

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 2 February, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

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

Singaporean President extends warm welcome to President U Thein Sein and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—A ceremony to extend a welcome to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win by President of the Republic of Singapore Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife was held at the Istana Presidential House in Singapore on 30 January morning.

On arrival at the Istana Presidential House, President U Thein Sein and wife were welcomed by the Singaporean President and wife. President U Thein Sein and Singaporean counterpart took the salute of the guard of honour as the state band of Singapore played national anthem of the two countries.

Afterwards, they inspected the guard of honour. After taking the salute of the

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President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and President of the Republic of Singapore Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam inspect Guard of Honour.—MNA

President U Thein Sein, Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam hold talks



NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam held talks at West Drawing Room of Istana on 30 January morning.

The Singaporean President extended greetings first. The Myanmar President elaborated on practice of legislative, executive and judicial powers separately in consistence with democratic process in Myanmar, the government's stride on the right path to democracy despite its democracy experience is in its infancy, continued to say that measures for burgeoning of democracy, peace negotiations with ethnic armed groups to ensure stability of the State, coordination with domestic political organizations including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, preparedness to enable political parties including the NLD run for forthcoming by-elections, progress in political stability of the State and decline in international pressure, increased interests of international investors including ASEAN fellow nations in Myanmar's economy, standardization of investment laws and procedures agreeable to the ASEAN and international community, formation of leaner investment commission for effective and speedy functioning.

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President U Thein Sein and Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam holding talks at Istana.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 2 February, 2012

Towards an era of human resources-driven economy

Most of the developed nations are now systematically developing and utilizing human resources besides natural resources in their economy drive.

Natural resources such as oil and gas and minerals could become exhausted with the passage of time. Thus, human resources have become the alternative of industrialized nations for national economic growth, which is described as human resources-driven economy.

Whatever it is, we have to make a shift from

natural resources-based economy to human resources-based economy. The latter can have greater potential for growth under effective management, creating innovative and creative workforce.

Some developed nations like Japan and Singapore have struck prosperity through human resources development although they are devoid of natural resources. Some Asian countries are effectively shaping human resources economy. Nations with sluggish human resources development tend to be miles behind in technological advancement.

Human resource is an essential prerequisite for political, economic, social and defence structures. Even industrial technologies and ICT, the most effective means for growth of a nation are dependent upon human resources. If the

nation is like a tree, human resource is the root and sector-wise development is the branches.

If so, actual human resources development is of great importance to our nation. In other words, the State is in dire need of educated youths who can and have to create multifaceted development.

Mainly, youths are in the driving seat to steer human resources development. Youths of today should not be content with a degree but to have practicable knowledge about IT, English and management.

One swallow does not make the summer in building a modern developed nation nor even a flock. One and only step towards human resources-driven economy is to nurture human resources by forming a continuous learning society from individual to entire nation.

Bridges opened in reign of new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Nagapauk Bridge

- * Nagapauk Bridge lies on DaikU-Sittoung Road in Waw Township of Bago District in Bago Region. The fifth above-180-ft bridge was constructed as of 1 June, 2008, and opened on 27 August, 2011. The 240-ft RC bridge has 24-ft-wide two-lane motorway and three-ft-wide sidewalks. It can withstand 60 tons of loads per vehicle.
- * It is situated on shortcut linking DaikU on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway and Sittoung on Yangon-Bago-Mawlamyine Road. Originally 46-mile trip is shortened to 21 miles and six furlongs, taking the shortcut the bridge lies on.
- * The bridge links Bago Region with upper and lower regions in Myanmar, Mon State, Kayin State, and Taninthayi Region. Every corner of the country is accessible thanks to the bridge.



Sittoung Cannel Bridge

- * Constructed as of 4 July, 2010, Sittoung Cannel Bridge on DaikU-Sittoung Road in Waw Township in Bago Region was commissioned into service on 25 September, 2011. The RC bridge is sixth above-180-ft bridge opened in time of the new government. It has the length of 240 feet, 24-ft-wide two-lane motorway, three-ft-wide sidewalks. The facility can withstand 60 tons of loads per vehicle.
- * It is situated on shortcut linking DaikU on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway and Sittoung on Yangon-Bago-Mawlamyine Road, cutting down by about 24 miles. It is an easy road for trucks.
- * The bridge enables travelers to travel from Bago Region to upper and lower regions in Myanmar, Mon State, Kayin State, Taninthayi Region and any other part of the country via road networks.

Kyahtoo Creek Bridge

- * The construction of Kyahtoo Creek Bridge on Magway-Natmauk-Pyawbwe Road in Natmauk Township in Magway District of Magway Region started on 24 August, 2011. The new government opened seventh above-180-ft bridge of its reign on 22 October, 2011. The RC facility has the length of 480 ft, 24-ft two-lane motorway and three-ft-wide sidewalks. It can withstand 60 tons of loads per vehicle.
- * It allows local people to travel directly from Magway to Pyawbwe crossing Yoma mountain ranges, and from Pyawbwe to Yangon and Mandalay, to Shan State (South) through Pyawbwe-Phayangahsu Road, and to Rakhine State through Magway-Minbu-An Road. The bridge joins road networks linking every parts of the country.



Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

Yenwe Creek Bridge

- * Yenwe Creek Bridge on Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Kyungon-Peinzalok Road in Kyaukdaga Township in Bago District in Bago Region was built as of 12 May, 2011, and was opened on 28 January, 2012. It is 10th above-18-ft bridge opened in time of the new government. The length of the RC facility is 360 ft, with 24-ft two-lane motorway and three-ft six-inch walkways. It can withstand 75 tons of loads per vehicle. The clearance area of the bridge has the width of 105 ft and the height of 10 ft. An overflow with the diameter of 20 ft is attached to the approach road to drain floodwater which rises in the heavy rain.
- * Sitting on Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Kyungon-Peinzalok Road, second among seven Yoma crossing roads under construction, the bridge links eastern and western halves of Bago Region. It helps connect every corner of the country.

Translation: HKA



Britain to deploy warship near disputed territory with Argentina

LONDON, 1 Feb—The British Royal Navy announced Tuesday it would send its latest high-tech destroyer to the South Atlantic, near the disputed territory of the Falkland Islands, which is called the Malvinas Islands by Argentina.

The destroyer, *HMS Dauntless*, will be deployed there for months.

As the Royal Navy's most powerful vessel, *HMS Dauntless* weighs 8,000 tons, and has a crew of 190 with the capability of carrying 60 troops and handling a large helicopter. Its Sea Viper weapons system can shoot down aircraft within a 70-mile range, and it can handle multiple targets at the same time.

A spokesman of British Ministry of Defence told *Xinhua* Tuesday evening that "it's a routine deployment," adding that the Royal Navy "has had a continuous presence in the South Atlantic for many years."

"The deployment of *HMS Dauntless* to

the South Atlantic has been long planned, is entirely routine and replaces another ship on station," he said. Argentina responded to the British decision to deploy a warship near the disputed islands with a strong protest, saying it "rejects the British intent to militarize a conflict" and will "follow all the necessary steps" to guarantee the security of the islands.

The islands, off Argentina's eastern coast, has been under British control since 1833. Argentina was defeated by Britain in a 74-day war in 1882 over the sovereignty of the islands. Tensions between Britain and Argentina over the disputed territory are rising in the run-up to the 30th anniversary of the 1982 war between the two countries.

Argentina recently banned ships carrying the Falkland Islands flag from docking in its ports, and several neighbouring countries followed the move in a show of support to Argentina.—*Xinhua*



Cpl William Cox, an armorer at the Joint Sustainment Academy Southwest, and a native of Amory, Miss, provides security as an MV-22 Osprey lands in Zaranj, Nimroz Province, Afghanistan on 30 December, 2011. INTERNET

Cameron: NATO presence depends on Afghans

LONDON, 1 Feb—The pace at which the British government can reduce its troop strength in Afghanistan depends on how well the Afghans can lead, the prime minister said.

Nations contributing to the international military effort in Afghanistan have pledged to pull their forces out of the country by 2014. British Prime Minister David Cameron said the Afghan army and Afghan police are growing in ranks as they get set to take charge of security operations in the country.

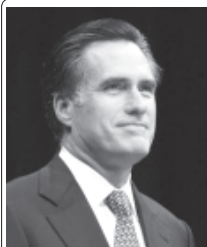
"The rate at which we can reduce our troops will depend on the transition to Afghan control in the different parts of Afghanistan," he said in a statement. "And that should be the same for all of the members of NATO who are all contributing and helping toward a strong, stable, peaceful Afghanistan, which is in all our interests."

French President

Nicolas Sarkozy announced his intention to pull his troops out of Afghanistan by 2013. Wahid Mujda, an analyst at Kabul's Research Centre for Strategy Studies, told China's official *Xinhua* news agency Sarkozy's decision was a blow to NATO's operations.

"No doubt, the pullout of French forces before 2014 would psychologically encourage Taliban militants to increase attacks against international forces stationed in Afghanistan," he said.

Cameron added that he supported Kabul's efforts to reach out to certain members of the Taliban provided the former leaders of Afghanistan honor the national constitution and renounce violence.—*Internet*



Mitt Romney

TALLAHASSEE, 1 Feb—Mitt Romney claimed a

Romney wins in Fla, Gingrich fighting on

dominating victory in the Florida Republican presidential primary Tuesday, with unofficial results giving him 46.56 percent of the vote. CNN, USA Today and *The Wall Street Journal*, as well as the major TV networks, projected Romney the victor.

In his victory speech, Romney told a cheering crowd Democrats expect the bruising primary campaigns will result

in a weakened GOP nominee, but he said that won't happen.

"A competitive primary does not divide us, it prepares us, and we will win," Romney said. "Ours will be a united party with a winning ticket for America" when the GOP convention is held in Tampa, Fla, the week of 27 Aug, he said. Second-place finisher Newt Gingrich, speaking to his supporters in Florida,

assured them he will remain in the race. "It is now clear that this will be a two-person race between the conservative leader, Newt Gingrich, and the Massachusetts moderate," he said.

"We are going to contest every place and we are going to win and we will be in Tampa as the nominee in August," Gingrich said.

Internet

S Philippine town councilor shot dead, two others wounded

DAVAO CITY, 1 Feb—Gunmen aboard a motorcycle shot and killed a town councilor and wounded two others in southern Philippines on Monday, police said on Tuesday.

