-Asia Pacific and ASEAN Headquarters at 4.30 pm yesterday and Managing Director Mr Stanislaus Ting and party of Friends without A Border at 5.30 pm at the ministry, here.

The Union Minister and General Electric Corporate-Asia Pacific and ASEAN Headquarters discussed upgrading of hospitals and enhancement of services, provision of modern hospital equipment for diagnosis and medical treatment. The Union Minister and Friends without A Border focused on assistance for teaching

aid at universities of medicine and exchange of technology.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Director-General Dr Tun Naing Oo of Health Department, Director-General Dr Than Zaw Myint of Medical Science Department and officials.—MNA

Union EP-2 Minister visits Myaukpyin power station in Patheingyi

YANGON, 31 Jan—Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe heard reports on progress of 230/33/11KV (2x100)MVA Myaukpyin power station of Patheingyi Township, installation of 20 master shunt reactor at Nyaungbingyi and Chaungku power stations, construction of 132 KV Taungdawkwin main power station and ex-

tension o 132 KV feeder at Ingonmain power station, building of 66/11KV, 2MVA power stations in Kyaw and Gangaw, installation of transformers at Myaukpyin power station and installation of power lines presented by Project Manager U Kyaw Khaing Tun at Myaukpyin power station in Patheingyi Township yesterday.

Project Director U Tin Aung of Power Supply (North) Projects Branch and Mandalay Region Engineer Daw Aye Aye Min gave supplementary reports.

After hearing the reports, the Union Minister stressed the need to install machinery at 230/33/11KV (2x100) MVA Myaukpyin power station as it is the first station to be installed with 100-MVA transformer in Myanmar. The facility will supply electricity to Mandalay and its surrounding areas with the use of eleven 33 KV feeders, he said.

Later, the Union minister visited the control building and installation of machinery and connection works.—MNA

UN human rights envoy arrives

YANGON, 31 Jan —The Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana arrived here today.

He was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Deputy Director-General of the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs U Khin Maung Thein and departmental officials, Mr. Asxok Nigam, UN Resident Coordinator in Myanmar, and responsible personnel.

MNA



Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana being welcomed by officials at Yangon International Airport.
MNA

Specialists' team provides healthcare to local people in Thandaunggyi

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Under the aegis of Kayin State government, head of State Health Department Dr Khin Maung Lin led a team of specialists, doctors and nurses which provided to local people of Thandaunggyi and surrounding villages at Thandaunggyi Station Hospital on 27 January.

State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, state ministers and officials encouraged the healthcare of team and provided sweaters, blankets, traditional wears and Iodine salt packages and donated glasses to eye patients.

Ten groups formed with specialists from Hpa-an People's Hospital and doctors and nurses from Thandaunggyi Station Hospital reached out to local people and provided healthcare.—MNA

Bridges commissioned into service in time of new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ma Mya Creek Bridge

- Ma Mya Creek Bridge on Hinthada-Sonegon-Myanaung Road was constructed as of 1 January, 2009 and opened on 28 April, 2011. It is second to none in list of above-180-ft bridges opened since the new government took office. The RC bridge has the clearance area with the length of 58 feet and the height of three feet. The facility with 24-ft-wide two-lane motorway and two three-ft-wide walkways is 190 feet long and can withstand 60 tons of loads per vehicle.
- Thanks to the bridge, marine products and rice produced by Ayeyawady Region can be transported to the whole country through the roads linking every corners of the country. It facilitates social, health and economic development of local people by Hinthada-Sonegon-Myanaung Road in Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region.



Myo Creek Bridge

- The construction of Myo Creek Bridge started on 27 July, 2010. It was opened on 23 July, 2011. It is fourth above-180-ft bridge opened in time of the new government. It is of combined steel structure and RC type. It has the length of 270 feet, 24-ft-wide two-lane motorway and two three-ft-wide pavements. It can withstand 75 tons of loads per vehicle.
- It lies on Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Kyungon Road in Kyaukdaga Township in Bago Region. It is second among seven roads linking eastern and western parts of Bago Region. It ensures smooth transport of the region.
- Thanks to the bridge, rice and regional products produced by Bago Region can be transported to the whole country through the roads linking every corners of the country. It facilitates all-round development of local people.

Nantkwin Creek Bridge

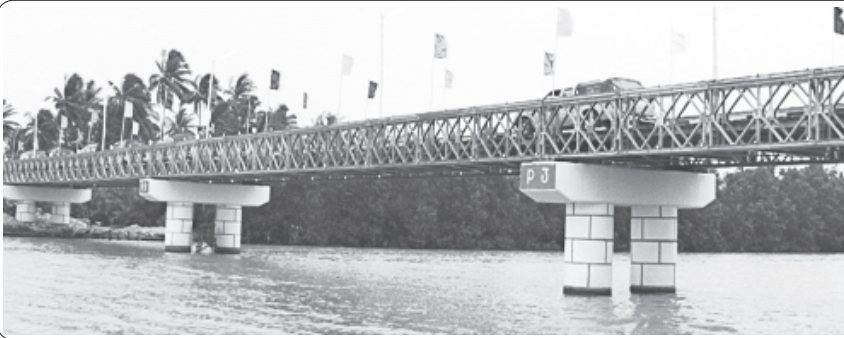
- Nantkwin Creek Bridge is situated on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road in Hopang Township in Mohnyin District of Kachin State and was opened on 21 May, 2011. The RC bridge is second above-180-ft bridge opened in time of the new government. It has the length of 350 ft, the 24-ft-wide two-lane motorway and three-ft sidewalks. It can withstand 60 tons of loads.
- Thanks to the bridge, natural resources, rice and other crops of Kachin State can be easily transported to the whole country through the roads linking every corners of the country. It contributes towards regional development.



Auknat Creek Bridge

- The new government opened Auknat Creek Bridge on 25 June, 2011. The third above-180-ft bridge opened by the new government is of combined RC and bailey type, with wooden floor. It has the length of 466 ft and 13.5-ft-wide motorway and can withstand 13 tons of loads.
- Once, travelers from Bogaleto Ahmarhavo to follow Pyapon-Kyonkadon-Daw Nyein-Ahmar road. Now the trip was shorted to 32 miles and five furlongs. It saves time and cost.
- Thanks to the bridge, marine products and rice produced by Ayeyawady Region can be easily transported to the whole country through the roads linking every corners of the country.

