

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIX, Number 288

11th Waxing of Tabodwe 1373 ME

Friday, 3 February, 2012

True patriotism

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

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

President U Thein Sein observes development of Toa Payoh Housing

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—A Myanmar goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, accompanied by Minister of National Development Mr Khaw Boon Wan of Singapore, viewed progress of Toa Payoh Housing Estate in Singapore on 30 January afternoon.

On arrival at the Housing Development Board, President U Thein Sein and party were welcomed by Chief Executive Dr Cheong Koon Hean and officials. At the briefing room, they briefed the President and party on construction of suitable housing estates for low incomes families in Singapore, ownership of next generations of buyers who purchased apartments built on the State-owned land by spending individual savings, and fulfillments of the Housing Development Board for creating jobs and providing accommodation for the people. Afterwards, the President and party asked what they wanted to know.

President U Thein Sein and party viewed buildings constructed by the (See page 8)



Chief Executive Dr Cheong Koon Hean of Housing Development Board (Head Office) of Singapore explains facts abouts housing to President U Thein Sein.—MNA

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win meet embassy staff in Singapore



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win present gifts to Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin, wife and embassy staff and families.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win arrived at the residence of the Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore at 6.30 pm on 29 January and were welcomed by Ambassador U Tin Oo Lwin and wife and embassy staff there.

Next, the President and party heard the reports presented by the Ambassador on social, economy, education and health conditions of Singapore and investments to be made by Singaporean entrepreneurs in Myanmar. After that, the ambassador hosted a dinner to the President and party.

In meeting with embassy staff, the President explained political developments and peace and stability of Myanmar, sanctions reduction because of better relationships with international community, including the Western countries, making eternal peace with national races armed groups, investments offered by foreign countries and creation of job opportunities for the people.

He also said that all Myanmar people have to stand on their own feet for national development. Embassy staff needs to stay in unison and with a sense of family spirit and follow diplomatic ethic and disciplines. They also are to try to strengthen already-existed friendly relations with the posting countries and persuade those countries to make cooperation in the Myanmar's economic development.

Afterwards, the President and wife presented gifts to the Ambassador and wife, the minister-counsellor and wife, staff and family members and cash assistances to scholarship students in Singapore.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 3 February, 2012

Young but courteous at heart

In communicating each other, we need to stick to social etiquettes. Elders often advise youths to be aware of their physical, verbal and mental gestures.

Yes. The world is changing. Physical progresses are tangible. But mentally, we are sinking so low. Especially, etiquettes of offspring towards parents, pupils towards teachers, and

juniors towards seniors are poorer and poorer.

Some treat parents with the utmost courtesy. What a desirable thing! Some are polite to teachers, always folding hands and offering traditional greetings.

Respectful gestures, making way for monks and elders and preparing spaces for them, are very common. "Avert brawl. Never start it. Subside rage and do not show arrogance," the old verse shows the lads a way to politeness. Sparking hostility between each other and treating badly are ugly gestures.

The young people need to use well-organized language. That is why ancient poet-cum-monk Ven Maharahtasara composed, "One's word,

not to be bitter in other's ears. Speak in care. May it be honeyed." Using foul language and insulting others by words are not sweet gestures.

Besides physical and verbal gestures, the young generation should maintain healthy attitude as well. It is otherwise the strength of mind. Showing sympathy towards the younger, respect towards the peer and admiration towards the elder is a perfect mindset. Patience, diligence, kindness and generosity are strong mental characters.

May the young people, heading towards more and more developed era, maintain well-behaved gestures and bring about the good to the planet they live in!

Endeavours of the new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to boost agricultural production (Kanyin Dam)



- * Kanyin Dam in Ingapu Township of Ayeyawady Region is the first irrigation facility opened in the time of the new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
- * Construction began in 2007-2008 and the dam was successfully opened on 1 January, 2012, taking five years. It is the tenth irrigation project of the State in Ayeyawady Region.
- * The dam is of earthen type and has 194 feet in height with 3750-ft long main dam and 2850-ft long saddle dyke. Its maximum water storage capacity is 148,800 acres feet. With ogee type three conduits measuring 4x6 feet each, it can benefit 25,000 acres of farmland.
- * Kanyin Dam will irrigate 8,000 acres of summer paddy farmland this year. The main canal is 58 miles long and the right and left feeder canals are 123 miles long. The dam is equipped with two 2.5-megawatt turbines to generate rural hydroelectricity

for the region.

- * The government has built Kanyin Dam in Ingapu Township of Ayeyawady Region to ensure irrigation water sufficiency, the fundamental need of agriculture. The dam is believed to facilitate agricultural development of the region, increasing the income of local farmers, aiding economic growth of the nation.
- * Kanyin Dam built by the government with a large sum of money improves the life and increase the incomes of farmers in Ayeyawady Region. Authorities concerned at region, district and township levels will enforce dam rules and regulations for effective use of irrigation water in order that future generations can consume the fruits from the trees sowed by us.

Translation: TKK

Byline: Maung Nyein Aye



US, Singapore FMs meet for closer partnership

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb—US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Singaporean Foreign Minister K Shanmugam met on Wednesday in Washington for closer partnership and cooperation.

According to a joint statement issued by the State Department, the two reviewed “the array of close bilateral, regional and global engagement” between the two countries.

“We introduced new mechanisms to further strengthen our partnership and cooperation for the benefit of the Asia-Pacific Region,” said the statement.

The statement said the two countries’ strategic partnership will be rooted in enhanced political and economic dialogue aimed at meaningful cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The top diplomats looked forward to continued cooperation “on economic, political and military, environment, security, education and cultural exchanges that benefit our countries, the Asia-Pacific Region and globally,” said the statement.

“In all of these areas and the new ones, we will jointly explore solutions to emerging 21st century challenges, and rely on our shared beliefs and aspirations when applying dynamic and practical solutions,” said the statement.—Xinhua



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Singapore's Foreign Minister K Shanmugam (L) exchange documents after a signing ceremony at the State Department in Washington.—INTERNET

India, China to combat pirates together

NEW DELHI, 2 Feb—India and China are arranging cooperation in combating pirates in the Indian Ocean by holding a meeting of navy officers recently to ensure effective communication and cooperation, reported local daily *The Tribune* Thursday.

This is the first working relationship on the high seas between the Indian Navy and the People's Liberation Army of China Navy forces, said the report.

“The Naval arrangement cooperation started a month ago and has provided more safety and better utilization of resources.”

It is a working-level meeting to ensure effective communication and cooperation,” the paper quoted Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for foreign cooperation and intelligence as saying.

Internet



Afghan soldiers perform a dance during the second phase of security transition ceremony in Badghis Province, west Afghanistan, on 31 Jan, 2012. The security responsibilities of two districts including the provincial capital of Badghis was handed over from the NATO-led forces to Afghan security forces on Tuesday.—XINHUA

Taleban local leader captured in Afghanistan

KABUL, 2 Feb—A Taleban local leader was captured on Thursday in southern Afghanistan's Helmand Province, NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) forces said.

“An Afghan and coalition security force captured a Taleban leader during an operation in Nahr-e Saraj District, Helmand Province, today,” the ISAF said in a Press release issued here.

Without disclosing the name of the captured leader, ISAF said that “The leader directed roadside bomb attacks against Afghan forces throughout the district. One additional suspected militant was detained during the operation.”

Afghan forces and ISAF troops have intensified cleanup operations throughout the post-Taleban country recently.

The Taleban militants, who launched in May 2011 a rebel offensive against Afghan and NATO forces, have yet to confirm the capture of the leader.—Xinhua

Gaza militants fire eight rockets into southern Israel

GAZA, 2 Feb—Gaza militants on Wednesday night fired eight homemade rockets into southern Israel, witnesses and local security sources said.

The sources said that seven rockets hit the region of Shaar Hanagev and the eighth one landed in an opened area in southern Israel and no casualties have been reported so far. Meanwhile, an Israeli army spokesman affirmed the explosion of the eight rockets on

Israeli Radio.