Ronald Ampe, 44, died from multiple gunshot wounds shortly after being shot by two assailants as he was talking to a group of students outside a school in Poblacion Village, Compostela Valley Province at around 8:15 am local time, according to Timoteo Pacleb, Compostela Valley provincial police chief.

Two bystanders were also hurt in the hail of gunfire and were taken to a local hospital.

City Vice Mayor Ruprio Gonzaga said the slain councilor was well-loved in their town and was a dedicated public official aside from being a respected principal of a private high school there.—*Xinhua*



People stand outside their destroyed house at the scene of a car bomb attack in Zafaraniyah, Baghdad, Iraq, on 27 Jan, 2012. A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-packed car near a funeral procession in southeastern Baghdad on Friday, killing and injuring dozens of Iraqis, police said.—INTERNET

Mumbai gunman death penalty appeal adjourned

NEW DELHI, 1 Feb—India's Supreme Court adjourned an appeal hearing on Tuesday into the death sentence handed down to the lone surviving gunman from the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Mohammed Kasab, one of 10 gunmen who laid siege to Mumbai in attacks which lasted nearly three days and killed 166 people, has appealed for his sentence to be overturned after he was convicted in May 2010.

The 24-year-old man was found guilty of a series of crimes, including waging war against India, murder and terror acts.

The November 2008 attack saw 10 heavily-armed Islamist gunmen storm targets including luxury hotels, a Jewish centre and a train station.

One of the two Supreme Court judges due to hear the appeal was unavailable on Tuesday, forcing the adjournment, officials said. No date was immediately set for the next hearing.

Kasab's court-appointed lawyer Raju Ramachandran told AFP that his job was "a call of duty", but declined to talk further about the case.

Internet

Man in Afghan army uniform kills NATO soldier

KABUL, 1 Feb—A man in Afghan army uniform shot dead a NATO soldier in restive southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, NATO-led forces confirmed on Wednesday. "An individual wearing an Afghan National Army uniform turned his weapon against an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service member in southern Afghanistan yesterday, killing one service member," the NATO-led ISAF said in a Press release.

However, the brief release did not identify the exact place of the incident and the nationality of the victim, only saying "it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities."

Troops mainly from US, Britain, Australia and Canada have been stationed in the southern region within the framework of ISAF to fight Taliban militants there.

The ISAF Press release did not say whether the attacker was detained.

Such incidents had happened in the past. Four French soldiers with the ISAF were killed and 15 other service members injured when an Afghan army soldier opened fire in eastern Kapisa Province on 20 Jan this year.

The latest casualty brings to 35 the number of ISAF service members who have been killed in Afghanistan since the beginning of this year.—*Xinhua*

Two police officers killed in Somalia suicide bomb attack

MOGADISHU, 1 Feb—Two police officers were killed in a suicide bomb attack on Tuesday in Somalia, the military said. The assailant targeted the residence of former police commander Abdi Hassan Awale in the semi-autonomous Galmudug Region, killing two officers on guard. Awale himself was safe, local sources said.

Xinhua



File photograph released by Mumbai Police on 1 Dec, 2008, shows arrested Islamist militant Mohammed Ajmal Amir Iman - also known as Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab. INTERNET

New drug for rare cystic fibrosis gets US approval



WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—US regulators on Tuesday approved Kalydeco, a new, gene-targeted drug treatment for people who have a rare kind of the incurable lung disease cystic fibrosis.

Made by the Massachusetts-based Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Kalydeco (ivacaftor) was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration on a fast-track for drugs that may offer big advances over standard therapy.

The drug works to restore the balance of salt

and water on the surface of the patient's airways, a process that is crucial for CF patients because their bodies produce a thick, sticky mucus which makes it hard to breathe. However it is only for people who have a specific G551D gene mutation, or about 1,200 (four percent) of the 30,000 people in the United States who have cystic fibrosis. Some 70,000 people worldwide suffer from the disease.

More than 90 percent of CF patients have a different genetic basis, or two copies of the F508 mutation in the CFTR gene. The drug does not work for those people, the FDA said.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation nevertheless hailed the approval as an "important milestone in our journey to find a cure for cystic fibrosis," said the group's president, Robert Beall.

"The drug has opened exciting new doors to research and development that may eventually lead to additional therapies that will benefit more people living with CF."

A phase III trial published in November 2011 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* was hailed as a promising breakthrough after results showed the oral twice-daily medication could improve lung function, growth and sweat

chloride levels over a span of 11 months.

The clinical trial involved 213 patients, some as young as six years old. Results showed "significant and sustained improvement in lung function," the FDA said.

It remains unclear if longer-term exposure to the drug could halt the deterioration of lung function.—*Internet*

Glass of milk makes for smarter brain

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—Drinking a glass of milk daily not only smartens the brain but also supplies the vital nutrients it requires to be in a peak condition.

Besides the many known benefits of milk, from bone health to cardiovascular health, the potential to stave off mental decline would potentially benefit an aging

population.

Adults who drank more milk scored significantly higher on memory and other brain function tests than those who drank little to no milk. They were five times less likely to "fail" the test, compared to non-milk drinkers, the *International Dairy Journal* reports.

University of Maine researchers put more than 900 men and women ages 23 to 98 through a series of tests, spatial, verbal and working memory tests and tracked their milk consumption habits.

In the series of eight different measures of mental performance, regardless of age and through all tests, those who drank at least one glass of milk each day had an advantage, according to a Maine statement.

The highest scores for all eight outcomes were observed for those with the highest intakes of milk and milk products compared to those with low and infrequent milk intakes.

The benefits persisted even after controlling for other factors that can affect brain health, including cardiovascular health and other lifestyle and diet factors.

Internet

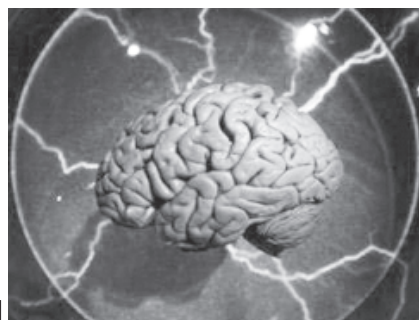
Brain 'hears' from different location than earlier thought

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—Now hear this! The part of the brain used for speech processing is in a different location than originally believed, according to a US study on 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 centimeters 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).

An analysis of the brain imaging coordinates in those studies pointed to the new location for Wernicke's area, offering new insight for patients suffering from brain damage or stroke.—*Internet*



OECD inflation rate falls due to slower rise in energy prices

PARIS, 1 Feb—Annual inflation rate in OECD countries slowed to 2.9 percent in December 2011, down from 3.1 percent in the previous month, mainly thanks to slower growth in energy prices, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Tuesday.

In its latest report, the OECD said showed that energy prices increased by

8.1 percent in December, down from 11.6 a month ago, the lowest annual rate since November 2010.

Food prices rose by 4.4 percent in December compared with 4.1 percent in November.

Excluding food and energy, the annual inflation rate in the OECD's 34-member countries was stable at 2.0 percent in December, the OECD figures indicated.

Euro area annual

inflation, measured by the HICP, decelerated to 2.7 percent in December 2011, compared with 3.0 percent in November.

For the major seven, Japan consumer prices fell by 0.2 percent in December, the third straight month of decline. However, both France and Italy saw stable annual inflation rates of 2.5 percent and 3.3 percent respectively.

Annual inflation in the rest four countries decelerated sharply with Britain registering

4.2 percent, Canada 2.3 percent, the United States 3.0 percent and Germany 2.1 percent.

"Compared to the previous month, consumer prices in the OECD area rose by 0.1 percent in December 2011.

They rose by 0.7 percent in Germany, 0.4 percent in France, Italy and the United Kingdom. They were stable in Japan and decreased by 0.2 percent in the United States and by 0.6 percent in Canada," the report figures showed.

Xinhua



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (C) speaks with Slovenian PM Borut Pahor (L) at an EU summit in Brussels, as European leaders meet to come up with ways to boost growth despite steep budget cuts across the continent.—*INTERNET*



A pedestrian walks past an electronic panel showing the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong, south China, on 31 Jan, 2012. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index increased by 230.08 points, or 1.14 percent, to end at 20390.49 on Tuesday.
XINHUA

US home prices decline for third straight month

NEW YORK, 1 Feb—US home prices continued to decline in November even as the economy was gaining steam, showing the most-battered housing market was still struggling. The Standard & Poor's Case-Shiller 20-city index dropped 1.3 percent in November, compared with October, said the Standard & Poor's monthly report released on Tuesday. The index was down 3.7 percent year on year.

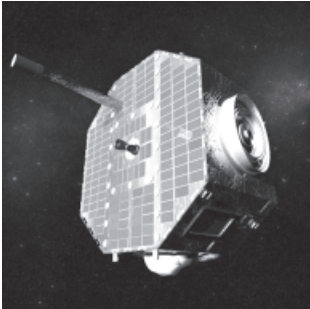
"Despite continued low interest rates and better real GDP growth in the fourth quarter, home prices continue to fall," David Blitzer, chairman of the S&P index committee, said in a statement. "The trend

is down and there are few, if any, signs in the numbers that a turning point is close at hand."

The index had climbed for five consecutive months from April to August this year, but declined from September to November. Analysts said the report underscored the Federal Reserve's view that housing "remains depressed" as another wave of foreclosures threatens to keep the pressure on prices and delay recovery in the industry.—*Xinhua*



Scientists puzzled by region outside solar system



This undated artist rendering provided by NASA shows NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer spacecraft. NASA announced on 31 Jan., 2012 that new findings from IBEX reveal the space just outside the solar system looks different than within the solar system. — INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 1 Feb—A glimpse beyond our solar system reveals the neighbourhood just outside the sun's influence is different and stranger than expected, scientists reported on Tuesday.

One oddity is the amount of oxygen. There are more oxygen atoms floating freely in the solar system than in the immediate interstellar space, or the vast region between stars. Scientists were unsure why, but they said it's possible some of the life-supporting element could be hidden in dust or ice.

"We discovered this big puzzle — that the matter just outside of our solar system doesn't look like the material inside," said David McComas of the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas.

The discovery came from NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer spacecraft, which launched in 2008 to study the chaotic boundary where the solar wind from the sun clashes with cold gases from interstellar space.