Translation: HKA



ICTSI Business Group calls on Dy Transport Minister

YANGON, 31 Jan — Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein received Mr Enrique K Razon Jr, Chairman and President of ICTSI Business Group in the Philippines, and party at his office here this afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters on investment for development of Yangon Port.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein receives Mr Enrique K Razon Jr, Chairman and President of ICTSI Business Group in the Philippines.—MNA

Progress of communications in Myitkyina inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Kachin State Minister for Transport U Kaman Du Naw yesterday inspected construction of GSM mechanical buildings and foundation of the tower in the compound of the staff quarters of telegraphic office in Sitapu Ward in Myitkyina, installation of WCDMA and CDMA-800 MHz at GSM radio station No. 3 in Industrial Zone Ward, installation of Cellular/GSM/CDMA-450 MGz/CDMA-800 MHz/WCDMA and BSC at the microwave station in Kachin State Manager Office in Myitkyina and auto-exchange.

At the guesthouse of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, the state minister heard reports on posts, telegraphic and telephone works of the state and extended installation of 106000 GSM mobile system lines in the first year presented by the Kachin State Manager.—MNA

India, China rise makes Asia important: US

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—With the rise of China and India as world powers, Asia is becoming more important to America as Asian markets and suppliers drive the US economy, according to a senior US official.

"With the end of the war in Iraq, we have more 'bandwidth' to focus on the future," said Michele Flournoy, the undersecretary of defence for policy, who is leaving at the end of this week, according to the defence department website.

"Obviously we will do what we need to prevail in Afghanistan, but as we think more and more about the future we see both the challenges and opportunities arising out of Asia," she said.

The rise of China and India as world powers reinforces the trend, but the US must cultivate other nations in Southeast Asia, Flournoy said. Also important, she noted, is the continued and deep alliances with Japan and South

Korea.

"The United States is a Pacific power and has always played a unique role in underwriting the security under which all that dynamism and economic growth has been based," Flournoy said.

But could Asia remain stable without the US? "It's hard to imagine that with so much competition and periods of great tension and even conflict," she said.

"It is something that even countries that are not our allies - like China and other countries in the region - all tend to acknowledge that the United States plays a stabilising influence and they don't want us to leave."

The Middle East and Central Asia remain areas of turmoil, but Flournoy felt good about the responsible conclusion in Iraq. "And I think we've turned around the strategy in Afghanistan," she said.

Internet



Heavy snow storms paralyzed southern and eastern Romania, causing train delays and severe congestion on the roads.—INTERNET

Ill nuke plant loses partial power

BYRON, 31 Jan—A low-level emergency was declared Monday at the Byron nuclear generating station near Rockford, Ill, because of a partial power loss. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region III spokeswoman Viktoria Mitlyng said two diesel generators are running at the facility, which lost power to its 1,136-megawatt unit, one of two at the site. The second unit, a 1,164-megawatt unit, was operating at full power, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

Mitlyng said workers at the Exelon Corp plant about two hours northwest of Chicago reported seeing smoke from a transformer following the outage. No fire was found. Steam was released from the plant and was being monitored for tritium levels, fire officials said.—Internet

19 tonnes of gloves for Russian agency stolen

MOSCOW, 31 Jan—A truck loaded with 19 tonnes of latex gloves meant for Russia's federal security service has been stolen.

The truck went missing from a street in St Petersburg's Nevsky area during the weekend, the Konkret.ru news website reported. The vehicle belonged to an unidentified transport firm, but the gloves were property of a concrete maker owned by the security service — or the Federal'naya Sluzhba Bezopasnosti.

The truck had an alarm system, but was parked in a spot not covered by street surveillance cameras. The vehicle was also not insured against theft, and it remained unclear what the gloves were intended for.—Internet

Three Canadians jailed for life for "honor killings"

KINGSTON, 31 Jan—Three members of an Afghan Canadian family were found guilty of the "honor killing" of three siblings and a fourth relative on Sunday after a high-profile trial that has fascinated Canadians.

A jury in Kingston, Ontario, found the three — husband and wife Mohammad Shafia and

Tooba Mohammad Yahya, and their eldest son Hamed Mohammad Shafia — guilty of four counts of first-degree murder.

Their victims were three of Hamed's sisters and the woman introduced to outsiders as a cousin, who turned out to be Mohammad Shafia's first wife in a polygamous marriage.

"It is difficult to conceive of a more despicable, more heinous crime," Canadian media quoted Judge Robert Maranger as saying after the verdict.

"The apparent reason behind these cold-blooded, shameful murders was that the four completely innocent victims offended your completely twisted concept of honour."

Over a three-month trial, the court heard repeated evidence that the three teenaged sisters had clashed with their conservative father on many issues.

One had a boyfriend, and had briefly sought shelter in a woman's refuge, while another was sent home from school for wearing clothes that were too revealing.

The three sisters were found drowned in a canal lock, along with the fourth family member.—Reuters



Mohammad Shafia (bottom) and his son Hamed Shafia (L) leave the Frontenac County Courthouse in Kingston, on 29 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

100 firefighters battle bushfire in Western Australia's south west

SYDNEY, 31 Jan—About 100 firefighters are battling a bushfire near Wannamal, north of Perth, in Western Australia's south west, authorities said on Monday.

Residents in the town of Wannamal have been told to leave or be ready to defend their properties as the bushfire is moving towards the town, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA) said. The FESA said firefighters had saved 30 homes in the area and no homes had been lost.

The fire which started on Sunday afternoon, has burnt 1,650 hectares of bushland.

A total of 100 firefighters are strengthening containment lines, using 29 appliances, with water-bombing planes on stand-by, the FESA said.

A number of roads have been closed in the area and motorists are being told to avoid the area.—Xinhua



Jia Qinglin (L), chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, meets with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir (R) in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, 28 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

Africa's economy remains robust in 2011 despite difficult situation

ADDIS ABABA, 31 Jan—In spite of the difficult international situation, Africa's economic growth remained robust in 2011, reaching an average of five to six per cent, said Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 18th Summit of AU head of states and governments at the new AU Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Ping said several countries have registered average economic growth exceeding five and six percents even reaching double figure growth. The chairperson, who assumed the position four year ago, said Africa has made progress in reduction of deficits and inflation, increasing productivity, and increasing productive

investment, a requirement for job and wealth creation. "We owe this change of fortune to the export of our raw materials. We also, and more importantly, own it to the initiatives that we have taken to promote political and economic, good governance, the reduction in number of conflicts, the increase in domestic demands and improvements in business climate," said Ping.