The spokesman urged the residents in southern Israel to stay in safe places in case of more attacks are coming their way.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attacks. Most Gaza militant groups are committed to a ceasefire deal with Israel, an agreement with which they pledged their compliance to the governing Hamas authorities in the coastal enclave.—Xinhua

Bomb kills six, wounds 71 in Colombia

BOGOTA, 2 Feb—A bomb exploded outside a police station in the Pacific port city of Tumaco just as lunch hour ended Wednesday, killing six people and wounding 71, authorities said.

The bomb appeared to be a motorcycle packed with explosives, Tumaco security chief Hernando Cortes told *The Associated Press*.

Hernando Cortes, a city official, said the blast killed three police officers and three civilians. He said the 71 injured included 35 police officers.

Gen Rodolfo Palomino, the national police director of citizen security, blamed the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, for the attack, though Tumaco's mayor, Victor Gallo, refrained from assigning blame.

President Juan Manuel

Santos condemned the attack, calling it an “act of desperation.”

The southwestern port is one of Colombia's most lawless cities, a cocaine-smuggling hub where leftist rebels, right-wing criminal bands and drug traffickers are

all present.

The 1:58 pm blast occurred “in an area with a great abundance of population, as much for the hour as the geographical location,” Palomino said. It is the end of lunch hour in Colombia.—Internet



Residents and police rush to the site where a bomb exploded outside a police station in Tumaco on Colombia's southern Pacific coast, on 1 Feb, 2012.

INTERNET

UK terrorists admit London Stock Exchange bomb plot

LONDON, 2 Feb—Four terrorists admitted in court Wednesday plotting to bomb the London Stock Exchange as part of a campaign of al Qaeda-inspired attacks across the British Capital in the run-up to Christmas 2010.

The conspiracy included plans to post bombs to the United States Embassy and the home of London Mayor Boris Johnson.

Police foiled the plot at an early stage before firm dates were agreed or explosive devices assembled.

The plan was to cause “terror, economic harm and disruption” rather than injury, prosecutor Andrew Edis told London's Woolwich Crown Court. However, “their chosen method meant there was a risk people would be maimed or killed,” he said.

The four, with five other men, admitted a range of terrorism offences after changing their pleas shortly before their trial had been due to begin, the *Press Association* reported.

The defendants, all British nationals with Bangladeshi or Pakistani backgrounds, had been inspired by al Qaeda and the late radical Muslim cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, Edis said.



A man walks through the lobby of the London Stock Exchange on 5 Aug, 2011.—INTERNET

Al-Awlaki, a US citizen linked to al Qaeda's Yemeni branch, was killed last year in a CIA drone strike.

Undercover officers had followed two of the conspirators in November 2010 as they made observations of London landmarks including the Big Ben clocktower, parliament, Westminster Abbey and the London Eye ferris wheel.

The two men, Mohammed Chowdhury, 21, and Shah Rahman, 28, both from east London, admitted preparing for acts of terrorism by planning to plant an improvised bomb in the toilets of the London Stock Exchange.

Brothers Gurukanth

Desai, 30, and Abdul Miah, 25, both from Cardiff in Wales also pleaded guilty to the same charge. Some of the defendants had also discussed leaving home-made bombs in the toilets of pubs in Stoke, in the English Midlands.

The judge told Chowdhury he could expect to receive 18-1/2 years and Rahman 17 years, although the actual time spent in jail would be shorter, around six years, taking account of time already served and parole.

The five other men, one from Cardiff and four from Stoke, admitted lesser terrorism offences including attending operational meetings and fundraising.

Reuters

New online test tries to cut deaths from asthma attacks

LONDON, 2 Feb — A new online test is being launched that will help people with asthma gauge to what extent they are at risk from a serious attack. The website will also advise people what they can do to minimise that risk and how to stay well. At the same time a national review of all asthma deaths over the next year is also getting under way.

It aims to reduce the number of deaths through asthma attacks, which claim the lives of three people in the UK a day. The online test is called Triple A: Avoid Asthma Attacks. It asks simple questions about factors which have been linked to increasing the risk of an asthma attack that could lead to a hospital admission. According to the charity Asthma UK, which is behind the new website, about 75% of

asthma-related emergency hospital admissions could be prevented.

Those taking the test will fall into one of three categories, colour-coded like traffic lights. The red category means the person runs a highly increased risk of a serious attack, while green would mean no increased risk.

Each category is linked to advice on how to control the symptoms and what to do if someone does have an attack. Dr Samantha Walker, director of research and policy at Asthma UK, said asthma attacks put someone in hospital every seven minutes and kill over 1,100 people every year. — *Internet*



Asthma affects 1 in 10 children and adults in the UK. — *Internet*



Not a tea drinker? Any warm liquid—including chicken soup and fruit drinks—can help relieve cold and flu symptoms. Heated drinks help loosen congestion and stimulate the flow of mucus, as well as keep you hydrated.

INTERNET

Heartburn drugs may raise fracture risk in older women

BOSTON, 2 Feb — Older women who take popular medications to control indigestion and heartburn may put themselves at higher risk for hip fractures, researchers report. Long-term use of these drugs, called proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), may increase that risk by 35 percent to 50 percent for current or former smokers, the researchers added. Prilosec, Nexium and Prevacid are some examples of these medications.

"Although PPI use might be strongly indicated in some patients, at least for short-term use, we believe that clinicians should continue to carefully monitor the need for long-term use of these medications, specifically among postmenopausal women with a history of smoking," said lead researcher Dr Hamed Khalili, a clinical and research fellow in gastroenterology at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

"Our data supports the recent decision by the US Food and Drug Administration to revise labeling of PPIs to incorporate concerns about a possible increase in risk of fractures with these drugs," he said. The report was published in the 31 Jan online edition of the BMJ. For the study, Khalili's team collected data on almost 80,000 postmenopausal women. Over the course of eight years, from 2000 to 2008, almost 900 hip fractures occurred — a 35 percent increased risk for women using PPIs compared to women who didn't take the drugs. — *Internet*

Pfizer recalls 1 million packets of birth control pills

BOSTON, 2 Feb. — About one million packets of birth control pills are being recalled in the United States by Pfizer Inc because of a packaging error that could reduce the effectiveness of the pills and cause unintended pregnancies. The recall of 14 lots of Lo/Ovral-28 tablets and 14 lots of generic Norgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol tablets was announced late Tuesday after Pfizer discovered that some blister packs may contain either too many or too few active pills and that the pills may be out of sequence. The expiration dates on the recalled packets range between 31 July, 2013 and 31 March, 2014.

The pills are packaged in blister packs containing 21 active tablets and seven inactive tablets. The packaging error means that the daily regimen for the pills may be incorrect and could leave women without adequate contraception and at risk for unintended pregnancy, Pfizer said in a news release. Experts said the error could pose real problems for women using the pills. "This is extremely important," said Dr Steven Goldstein, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at NYU Langone School of Medicine in New York City. "It is absolutely

essential that birth control pills be taken as intended, with 21 medicated pills in a row.

Otherwise ovulation could take place and an unintended pregnancy is definitely a possibility." Another expert agreed. "Sequence and content of active versus inactive pills

is crucial in determining efficacy, including whether or not unwanted pregnancy will be actually prevented," said Dr Jill Rabin, chief of ambulatory care, obstetrics and gynecology, head of urogynecology at Long Island Jewish Medical Centre in New Hyde Park, NY. — *Internet*



2012 already looks like a winner for automakers

DETROIT, 2 Feb — 2012 is already looking like a winner for automakers — just one month into the year. US sales of new cars and trucks rose 11 percent to 913,287 in January. New models, low interest rates and better loan availability helped buyers overcome lingering worries about the economy and pushed the sales pace to its highest level since the Cash for Clunkers recycling programme in August 2009.

Chrysler had its best January in four years. Toyota and Honda were back in the game, getting boosts from important new vehicles. Volkswagen, which wants to aggressively expand in the US, reported big increases. The only loser among the major automakers was General Motors Co, whose sales fell 6 percent from a strong January last year. "For the first time in several years, we are starting the year off with a warm and fuzzy feeling," said Jesse



Row of 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokees on the lot of Willie Racine's Jeep, in South Burlington, Vt. Chrysler said on 1 Feb, 2012, its January sales in the US rose 44 percent over a year ago on gains from its Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Ram brands.