Circling 200,000 miles above Earth, the Ibx spacecraft spots particles streaming into the solar system. A protective bubble surrounding around the sun and planets prevents dangerous cosmic radiation from seeping through, but neutral particles can pass freely, allowing Ibx to map their distribution. The presence of less oxygen outside the solar system should not have any bearing on the search for Earth-like planets, scientists involved in the exoplanet hunt said. —Internet

Brain region bigger in popular people

LONDON, 1 Feb—An area of the brain associated with understanding the minds of others is larger in people who have bigger social networks, a new study finds. The study is one of several that have linked specific brain regions to an active social life.

In research published last year, scientists found that some brain regions that process social signals, facial expressions and names and faces are larger in people with more Facebook friends. Research has also shown that monkeys that live in larger groups grow bigger brains.

The "social brain

hypothesis" holds that the reason primates, including humans, have relatively large brains is that they need the processing space to cope with their complex social networks. But humans range from loner to life of the party, and University of Oxford anthropologist Robin Dunbar and his colleagues wanted to know if there is a brain basis for these differences.

To find out, they took anatomical scans of the brains of 40 volunteers using magnetic resonance imaging. The participants also completed some tests to

determine how good they were at "mentalizing," or understanding another person's mental state. This process is similar to empathy but goes beyond understanding emotions to understanding another person's goals, needs and reasoning.

Finally, each person in the study reported how many people they'd had social contact with during the last seven days. This measurement excluded professional interactions and focused on truly social ones, Dunbar told LiveScience. —Internet

Powerful sun storms may sweep away space junk

HOUSTON, 1 Feb — Violent sun storms that shoot bursts of energy in Earth's direction have the potential to damage satellites and power infrastructures, but they can also clear the skies of dangerous space debris, NASA scientists say. The energy from these intense solar eruptions, called coronal mass ejections, causes the atmosphere to expand, creating more friction on pieces of space junk in orbit. The resulting drag sends orbital debris plummeting back toward Earth faster than trash from previous years.

More than 22,000 pieces of spent rocket parts and pieces of hardware ripped off from satellite collisions and explosions circle Earth, a minefield for functioning satellites and space travellers. Over time, the pieces fall back toward the planet, often burning up in the atmosphere. "Everything is falling down," Nick Johnson, chief scientist for NASA's Orbital Debris Programme in Houston, told SPACE.com. "It's just a question of at what rate."

As space trash interacts with Earth's atmosphere, resistance slows them, causing the debris to fall inward. But during periods of escalated solar activity, such as increases in sunspots, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections, the sun dumps more energy into Earth's atmosphere. "When the sun is more active, it ejects more energy in the direction of Earth," Johnson said. "That energy is absorbed by the thermosphere, the upper part of the atmosphere." —Internet



An overview of the Columbia debris reconstruction hangar in 2003 shows the orbiter outline on the floor with some of the 78,760 pieces identified to that date. More than 84,000 pieces of shuttle debris were recovered, some of which is included in a travelling NASA display to stress safety. — INTERNET



Can Yahoo be trusted with Flickr?

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — Flickr is Yahoo's saving grace. Amidst the site's myriad of problems and ill-defined purpose, the photo-sharing platform has been a beacon of hope, with its dedicated users and razor-sharp focus. Which is why Flickr subscribers are concerned about Yahoo's direction for the site. Former Flickr employee Nolan Caudill says the site will be cutting a crucial portion of its customer support team. "For reasons I don't know, Yahoo laid off the highest level of Flickr's customer support, the people that end up filing bugs against the developers and helping the trickier cases get solved for the members," he wrote via blog. "Those guys getting shown the door is as bad as it sounds."

"Having people on your team aware of everything the site does it huge," he laments. "You literally can't buy that or replace it or outsource it, though it appears that Yahoo thinks it can." Flickr's committed users and continued strength have defied everything that's been thrown at the site. The platform recently cut some excess baggage in the form of dead applications that never fueled user interest, and top exec Matthew Rothenberg's exit following a massive slashing of Yahoo products increased concerns. While Flickr capitalized on the social-photo platform early, it's become stagnant compared to the constant innovation from competitors. It was late to the mobile app arena, which hurt its popularity with more casual photographers, and was slow getting integrations with outside sites like Twitter up and running.

There's also the fact that Flickr accidentally deleted 3,400 of a user's photos last year. The bug was fixed and photos restored, but the error cost Flickr some face. And that's why its now-lighter customer support team is renewing users' fears about the site's future. Yahoo has claimed that Flickr is a high priority that it will continue investing in, but insiders worry all the innovation and work the team puts in is going to be squandered by its owner. "The users of Flickr lost their major advocates today," says Caudill.

Internet



TouchPal Keyboard Tablet offers another great input alternative

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — There are already a wealth of alternatives to the stock keyboard which comes with your Android tablet, so how does TouchPal Keyboard Tablet stack up? Well, with a little more development and work, this is sure to be a contender. Even as a free beta right now, it's still worth a shot for sure. The stock Android keyboard already does a decent job, and some of you may be lucky enough to have a pre-installed version of Swype too (though admittedly, the long tracing required on a tab can make it a bit burdensome). It is great that there are alternatives though. We have already displayed our fondness for Swiftkey Tablet X and Thumb Keyboard, plus there are many others worth investigating.

TouchPal Keyboard Tablet lets you type 'normally' or you can choose to swipe from letter to letter instead. Having both options available keeps things nice and flexible. Using simple gestures you can split the keyboard too. This can make typing on a large tablet a little easier as you get to use your thumbs. This only works in landscape mode at present, but developers CooTek promise this functionality in future versions. You can also resize the keyboard if that's helpful.

TouchPal features word prediction, which I found to be reasonably effective. It's perhaps not as good as that in Swiftkey which cleverly learns common words you use from your email and social networking apps. —Internet

Amazon 4Q results, outlook sends stock lower

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — Shoppers spent more money online this holiday season than ever before, and yet, Amazon—the world's largest Internet retailer—failed to meet Wall Street's sales expectations with its latest financial results. In a surprise, the company's revenue fell nearly \$1 billion short of Wall Street's expectations, even as it grew 35 percent from a year earlier. The quarter included Amazon's headline-grabbing November launch of the Kindle Fire, its answer to Apple's iPad. Its net income also fell sharply and its guidance for the current quarter was disappointing.

Investors punished the stock. Amazon's shares dropped \$17.44, or 9 percent, to \$177 in after-hours trading on Tuesday following the earnings announcement. Though revenue grew 35 percent to \$17.4 billion, analysts expected the holidays to lift sales to \$18.3 billion, according to FactSet. Even so, BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis said the company "didn't really give a good answer" as to why its revenue fell short of expectations. And while its

earnings were stronger than expected, he said the company has been "more revenue driven than earnings driven." That explains why investors focused on the company's sales growth. With a stock valued as high as Amazon's, they are looking for any sign of a slowdown as an excuse to sell. Meanwhile, Amazon's expenses are increasing. —Internet



This 26 Jan, 2012 photo, shows a webpage on Amazon.com featuring Kindle e-book readers on a computer screen in Miami. Amazon.com Inc. reports quarterly financial results on 31 Jan, 2012, after the market close. — INTERNET



UEC gives green light to KDP

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Union Election Commission issued Announcement No. 9/2012 today.

The translation of the announcement is as follows.~

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No (9/2012)
9th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1373 ME
(1st February, 2012)

Kayin Democratic Party granted to register as political party

It is hereby announced that Kayin Democratic Party, headquartered at No. 254 on Bogyoke Street, Ward (9), Hpa-an Township, Kayin State is granted to register in accord with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, as of 1st February, 2012. Its registration number is 51.

Sd/

Win Ko
 Secretary
 Union Election Commission

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister meets locals of Patheingyi

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung together with region ministers and departmental personnel met townselders, locals and members of social organizations at Education College in Patheingyi yesterday and coordinated for regional development.

Next, wellwishers donated cash

assistance to the schools, followed by remarks of the region chief minister on regional development. The region chief minister visited No. 217 Basic Education Primary School and No. 216 BEHS in No. 15 Ward and inspected school buildings in need of repair and land plot for construction of new school buildings.—MNA

Mr Quintana calls on Dy Foreign Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party paid a courtesy call on Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint at his office here today.

During the meeting, the development of human rights situation in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations were discussed.

MNA



Brazilian, Cuban leaders meet to boost cooperation

HAVANA, 1 Feb—Visiting Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff met her Cuban counterpart Raul Castro on Tuesday to promote cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

During the meeting, both leaders expressed their appreciation over the excellent state of bilateral relations, and stressed their will to further boost them.

They also discussed regional and international issues of common interests and signed several agreements to increase cooperation in agriculture

and health sectors, among others.

“Cooperation between the two countries should be considered ‘strategic,’” said Rousseff, adding Cuba has “an outstanding development in biotechnology field, while her country may guarantee a high technological capacity.”

Rousseff also stressed Brazil’s continuing participation in the enlargement and modernization of Mariel Port, 50 km west of Havana, a project which she said was a necessary logistic system for Cuban exports.

Brazil is Cuba’s second trade partner in Latin America, with bilateral trade reached 570 million US dollars in 2011. Rousseff will end her visit to Cuba on Wednesday, and fly to Haiti for a visit.

Xinhua



Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aye Khaing as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.—MNA

Union Health Minister receives American guests

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Senior Adviser & Former Science Adviser to Colin Powell Dr Norman Neureiter of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and Chief International Officer & Director for the Center for Science Diplomacy Dr Vaughan Turekian and party at the ministry, here, yesterday afternoon.

They discussed health care services, academic matters in medical education and

public health subjects, cooperation in medical research, cooperation among universities of medicine and exchange of technology, priorities on health goals in MDGs, control of malaria, DHF and other infectious diseases, vaccination, raising of other diseases, and cooperation in prevention and treatment.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, directors-general and officials.—MNA



Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin receives officials from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).—MNA

Summer sports training courses to be launched

YANGON, 1 Feb—Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thauung Htaik addressed coordination meeting for opening basic and advanced sports courses in 2012 summer jointly by the department and Myanmar Sports

Federation.

General secretaries and officials discussed intended numbers of trainees, timetables and venues. The courses will start on 21 March and last till 6 April.