Ping also said Africa should invest in infrastructure and the 18th AU Assembly is expected to adopt the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) which was launched in Kampala, Uganda. The Chairperson also emphasized on the need to speed up the economic integration of the continent.—Xinhua



Male giant Panda Yang Guang (Sunshine) relaxes with some bamboo in hand in his enclosure at Edinburgh Zoo on 12 Dec. Yang Guang and female panda Tian Tian have been removed from public view this weekend after falling ill with colic, a zoo spokeswoman said. INTERNET

Thailand's major dam discharges more water ahead of rainy season

BANGKOK, 31 Jan—Sirikit Dam, one of the biggest dams in the country, in northern Uttaradit Province released more water with the main purpose to cut retention capacity to less than 50 per cent in preparation for the next rainy season, state-run MCOT reported Sunday.

The Royal Irrigation Department's water management committee has earlier directed the Sirikit Dam's director to increase water discharge from the dam, conforming to the government's policy to raise daily discharge volume between 27 Jan and April.

The targeted retention capacity was less than 50 per cent as an increase in rainfall during the upcoming rainy season was expected. The dam on Sunday released 46 million cubic metres of water and will raise the volume of discharged water to 50 million cubic metres per day on 31 Jan.

The plan of discharging water retention in major dams at the earliest stage came after the country faced the most severe flood crisis last year.—Xinhua



Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov Mitt Romney, carries a young girl as he campaigns at Eastern Ship Building in Pensacola, Florida.
INTERNET

Obama's old car listed on eBay for HOW much?!

NEW YORK, 31 Jan—A 2005 Chrysler sedan purported to once belong to President Obama is up for auction on eBay for ... wait for it ... \$1 million. The vehicle is for sale in Illinois, Obama's home before he won the White House. The seller, cubfanatic23, says on the site that the car — bought from a dealership — has 20,800 miles on it: "I'm sure many of them were highway miles back & forth from Chicago to Springfield since Barack was an Illinois State Senator during 2004."

According to a Q & A in the listing, the owner is a Republican. "But I'm not out and out mean or stupid to Democrats ... sure I don't agree with 99% of what Obama does,

but as a Capitalist, if I can make money off Obama then I'll be happy."

According to CNNMoney, the woman selling the vehicle is Lisa Czibor, a self-described "life-long Ronald Reagan old-school conservative." She said that while she's received some flak about the hefty price tag, she's determined to sell it.

The bluebook value is \$16,500. Of course, that's not counting the regal elegance of it having once been driven by the leader of the free world. "It's all about the money for me," Czibor told CNNMoney.

There were no bids as of around noon on Monday.—Internet

Delta flight slides off runway in Detroit

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—Passengers on a Delta Air Lines flight experienced an unexpected bump on Sunday when the plane rolled off the runway after landing in Detroit.

Flight 753 from Las Vegas was trying to turn onto a taxiway when it slipped off the pavement, according to the Wayne County Airport Authority. It's not clear yet what caused the plane to slide off course, spokesman Scott Wintner said.

"It was like a toboggan ride down the runway, and we just couldn't make the turn at the end, and we slid off the runway into the grass," passenger Steve Maranowski told CNN affiliate WDIV.

The aircraft, carrying 153 passengers and six crew members, was pulled back onto the taxiway and towed to the gate, according to Delta spokesman Anthony Black. The plane was not damaged, and no one was injured, Black said.

Passengers spent about two and a half hours on the taxiway, Maranowski told WDIV.

"The problem was they had to wait for the salt trucks, wait for the towing company, and wait for the operations to get it



out," he said. Black said Delta and the airport will investigate to determine operating conditions at the time of the incident.—Internet

A Delta Air Lines flight slid off a taxiway Sunday in Detroit.—INTERNET

More than 100 injured after earthquake hits coastal Peru

LIMA, 31 Jan—More than 100 people were injured when a strong earthquake shook coastal Peru on early Monday, civil defence officials said.

The magnitude 6.3 quake hit about 15 kilometres (9 miles) southeast of Ica, at a depth of 39.2 kilometres (24.4 miles), according to the US Geological Survey. Civil defence officials reported that 119 people were injured and 40 homes were either damaged or destroyed. Power was temporarily down in parts of Ica, they said. State-run TV Peru reported that police were patrolling the area while officials assessed damages.

A 6.9-magnitude earthquake struck the same region in October, leveling dozens of buildings and leaving some homeless. In 2007, an 8.0-magnitude quake struck southwestern Peru, killing more than 500 people and injuring more than 1,000. The most serious damage from that quake occurred in towns and cities along the country's Pacific coast south of Lima, including Chincha, Canete, Pisco and Ica.

Internet



Indian Sikh devotees take a dip in the sarovar (water tank) at the Sikh Shrine Gurdwara Chheharta Sahib on Basant Panchami, the Festival of Spring, celebrated mainly in Haryana and Punjab.—INTERNET

Man orders chicken, eats wire

BROOKLYN, 31 Jan—A New York bus driver says he is suing a fast food chicken outlet, claiming he nearly choked on a two-inch coil of wire that was cooked into his food. Lajzer Grynztajn, 50, has filed suit seeking unspecified damages against JFK Fried Chicken in the Sunset Park area of Brooklyn claiming he needed emergency surgery to remove the wire that had lodged in his throat.

"The more I think about it, I get angry," he told the *New York Daily News*. "I almost died for something stupid like that?"

The 11-year Metropolitan Transportation Authority veteran said he stopped by the chicken place on 9 Jan, sat down and ate a meal of two chicken breasts

and fries, the *New York Daily News* reported on Monday. "I felt a sharp pain, like I was choking," Grynztajn said. "I thought I was choking on a bone."

He left the restaurant, started coughing up blood and wound up at Lutheran Medical Centre where a doctor discovered a wire so deeply down his throat, he had to be anesthetized before the doctor could take the wire out, court documents say.

The newspaper said a man who answered the phone at JFK Fried Chicken denied the bus driver's charges saying, "I think this guy is (expletive) us," before hanging up.

Grynztajn says he has given up on takeout food. "I don't eat out anymore," he said.—Internet

Man hit in head by airplane propeller dies

EL CAJON, 31 Jan—A man was fatally injured on Monday when he was hit in the head by an airplane's propeller at a Southern California airport, authorities said. Ian Gregor, spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, told the *Los Angeles Times* the accident occurred about 8:30 am at Gillespie Field in El Cajon, San Diego County. Gregor said the man apparently was trying to hand-crank the Piper Cherokee plane when he was struck.