INTERNET

Toprak, vice president of industry trends for TrueCar.com,

January's sales pace was even faster than December's, a relief for the industry after a

bumpy 2011. Sales started at a healthy pace last year but plummeted after the Japanese earthquake in March caused car shortages and didn't recover until the final four months of 2011. If sales stay at the same pace as this January, they would reach 14.2 million, up from 12.8 million in 2011, according to Autodata Corp. While that's below the 2000 peak of 17.3 million, it's better than the 10.4 million trough in 2009. One reason car sales are improving is that buyers need to replace aging vehicles. The average age of a vehicle in the US is a record 10.8 years, nearly two years older than a decade ago. — *Internet*

American Airlines aims to cut 13,000 jobs

DALLAS, 2 Feb — The parent of American Airlines wants to eliminate about 13,000 jobs — 15 percent of its workforce — as the nation's third-biggest airline remakes itself under bankruptcy protection. The company proposes to end its traditional pension plans, a move strongly opposed

by the airline's unions and the US pension-insurance agency, and to stop paying for retiree health benefits.

AMR Corp said Wednesday that it must cut labor costs by 20 percent. It will soon begin negotiations with its three major unions, but the president of the flight attendants' union quickly

rejected the company's ideas as unacceptably harsh. CEO Thomas W Horton said Wednesday that the company hopes to return to profitability by cutting spending by more than \$2 billion per year and raising revenue by \$1 billion per year. AMR lost \$884 million in the first nine months of 2011, and \$904 million for December alone. It has lost more than \$11 billion since 2001. — *Internet*

American Airlines counter agents chat as a customer uses a self check kiosk at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in Grapevine, Texas.

INTERNET



Living in the world's most expensive city

LUANDA, 2 Feb — When you think of the world's most expensive cities, the dusty Angolan capital of Luanda seems an unlikely contender. Potholed, chaotic and still scarred by decades of civil war, the city has little of the glitz and glamour of Tokyo, New York or Moscow, and an estimated half of Angolans live on less than \$2 a day.

But despite the obvious poverty and sprawling slums, Luanda still manages to boast some eye-wateringly high

prices. A house can be \$10,000 (£6,500) a month to rent, a basic meal out for two is easily \$50, a hotel room can weigh in at \$400 a night and a kilo of imported tomatoes a staggering \$16. A basic saloon car without a driver (which foreigners need to negotiate the difficult traffic and parking) will be \$90 a day, but upgrade to a SUV (recommended due to the poor quality roads) and you're looking at \$200.

It is prices like these that in recent years have seen Luanda top expatriate-cost-of-living surveys by agencies such as Mercer. — *Internet*



UEC Chairman meets United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar



NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received the delegation led by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana at his office here at 11:15 am today.

The UEC Chairman was accompanied by commission members.

During the meeting, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana

congratulated the chairman for carrying out development tasks for politics of Myanmar and then they focused on matters related to participating of some 19 parties—11 already-existed parties and another eight ones including NLD—for 48 vacant seats in the coming by-election to be held on April 1, 2012, and preparedness for holding it.—MNA

UEC Chairman U Tin Aye receives UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun welcomes Bangladeshi Chief of the Naval Staff

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun welcomed Bangladeshi Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed (ND), ndc, psc of Bangladesh at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, this morning. Also present on the occasion were Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander of Danyawady Naval Region Command Commodore Tin Aung San and senior military officers.

The Bangladeshi Chief of the Naval Staff was accompanied by Commodore Nizamuddin Ahmed, (TAS), ndc, psc of Commodore Commanding Chittagong, the Bangladeshi Defence



Attaché to Myanmar and officials.

First, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) cordially greeted

the Bangladeshi Chief of the Naval Staff in front of Zeyathiri Beikman.

The Commander-in-

Chief (Navy) and the Bangladeshi Chief of the Naval Staff took the salute of the Guard of Honour and

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and Bangladeshi Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed (ND), ndc, psc take salute of the Guard of Honour.—MNA



inspected it. After that, the Bangladeshi Chief of the Naval Staff presented his entourage to the Commander-in-Chief

(Navy) who also presented his entourage to the Bangladeshi naval guests.

MNA

Mon State level peace-making group, NMSP peace-making group sign initial agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—New Mon State Party (NMSP) peace-making group on 31 January arrived at Strand Hotel in Mawlamyine to sign the initial agreement with the state-level peace-making group of Mon State Government at the peace invitation of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They were warmly welcomed by Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint and officials, local people and members of the social organizations.

In the evening, the Mon State government hosted a dinner to the NMSP Peace-making Group for ensuring eternal

peace. Mon State cultural troupe entertained the guests with Mon, Kayin and Pa-O traditional dances. Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min handed over 20 sets of Sky Net presented as eternal peace gifts by the President to Vice-Chairman U Nai Rawsa of NMSP Peace-Making Group and Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, 10 sets of Sky Net and bouquet to CEC member U Nai Tala Nyi of New Mon State Party.

The yesterday talks on initial peace making held at Strand Hotel in Mawlamyine was attended by the Union

level peace-making group comprising Union Minister U Aung Min, Union Minister U Soe Thein, Union Minister U Zaw Min, State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win, Mon State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Htay Myint Aung, the General Staff Officer (Grade-I) (People's Militia), the Mon State Advocate-General, the secretary of Mon State Government and officials and the NMSP peace-making group comprising Vice-Chairman U Nai Rawsa and party and peace negotiators of both sides.

A five-member team led by Col Htay Myint Aung of the state level peace-making group and a seven-member team led by Vice-Chairman U Nai Rawsa agreed five-point initial agreement. The NMSP peace-making group signed the initial agreement in the presence of the Union level peace-making group and they said that they will sign the approval of the agreement in the third week of February 2012 after seeking approval from the New Mon State Party.

The five-point agreement was:-

- (1) to make ceasefire between both sides,
- (2) to officially form the delegation to hold talks with Union level peace-making group and to coordinate date, time and place for the talks,
- (3) to open liaison offices at suitable places (without arms) where both sides agree,
- (4) not to transgress the regions with arms apart from the mutually agreed areas,
- (5) to accommodate the group at the designated places that both sides have agreed.

Later, Col Htay Myint Aung and U Nai Tala Nyi of NMSP Peace-making Group exchanged the notes of initial agreement and posed for documentary photo together with the Union ministers.—MNA



Col Htay Myint Aung of State-level peace-making group and NMSP peace negotiation group exchange initial agreement.—MNA

Third day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues National Planning Bills, Supplementary Union Budget Allocation Bill (2012), Union Budget Bill (2012) submitted



Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw

Speaker

U Khin Aung

Myint attends

third day

session of

Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—The third day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued today at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here, attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 579 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

At the meeting, members of respective Union level organizations submitted National Planning Bills, Supplementary Union Budget Allocation Bill (2012) and Union Budget Bill (2012).

Union Ministers from 10 ministries explained the social and management sector. Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin explained implementation of National

Health Plan (2011-2016), work plans for the health sector of the fifth five-year short-term national plan and future healthcare activities, extended opening of hospitals, dispensaries and health centres in 2011-2012, rural health development, supplementary budget and budget for 2011-2012 financial year, 2012-2013 budget, assistance from international organizations and planning budget of INGOs.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung explained supplementary budget and budget for 2011-2012 financial year, income and expenditure, approved normal expenditure and gross expenditure, the 2012-2013 budget, normal income

and expenditure, gross expenditure and construction expenditure.

Union Minister for Culture U Kyaw Hsan explained the fifth five-year short-term national planning policy (2011-2016), objectives and work plans, the 2011-2012 aggregate budget, supplementary normal expenditure, gross expenditures, supplementary gross expenditure, increased income due to reduced expenditure, normal income and normal expenditure for the 2012-2013 financial year, gross income and expenditure, construction spending, expenditure for machines and others, budget for construction of cultural training theatre and warehouse and maintenance

of ancient buildings and cultural museums, preparations and training for opening and conclusion of the XXVII SEA Games in 2013 and arrangements to open National Museum and National Library soon in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi explained plans for implementation of the policy and aims of the five-year short-term plan, the 2011-2012 normal budget, the 2011-2012 gross

expenditure account, the 2012-2013 budget and measures to increase income and decrease expenditure like in the previous year out of the income and spending of first priority for the 2012-2013 financial year.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi explained the policy of the fifth five-year short-term project and plans for realization of the objectives, the

fiscal year, the 2011-2012 budget, the 2012-2013 budget and all-out efforts for successful holding of the XXVII SEA Games by Myanmar in 2013 and enabling Myanmar to achieve victory as a host country.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko explained the policy, objectives and work plans of the fifth five-year short-term national plan, the 2011-2012 primary budget, supplementary budget, gross expenditure, supplementary normal expenditure, supplementary gross budget, the 2012-2013 primary budget, normal expenditure and gross expenditure and foreign income and expenditure for the 2012-2013 financial year.

Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi explained the 2011-2012 primary budget, the 2011-2012 supplementary budget, supplementary budgets for departments, the 2011-2012 budget, the 2012-2013 budget, estimated income and expenditure of departments, gross expenditure, construction expenditure and machinery expenditure.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay explained formation of the committee for progress of border areas and national races, establishment of special development regions, national policies, objectives and work programmes of the ministry, development tasks for border areas with the use of border region development funds, regional development tasks for Naga Self-Administered Zone, human resources development, sector-wise development tasks such as basic education, higher education and vocational training, construction of inter-village roads for socio-economic improvement, supply of safe drinking water, international cooperation, micro-credit services, the 2011-2012 supplementary budget, normal income and expenditure, salary and administrative expenditure from the 2012-2013 budget, logistic expenditure, gross expenditure and debt payments.

The meeting was adjourned this afternoon and the fourth-day session continues tomorrow.—MNA



Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi makes clarification.—MNA

budget, the 2011-2012 supplementary budget, the 2012-2013 normal budget, the 2012-2013 gross budget and construction expenditure and machinery expenditure.

Union Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan explained the policy, objectives and work plans of the fifth five-year short-term project (2011-2016), the 2011-2012 supplementary budget, budget, the 2011-2012 aggregate income and

2011-2012 normal budget, the 2011-2012 gross budget, construction spending and machinery expenditure for 2011-2012 financial year, the 2012-2013 normal budget and gross budget, construction expenditure and machinery expenditure for 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan explained the policy and objectives of the fifth five-year short-term project, supplementary normal budget for 2011-2012

Union Attorney-General receives Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union, here, at 10.45 am today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Hsan of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union and officials concerned.—MNA



Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin receives Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana.—MNA

Myanmar delegation members observe respective sectors on their visit to Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Union Ministers and personnel who accompanied President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win on their goodwill visit to Singapore made study tours and had discussions with personnel of the Republic of Singapore.

Union Minister U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint and Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint visited Urban Redevelopment Authority on 31 January morning. CEO Mr Lim Neo Chian explained detailed measures for development of urban housings and comprehensive construction of housings aimed at high living standard of citizens. The Union Ministers and party then put questions for their knowledge.

They then viewed round documentaries on development of urban housings in Singapore and stereotypes of urban housings.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint and the Yangon Mayor then went to Jurong Town Council Headquarters where Deputy CEO of JTC Corporation Mr David Tan gave an account on establishment of

Jurong Town industrial zone, construction of factories in Jurong Town without disturbing housings, systematic sewage disposal system to ensure non-pollution of air and construction of recreation centres.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint explained measures for development of urban housings in Myanmar and rules and regulations on construction of hotels and housings and asked questions for his knowledge.

The Union Minister and the Yangon Mayor viewed the industrial zone and urban housings from 31st floor of the headquarters.

Likewise, Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung went to PSA Port, the world's biggest transshipment hub, on 31 January. He met Chairman of regional executive board Mr Kenny Ong of the port and personnel and observed loading of cargoes, consignment, and separation of terminals, technologies applied in cargo checks and systems used in maintaining cranes.

Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung visited Petrochemical Corporation of Singapore (Private)



Union Transport Minister U Nyan Tun Aung meets Managing Director Mr Akira Yonemura of Petrochemical Corporation of Singapore (Private) Limited.—MNA

Limited, the main oil and petrochemical producer of Singapore, to meet Managing Director Mr Akira Yonemura and personnel and observe production process of condensed gas.

Union Minister Dr Mya Aye visited Institute of Technical Education College East, Tanjong

Katong Secondary School and Nanyang Technological University on 31 December. During the visits, he exchanged views with personnel concerned on teaching systems, objectives, student-nurturing of technical colleges and secondary schools and job opportunities.

The Union Minister paid a call on Singaporean Education Minister Mr Heng Sweet Keat. He discussed and exchanged views on cooperation with Singapore in promoting Myanmar's education standard to be on a par with international community, proficiency enhancement of teachers to build good education system and educational reforms of Singapore.

Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint met Singaporean Trade and Industry Minister Mr Teo Ser Luck at the Ministry of Trade and Industry and had discussion about promotion of bilateral investments and job opportunities and economic cooperation. The mayor then visited Land Transport Authority (LTA) and met Group Director Mr Lew Yii Der

of Corporate Planning & Research of the LTA and party.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, Vice-President U Thaung Tin and member U Naw Aung on 31 January, met President of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Singapore Mr Tony Chew and party. They invited Singaporean businessmen to make investments in Myanmar.

The two sides discussed matters related to arbitration in case of economic disputes, signing of investment agreement. Over 120 Singaporean businessmen are reported to come to Myanmar on 12 February to discuss matters related to investment in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. U Win Aung and party met personnel of Singapore Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and discussed further economic cooperation between Myanmar and India and Singapore-based Indian businessmen's visit to Myanmar.—MNA



Union Education Minister Dr Mya Aye at Nanyang Technological University.—MNA

Union Rail Minister receives Mr Quintana



Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min receives Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situations in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situations in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party called on Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min at the latter's

office this evening.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Thant Shin and officials of the ministry.

MNA

President's Advisory Group leader receives Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—A delegation led by Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana called on Leader of

Advisory Group to the President U Sit Aye at the President Office at 12.15 pm today.

Also present at the call were members of the Advisory Group to the President.—MNA



Leader of President's Advisory Group U Sit Aye meets Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situations in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana.—MNA

President U Thein Sein observes development of...

(from page 1)
company from the view point of Housing Development Board (Head Office).

After that, the President and party proceeded to the 40-storey building comprising 160 apartments

of the Toa Payoh Housing Development Project where they viewed round the structures of the apartments, water and power systems and sanitation facilities.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein greets house-owners at an apartment of Toa Payoh Housing Development Project.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein at 40-storey building with 160 apartments of Toa Payoh Housing Development Project.—MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein visits Underwater World in Singapore.

MNA

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein at National Orchid Garden in Singapore.

MNA

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein, tours Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, attended a luncheon hosted by Mrs Jean Khaw, wife of the Singaporean Minister of National Development, at the State Room of Valley Wing of



Shangri-La Hotel at 1 pm on 30 January.

The luncheon was attended by Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the President, together with Daw Lin Lin Tin, wife of the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and Daw May Myint Maung, wife of the Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore. The wife of the Singaporean Minister of National Development was accompanied by Ms Hisayo Chua, wife of the Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.

At the luncheon, Daw Khin Khin Win and the wife of the Singaporean Minister of National Development extended greetings.

Next, the wife of the President and party went to Underwater World in Singapore and viewed round Aquarian booths and souvenir shops.

They visited the Singapore Flyer. It was built on 25 September 2005 and commissioned on 1 March 2008. The Singapore Flyer is 165 metres high (541 feet high) and the diameter of rotor, 150 metres (492 feet).

At the National Orchid Garden, they attended the nomination ceremony of the orchid species as Dendrobium U Thein Sein-Daw Khin Khin Win and the wife of the President signed the guests' book. They visited the National Orchid Garden where over 1000 species of orchid from global countries and over 2000 hybrid orchid species are being displayed.

The National Orchid Garden, located on the hillock in the compound of Singapore Botanical Garden was opened on 20 October 1995.

Later, the wife of the President and party arrived back to Shangri-La Hotel.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and wife leave Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, together with members of the Myanmar goodwill delegation, left Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore by car at 1.30 pm local time yesterday for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar after paying a goodwill visit to the Republic of Singapore and arrived at Changi International Airport.

The President and wife were seen off

at the airport by Singaporean Minister of National Development 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, Head of Protocol Department of Singapore Mr Lim Cheng Hoe, staff and families of Myanmar Embassy.