MNA

Dy Sports Minister views sailing camp construction site

YANGON, 1 Feb—Secretary of Myanmar National Sports Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu discussed site

chosen for construction of sailing camp where Yacht competition of XXVII SEA Games will be held on the Ngwehsaung Beach in meeting with Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing officials from Region Sports and Physical Education Department and officials, at Patheingyi of Ayeyawady Region on 29 January. The following day, the deputy minister looked into sites and discussed the needs.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint receives Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party.

MNA

Brazil’s President Dilma Rousseff (1st L) is welcomed by Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez after her arrival at the airport of Havana, Cuba, on 30 Jan, 2012.

XINHUA

Netanyahu declares victory in Likud party primary

JERUSALEM, 1 Feb— Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared victory in the Likud party primary on early Wednesday, shortly after polls closed.

“Today the real Likud won. We proved that our strength is in our unity. We will continue to lead responsibly for better education, economy, and security for all the citizens of the State of Israel,” Netanyahu said at an assembly of supporters in Jerusalem, adding that “Likud turns Israel into one of the most developed nations in the world, in education, culture, and environmental protection.”

“We are facing great challenges that no other country faces, and I believe that together we shall overcome them, through the Likud,” the prime minister concluded.

According to initial results, Netanyahu won 73 percent of the vote over his sole rival, Moshe Feiglin, in Tuesday’s Likud primary.

Xinhua



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam take salute of the Guard of Honour.

MNA

Singaporean President extends warm welcome to ...

(from page 1)

guard of honour, President U Thein Sein signed in the visitors book.

Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam introduced President U Thein Sein with Singaporean ministers, ambassadors, high-ranking

officials who attended the welcoming ceremony.

Similarly, President U Thein Sein introduced Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam with members of the goodwill delegation of Myanmar.

MNA

Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam introduces singaporean officials to President U Thein Sein.

MNA



President U Thein Sein introduces Myanmar delegation members to Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam.—MNA



President U Thein Sein attends breakfast hosted by Singaporean Honourable Senior Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended a breakfast hosted by Honourable Senior Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong, at State Room of Valley Wing in Shangri-la Hotel in Singapore on 30 January

morning.

Present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister at President's Office U

Thein Nyunt and Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint.

Mr Goh Chok Tong was accompanied by Singapore Minister for National Development Mr Khaw Boon Wan and Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua.—MNA

Myanmar's progress in developing its economic infrastructure and legal framework will further encourage investments into the country

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein at the breakfast hosted by Honourable Senior Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong in Shangri-la Hotel.—MNA



President U Thein Sein, Singaporean President...

(from page 1)

He asked the Singaporean President to urge Singaporean businessmen to invest in Myanmar, saying that it would benefit the both nations as Myanmar had rich natural resources. He also asked Singapore's help for human resources development of Myanmar.

The Singaporean President expressed his pride and pleasure for democratic endeavours of Myanmar government led by the Myanmar president. He added that he believed the Myanmar government would successfully handle the forthcoming by-elections in peaceful and tranquil environment. He mentioned that the constructive political and economic developments would attract investments and Singaporean investors would make investments in Myanmar, promising to cooperate in economic and human resources development, fundamental for development of Myanmar.

MNA



President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, wife Mary Tan pose for documentary photo at Istana.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and wife attend...

(from page 16)

and look forward to deepening our ties at all levels.

In his speech, President U Thein Sein said: We were able to exchange views on various issues, particularly on enhancing our bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in various areas. I was deeply touched by your remarks. Singapore is encouraged and supportive of the process of democratic transformation in Myanmar.

I believed this is crucial time for us. Therefore, the

international community should render its support and encouragement to our effort to meet our objectives because a young democratic nation has emerged on this planet.

On 30th March last year, we have turned a new page in our country in order to create better conditions in Myanmar. As a result for our effort to build a democratic society over last two decades, a government based on democracy has emerged in Myanmar.

Today, a government elected by the people has come into being in Myanmar. The three branches of the State, namely, legislative, administrative and judiciary bodies are functioning in harmony in accord with the constitution.

There have been significant developments in our

domestic and foreign relations. We want to give a brighter future for our people; we want our people to take part in the democratic reform process; and we want democracy to thrive in Myanmar, he added.

We all know that democracy has many challenges. However, since we are on the right track to democracy, we shall overcome these challenges with great care and proceed ahead till we reach our goals. I wish to assure you that I shall endeavour to establish a healthy democracy in Myanmar during my tenure as president with power vested in me by the constitution.—MNA

Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam extends greetings at dinner at Banquet Hall in Istana.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein extends greetings at dinner hosted by Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam.—MNA



Ayeyawady Region CM receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung received Country Director Mr James Daniel Taylor and party of IDE-Proximity Designs which is an international non-governmental organization, at his office yesterday afternoon.

They discussed progress in carrying out the tasks in the region.

Also present at the call were Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Ko Ko, Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Hla Khaing, Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing and Region Minister for Social Affairs U San Maung.—MNA

UMFCCI officials receives Telenor Group of Norway

YANGON, 1 Feb—Vice-Presidents U Thauung Tin and U Mya Han, and Joint General Secretaries of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry met Executive Vice President of Telenor Group of Norway Head of Region Asia Mr Sigve Brekke and party at the federation on 26 January afternoon.

They discussed investment and cooperation in information and technology industry, and exporting of technological products by Telenor Group to Myanmar.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets those present at the dinner hosted by the Singaporean President. MNA

Myanmar President, Singaporean PM hold talks, agree technical cooperation



President U Thein Sein and Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong hold talks at Istana in Singapore.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shaking hands with Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong held a discussion at West Drawing Room of Istana in Singapore on 30 January.

During the discussion, they held cordial talks on granting scholarships to outstanding Myanmar students by Singapore for human resources development of Myanmar. Singapore

also agreed to share its experiences by organizing courses and study visits on adoption of policies and laws that contribute to attraction of investments, smooth trading, and development of banking and tourism industries.

After the talks, the President and the Singaporean Prime Minister attended the MoU signing ceremony between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic

of Singapore on technical cooperation.

Before the President and the Prime Minister, Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and Singaporean Foreign Affairs and Law Minister Mr K Shanmugam signed the agreement.

The Singaporean Prime Minister hosted a luncheon to the Myanmar President and party at Banquet Hall of the Istana.

MNA

Myanmar delegation headed by President U Thein Sein, wife arrive Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, at the invitation of President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, accompanied by delegation members, left here at 9 am on 29 January to pay a goodwill visit to Singapore.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife Daw Lin Lin Tin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Health

Minister Dr Win Myint, Yangon Mayor Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint and departmental heads accompanied the president on his tour.

On arrival at Changi International Airport in Singapore at 1.40 pm local time, the Myanmar delegation was welcomed by Singaporean National Development Minister Mr Khaw Boon Wan and wife, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin and wife, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua and wife and Head of Protocol Department of Singapore Mr Lim Cheng Hoe and Myanmar embassy staff and families.

The President, wife and party proceeded to Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore.—MNA



President U Thein Sein and Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong at MoU signing ceremony on technical cooperation.—MNA

President U Thein Sein being welcomed by Singaporean National Development Minister Mr Khaw Boon Wan at Changi International Airport in Singapore.

MNA



Third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—The third regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for the second day at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building here today.

It was attended by Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 586 representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

During the meeting, Union Ministers concerned reported on bills of national planning, bill of allocation of supplementary budget for 2012 and the budget for the 2012.

Regarding the livestock breeding and fishery sector, Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint reported on the ministry's planning (draft), objectives and tasks for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the planning (draft), objectives and tasks for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, income and expenditure, allocation for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and expenditure, allocation (ordinary) and expenditure, allocation expenditure and debt.

Regarding the communication sector, Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun reported on objectives of the ministry for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and efforts of the ministry to increase the number of telephones reaching 2228679, telephone density to 4.28% and 500,000 internet users and to increase the net value of services of the ministry to 21.2%. Regarding the objectives of the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the ministry is

making efforts for boosting the net value of services of the ministry can increase to 118%, to increase the telephone subscribers 6120843 and telephone density 11.7% and the number of internet users 100,000, said the union minister. He also reported on supplementary allocation for the ordinary and allocation for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and income, expenditure, allocation and expenditure for 2012-2013.

Regarding the energy sector, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay reported on clarification on claiming supplementary allocation for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, supplementary allocation for the ordinary expenditure and allocation expenditure, estimate account, estimate account for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, income and expenditure for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and allocation and expenditure for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Regarding the mining sector, Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik reported on mining sectors in the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the 2012-2013 fiscal year and the budgets for the year.

Regarding the industry sector, Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung reported on implementation of 10 projects which are to be continued in the 2012-2013 fiscal year and Ministry's Budget. Union Minister for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay reported on efforts of the Ministry of Myanmar Industry Development for creating a national industrial development with the

participation of private sector, joint-venture sector and foreign investment sector in accordance with the market oriented system to be able to fulfill the needs for technical development, investment, energy and raw materials and plans of the ministry to establish the three industrial development sectors: industry, electronic and aviation and aerospace sectors and the ministry's budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Regarding the monetary sector, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun reported on the ministry's supplementary allocation for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, services for the financial sector, objectives, previous estimate budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, supplementary allocation, earning exceeding the target, the estimate budget, reforms in the financial and monetary sector, ordinary income and expenditure for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, ordinary allocation and expenditure for departments and allocation and expenditure.

Regarding the hiring and services sector, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan reported on efforts of the ministry to become the major source of national income for the country, arrangements for attracting 1.4 million of tourists in the 2015-2016 fiscal year which the end of the fifth five-year plan and for increasing the income of the ministry reaching 1.19 times of the that of the 2010-2011 fiscal year. He also reported on four basic tasks of the ministry to develop the hotel and tourism businesses and organizing the committee for providing services for convenience of tourists. He also reported on incomes of the ministry and other related ministries, claiming supplementary allocation, the budget and extra income for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Union minister for Cooperatives U Ohn Myint reported on policy, objectives and tasks of the planning (draft) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, tasks laid down by the ministry with the aim of boosting the implementation of cooperative societies by 6.1%, boosting the production sector by 5.7%, services sector by 2.8% and trading by 9.7% of the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Supplementary allocation and the budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Regarding the forestry sector, on behalf of the Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint reported policies, objectives and tasks of the national planning for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 fiscal years and the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The meeting ended 4.35 pm and it will continue at 10 am tomorrow.—MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives at the Hluttaw Building.