He was taken to a hospital where he died a short time later.—Internet

Russian company sues US firm over Lady Gaga concert

MOSCOW, 31 Jan—Russian media holding company UTV, which owns Muz-TV channel, has filed a USD 1.8 million lawsuit with a Miami court, claiming losses from US-based New Wave Entertainment over a cancelled Moscow concert by popular singer Lady Gaga.

UTV claims it attempted to book the popular American singer through Miami-based New Wave Entertainment to perform at the Muz-TV awards ceremony in June 2011.

"The Russian side paid the necessary reservation deposit but the Americans could not guarantee the concert on the date for the channel," Muz-TV said in a statement. New Wave Entertainment claimed it had connections to Lady Gaga to organize the tour but failed to secure the singer's performance in Moscow, despite receiving a USD 1.5 million advance and USD 300,000 in agency fees.

"As a result, ZAO TV Service has applied to a court in Florida, USA, with a lawsuit against the agent company to return the insurance deposit and compensate for losses suffered by the TV channel," Muz-TV said.

New Wave Entertainment has so far refused to return the funds.—Internet



A band parades on 28 Jan, 2012 in downtown of Los Angeles, at the traditional Chinese New Year festivities in the California's metropol.—INTERNET

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Dated. 01 February, 2012.



Actors perform traditional Nuo dance at Zhuyuan Village in Nanfeng County, east China's Jiangxi Province, 30 Jan, 2012.
"Nuo", a sacrificial ritual that is staged at the beginning of the Chinese Lunar New Year to expel evil spirits and pray for blessings and good harvests, is popular in some regions of China. —XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1204)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1204) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

honor No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV STELLA BEAUTY VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV STELLA BEAUTY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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: TOMOSADA CORPORATION S/A**
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (055)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (055) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2012 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 INTERASIA LINES**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PHUONG NAM-69 VOY NO (1-2012)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM-69 VOY NO (1-2012) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 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: RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG SAO TONG VOY NO (144)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG SAO TONG VOY NO (144) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2012 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN
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Dentist gets prison for bad work, fraud

RIVER FALLS, 31 Jan—A River Falls, Mass, dentist was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to assault and fraud charges.

Michael Clair, a dentist who used a paper clip to strengthen a root canal, pleaded guilty to assault on patients, tampering with evidence and Medicaid fraud, *The (Fall River, Mass.) Herald News* reported Monday. Superior Court Judge Richard T Moses sentenced Clair to 2 1/2 years at the House of Correction with 1 1/2 years of his sentence suspended for five years after his release, during which he will be on probation.

Clair was also ordered to pay restitution to the state and the two former patients who were identified as victims in the case, and will no longer be allowed to practice dentistry in Massachusetts.

Prosecutors alleged Clair was paid \$130,000 in all from MassHealth for work he did. The bills were submitted under the name of other dentists at his Harbour Dental in Fall River.

"It is unfair," said Brenda Almeida, whose son, Joshua Almeida was one of the victims. —Internet

India, Japan conclude Coast Guard Meeting and Combined Exercises

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan—The XI High Level Meeting and Combined Exercises between Coast Guards of India and Japan concluded today with Japan Coast Guard (JCG) Commandant Admiral Hisayasu Suzuki leading the Japanese delegation during the five-day parlance.

Both sides discussed maritime issues of mutual concern while formulating a cooperative approach to address matters between the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and

the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), according to official sources.

During the discussions, it was mutually agreed to strengthen cooperation on evolving collaborative approach, in addressing a spectrum of maritime issues concerning safety and security, said the Defence Ministry here.

The visit also provided renewed impetus to strong ties that exist between the two Coast Guards as the Japan Coast Guard Ship has

visited India, after a gap of six years, for the combined exercises with the ICG off Chennai.

The visit was in pursuance of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC), signed between the two Coast Guards in November 2006, which stipulates that heads of the two organizations meet alternately in India and Japan, to discuss maritime issues of mutual concerns and formulate a cooperative approach to address them.

The MoC encompasses issues of maritime search and rescue, combating marine pollution, technical assistance for responding to natural disasters and exchange of information regarding crime at sea, including smuggling and illicit trafficking.

The first ICG-JCG combined exercises were carried out in November 2000 off Chennai in which one JCG ship had participated and led to close interaction between the two organizations that included regular visits and exercises, sharing of information and expertise and training visits, the ministry added. —Internet



Thousands of football fans attend a rock concert and fireworks display to celebrate the opening of Poland's new National Stadium where the 2012 European Championship will kick off in June.
INTERNET

A fake ancient jade collateral found in Chinese auction market

BEIJING, 31 Jan—Recent years have seen a real boom in business for auction houses in China. But even as prices climb, so too is the number of fakes.

In one recent case, a businessman was found to have defrauded banks out of millions of yuan by using a fake ancient jade burial suit as collateral.

But the suit, appraised by five antiquities experts at 2.4 billion yuan, or about 380 million US dollars, was later discovered to be a modern fake. With a slew of fraud allegations about Chinese buyers, sellers, auction houses, and experts, many are now arguing for auction law reform in China. —Xinhua

Teen broke into officer's home

Authorities in Florida said a teenager who broke into a home found himself swiftly being detained by the homeowner, a police officer.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office said deputies responded to a report of a home invasion Sunday in Orange Park and found Jacksonville Police Officer Garret Osilka restraining the suspect, Jarvis Guthrie, 18, WJXT-TV, Jacksonville, reported on Wednesday.

Osilka, who said he did not know the teenager, told deputies he and his wife awoke around 3 am on Sunday to loud noises outside their home, and he soon heard the suspect force his way through the front door. Osilka said he restrained Guthrie after a physical struggle and called deputies.

Guthrie was charged with burglary of an occupied dwelling with intent to commit battery.



Ringling Brothers' animal trainer, Taba Maluenda instructs the Indian Elephant, named Asia, how to bat at "home plate" on this makeshift baseball field during a Miami Marlins batting practice featuring elephants from the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Miami, Florida on 5 Jan, 2012.

Loose cat in cockpit grounds flight

An Air Canada flight's takeoff was delayed by 4 hours Wednesday when a cat escaped from its carrier and hid in the cockpit wiring, airline officials said.