The President, wife and party left Singapore by special aircraft at 2 pm local time and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

President U Thein Sein giving instructions to embassy staff and families at Myanmar Ambassador Residence in Republic of Singapore.
(News on page 1)—MNA

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win being seen off by Minister Mr Khaw Boon Wan and officials at Changi International Airport.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party at the hall of Pyithu Hluttaw at Hluttaw Building, here, at 1.15 pm today.

Also present at the call to-

gether with Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were the chairmen and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Committees.

The guests expressed their satisfaction for realizing human rights of the people and they said they witnessed remarkably political reforms in Myanmar.—MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party.—MNA

Instructions of Supreme Court of the Union further clarified in Patheingyi

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Instructions of the Supreme Court of the Union at the second work coordination meeting between the Supreme Court of the Union and chief judges of Region/State High Courts, and Region/State law officers were further clarified at Region High Court in Patheingyi on 26 January, attended by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung.

A total of 77-62 division/district/township level judges and 15 law officers were present on the occasion. The region chief minister on 30 January visited Thayagon Village rural health centre branch in Thayagon Village-tract in Kyonpyaw Township of Patheingyi District where he encouraged specialists from hospitals in the region who were giving free medical treatment to patients.

He met locals and members of social organizations at Thayagon BEMS (branch) and donated K 1 million to repair the school. The region chief minister and party in the evening visited farms in Gonmin Village of Kyaunggon Township.

MNA



Myanmar, France to promote tourism industry

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung met Chairman of University Lumiere (Lyon 2) Mr Andre Tiran and his assistant Mrs Christine Cornet of France at the ministry, here, on 30 January morning.

They discussed assistance to be provided by Uni-

versity Lumiere (Lyon 2) to academic matter of hotels and tourism training school to be opened as university level in Myanmar, signing a MoU to send emeritus professors and trainers from University Lumiere (Lyon 2) to academic matters for development of Myanmar tourism human resources, providing courses on French and English languages to the trainees to be able to contribute to the tourism industry and exchange of delegations between the two countries.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker comforts Amyotha Hluttaw representative at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed)



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint comforts Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Naing Tun Ohn at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint comforted Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Naing Tun Ohn of Mon State Constituency No. 5 who was receiving medical treatment at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) at 3 pm today.

On arrival at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed), the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was welcomed by the deputy director-general of Hluttaw Office and officials, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Phyu Phyu, doctors and nurses. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker comforted the Amyotha Hluttaw representative at the hospital.

MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Principal U Kyaw Phone Naing of Lacquerware College (Bagan) of Small-scale Industries Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives on expiry of the one-year probation period.

MNA

Chief Justice of the Union receives Mr Quintana

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo received Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party at the hall of the Chief Justice of the Union of the Supreme Court, here, at 9.30 am today.

They discussed undertakings of judicial tasks in line with the executive, legislative and judicial powers in accord with the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, freedom of judiciary by judges at region/state, district and township levels with judicial authorities, training and experiences under the law.—MNA

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo receives Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana.—MNA

Dy Education Minister receives Mr Quintana

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Deputy Education Minister U Ba Shwe met Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party at the ministry here this morning.

They discussed matters related to improving living standards of educational staff in Myanmar, increasing education expenditure, being able to learn region-wise lessons of national race languages, human rights syllabuses, girls' access to education, cooperation with UN and international agencies, situations for increasing schooling rates of middle school after completing primary education, compilation of educational statistics, measures for increasing literacy rates of adults and monastic education.

The meeting was also attended by Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department, Deputy Directors-General Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Dr Zaw



Myint of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) and officials.—MNA



Deputy Education Minister U Ba Shwe receives Special Rapporteur on the situations of human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana.

MNA

Sky Net signs agreement as official broadcaster for Bundesliga in Myanmar

YANGON, 2 Feb—A ceremony to sign the long-term agreement on TV broadcasting of Bundesliga football matches between Sky Net and DFL Bundesliga Football was held in conjunction with the Press conference at Sedona Hotel, here, this afternoon.

General Manager U Win Naing of Sky Net and Vice President Sales Mr Kay Dammholz of DFL Bundesliga Football explained the purpose of the ceremony.

Managing Director Daw Nan Mauk Lauk Saing of Sky Net, the official

broadcaster, and Vice President Sales Mr Kay Dammholz pressed the button to unveil the Sky Net Bundesliga Official Broadcaster Logo.

German Ambassador Mr Hristian Ludwig Weber Lortsch, President of Myanmar Football

Federation U Zaw Zaw and former Myanmar selected footballer U Myo Hlaing Win spoke words of thanks.

Selected player Kyaw Ko Ko demonstrated his brilliant football skills. At the Press conference, officials of Sky Net and Bundesliga replied to queries raised by those present.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Sports.—MNA

District News

Yaykhalok (Chaungwa) Bridge opened to link Kyaunggon and Einme

KYAUNGKON, 28 Jan—A ceremony to open Yaykhalok (Chaungwa) Bridge was held at the bridge on 22 January morning.

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Dr Htein Win, Region Minister for Transport U Thein Tun and Minister Counsellor Mr Ichiro Maruyama of Japanese Embassy formally opened the bridge.

Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nanissara unveiled the stone plaque.

The bridge was built at a cost of US\$ 87850 (K 85 million) by GGA of Japan government, K 10 million by the Sitagu Sayadaw and K 38.2 million by local people.

The bridge on Minmanaing Creek links Kyaunggon and Einme townships. The 160 feet long and 10 feet wide facility can withstand seven tons load and its clearance is 23 feet.—Myanma Alin



The Steaming “Hot Sea” in Tengchong, Yunnan

BEIJING, 2 Feb—Tengchong County in southwest China's Yunnan Province is a hidden gem among the province's growing list of tourism destinations. But what separates Tengchong from the rest is its rich and diversified geographical landscape, with particular emphasis upon its hot springs.

Rehai, or the “Hot Sea” scenic area, is constantly enveloped by the steam produced from its many hot springs. The king of Rehai's hot springs is known as the “Boiling Pot”, boasting temperatures as high as 97 degrees Celsius. As the heat is too much for the human body to withstand, the “Boiling Pot” has been adapted so that it can boil food such as eggs and peanuts, which are then



The hottest spring in the Rehai scenic area is known as the “Boiling Pot” for its extraordinary high temperatures.—INTERNET

served as snacks to those tourists who emerge from the area's surrounding hot springs.

The scenic area is built around the scattered hot springs, all of which have their own distinctive mineral content. The open air springs

are surrounded by seasonal blooms of flowers and a view of green mountains looming in the distance. Rehai is situated about 20 kilometres southwest of Tengchong County and regular tourist buses transport tourists to the scenic area.—Xinhua

Assange appeal under way in UK court

LONDON, 2 Feb—The Swedish prosecutor who issued an arrest warrant for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is not a neutral party, his lawyer told a British court on Wednesday.

Dinah Rose asked the UK Supreme Court to quash Assange's extradition order, *The Guardian* reported. The appeal is Assange's last hope of avoiding extradition to Sweden to face two women's charges that he sexually assaulted them.

Rose quoted the Code of Justinian that “no one should be judge in their own cause.” She said European agreements on criminal law and extradition are consistent with that principle while the Swedish public prosecutor is, in effect, a party to the case.

“The words ‘judicial authority’ can only be understood as meaning an

independent judge or a person executing equivalent power,” Rose said.

The courtroom was packed with Assange's supporters.

The hearing is expected to run through on Thursday. The seven justices are likely to reserve their decision.

Assange has not been formally charged with a crime in Sweden yet.

Legal experts said the courts tend to give other countries' legal systems the benefit of the doubt, which means Assange has an uphill fight.

“I don't think he'll succeed,” Peter Caldwell, an

extradition lawyer, told *The Guardian*.

Assange's supporters say they fear extradition to Sweden is a precursor to an extradition to the United States, which is conducting an investigation into the leak of hundreds of thousands of diplomatic cables and documents on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the whistle-blowing Website. An Army private faces a court-martial in the matter.

Euronews.net reported Assange may appeal to the European Court of Human Rights if the UK Supreme Court rules against him.