MNA

Two innocent people injured in mine blast in Phakant Township of Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Motorbike driver Lek Kho Mahn, 34, of Zeebyugon Ward of Hkamti rolled on the bamboo mine on Kaikse uphill road in Phakant Township, 54 miles east of Hkamti, at 5 pm on 29 January and caused mine blast while bringing along with Maung Paing, 27 of Lahe to Tamakham Village of Phakant Township by motorbike.

In the incident, Lek Kho Mahn broke his left thigh bone and Maung Paing was injured at left thigh and calf. About 10 armed insurgents arrived there and ordered the injured civilians to return home through their previous route. Lek Kho Mahn and Maung Paing left Laikse Hill on 30 January morning and met a Tatmadaw column in Nankhama Village of Hkamti Township in the afternoon. The military column provided medical treatment to the injured and sent them to Hkamti People's Hospital by car.—MNA

LOCAL SPORTS

Winners awarded in Township Administrator's Cup

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—The final match of the Tatkon Township Administrator's Cup U-21 Football Tournament was held at Township Sports Ground on 27 January afternoon.

In the final, Bo Min Young team emerged champion with a 2-1 win over Nyaungbintha team.

Head of Township Planning Department U Win Naing presented the second prize to Nyaungbintha team, and Township Administrator U Aye Lu, first prize trophy and K 300,000 to Bo Min Young team.—Myanma Alin

Township Administrator's Cup Football Tourney commences

WAW, 1 Feb—The Waw Township Administrator's Cup Football Tournament kicked off at the People's Sports Ground on 24 January afternoon.

After delivering an address, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Htwe opened the tournament. In the debut,

Myanmar Traditional Chess Singles Open Tournament 15-23 Feb

YANGON, 1 Feb—The Myanmar Traditional Chess Singles Open Tournament, jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation, will take place at Theinbyu Gymnasium at the corner of Theinbyu and Kanyeiktha Streets, here, from 15 to 23 February.

Those wishing to take part in the tournament may enlist at the federation, not later than 14 February. Those qualified in the tournament will be allowed to take part in the Myanmar Traditional Chess Championship 2012 and the outstanding players from the latter will be chosen as selected players.

Myanmar traditional chess event will be included in the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar in 2013.—MCF

Waw Myoma team trounced Tanawkyun Station team 5-0.

Waw Myoma, Kyaikhla, Phayapo, Nyaungyoesay, Tanawkyun, Abyabote, Myitkyo and Thayethamein station teams are taking part in the tournament.

Township IPRD



People pass by the Blue Mosque in the snow in Istanbul of Turkey on 31 Jan, 2012. Turkish Airlines (THY) cancelled on Tuesday 102 domestic and international flights at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport due to bad weather conditions caused by heavy snow.—XINHUA

US, Russia conclude Antarctica inspection

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—The US and Russia have concluded a joint inspection of foreign research stations, installations and equipment in Antarctica.

The six-day inspection that ended Saturday was conducted as part of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and its Environmental Protocol, the US State Department said on Monday.

A report in this regard will be jointly presented to other signatories of the treaty at their consultative meeting in June in Australia, reports *Xinhua*. The treaty was signed in Washington, and is to ensure Antarctica's status as a continent reserved for peace and science. Currently, 49 nations are signatories of the treaty.—Internet



Tourists arrive at the port of Porto Belo, in Santa Catarina State, south Brazil, on 30 Jan, 2012.

XINHUA

Girl denied transplant gets second chance

PHILADELPHIA, 1 Feb—The Philadelphia hospital that initially denied a kidney transplant for a 3-year-old girl is now willing to consider the procedure, the girl's parents said.

Chrissy and Joseph Rivera said they met with medical personnel at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Friday about the possibility of a transplant for their daughter Amelia. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported Tuesday. The Riveras said they were not told if Amelia would be

medically eligible for the transplant.

"As of now, we're taking this as a positive sign," Chrissy Rivera said.

Amelia, who has Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome, received national attention when Chrissy wrote a blog post accusing the hospital of denying the kidney transplant because of the girl's mental disability. Chrissy said the girl's chart initially listed mental retardation as a reason not to perform the procedure, though those words were later

removed.

"If there's a medical reason" a kidney transplant would be a bad idea, Chrissy said, "of course we're not going to do it."

She said Amelia's case will be further reviewed to determine if she's a good candidate for the procedure.

As of Monday, 37,000 people had signed a petition on change.org, asking the hospital to allow the transplant, the *Inquirer* reported.

Internet

T3 electric vehicles set to ply Changi Airport

SINGAPORE, 1 Feb—T3 Motion says it has been awarded Singapore Police

Department's contract for 12 T3 Electric Stand-up Vehicles.

The company says the vehicles will be used for Changi Airport patrol initiatives.

T3 Motion, a producer of clean and green technology, says its electric law enforcement patrol vehicle is known for its quick response time and iconic look that is designed to decrease operating costs, reduce crime and increase patrol capabilities.

More than 3,000 T3 Series vehicles have been deployed in over 30 countries worldwide.

Internet



T3 electric vehicles.—INTERNET

Beijing to cover major tourist attractions with free wireless broadband services

BEIJING, 1 Feb—Tourists to Beijing will soon be able to enjoy free Internet access in the city's numerous tourist attractions thanks to a plan to boost the city's tourism services.

"Beijing will this year cover all its 211 A-class

tourist attractions with free wireless broadband network," Lu Yong, director of the Beijing Travel Committee, told a meeting here on Tuesday.

At the meeting, the committee announced a guideline on improving

Beijing's tourism environment and public service over the next three years. According to the guideline, a modern tourism and public service system will be established by the end of 2014.

Beijing has already installed free wireless

broadband services in six of its central business districts.

Lu said Beijing will also expand its tourism services to cover more areas.

Beijing has witnessed a brisk tourism market over the years. In 2011, Beijing registered a total of 214 million foreign and domestic tourists, up 16.4 percent year-on-year, according to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics.

Tourism revenue also went up 16.2 percent from a year ago to reach 321.6 billion yuan (50.95 billion US dollars) in the same year.

Xinhua

Fake colleges a problem in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, 1 Feb—An influx of fake colleges has been reported in Sweden after the introduction of tuition fees, officials say. Fake universities are a fairly recent phenomenon in Sweden, despite issues with them in other countries such as Britain and the United States.

Up until recently, Sweden's colleges and universities were among the few in the world that did not charge tuition or fees. Every

student, Swedish or foreign, had been funded by taxpayers. However, with last year's introduction of college tuitions, as well as a British crackdown on "fake universities," Sweden has suddenly seen a flood of these dubious colleges, reports said.

The universities mostly have English sounding names, Swedish newspaper *Sydsvenskan* reports. The National Agency for Higher Education has checked the addresses of such universities, claiming to offer courses in business administration or hospitality management, only to find disconnected phone numbers and addresses pointing to post office boxes, no campuses to be found.

Lennart Stahle, spokesman for the agency, says the colleges are difficult to crack down on because they are not offering Swedish qualification, *The Local* reports.

"At the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education we can't have an opinion when it comes to this and they can establish themselves here as long as they follow Swedish tax laws," he said. "It is like any sort of business venture."

Internet

More green roofs installed in buildings

SINGAPORE, 1 Feb—More commercial buildings are installing green roofs to help reduce the rainwater flowing into canals and drains.

According to companies that install green roofs, they have seen demand double in the last three years.

Green roofs help to collect excess rainwater during intense rainfalls.

The green structures also help to reduce temperatures within buildings and in heavily built-up areas.

Some buildings in Singapore already have such green roofs as part of their design.

This is an example of what Singapore's water agency PUB has recommended to mitigate floods.

The company that installed the green roof at Fusionopolis, for example, uses brick fragments to increase the water retention ability of the green roof.

As for City Developments Limited (CDL), a developer that manages private condominiums and commercial buildings like City Square Mall, green roofs have been a feature in its developments for more than a decade.

Allan Ang Aik Leng, deputy general manager of projects, City Developments, said: "Ever since the early 2000s, CDL has been implementing green roofs almost for every commercial and residential property."

"We did it for a few reasons - firstly, it is aesthetically pleasing for owners, occupants to enjoy, and they also contribute to the greening of the built environment"—Internet



Israel grows purple carrots, tiger-striped tomatoes

JERUSALEM, 1 Feb—Ever heard of purple carrots or black or tiger-striped tomatoes? Farmers in Israel have now grown differently-coloured varieties — not as a result of genetic modification but through crossbreeding with wild vegetables.

The pink, yellow and purple carrots and deep purple and black tomatoes will be displayed at a major exposition in Israel's southern Arava valley, home to dozens of farms, producers and marketers.

The tomato breed — dubbed "Black Galaxy" — has been developed by a firm named Technological Seeds DM.

They have a higher level of antioxidants, believed to slow the effects of aging, as well as more vitamin C, the company's production manager and developer, Moshe Gutman, told *Xinhua* news agency.

Gutman said the colour was "photosensitive". The part of the tomatoes exposed to the sun turn deep purple or even black as they ripen while the shaded side turns to the usual red.

Tomatoes lying partially beneath leaves could even turn out "tiger-striped", he said.

The multi-coloured vegetables will make their debut at the southern Negev desert's Arava Agricultural R and D Exhibition, according to the *Ynet* news website.—Internet

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Dated: 02 February, 2012.

Seven held in China for polluting river

BEIJING, 1 Feb—Seven people were detained in southern China on charges of polluting a river that threatened people's health.

The chemical plant executives were accused of releasing Cadmium, an industrial waste, into the Longjiang river. The pollutants were first detected 15 Jan.

Cadmium concentration near the Lalang reservoir was 80 times higher than the official limit of 0.005 milligrams per liter, *China Daily* quoted Feng Zhenian, an official with the regional environment department, as saying Tuesday.

Environmental protection workers have been dumping neutralizers, made from

dissolved aluminum chloride, at six locations along the river to dissolve the contaminants.

The source of the pollution was reportedly contained Saturday, as cadmium concentration at Lalang reservoir, where the pollution was first detected, had returned to normal.

The pollution belt was now near the downstream Luodong hydropower station where the cadmium concentration levels were still 25 times higher than the official limit.