The plane was about to taxi for takeoff at 5:30 am from Halifax, Nova Scotia, bound for Toronto when a cat named Ripples escaped his carrier under its unidentified female owner's seat, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported.

Passenger Kyle Warkentin told the broadcaster flight attendants announced a brief delay

because of a missing cat.

"Then the engine turned off and the whole power on the plane turned off, and they said they were doing this to calm the cat," Warkentin said. Airport spokesman Peter Spurway said the cat was spotted in the cockpit, cowering in a dense bundle of wires.

"The way the Air Canada folks described it to me is they had to disassemble part of the cockpit to get to the poor little cat, which was terrified, as you can imagine," he said.

The airline re-booked

some passengers, while others waited and sympathized with the cat's owner, whom Warkentin said appeared as traumatized as the cat. "She was shaking, the poor thing," he said.

Mom arrested for ejecting sons, 9 and 13

Authorities in Florida said they arrested a woman accused of kicking her sons, ages 9 and 13, out of her home.

The St Lucie County Sheriff's Office said Jayme Beall, 30, told them she stuffed her sons' backpacks full of clothes and sent them outside around 7 pm Monday at the Pineview Mobile Home Park in Fort Pierce because she was angry at the 9-year-old for swearing, TCPalm.com reported Thursday.

Beall, who called 911 when she was unable to locate the boys about 20 minutes later, told deputies the 13-year-old has run away before and has a history of violence toward her.

Deputies said the boys were eventually found at their great-grandmother's house in Boynton Beach, more than 70 miles away. Investigators did not say how the boys made the trip to Boynton Beach. Beall was arrested on a felony child abuse charge and taken to the St Lucie County Jail.

News Album

Painting reported stolen 12 years later

Australia's National Gallery of Victoria reported the theft of a Richard Parkes Bonington oil painting, 12 years after it was first noticed missing.

The Melbourne museum said the theft of the \$202,000 painting, Low

Tide at Boulogne, was not reported earlier because officials believed it may have been misplaced, *The Daily Telegraph*, Britain, reported Wednesday.

The painting, believed to have been created in 1824, is thought to have gone

missing in 1999 when the 65,000 works possessed by the museum were temporarily relocated for renovations.

The artwork has now been reported stolen and listed on the International Art Loss Register.

Shirley MacLaine joins 'Downton' cast



Oscar-winning American actress Shirley MacLaine is to join the cast of "Downton Abbey" next season, the British period drama's producers said Monday.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 31 Jan—Oscar-winning American actress Shirley MacLaine is to join the cast of "Downton Abbey" next season, the British period drama's producers said on Monday. Season 2 of the ITV series is airing in the United States Sundays on PBS under the network's Masterpiece programming banner.

Best known for her work in "Steel Magnolias," "Terms of Endearment" and "The Apartment," MacLaine will play Martha Levinson, the mother of Elizabeth McGovern's character Lady Grantham when Season 3 begins production this spring.

"Shirley MacLaine is a great actress and she's as American as the day is long," Masterpiece Executive Producer Rebecca Eaton said in a statement. "I can't wait to see her go toe-to-toe with Maggie Smith's Lady Violet." Carnival Films' Managing Director Gareth Neame said: "My late grandfather (Ronald Neame) directed Shirley MacLaine in 'Gambit' in 1966 so it is a delight for me that she will be joining us on 'Downton Abbey.' [Downton creator] Julian [Fellowes] has written another brilliant character in Martha Levinson."

Internet

DeVito to star in 'Sunshine Boys' in UK

LONDON, 31 Jan—US actor Danny DeVito is to make his West End debut in the London stage production of Neil Simon's play "The Sunshine Boys," producers said.

DeVito and British actor Richard Griffiths will play an estranged comedy team who reunite for one last performance, the BBC reported. Performances of the show are scheduled at the Savoy Theatre from 27 April to 28 July. Griffiths won numerous awards for his work in the stage production of "The History Boys." He played a supporting role in the Harry



A bare-footed Danny DeVito, holds a replica plaque after he was honored with the 2,445th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame during an unveiling ceremony in Los Angeles on 18 August, 2011.

INTERNET

Potter film franchise, as well.

DeVito, perhaps best known for his work on the classic 1970s sitcom "Taxi," also appeared in the films "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Romanc-

ing the Stone," "Ruthless People," "Batman Returns," "Get Shorty," "Hoffa" and "Twins." His producing credits include "Pulp Fiction" and "Erin Brockovich."

Internet

Nicola Roberts unhappy with hiatus



Girls Aloud singer Nicola Roberts.—INTERNET

LONDON, 31 Jan—Girls Aloud singer Nicola Roberts admits she felt "sad and angry" when the band went on hiatus as she didn't know what to do with herself.

The 26-year-old, who went her way from bandmates Sarah Harding, Cheryl Cole, Nadine Coyle and Kimberley Walsh in 2009, struggled to

decide what to do with her life when the group began their break.

"Before I started making the album, I felt so frustrated that I wasn't making music and I felt like I couldn't see music in my life for a long time. I didn't know how I was going to have music in my life until the band had another record," femalefirst.co.uk quoted Roberts as saying.

"It really made me sad. I felt like I wanted to be a singer and I used to write little and then all of a sudden the band went on a break and management were trying to find different things for me to do, this TV work, that TV work, and it was just like, 'This is really sad, actually.' Really not sitting well with me at all," she added.

Internet

Parker likely to replace Demi in 'Lovelace'

LONDON, 31 Jan—Actress Sarah Jessica Parker will reportedly replace Demi Moore in the biopic "Lovelace" after the latter was rushed to hospital this week.

Demi is taking time to



Actress Sarah Jessica Parker

recover and has dropped out of the film in which she was to play feminist Gloria Steinem.

According to contactmusic.com, "Sex and the City" star Sarah Jessica Parker is tipped as the favourite to replace her in the movie, which also stars Amanda Seyfried in the lead role.

"Lovelace" is the story of the late Linda Lovelace, the 1970s porn icon known for her role in the adult film "Deep Throat".

After making several porn films, Linda later became a prominent supporter of the anti-pornography movement, claiming that she had been forced into pornography by her then husband Chuck Traynor.

Internet



Singer and actress Jennifer Lopez will be a presenter at the 84th Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, the telecast's producers said Monday.