Internet



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange begins the final phase of his fight to avoid extradition from London to Sweden for questioning on sex crime allegations. 2011 file photo.—INTERNET

Treasure hunter says he found \$3b WWII wreck

PORTLAND, 2 Feb—A treasure hunter said on Wednesday he has located the wreck of a British merchant ship that was torpedoed by a German U-boat off Cape Cod during World War II while carrying what he claims was a load of platinum bars now worth more than \$3 billion.

If the claim proves true, it could be one of the richest

sunken treasures ever discovered.

But an attorney for the British government expressed doubt the vessel was carrying platinum. And if it was, in fact, laden with precious metals, who owns the hoard could become a matter of international dispute.

Treasure hunter Greg Brooks of Sub Sea Research

in Gorham, Maine, announced that a wreck found sitting in 700 feet (213 metres) of water 50 miles (80 kilometres) offshore is that of the SS Port Nicholson, sunk in 1942. He said he and his crew identified it via the hull number using an underwater camera, and he hopes to begin raising the treasure later this month or in early March with the help of a remotely operated underwater vessel.

“I'm going to get it, one way or another, even if I have to lift the ship out of the water,” Brooks said.

The claim should be viewed with skepticism, said Robert F Marx, an underwater archaeologist, maritime historian and owner of Seven Seas Search and Salvage LLC in Florida. Both an American company and an English company previously went after the contents of the ship years ago and surely retrieved at least a portion, Marx said. The question is how much, if any, platinum is left, he said.

“Every wreck that is lost is the richest wreck lost. Every

wreck ever found is the biggest ever found. Every recovery is the biggest ever recovery,” Marx said.

Brooks said the Port Nicholson was headed for New York with 71 tons of platinum valued at the time at about \$53 million when it was sunk in an attack that left six people dead. The platinum was a payment from the Soviet Union to the US for war supplies, Brooks said. The vessel was also carrying gold bullion and diamonds, he said.

Brooks said he located the wreck in 2008 using shipboard sonar but held off announcing the find while he and his business partners obtained salvage rights from a federal judge. Salvage rights are not the same as ownership rights, which are still unsettled.

Britain will wait until salvage operations begin before deciding whether to file a claim on the cargo, said Anthony Shusta, an attorney in Tampa, Florida, who represents the British government. He said it is unclear if the ship was even carrying any platinum.

“We're still researching what was on the vessel,” he said. “Our initial research indicated it was mostly machinery and military stores.”—Internet



Greg Brooks, co-manager of Sub Sea Research, poses aboard the salvage ship Sea Hunter in Boston Harbour on 1 Feb, 2012 with a picture of the British merchant ship Port Nicholson. The Port Nicholson which was sunk by a German U-boat in 1942 with a cargo of 71 tons of platinum now worth about \$3 billion. Brooks will use the Sea Hunter to recover the cargo.—INTERNET

Aircraft fuselage decor for Indian takeaway

LONDON, 2 Feb—A teenage curry house owner has spent 5,000 pounds on a second-hand aircraft fuselage used in the movie “The Da Vinci Code” to display in the reception of his eatery, *Daily Mail* reported Wednesday.

But 18-year-old Aleem Gaffer's plan to spruce up his restaurant backfired when he realised he could not get it inside. He had to remove the

front of the shop and, with six friends, slide the two tonne Hawker jet flight deck into the Indian takeaway in Filton, Bristol.

Aleem wants to decorate the fuselage and use it as a seating area for customers to wait in while their food is prepared. The young businessman bought the jet as a gift for his aircraft-loving father and to grab the attention of staff at the nearby

Airbus factory.

He said: “Airbus employs thousands of staff nearby and many of them have to pass my takeaway each day so I thought (I would) attract more business.”

Aleem, who has worked in the Bristol takeaway since he was 12, took over the business from his father, Bangladesh-born Abdul, 38, last year. The plane is a Hawker 800XP.—Internet

Amtrak train derails in Michigan after hitting truck

JACKSON, 2 Feb—An Amtrak train carrying 68 passengers and five crew members struck a semitrailer truck Wednesday morning outside of Jackson, Michigan, partly derailing and sending 10 people to a local hospital, Amtrak and a local official said.

Two of the people taken to the hospital were Amtrak crew members and none of the injuries appeared life threatening, said Mike Jester, director of public safety for Blackman-Leoni Township, where the derailment occurred.

The train had departed from Ann Arbor, Michigan, and was westbound six or seven miles from Jackson when it hit a semitrailer truck that was stuck on the tracks, Jester said.

“The track was severely damaged,” Jester said. “They are going to be removing the cars shortly and then they will have to repair the tracks. The line between Detroit and Chicago is going to be down for some time before they get this fixed.”

The crash was the latest of several involving Amtrak trains in the past year with vehicles that were stuck or overhanging tracks or whose drivers had tried to beat trains at crossings. In June, a truck barreled through crossing gates in Nevada and collided with an Amtrak train, killing the driver of the vehicle and five other people.

In July, a dump truck driver was killed in Maine when he struck an Amtrak train. Then, in August, an Amtrak train struck a crane that was overhanging the tracks in Nebraska, sending 11 people to area hospitals.

In the collision on Wednesday morning in Michigan, the engine of the train came to rest on its side and the first two cars lost contact with the rails, Amtrak said. The train had two engines and six rail cars in all.—Reuters

Train derailment workers bring in flatbed trucks where an Amtrak train, headed for Chicago, carrying 68 passengers and five crew members struck a semitrailer truck outside the town of Jackson, Michigan, partly derailing and sending 10 people to a local hospital in Leoni Township, Michigan on 1 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET



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British military chief outlines future army size

LONDON, 2 Feb—A top British military officer has outlined the shape of the country's army in the future as smaller and of a contingency posture, *Xinhua* reported.

Chief of the British Defence Staff General Peter Wall said the army should be smaller and "switch from our current campaign posture to a contingency posture".

"The army is confronting some very significant challenges in the coming years," he said.

The economic situation, end of the army's Afghan role in 2014 and security threats to Britain and the world, and "our potential reaction to them", are some of the challenges.

He said the shape of the British army would be different in future and would be focused on five "homogenous brigades".—*Internet*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV DAGAT BLUE VOY NO (73)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAGAT BLUE VOY NO (73) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD,
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Spain's designer Francis Montesinos walks with a models after his Autumn/Winter collections of Madrid Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week (MBFW) in Madrid, Spain, on 1 Feb, 2012. The presentation of the Autumn/Winter 2012/2013 collections of MBFW kicked off on Wednesday. —XINHUA

52 die in Japanese snowstorms

NAGANO, 2 Feb—A paralyzing snowstorm on Japan's west coast has killed 52 people and injured 600, with three people surviving burial in an avalanche Wednesday, officials say. More than 10 feet of snow has fallen in the hardest-hit areas, where northwestern Japan has been hit with a series of snowstorms since the beginning of the year, *ABC News* reported. A 310-foot steel bridge in Nagano collapsed, schools have been closed, and cities in Niigata Prefecture are running out of funding budgeted for cleanup.

Residents are frustrated by the slow response of government in dealing with the emergencies, *ABC* reported. Nearly all the storm-related casualties are the result of individuals attempting their own snow removal.

The avalanche, in Akita Prefecture, buried three women. They were rescued after an hour, unconscious but alive.

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (149)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (149) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING
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Thousands evacuated from flood-threatened New South Wales in Australia

SYDNEY, 2 Feb—Thousands of residents are being evacuated from flood-threatened parts of northern New South Wales in Australia, with helicopters airlifting hundreds of trapped ones to safety, local media reported on Thursday.

About 1,600 residents in the town of Moree and 80 people in nearby Biniguy have been ordered to evacuate from their homes immediately as the Mehi and Gwydir rivers continue to rise,

posting a flood threat to the towns. Residents are being instructed to evacuate to South Moree within the next six hours, with the Geoffrey Hunter Bridge expected to be cut on Thursday afternoon.

Meanwhile a major operation is underway at Pallamallawa, 30 kilometre east of Moree, with helicopters airlifting 600 trapped residents to safety.

"Airlifting them out is the only option we have," NSW State Emergency

Service (SES) Deputy Commissioner of Operations Steven Pearce told the *Australian Association Press (AAP)* on Thursday.