He said the pollutants were flowing downstream and were close to a major drinking water source for Liujiang city, home to 1.5 million people.—*Internet*



Firemen prepare to dump neutralizers, made from dissolved aluminum chloride, at a water station near the Longjiang River to dissolve the contaminants in Liuzhou of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 30 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA



Qiu Xuejun (L front), head of the Chinese working group, walks at the company of Chinese Ambassador to Sudan Luo Xiaoguang (R front), upon the group's arrival at Khartoum international airport in Khartoum, on 31 Jan, 2012. China has sent a working group to Sudan on Tuesday to aid in the rescue of the Chinese nationals.
XINHUA

Police find four floors of pot plants

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — New York police said they found a vertical marijuana farm, taking up four floors of a five-story Bronx apartment building.

Police broke down the door of the building Monday and discovered 600 potted marijuana plants filling the top four floors of the building in the Morris Park neighbourhood, the *New York Post* reported, as well as sodium vapor growing lights casting a yellow glow, and modifications to the ventilation system.

"They were using enough electricity, grow lights and such to power an entire city block," a law enforcement source was quoted as saying.

The newspaper said the 1,500 pounds of pot removed from the building had a street value estimated at \$7.5 million. Three men were arrested on drug dealing and possession charges.—*Internet*

Germans, Moroccan face death in Malaysia drug case

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 Feb—Two Germans and a Moroccan man are facing the death penalty on charges of smuggling more than 10 kilogrammes (22 pounds) of methamphetamine into Malaysia, known for its strict anti-drug laws.

A district court near the Kuala Lumpur International Airport charged the three men on 31 January with drug trafficking, said a customs official who declined to be named.

Airport officials arrested the men arriving from Istanbul on 1 January after finding 10.2 kilogrammes of methamphetamine hidden in the bags they were carrying, the official said Wednesday.

He said no plea had been recorded from the three pending the case's transfer to a high court once a chemist report on the drugs is ready.

The two Germans have parents from Afghanistan but were born in Germany, while the Moroccan has lived in Germany for 15 years, the official said.

Authorities in the Southeast Asian country went on "red alert" late last year following a surge in arrests and drug seizures, tightening passenger and luggage screening.

Despite Malaysia's strict laws — death by hanging is the mandatory penalty for drug trafficking convictions — Kuala Lumpur airport authorities last year seized some 195 kilogrammes (430 pounds) of drugs and held more than 30 people.

Smugglers have traditionally arrived from Africa and the Middle East but are increasingly coming from countries such as Turkey and the Philippines, according to officials.

A high court sentenced a 23-year-old Iranian mechanic to death Monday for trafficking 1.4 kilogrammes of methamphetamine two years ago, according to the official *Bernama* news agency.

Several other Europeans, including two from Britain, one from the Netherlands and one from France, were arrested in drug raids in Malaysia and charged with trafficking in November.

In October, a Malaysian court sentenced a Japanese woman to death for smuggling methamphetamine into the country in what officials said was the first such case involving a citizen of Japan.—*Internet*



An armed Afghan policeman patrols at the site of an irrigation canal project in Gulbahar town of Parwan province, north Afghanistan, on 29 Jan, 2012. The irrigation project was built by China in 1970s and the current additional project is expected to complete in a few months. The Chinese-initiated project would irrigate thousands of hectares of farmland in Parwan and neighbouring Kapisa and Kabul Provinces. —XINHUA

Skin cells have been converted directly into cells which develop into the main components of the brain, by researchers studying mice in California.—INTERNET

Skin transformed into brain cells

Sciences, skipped the middle "stem cell" stage in the process. The researchers said they were "thrilled" at the

taking place, such as in stroke patients or specific forms of blindness.

One of the big questions for the field is where to get the cells from. There are ethical concerns around embryonic stem cells and patients would need to take immunosuppressant drugs as any stem cell tissue would not match their own. An alternative method has been to take skin cells and reprogramme them into "induced" stem cells. These could be made from a patient's own cells and then turned into the cell type required, however, the process results in cancer-causing genes being activated. The research group, at the Stanford University School of Medicine in California, is looking at another option —

converting a person's own skin cells into specialist cells, without creating "induced" stem cells. It has already transformed skin cells directly into neurons.

This study created "neural precursor" cells, which can develop into three types of brain cell: neurons, astrocytes and oligodendrocytes. These precursor cells have the advantage that, once created, they can be grown in a laboratory into very large numbers. This could be critical if the cells were to be used in any therapy. Brain cells and skin cells contain the same genetic information, however, the genetic code is interpreted differently in each. This is controlled by "transcription factors".

Internet



SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Feb—Skin cells have been converted directly into cells which develop into the main components of the brain, by researchers studying mice in California. The experiment, reported in *Proceedings of the National Academy of*

potential medical uses. Far more tests are needed before the technique could be used on human skin. Stem cells, which can become any other specialist type of cell from brain to bone, are thought to have huge promise in a range of treatments. Many trials are

Aerial surveillance for Pakistani capital

ISLAMABAD, 1 Feb—Temporary aerial surveillance has been ordered over the already heavily-protected Pakistani Capital in view of fresh terror threats, the police said Tuesday. The aerial surveillance by helicopters, which began Tuesday, will continue till 5 Feb, *Dawn* reported.

Islamabad witnessed one of its worst terror attacks 20 Sep, 2008 when a suicide bomber rammed a truck containing 600 kg of explosives into the outer wall of the luxury Marriott hotel, killing 60 people.—*Internet*

Pakistani beheaded for heroin trafficking in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, 1 Feb—A Pakistani man convicted of trafficking in heroin was beheaded Monday in eastern Saudi Arabia, according to the official *Saudi Press Agency*.

Salman Khan Taj Mohammad was executed in the City of Dammam, bringing to five the number of people put to death in Saudi Arabia since the beginning of the year. Saudi Arabia, China, Iran, the US and Yemen are the countries that executive the highest numbers of people, according to human rights group Amnesty International.—*Internet*

Survey: 36 percent in US prefer football

A New York pollsters said the gap between football and baseball fandom is widening, with 36 percent of respondents preferring the former to the latter.

Harris Interactive said its online poll of 2,237 adults, conducted 5 to 12 December, found 36 percent of respondents cited football

as their favourite sport while 13 percent said it was baseball.

The pollster said last year's poll found 31 percent of participants considered football their favourite, with 17 percent choosing baseball.

Additionally, 13 percent of those polled in this year's survey picked college football as their favourite, with 8

percent picking auto racing and 5 percent each choosing professional basketball, college basketball and hockey. Harris said no margin of error could be calculated for the survey due to the participants being only those who have previously agreed to fill out the company's online surveys.



New York Giants
quarterback Eli Manning celebrates after defeating the San Francisco 49ers 20-17 winning the NFC Championship at Candlestick Park in San Francisco on 22 January, 2012. The Giants will face the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLVI on 5 February.



An African Crowned Crane found wandering the streets of Encinitas, California is shown safe at the County Department of Animal Services on 9 Jan, 2012. The bird, normally found on the savannas of Africa, was coaxed into a woman's garage after she found it honking at her on her home driveway.

News Album

Woman climbs cliffs with toddler on back

A Welsh mother famous for climbing cliff faces with her toddler strapped to her back says safety is always on her mind.

Menna Pritchard, 26, of Llanwrda, whose blog about climbing has courted questions about the safety of her 2-year-old daughter, Ffion, during the climbs, said she has been scaling cliffs with the girl in tow since she was 4 months old, the Western Mail, Cardiff, Wales, reported Tuesday. "I bought my first baby carrier when I was six months pregnant and Ffion's first summit was Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons when she was 4 months old.

She slept through the whole thing. She was in a front carrier at that time and it really was incredibly safe. Safety is always paramount," Pritchard said.

The thing that provoked the most controversy was a picture I had posted online of me rock climbing with Ffion on my back.

Birds swarm Kentucky neighbourhood

Residents of a Kentucky neighbourhood said thousands of birds have been descending on the area twice a day for several weeks.

The La Grange neighbours said the birds have taken up residence in some woods and they swarm around their homes twice a day, WAVE-TV, Louisville, reported Thursday.

"It's like a cloud of birds, but a giant cloud," one neighbour said on Tuesday. "The whole sky will fill up with black birds."

The residents said they have brought in "sound cannons," which make a shotgun-like noise, and they are hoping the noise will drive away the birds.

Reba denies online death rumour



Reba McEntire arrives on the red carpet at the 45th Annual Country Music Association Awards at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee on 9 Nov, 2011.—INTERNET

NASHVILLE, 1 Feb—Country music star Reba McEntire went online Tuesday to ice a rumour claiming she had fallen off a mountain in Austria and died.

"There is a rumor going around that I died after falling off a mountain in Austria yesterday while shooting a movie," the Grammy Award winner said via Twitter. "While I would love to be shooting a movie in Austria, I definitely did not fall off a mountain! Nor am I dead! I am alive and kicking!!!"

McEntire and Blake Shelton are to serve as co-hosts of the ACM Award show in Las Vegas on 1 April. *Internet*



Actress Reese Witherspoon

Witherspoon finds

Pattinson cool

LOS ANGELES, 1 Feb—Actress Reese Witherspoon says that actor Robert Pattinson is the most hard-working and cool guy she ever worked with.

The 35-year-old, who has made two movies — "Vanity Fair" and "Water For Elephants" — with Pattinson, is impressed with how the 25-year-old handles his fame.

"I've never experienced what he has — going to premieres and there's just millions of people waiting for him to touch him. I think it must be strange, but I don't even know how to process what he deals with... (He's) a really cool guy," showbizspy.com quoted Witherspoon as saying.

"I would say (he is) the hardest-working person I've ever worked with, honestly. (He's) professional, hard-working, so appreciative, more grateful than I've ever seen anyone for where he is in life," she added. —*Internet*

Sofia Vergara named Most Desirable Woman of 2012

LOS ANGELES, 1 Feb—Sofia Vergara, one of the stars of the US sitcom "Modern Family," topped AskMen's 11th annual Most Desirable Woman poll.

More than 1 million votes were cast internationally for the 2012 poll, the Web site said.

"I am so honored to be AskMen's most desired woman this year. A big thank you to all the men who desire me," Vergara said in a statement on Tuesday.