INTERNET

J Lo tipped to be Oscars presenter

BEVERLY HILLS, 31 Jan—Singer and actress Jennifer Lopez will be a presenter at the 84th Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, the telecast's producers said on Monday.

Lopez is a judge on "American Idol" and will be seen next in the feature "What to Expect When You're Expecting."

Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2011 are to be presented Feb. 26 at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center. The ceremony is to be televised live on ABC.

Internet

Juventus hit with another racism fine



Juventus' midfielder Arturo Vidal (L) challenges for the ball with Udinese's defender Pablo Armero during their Serie A football match between Juventus and Udinese at the "Juventus Stadium" in Turin on 28 January.—INTERNET

TURIN, 31 Jan—Juventus have been fined once again for racist chanting by their fans during Saturday's 2-1 victory against Udinese in Serie A. Colombian wing-back Pablo Armero and Cape Verde-born Switzerland midfielder

Gelson Fernandes were the victims of racist chanting during both the first and second half. Juve have been hit with a 10,000-euro fine, the same amount they were docked in October after racist chanting during their win at Inter Milan.

The Old Lady of Turin's fans have a sorry record when it comes to racist chants as they regularly abused Manchester City striker Mario Balotelli — an Italian of Ghanaian origin — during his Inter days.

In 2008/09 Juve had to play a match behind closed doors after their fans racially abused Balotelli following a controversial incident during the team's clash with Inter.

That seemed to anger and galvanise certain sections of the Juve support who proceeded to regularly target Balotelli, even when not playing against his team.

The next season the club was punished four times, including a partial stand closure once, for fans anti-Balotelli chants.—INTERNET

France midfielder Yohan Cabaye, pictured in 2011, has been charged with violent conduct following an incident during Premier League side Newcastle's FA Cup defeat by Brighton on Saturday.—INTERNET



Newcastle's Cabaye charged by FA

LONDON, 31 Jan—France midfielder Yohan Cabaye has been charged with violent conduct following an incident during Premier League side Newcastle's FA Cup defeat by Brighton on Saturday.

The Football Association said on Monday Cabaye had been charged after allegedly kicking out at Championship side Brighton's Egyptian defender Adam El-Abd.

An FA statement said: "Newcastle United midfielder Yohan Cabaye has been charged with violent conduct following an incident in the FA Cup fourth round tie against Brighton Hove Albion.

"Cabaye was involved in an incident involving Brighton's Adam El-Abd during the FA Cup tie at the Amex Stadium on Saturday 28 January.

"Cabaye has until 6pm (1800GMT) on Tuesday, 31 Jan 2012, to respond to the charge." The 26-year-old Cabaye faces a three-match ban if he accepts or is found guilty of the charge and that ban could be increased if he challenges the allegation and fails.—INTERNET

Sudan pip Angola to Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals

BATA, 31 Jan—Sudan consigned Burkina Faso to a 2-1 defeat here on Monday to qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals at the expense of Angola.

Mudather Eltaib scored either side of half time to bag the precious points which lifted the Sudanese level with Angola, their rivals for the runner-up spot in Group B, and crucially with a better goal difference.

To add icing to the cake Sudan also celebrated winning their first Nations Cup match in over three decades.

Sudan coach Mohammed 'Mazda' Abdullah was



Sudan's Mudather Eltaib Ibrahim (L) vies for the ball with Burkina Faso's Djarakdja Kone (R) in Bata, during their 2012 Africa Cup of Nations football match.

INTERNET

thrilled, saying: "We deserved to be in the quarters. "We played well...we've got

one of the youngest teams in the tournament, with an average age of 24. "My side

is making progress, after a defeat, a draw and now a win. This was one of our best matches." His Burkina Faso counterpart Paulo Duarte believed his team had a bright future.

"If I stay on (as coach), we'll make it to the World Cup, we've got the quality to do that," he said. The game was played out in a near-funereal atmosphere, with almost more players than fans at Bata's stadium, an embarrassment for organisers CAF and co-hosts Equatorial Guinea. Sudan made one change, injured defender Bala Jaber replaced by Ahmed Khalefa.—INTERNET

Tunisia marching to the tune of the revolution



Tunisia's Aymen Abdennour and Hocine Ragued (L) give a Press conference in Libreville, on the eve of their 2012 Africa Cup of Nations (CAN 2012) group C football match against Gabon.—INTERNET

LIBREVILLE, 31 Jan—Tunisia have an additional and emotional spur driving them onwards and upwards at the Africa Cup of Nations as they seek to provide the people back home with some relief after last year's revolution. "Last year we had all our problems in Tunisia with the revolution, so everyone is waiting for us to produce results at this Nations Cup," said midfielder Hocine Ragued.

The Arab Spring uprising movement, which led to the toppling of regimes in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, began in Tunisia in December 2010 when Mohamed Bouazizi set fire to himself in protest at police corruption and ill treatment.

His self-immolation sparked the Jasmine revolution and the downfall of Tunisia President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who went into exile in Saudi Arabia in January last year after. Ragued, who plays for Turkish side Karabukspor, was speaking just before he and his teammates boarded a flight for Franceville where the 2004 titleholders take on co-hosts Gabon in Tuesday's closing Group C game.

INTERNET

Lucho on verge of Porto return

PARIS, 31 Jan—Marseille midfielder Lucho Gonzalez is on the brink of a return to former club Porto after the two clubs reached agreement on principle for the sale of the unsettled Argentine to the defending Portuguese champions, the French club announced on Monday.

A statement published Monday afternoon on Marseille's club website indicated that the transfer "will be made official in the coming hours."

Lucho joined OM from Porto in 2009 for a club-record

18 million euros and was an instrumental figure in Didier Deschamps' side as they won the league in his first season at the Stade Velodrome.

However, the Argentine failed to replicate that form last season and made his desire to leave Marseille known after he was the victim of an armed robbery in March.

Capped 51 times by Argentina, the 31-year-old started his career at Huracan in his native country and moved to River Plate before leaving for Porto in 2005.

INTERNET



Marseille midfielder Lucho Gonzalez.

International Sports

NZ teen eyes US major debut after record golf win



New Zealand teenager Lydia Ko, who at the weekend became the youngest player to win a pro golf tournament, hopes to compete at a US major this year, her coach said on Tuesday.

INTERNET

WELLINGTON, 31 Jan—New Zealand teenager Lydia Ko, who at the weekend became the youngest player to win a pro golf tournament, hopes to compete at a US major this year, her coach said on Tuesday.