The SES said the Mehi River at Moree was expected to reach more than 9.5 metres on Thursday afternoon and peak around 10.3 metres on Friday morning.

The SES has received 820 calls for help in recent days, with nine flood rescues conducted overnight.

Xinhua



A bus is stranded at a flooded street in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 1 Feb, 2012. Heavy rains hit the city on Wednesday, causing several streets flooded. XINHUA

China to cut 40 percent emission by 2015

BEIJING, 2 Feb—China is planning to cut emissions by 30 to 40 percent by 2015.

The latest target is part of the government's 12th five-year plan (2010-2015). Stricter rules and investments are envisaged to curb emissions, *People's Daily* reported quoting the cabinet Wednesday.

The cabinet outlined seven indicators, including ammonia nitrogen and nitric oxide, to monitor pollution.

The plan calls for reduction of ammonia nitrogen and nitric oxide emissions by 10 percent by 2015, while chemical oxygen demand and sulfur dioxide emissions by 8 percent. It also calls for 3.4 trillion yuan (nearly USD 540 billion) in environment protection.

Internet

Nothing sweet about 'killer' sugar

LONDON, 2 Feb—Sugar is so harmful that it should be controlled in the same way as tobacco and alcohol, according to a team of leading public health experts. Three US scientists from the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) maintain that sugar is more than just "empty calories" that make people fat.

They argue that high-calorie, sweetened food is indirectly responsible for 35 million annual deaths worldwide due to lifestyle-related conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Professors Robert Lustig, Laura Schmidt and Claire Brindis called for restrictions and controls on sugar that mirrored those on tobacco and alcohol. The three set out their views in the leading science journal *'Nature'*.

They pointed out that, at the levels consumed in the West, sugar altered metabolism, raised blood pressure, disrupted hormone signalling, and caused significant damage to the liver that was still not fully understood. The health hazards were similar to the effects of drinking too much alcohol -- which was, in any event, manufactured from the distillation of sugar.

Internet



A fishing boat is frozen on the seashore of the Bohai Sea off the coast of Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 1 Feb, 2012. The recent cold snap caused a drastic temperature drop in the Bohai Sea along the northern part of China, resulting in a quick build-up of sea ice. —XINHUA

Albatross released off Calif coast

Animal rescuers said a Laysan albatross believed to have stowed away to California on a cargo ship has been released at sea.

International Bird Rescue said the Laysan albatross is native to islands in the North Pacific Ocean and was brought to them by a man who discovered it in the bed of his pickup truck Friday in Los Angeles, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Wednesday.

The albatross was held for four days at the rescue group's San Pedro wildlife center and released on Tuesday from a boat off the coast of the city.

Rescuers said the albatross likely hitched a ride to California aboard a cargo ship. Julie Skoglund, manager of the wildlife center, said the bird was the first albatross discovered in Southern California in at least five years.



People appreciate a giant chocolate-made shoe displayed at the Hyundai Department Store in Seoul, South Korea, on 1 Feb, 2012. The department store said it took 60 kilogrammes of chocolate and two weeks to make the shoe with a height of 2 metres and a width of 3 metres.

Baby born during traffic stop

An Ohio woman said her baby was born in the front seat of her car when her mother was pulled over for speeding on the way to the hospital.

Debbie Richmond said her mother, Donna, was driving her and her husband, Randall Altman, to the hospital about 4 am Tuesday in Waverly

when the vehicle was pulled over for speeding, WBNS-TV, Columbus, reported on Wednesday.

"I kind of just screamed, 'I'm in labour,' and mom said, 'Can I drive 60 miles per hour?'" [The trooper] said, 'I can't tell you that,'" Richmond said.

However, Richmond said the

point turned out to be moot as her daughter, Sarah Lynn Altman, was born in the front seat of her Hyundai before they could continue on to the hospital.

Richmond, who was taken with her new baby to Mount Carmel West Hospital, said her mother was not issued a ticket.

News Album

Woman led police on chase in cherry picker

Seattle police said they arrested a woman accused of stealing a work truck with a cherry picker and leading officers on a high-speed chase.

Investigators said the woman, whose name was not released, is believed to have stolen the truck at 8:30 pm Tuesday when she discovered it parked with the keys inside and led a King County sheriff's deputy, a Washington State Patrol trooper and officers from the Seattle and Shoreline police departments on a high-speed chase through

the city, KOMO-TV, Seattle, reported on Wednesday.

The chase came to an end when the woman crashed into a light pole in the parking lot of the Home Depot on Aurora Avenue, police said. The woman, who a deputy said was laughing when she was pulled from the truck, was taken to Harborview Medical Centre to receive treatment for cuts to her face. Police said the suspect is likely to be charged with auto theft, felony eluding, property damage and driving under the influence.

Police: Woman robbed bank for dentures

Police in Pennsylvania said a woman accused of robbing a bank allegedly told officers she committed the crime to pay for a set of dentures.

Investigators said Evelyn Marie Fuller, 49, was asked

to come in for questioning Tuesday after a man told officers he recognized a coat he had loaned the woman in surveillance footage and she told officers she was telling them the truth on the advice of her pastor, The Observer-

Reporter, Washington, Pa, reported on Wednesday.

Fuller, who police said has no teeth, told officers she robbed the First National Bank in Waynesburg 20 Jan to obtain money for a set of dentures.

Fuller, who did

not display a weapon during the crime, was charged with two counts of robbery and one count each of theft and terrorist threats.

She was jailed in lieu of \$75,000 bond.

Tom Cruise to hand out Oscar

BEVERLY HILLS, 2 Feb.—Three-time Oscar-nominated actor Tom Cruise will be a presenter at the 84th Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, telecast producers said on Wednesday.

Cruise was nominated for his



Three-time Oscar-nominated actor Tom Cruise is to be a presenter at the 84th Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, telecast producers said on Wednesday.

INTERNET

lead performances in "Born on the Fourth of July" and "Jerry Maguire."

He also was nominated for his supporting role in "Magnolia."

The film star was recently seen in "Mission: Impos-

sible — Ghost Protocol" and will next appear in "Rock of Ages." His other film credits include "Tropic Thunder," "War of the Worlds," "Collateral," "Minority Report," "A Few Good Men," "Rain Man," "The Colour of Money" and "Top Gun."

Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2011 will be presented 26 Feb at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Centre.

The show is to be televised live on ABC.

Internet

Taylor Swift performs at the CMA Music Festival in Nashville on 12 June, 2011. INTERNET

Swift won't star in 'Les Miserables'

LOS ANGELES, 2 Feb.—US country music star Taylor Swift won't be playing Eponine as planned in the upcoming movie musical "Les Miserables," EW.com reported Wednesday.

Although Swift had been in talks for the part, Samantha Barks, a contender on the British singing competition series "I'd Do Anything," has instead been cast as the tragic waif, the celebrity news Web site said.

Barks played the role of Eponine in the West End production of "Les Miserables" from 2010 to 2011.

"Most incredible moment of my life!!!!" Les Miserables also stars Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway, Sacha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham Carter," Barks said via Twitter about her upcoming big-screen debut.—Internet

Screenings of 3D 'Titanic' sold out

HOLLYWOOD, 2 Feb.—Fans crashed multiple servers trying to secure advance tickets for the now sold-out 14 Feb preview screenings of Hollywood's "Titanic in 3D," producers said.

Paramount Pictures and Twentieth Century Fox International said on Wednesday advance Valentine's Day screenings throughout the United States and abroad sold out within hours of tickets going on sale.

The 1997 epic romance starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio will be released worldwide on 6 April. Written, directed and produced by James Cameron, the movie won 11 Oscars, including Best Picture. 14 April is the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the luxury liner in the Atlantic Ocean.—Internet



Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet are pictured in a scene from "Titanic" which was nominated on 10 February for a best picture Oscar for the 70th Academy Awards to be telecast live 23 March from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Winslet was also nominated for best actress for her performance in the film.

INTERNET

Letterman reads Super Bowl Top 10 list

NEW YORK, 2 Feb.—Comedian David Letterman read a Super Bowl-themed Top 10 list on "Late Show" in New York this week.