"With more than a third of the women on this year's list being first-time honourees, it is clear that men are intrigued by women who are new on the scene," said James Bassil, editor-in-chief of AskMen. "The 2012 Top 99 Most Desirable Women are an



Sofia Vergara attends "CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute" held at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on 11 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

eclectic group — which explains the wide range in what today's man finds appealing." Coming in at No 2 on the Most Desirable list is Kate Upton, followed by Rooney Mara at No 3,

Miranda Kerr at No 4, Nicki Minaj at No 5, Emma Stone at No 6, Scarlett Johansson at No 7, Kim Kardashian at No 8, Rihanna at No 9 and Candice Swanepoel at No 10. —*Internet*

Tom Hanks to be an Oscar presenter

BEVERLY HILLS, 1 Feb—Two-time Academy Award-winning actor Tom Hanks is to be a presenter at the 84th Oscars ceremony in Los Angeles, telecast producers said on Tuesday.

Hanks, who is a governor of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, won consecutive Oscars in 1993 and 1994 for his lead performances in "Philadelphia" and "Forrest Gump." He was also nominated for his leading roles in "Big," "Saving Private Ryan" and "Cast Away."

Hanks can currently be seen in the Best Picture Oscar contender "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close." Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2011 will be



Actor Tom Hanks arrives for the 23rd annual Palm Springs International Film Festival awards gala in Palm Springs, California on 7 January, 2012.—INTERNET

presented 26 February at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center. The show is to be televised live on ABC.

Internet

Adele to perform at Grammy Awards show

SANTA MONICA, 1 Feb—British singer Adele will make her return to the live stage at the 54th annual Grammy Awards show in Los Angeles, the Recording Academy said

on Tuesday.

This will be her first time performing live in nearly five months. She was forced to cancel a sold-out US concert tour to undergo surgery on

her vocal cords last year.

"I'm immensely proud to have been asked to perform at this year's Grammy Awards," Adele said in a statement. "It's an absolute honour to be included in such a night, and for it to be my first performance in months is very exciting and of course nerve-racking, but what a way to get back into it all."

The 23-year-old recording artist has previously won two Grammy Awards. She is up for six this year.

LL Cool J will serve as host of the Grammy Awards show 12 February at the Staples Centre. It is to air on CBS. —*Internet*



List of deadline day deals

All the Barclays Premier League deals on the final day of the January transfer window

LONDON, 1 Feb — All the confirmed transfer deals involving Barclays Premier League clubs on the final day of the January transfer window. The window closed at 11pm UK time.



Striker Bobby Zamora will again play under Mark Hughes after moving to QPR.

Arsenal	
In:	Thomas Eisfeld (Borussia Dortmund)
Out:	Ryo Miyaichi (Bolton Wanderers - loan)
Blackburn	
In:	Bradley Orr (QPR), Marcus Olsson (Halmstads BK)
Out:	Keith Andrews (West Brom)
Bolton	
In:	Ryo Miyaichi (Arsenal - loan)
Out:	None
Chelsea	
In:	Kevin de Bruyne (Genk)*, Patrick Bamford (Nottingham Forest)
Out:	Philipp Prosenik (AC Milan), Milan Lalkovic (ADO Den Haag - loan)
(* Deal involves De Bruyne being loaned back to Genk until the end of the 2011-12 season)	
Everton	
In:	Nikica Jelavic (Rangers)
Out:	Louis Saha (Tottenham - loan)
Fulham	
In:	Pavel Pogrebnyak (VFB Stuttgart)
Out:	Bobby Zamora (QPR)

Liverpool	
In:	None
Out:	Martin Hansen (Viborg FF)
Manchester City	
In:	David Pizarro (Roma - loan)
Out:	Wayne Bridge (Sunderland - loan), Frederic Veseli (Manchester United)
Manchester United	
In:	Frederic Veseli (Manchester City)
Out:	Ravel Morrison (West Ham), Scott Wootton (Nottingham Forest - loan)
Newcastle United	
In:	None
Out:	James Tavernier (MK Dons - loan)
QPR	
In:	Djibril Cisse (Lazio), Bobby Zamora (Fulham)
Out:	Bradley Orr (Blackburn), Matthew Connolly (Reading - loan), Martin Rowlands (unattached), Petter Vaagan Moe (unattached)
Stoke	
In:	None
Out:	Ben Marshall (Leicester), Danny Higginbotham (Nottingham Forest - loan)
Sunderland	
In:	Wayne Bridge (Man City - loan), Sotirios Kyrgiakos (VfL Wolfsburg - loan)
Out:	None
Tottenham	
In:	Louis Saha (Everton - loan)
Out:	Vedran Corluka (Bayer Leverkusen - loan), Adam Smith (Leeds - loan)
West Brom	
In:	Liam Ridgewell (Birmingham City), Keith Andrews (Blackburn)
Out:	Gonzalo Jara Reyes (Brighton - loan), Joe Mattock (Brighton - loan)
Wolves	
In:	None
Out:	Andy Keogh (Millwall)

Internet

QPR snap up France striker Cisse

Former Liverpool and Sunderland player moves to Loftus Road from Lazio

LONDON, 1 Feb — Queens Park Rangers have completed the signing of France striker Djibril Cisse for an undisclosed fee. The 30-year-old has moved to Loftus Road on a two-and-a-half-year deal from Lazio and he becomes the club's fourth signing of the January transfer window for new manager Mark Hughes. Cisse is well used to the Barclays Premier League having played in England for Liverpool from 2004-07 and Sunderland on loan in the 2008-09 season.

"QPR have a hugely ambitious project," Cisse told the club's official website. "When I talked to the manager, he spoke highly of the club and where he wants to take it over the next few years. "He wants to achieve big things here - that was all I needed to hear from him. "The English League is the best in the world. It is the League that suits me the most. I'm really happy to be here and I can't wait to repay the confidence in me, to



Djibril Cisse has played for Liverpool and Sunderland in the Barclays Premier League.—INTERNET

get back to where I want to be as a player.

"I will always give 100% and I can't wait to start playing games. I have unfinished business here in England," Hughes, who could hand Cisse a debut in the Barclays Premier League match at Aston Villa on Wednesday, could not hide his delight at adding to fellow new signings Teye Taiwo, Nedom Onuoha and Samba Diakite. "I rate Djibril very, very highly," said Hughes. "I've watched him for many years and always been impressed by what he brings to the table.— Internet



Gabonese players celebrate with teammate Pierre Aubameyang (R) after he scored against Tunisia during their match in the African Cup of Nations in Franceville.

INTERNET

Perfect Gabon top table after beating Tunisia

FRANCEVILLE, 1 Feb — Co-hosts Gabon defeated Tunisia 1-0 here on Tuesday to finish top of Africa Cup of Nations Group A with a perfect nine points from three matches. The Panthers will play the runners-up in Group D in Libreville on Sunday, while Tunisia, who finished second in the group will face the winners of Group D.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang gave Gabon the lead after 62 minutes when he collected a loose ball before wrong footing Tunisia goalkeeper Rami Jeridi for his third goal of the competition.

"This was our most difficult game so far against a very good Tunisia team, who dominated the game from start to finish," admitted Gabon coach Gernot Rohr after the match. "It was not easy because we were already qualified for the quarterfinals. But thanks to the professional attitude and fighting spirit of the players, we won to finish top of the group."

Tunisia coach Sami Trabelsi said he rested several players — goalkeeper Aymen Mathlouthi, skipper Karim Haggui, Khaled Korbi and Mejd Traoui — because they would have been suspended for the quarter-finals had they been booked.— Internet



Hernandez's penalty strike was his 27th goal for United.—INTERNET

Serena Williams says Venus 'coming along awesome'

WORCESTER, 1 Feb — Serena Williams said her sister Venus has been training every day and will be ready for the Fed Cup matches against Belarus — her first competitive tennis since she pulled out of the US Open because of an autoimmune disease. "She's coming along awesome. She's doing really well," said Serena Williams, who played her older sister in an exhibition in Colombia in November.

"She's not wanting to take it too fast, come back too soon. But she's been training every day since before Colombia, so I know she's going to be ready." The Williams sisters will be teammates on the US team that will face Belarus and new world No 1 Victoria Azarenka, the Australian Open champion. Venus Williams has not played in a sanctioned competition since withdrawing from the US Open in August and revealing she had Sjogren's Syndrome, an autoimmune disease that can cause fatigue and joint pain.

She did not participate in Tuesday's news conference because she was scheduled to arrive in Worcester later.

Serena Williams, who has not played Fed Cup since 2007, said on Tuesday she enjoys playing as part of a team, especially one with her sister on it.— Internet

Andy Murray to miss Davis Cup match with Slovakia



Murray's defeat by Djokovic was a five-set epic.—INTERNET

LONDON, 1 Feb — British number one Andy Murray will miss next month's Davis Cup match against Slovakia because of injury concerns following the Australian Open. James Ward, Dan Evans, Colin Fleming and Ross Hutchins make up the team. "I'm gutted to miss out on the Davis Cup having really enjoyed playing last year," said Murray. "But, as it's only the start of an important season, which includes the Olympics in

LONDON, 1 Feb — Javier Hernandez and Dimitar Berbatov both scored from the penalty spot as Manchester United beat Stoke to go level on points with Manchester City.

London, it's probably a sensible decision."

Murray reached the semi-finals in Melbourne before losing a five-set thriller to eventual champion Novak Djokovic. He added: "I've been told to take a few weeks off after picking up a few minor injuries in Australia. "My focus in 2012 is on performing well in the Grand Slams and the Olympics. I look forward to playing in the next Davis Cup tie later in the year." The Slovakia tie, at Glasgow's Braehead Arena on 10-12 February, is Great Britain's first in Euro/Africa Zone Group I since they beat Hungary last September to earn promotion from Group II. GB captain Leon Smith said: "This is a real step-up in standard for the team, and we go into the tie knowing the Slovak Republic will be favourites.— Internet

United were without 11 players, including Wayne Rooney, and gave a Premier League debut to third-choice keeper Ben Amos. But Hernandez broke the deadlock after Jermaine Pennant fouled Park Ji-sung before Berbatov doubled the lead. A foul by Jonathan Walters on Antonio Valencia was punished by the striker. With Chelsea and Liverpool providing the opposition in the next two league games, it was vital United bounced back from their FA Cup exit at the weekend. And although this was far from a vintage performance, Sir Alex Ferguson's injury-hit side did enough to secure maximum points. Stoke's record at Old Trafford, a venue where they have not won for 36 years, suggested this should have been a straightforward exercise for Ferguson's side.—Internet



Hernandez's penalty strike was his 27th goal for United.—INTERNET

Barca turn to youth for Spanish Cup trip

BARCELONA, 1 Feb — Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola will turn to four graduates from the club's youth academy to make up for a mini-injury crisis in Wednesday's Spanish Cup semi-final first-leg trip to Valencia. Guardiola, whose side reached this stage at the expense of bitter rivals and holders Real Madrid, was already without long-term injured duo David Villa and Ibrahim Afellay.