The South Korean-born amateur created history when she won the New South Wales Open in Australia on Sunday at the age of 14 years and nine months, eclipsing Ryo Ishikawa of Japan's mark of 15 years, 8 months set in 2007.

Ko's coach Guy Wilson said the prodigy, already ranked the world's top female amateur, planned to wait "three or four" years before turning professional. But he said the Auckland-based golfer, who moved to New Zealand with her family when she was five, hoped to experience playing in the United States this year if she was granted an age exemption and finances permitted. Wilson said he had approached organizers of the Kraft-Nabisco tournament at Palm Springs in April, the first major on the women's pro circuit, about waiving the rule prohibiting players aged under 18.—INTERNET

Motta secures move to PSG

PARIS—Brazilian-born Italy midfielder Thiago Motta on Tuesday joined Paris St Germain from Inter Milan for a fee believed to be in the region of 10 million euros, Italian media reported.

The 29-year-old has signed a three-and-a-half year deal worth around two million euros a season. PSG officials had travelled to Milan late on Monday to try to tie up the deal for a player who won the treble of league, cup and Champions League with the nerazzurri only 18 months ago. Motta began his professional career with Barcelona, having moved to Spain while still a 17-year-old. He went on to play for Atletico Madrid and Genoa before joining Inter in 2009.

Motta qualified to play for Italy through Italian grandparents and made his Italy debut in February 2011, despite having already represented Brazil at the 2003 CONCACAF Gold Cup competition.—*Internet*



Brazilian-born Italy midfielder Thiago Motta, seen here in 2011, joined Paris St Germain from Inter Milan for a fee believed to be in the region of 10 million euros.—INTERNET

Auxerre's Jemaa joins Brest on loan

Tunisian striker Issam Jemaa has joined Brest on loan from Ligue 1 rivals Auxerre, the Brittany-based club confirmed on Tuesday. The 28-year-old arrived at Auxerre last summer, having scored 20 goals in 116 matches for Lens, but has made just four league starts for Laurent Fournier's relegation-threatened side this season.

Brest, who had a void to fill up front following the departure of Nolan Roux to Lille, had already signed Alexandre Alphonse from Zurich during the January transfer window to bolster their attacking options.—*Internet*



Tunisian striker Issam Jemaa, seen here on 27 January, has joined Brest on loan from Ligue 1 rivals Auxerre. INTERNET

Bogomolov set to make his Russia Davis Cup debut

Moscow, 31 Jan—World number 35 Alex Bogomolov is set to make his Davis Cup debut for Russia after being named in the squad for next week's World Group first-round tie against Austria. Moscow-born Bogomolov, who had represented the United States in the past after moving there as a child with his parents, has been eligible to compete for Russia after getting a clearance from the International Tennis Federation last month.

The 28-year-old decided to switch nationalities last year, saying he wanted to represent his native country in Davis Cup and the Olympics. Bogomolov told Russian media this month that he had to pay the U.S. tennis federation (USTA) \$50,000 out of his own pocket to get the Americans' approval to switch nationalities.

Russia captain Shamil Tarpishev also included 39th-ranked Mikhail Youzhny, Nikolay Davydenko (52) and Igor Kunitsyn (80) for February 10-12 tie in the Austrian town of Wiener Neustadt.—*Reuters*



Alex Bogomolov Jr. of Russia hits a return to Michael Llodra of France during their men's singles match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 19 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-2-12 09:30 am ~ 2-2-12 09:30 am) MST

Overseas Transmission

* News
* Tipitaka Sekkhu Pala (The Light of Goodwill)
* News
* Fortune of Human Correlated with Astro Science "Motion and constitution of Planets and Stars"

* News
* Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Fried Pork Stick"
* News
* Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names (Part-2)

* News
* 33rd Career Anniversary of Phyu Thi

* News
* Music Gallery

* News
* A Day in Bagan

* News
* Fabulous Coiffure Hairstyles

* Myanmar Movies
"As her real son"

MYANMAR TV

(1-2-2012) (Wednesday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region
Missionary Sayadaw

8:00 am
2. Health Programme

8:40 am
3. International News

4:00 am
4. Martial Song

4:20 am
5. Song of National Races

4:50 am
6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:10 pm
7. International Science News

5:30 pm
8. "ASEAN" Programmes

6:00 pm
9. Evening News

6:35 pm
10. Shwe Yin Chone Than

7:25 pm
11. Documentary

8:00 pm
12. News

13. International News

14. Weather Report

15. TV Drama Series

16. Myanmar Movies

DISTRICT NEWS

Cash donated for increase of pass rate

SHWEGYIN, 31 Jan—With the aim of increasing the pass rate in matriculation examination for 2011-2012 academic year, departmental personnel and wellwishers donated cash assistance to the education funds in Shwegyin Township yesterday.

Altogether 22 wellwishers donated K 2,306,250 for 403 students from Basic Education High School and seven BEHS branches through the representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, the township administrator and the township education officer.

Township IPRD

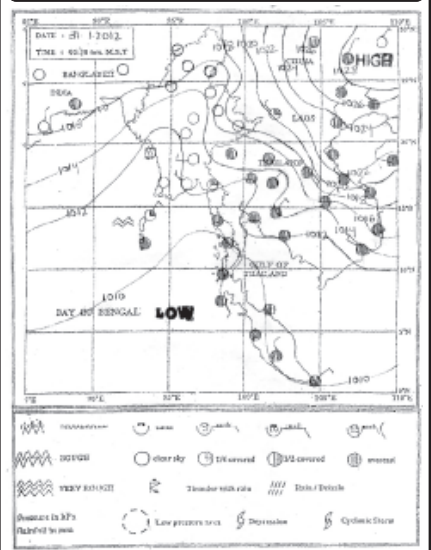
Cultivation of Palethwe paddy strain demonstrated

BOGALE, 31 Jan—A demonstration on cultivation of high yield Palethwe hybrid paddy was held on one-acre farmland in Thakanwa Village of Bogale Township on 21 January.

Officials of Myanma Agriculture Service explained 14-point good agriculture pattern. The local farmers are interested in Palethwe paddy strain that can produce 200 baskets per acre.—*Myanma Alin*



Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather for 31st January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	27/81	10/50	Partly Cloudy	
2	Kayah	29/84	11/52	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
3	Kayin	35/95	19/66	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
4	Chin	19/66	01/34	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	28/82	12/54	Partly Cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	31/88	14/57	Generally fair weather	
7	Tanintharyi	34/93	22/72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
8	Bago	32/90	19/66	Partly Cloudy	
9	Magway	32/90	14/57	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	30/86	12/54	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	33/91	24/75	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
12	Yangon	33/91	19/66	Partly Cloudy	
13	Rakhine	30/86	12/54	Partly Cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	27/81	09/48	Partly Cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	28/82	04/39	Partly Cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	28/82	09/48	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	31/88	18/64	Partly Cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	33/91	12/54	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	19/66	Partly Cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	12/54	Generally fair weather	

During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been fairly widespread in Tanintharyi Region, isolated in Mon State with isolated heavy fall in Tanintharyi Region. weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (°C) to (°F) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. (°C) to (°F) below January average temperatures in Mandalay and Bago Regions, Chin State, (°C) above January average temperatures in Tanintharyi Region. (°C) above January average temperatures in Mon State and above January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Patheingyi and Haka (°C) each, Patheingyi, Haka and Lashio (°C) each, Lashio (°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Myittha (0.23) inches, Kawthoolei (0.79) inches, Ye and Lashio (0.12) inches each.

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

Strong Favourable winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at time Deltaic, Gulf of Monama, off and along Mon-Tanintharyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (30) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Integrated farm secures achievement



MAUBIN, 31 Jan—For ensuring agricultural production to achieve rural development and poverty alleviation, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and local authorities looked into thriving of integrated farms in Maletto Village of Maubin Township on 21 January.

The integrated farm is covered with fish pond, summer paddy, green gram, sunflower, chilli, eggplant and vegetables plantations, poultry, goat and cow breeding.—*District IPRD*

Doping Control Officer Training Course commences

YANGON, 31 Jan—The Doping Control Officer Training Course, jointly organized by Myanmar Olympic Committee, Myanmar National Anti-Doping Organization of Myanmar National Sports Committee and Japanese Anti-Doping Agency-JADA, was opened at Goal Hotel in Thuwunna of Thingangyun Township this morning.

In his speech, Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan urged the trainees to become qualified doping control officers in undertaking anti-doping activities for uplifting the sports standards.

CEO Mr Shin Asakawa of JADA spoke words

of thanks.

Altogether 52 trainees are attending the course.

The Union minister attended the opening of Club House of Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club that comprises one international standard 18-hole course and three training ranges in Mingaladon Garden City.

Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Education, Health and Culture Committee Dr Khin Shwe unveiled the Club House of Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club.

The Union minister spoke on the occasion. Dr Khin Shwe presented gifts to club house designers.

The Union minister, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo, U Zay Thiha, Daw Zay Zin Latt and officials of the club formally opened the club house.

The Union minister, Dr Khin Shwe, the director-general of Sports and Physical Education Department and officials teed off the golf balls in commemoration of the opening ceremony.

The Union minister viewed snapshot photos on activities of gold medalists in the XXVI SEA Games at Asia Plaza Hotel on Bogyoke Aung San Street.—MNA

Milan no closer to Tevez Allegri admits deal for Argentine striker remains some way off

LONDON, 31 Jan—AC Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri is pessimistic regarding the club's chances of finalising a move for Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez.

The reigning Serie A champions have spent much of the winter transfer window attempting to a strike a deal for the want-away forward.

City are keen to get Tevez off their books, and the Argentina international has made it clear that he wants out of the



Etihad Stadium.

No agreement has been reached, though, despite interest from Milan giants AC and Inter and ambitious French outfit Paris St Germain..

Milan were reported to have reopened talks with City in one last ditch attempt to push an agreement through before deadline day, but slow progress is being made.—Internet

Sky Sports agrees a new four-year deal to show live cricket

LONDON, 31 Jan—Sky Sports has been awarded four more years of live international and county cricket under a new deal with the ECB.

The England & Wales Cricket Board today announced a new agreement with Sky for coverage across TV, mobile and online. With the existing deal concluding at the end of 2013, the new deal begins in 2014 and continues until the end of the summer in 2017.

Sky Sports has been awarded exclusive live coverage of:

• **TEST MATCHES** - all of England's Test matches played at home, including series against India (2014), Australia (2015), Pakistan (2016) and South Africa. (2017).

• **INTERNATIONALS** - all One-Day Internationals and T20 matches, plus selected fixtures including England Lions, and women's matches.

• **COUNTY MATCHES** - at least 60 days of domestic cricket each summer covering each of the major competitions and including every county.

The new deal will take Sky's partnership with the ECB for exclusive live cricket in England and Wales into its 12th year and en-

ures Sky viewers continue to enjoy an extensive year-round schedule of live cricket from home and abroad. There is also an option for Sky to extend the deal for an additional two years to cover tours by India in 2018 and Australia in 2019.

Barney Francis, managing director of Sky Sports, said: "This is good news for cricket and good news for viewers. Our viewers will enjoy a breadth of live coverage, at domestic and international level, and the ECB extends a partnership that has proved good for the game.

Internet



Harvard study warns of injury through tablet use

HARVARD, 31 Jan—Of course, tablet computers can cause injuries in a variety of ways. Dropped from a great height onto someone's head will likely have the same damaging effect as being on the receiving end of one hurled Frisbee-like across a room.

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

In an interview with Amy Roeder on the HSPH website, the director of the school's Occupational Biomechanics and Ergonomics Laboratory, Jack Dennerlein, said: "The beauty of tablets and other mobile devices is their flexibility. You can use

them almost anywhere and in different ways. You can hold them in your lap; you can hold them in your hand. The problem is that some of the postures people are in when using a tablet can be awkward and lead to discomfort with prolonged use."

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

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

Understandably, such a position is going to cause extra strain on neck and shoulder muscles, which could cause short-term as well as long-term problems for the user.

Dennerlein suggests a number of things to reduce neck and shoulder strain, including changing position every 15 minutes, or at least moving your neck around to give it a break from its previously fixed position. Using a case can also help, as it enables the device to be propped up at what he describes as an ideal angle of 30 degrees.

With Apple reporting sales of more than 15 million iPads in its latest quarter—bringing total sales of the device to over 50 million—there may well be a fair few necks out there already feeling the strain. How's yours doing?—Internet



Myo Creek Bridge commissioned into service in time of new government

page 9

Britain to be scoured for black squirrels



page 5



Philippines arrests foreign trio in big drugs bust

page 7

Shirley MacLaine joins 'Downton' cast



page 13