But his problems have mounted since the two-legged quarter-final win over Real last week as one of the goalscorers from the second leg, Pedro Rodriguez, has suffered a groin injury and midfielder Andres Iniesta has a thigh problem. Mali midfielder Seydou Keita is another absentee as he is away on Africa Cup of Nations duty.

Guardiola will therefore turn to the quartet of Spanish midfielder Sergi Roberto, Mexican midfielder Jonathan Dos Santos, forward Cristian Tello and winger Isaac Cuenca, who earlier on Tuesday extended his contract with the club until June 2015.



Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola, will turn to four graduates from the club's youth academy to make up for a mini-injury crisis in Wednesday's Spanish Cup semi-final first-leg trip to Valencia.—INTERNET

Internet

Saha heads for Spurs as Everton sign Jelavic

LONDON, 1 Feb — Tottenham's capture of injury-prone Frenchman Saha was the biggest surprise on a traditionally busy date for Spurs, who are allowing little-used frontman Roman Pavlyuchenko to talk to Lokomotiv Moscow in his native Russia after agreeing a fee.

Spurs boss Harry Redknapp told reporters the deal for former Manchester United forward Saha was a loan until the end of the season with an option to buy. The Premier League challengers have also let defender Sebastian Bassong join Wolverhampton Wanderers on a six-month loan. Reports said Spurs were trying to bring in New Zealand centre back Ryan Nelsen from Blackburn Rovers as the window closed.—Internet



Everton's Louis Saha

Kyle Stanley keen to put Torrey collapse in past

TORREY PINES, 1 Feb — Kyle Stanley is doing his best to move on after a triple-bogey at the final hole of regulation cost him a three-shot lead at Torrey Pines and, eventually, a first USPGA Tour title. "I'm just going to continue to work hard and do what I can do each day to get better, and as long as I continue to do that, I'll be back," Stanley said on Tuesday in Phoenix, adding that he never seriously considered pulling out of this week's Phoenix Open to nurse his psychic wounds.

"If anything probably the opposite," he said. "Nothing has changed and nothing is changing," Stanley played superbly throughout the week at Torrey Pines. He led by as many as seven strokes in the final round on Sunday, and arrived at the par-five

finishing hole with a three-shot lead. But a conservative wedge into the green spun into the water and he soon saw that lead evaporate. Brandt Snedeker won the tournament at the second hole of a sudden-death playoff.

"It's a crazy game. It can love you, it can hate you," said Stanley, who said he had been "overwhelmed" by the outpouring of support he had received from fellow pros and fans.—Internet



Kyle Stanley during the final round of the Farmer's Insurance Open at Torrey Pines.—INTERNET

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(2-2-12 09:30 am ~ 3-2-12 09:30 am) MST

Overseas Transmission

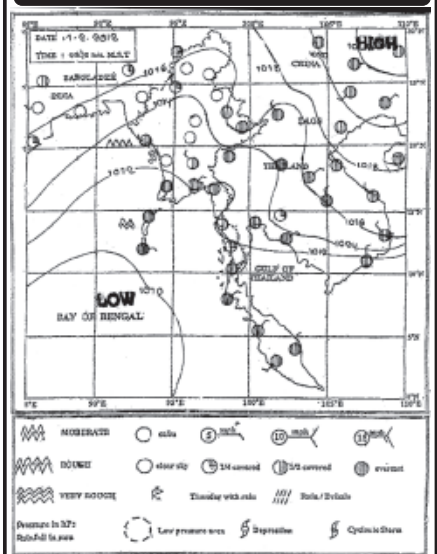
- * News
- * Fortune of Human correlated with Astro Science (12 Sign Ascendants in February 2012)
- * News
- * Mogok Vipassana Mingalar Monastery
- * News
- * Music Programme
- * News
- * Youth & Volunteer Service
- * News
- * Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * Live Together with Wetland
- * News
- * Unique and Motivating Chap Char Kut Festival
- * News
- * The Untouched Footprint of Buddha
- * Myanmar Movies "On Getting Six Lives"

MYANMAR TV

(2-2-2012) (Thursday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:40 am
- 2. Dhamma Puja Song
- 8:00 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:30 am
- 4. 65th Anniversary Union Day Programme
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 4:00 am
- 6. Martial Song
- 4:20 am
- 7. Cute Little Dancers
- 4:35 am
- 8. One Village & One Product
- 5:05 am
- 9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:15 pm
- 10. Science and Environment
- 5:40 pm
- 11. Documentary
- 6:00 pm
- 12. Evening News
- 6:20 pm
- 13. Approaching Science Discovery World
- 7:30 pm
- 14. Documentary
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 16. Documentary
- 17. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather for 2nd February, 2012

S. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	26/79	07/45	Partly Cloudy	
2	Kayah	30/86	11/52	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
3	Kayah	30/87	23/73	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
4	Chin	18/64	01/34	Partly Cloudy	
5	Upper Sgawing	27/81	10/50	Partly Cloudy	
6	Lower Sgawing	30/86	13/55	Partly Cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	34/93	23/73	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
8	Bago	31/88	22/72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
9	Magway	31/88	13/55	Partly Cloudy	
10	Mandalay	30/86	13/55	Partly Cloudy	
11	Mon	35/95	24/75	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
12	Yangon	33/91	22/72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
13	Bhamo	31/88	14/57	Partly Cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	27/81	08/46	Partly Cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	28/82	03/37	Partly Cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	30/86	13/55	Partly Cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	33/91	22/72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	33/91	13/55	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	22/72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	13/55	Generally fair weather	

During the past 24 hours, light rain or thunderstorms have been reported in Tanintharyi Region and Mon State. Isolated in Bago Region and Kayah State, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (°C) to (°F) below February average temperatures in Upper Sgawing Region and Kayah State, (°C) to (°F) below February average temperatures in Mandalay Region and Chin State, (°C) to (°F) above February average temperatures in Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Bhamo and Kayah States, (°C) to (°F) above February average temperatures in Bago and Yangon Regions, Mon State and about February average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Patheingyi, Mandalay and Patheingyi (°C) each, Northern and Haha (°C) each.

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

Strong Easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at time Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, 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: Continuation of slight decrease of night temperature in the Upper Myanmar Areas.

DISTRICT NEWS

BEMS branch upgraded to BEMS



MYAUNGMYA, 29 Jan—A ceremony to upgrade Basic Education Middle School Branch to BEMS was held in Sagamya Village in Myaungmya Township on 21 January.

District and township level authorities and departmental officials unveiled the archway of the school.

The school in Sagamya Village was upgraded to Affiliated BEMS in 1975, BEMS Branch in 1999 and BEMS in 2011-2012 academic year.—District IPRD

Agricultural loans disbursed

AUNGLAN, 29 Jan—As part of efforts to develop cooperative task, one of eight tasks in rural development and poverty alleviation, Cooperative Department in Aunglan Township supervised disbursement of loans by Aunglan Township Cooperative Syndicate for agricultural purpose was held in Okshitgon Village on 12 January.

Staff Officer Daw Thu Thu Han of Cooperative Department explained programmes of poverty alleviation. The chairman of the Cooperative Syndicate presented K 8,610,000 loans to 129 members of the cooperative society.—Township IPRD



President U Thein Sein and wife attend dinner hosted by Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Myanmar goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win attended a dinner hosted by President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife Mary Tan at Istana President's Residence on 30 January evening.

On arrival at Istana at 7:15 pm, the President and wife were cordially greeted by the Singaporean President and wife. At the reception room, the Singaporean President introduced President U Thein Sein and wife to ministers and high-ranking officials from Singapore and the Myanmar President, to Union Ministers and high-ranking officials. After that, the Dinner was held at Banquet Hall. During the dinner, Singaporean Military band entertained the guest with songs.

Singaporean President said : Singapore and Myanmar established diplomatic ties back in 1966. Since then, our friendship has grown for strength to strength. Our countries have close and growing links in many areas and our governments enjoy good cooperation. Over the years, our people-to-people interactions have also intensified, with an increasing presence of Myanmar professionals, students and tourists in Singapore.

Visit of Myanmar President marks a new chapter in our bilateral relationship. Our Foreign Ministers signed a MoU on the "Singapore-Myanmar Technological Cooperation Programme." Since the inception of the Singapore Cooperation Programme in 1992, Singapore has provided technical assistance to over 7500 Myanmar officials in various fields. With this MoU,



Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam hosts dinner to Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win at Banquet Hall of Istana.—MNA

both countries pledged to assist Myanmar in its capacity building efforts, and to continue supporting Myanmar in its transition to democracy.

As Myanmar integrates with the international community, we hope that our economic cooperation and business-to-business links will strengthen. The close cooperation between governments has provided a strong framework for our private sector exchanges to intensify. Singaporean

business and companies have invested in Myanmar since the 1990s. Myanmar's progress in developing its economic infrastructure and legal framework will further encourage investments into the country, he said.

Like many countries in Southeast Asia, Singapore and Myanmar share a common vision of achieving an ASEAN Community in 2015. Myanmar will assume the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014.

Singapore will continue to work closely with Myanmar in its ASEAN Chairmanship, and towards advancing our common regional interests for the betterment of our peoples.

I am confident that our relationship will continue to grow in the coming years. As old friends and neighbours in ASEAN, Singapore wishes Myanmar well. We hope to see Myanmar develop and prosper, (See page 8)

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win arrives back from Republic of Singapore



President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice-Presidents Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win arrived back here by special flight of Myanmar Airways International at 3.30 pm after paying a goodwill visit to Singapore at the invitation of President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam.

The delegation led by President U Thein Sein and wife were welcomed back by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife, Union ministers and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and departmental heads, Charge d'Affaires of Singaporean Embassy in Myanmar Mr William Chit and officials at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

Members of delegation Union ministers, deputy minister, the Yangon mayor and departmental high-ranking officials, who accompanied the President and wife, boarded off the same flight.—MNA