Letterman read "Questions to Ask Yourself Before Spending \$16,000 on a Super Bowl Ticket" on Tuesday's edition of his late-night talk show. The list reads as follows—

10. "Do they

have anything in the more affordable \$15,000 range?"

9. "Have I recently divorced either Kobe Bryant or Tiger Woods?"

8. "Can I afford it after spending \$12,000 on a Pro Bowl ticket?"

7. "Isn't this why the rest of the world hates us?"

6. "Would it make more sense to watch at home and

spend the 16 grand on snacks?"

5. "Before I spend the money, how's Gronkowski's ankle?"

4. "For \$4,000 an hour, couldn't I get a really good hooker?"

3. "If I've got 16 grand, should I buy the Mets?"

2. "Will I forever be known as 'the ass [expletive] who spent \$16,000 on a Super Bowl ticket?"



1. "Do I get to have sex with Madonna?"

Internet

Prado to display early copy of 'Mona Lisa'

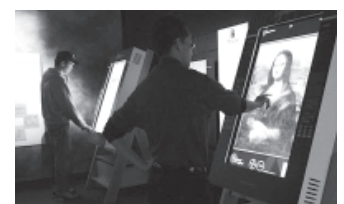
MADRID, 2 Feb.—The earliest known copy of Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" will be unveiled to the public at Spain's

Prado Museum this month, a curator said Wednesday.

The original early 16th century painting by the Italian Renaissance master is on display in the Louvre in Paris. The *Los Angeles Times* reported conservators discovered the "Mona Lisa of the Prado" while restoring a work initially categorized as a later replica of the famous portrait.

Art experts have said the copy, which has long been in the Prado's collection but was obscured under layers of black over-painting, was crafted at the same time as the original.

"It is as if we were



People use touch-screen computers to study details of the Mona Lisa painting at the "Leonardo da Vinci's Workshop: Inventor, Artist, Dreamer" exhibit shown at the Discovery Times Square Exposition on 20 Nov, 2009 in New York.

INTERNET

in the same studio, standing next to the easel," the *Times* quoted Gabriele Finaldi, the Prado's deputy director of collections, as telling reporters at a news conference. "This is very, very close to how the 'Mona Lisa'

looked in 1505." After the copy is shown at the Prado, it will go on display at the Louvre in March as part of the French museum's "Leonardo's Final Masterpiece" exhibition, the *Times* said.

Internet

Puyol grabs Barca draw in Cup clash



Barcelona's captain Carles Puyol (2nd R) celebrates with teammates after scoring during the Spanish Cup semi-final match Valencia CF vs Barcelona at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia.—INTERNET

VALENCIA, 2 Feb — A header from Barcelona veteran central defender Carles Puyol saw the Spanish champions come from behind to draw 1-1 with Valencia in their Spanish Cup semi-final

first leg match on Wednesday. Barcelona — beaten finalists last year — could have won it in the second-half by Lionel Messi's penalty was well saved by Diego Alves in the

55th minute. Valencia — seven times Cup winners — had taken a well deserved lead in the 27th minute thanks to Brazilian forward Jonas's well taken-shot from just inside the box.

However, Barcelona were back on level terms eight minutes later as the talismanic Puyol leapt highest at the back post to head into the net and give his side what could be an invaluable away goal for next week's second leg. It was all the more creditable as coach Pep Guardiola had to do without a quintet of first choice players because of injury including Pedro Rodriguez and Andres Iniesta. Tuesday's semi-final had seen top tier Athletic Bilbao take a 2-1 advantage into next week's second leg after beating third division Mirandes away.— Internet

Seventy-four die in Egypt soccer tragedy

CAIRO, 2 Feb—Soccer fans rushed into the field on Wednesday after a local match to lead to at least 74 people died and hundreds were injured in Egypt.

The tragedy happened in the seaside city of Port Said following an upset victory by the home team Al-Masry over Egypt's top club Al-Ahly in Egyptian league. Riot police largely failed to intervene and the clash eventually turned into the worst case of soccer violence in Egypt and the deadliest worldwide since 1996.

Simultaneously in Cairo, fans angered that another match between Al-Ismaili and Zamalek was halted because of the Port Said violence set fire to the bleachers at the main stadium

in the Egyptian capital, were reported. authorities said. No injuries

MNA/Xinhua



Team El-Ahly football players get away from the field during a football match riot at a stadium in Port Said on 1 Feb, 2012. The death toll of a football match riot in Egypt's Port Said rose to 74 with hundreds of others injured, state media reported on Wednesday night.

XINHUA

Allegri: Defeat to Lazio good for Milan

ROME, 2 Feb—AC Milan head coach Massimiliano Allegri saw a blessing in disguise after his side lost to Lazio 2-0 on Wednesday, saying "a terrible game, but the defeat to Lazio can do us good." The Rossoneri could've gone top after

Juve's match with Parma was snowed off last night, but they fell 2-0 at the Olimpico instead.

"We played a terrible game against a team that did not allow us much, but this is not giving the all-clear to Juventus," Allegri was quoted as saying by football-italia.net. "The campaign is still long and there will be time to discuss these things. I believe the defeat can do us good and help us to grow. 'Lately, despite winning, we haven't had the same grit that we need to win the Scudetto. This is why I believe the defeat can be healthy,' he said.

Xinhua



AC Milan head coach Massimiliano Allegri



Napoli head coach Walter Mazzarri

Napoli coach Mazzarri blames referee for mistakes

ROME, 2 Feb — Napoli head coach Walter Mazzarri accused the referee of robbing his side's deserved win after they were held to a scoreless draw at home on Wednesday. Napoli were held at the San Paolo, as Goran Pandev's goal was disallowed in stoppages for reasons that remain unclear. He was not offside and replays suggest Christian Maggio provided the assist with his chest rather than an arm.

"The goal is absolutely and totally clear," Mazzarri was quote as saying by football-italia.net. "I am sick and tired of this, as we lost another two points today due to the official and his behaviour. 'The referee had a terrible game and made many mistakes against us. He had a huge effect on the match, preventing us from getting the deserved victory.

"Other than the goal, there were some incorrect offside decisions and the referee didn't send off a Cesena player for using his elbow. 'Up until now we have stayed silent, but we can't keep pretending that nothing is happening. In the last three rounds we have been robbed of at least five points. I am tired and my patience is at an end,' he said.— Xinhua

Floyd Mayweather to fight Miguel Cotto in May

LAS VEGAS, 2 Feb — Floyd Mayweather will step back up in weight to fight Miguel Cotto for his WBA light-middleweight title on 5 May at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. The fight ends speculation that Mayweather would fight Manny Pacquiao in a super-fight in May. "It will be a challenge for me to compete with him at this weight, but this is the type of test I thrive on," said Mayweather, 34. Cotto responded: "On 5 May I will convincingly beat Floyd Mayweather." He added: "I am here to fight the biggest names in boxing. I've never ducked anyone or any challenge in front of me."

Mayweather is due to serve an 87-day prison sentence for a domestic violence conviction but the Las Vegas authorities have deferred his sentence until 1 June and granted him a one-fight licence to allow the Cotto fight to take place. "Miguel Cotto is a world-class fighter who can never be taken for granted and continues to

prove he is one of the best in boxing," added Mayweather. "I have no doubt in my mind that my title belt collection will increase once again."

Cotto, 31, who has a 37-2 record, successfully defended his WBA super welterweight crown with a revenge stoppage win over Antonio Margarito in December. Mayweather, meanwhile, scored a fourth round stoppage of Victor Ortiz last September. The 34-year-old, who holds a 42-fight unbeaten record, last fought at light-middleweight when he outpointed Oscar De La Hoya in a disputed split decision in 2007.— Internet



Floyd Mayweather will step back up in weight to fight Miguel Cotto for his WBA light-middleweight title on 5 May at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.—INTERNET

International Sports

Wilson aims for second-straight win at Phoenix Open golf

PHOENIX, 2 Feb — Mark Wilson has a wealth of experience when it comes to defending PGA Tour titles, and No 1 on his list of do's and don'ts is to set modest goals. "I guess the main thing is try to keep the expectations out of it and just go out there and play golf and add it up

and see how well I've done," Wilson said on Wednesday.

Wilson comes into the Phoenix Open as one of the favourites after already posting one victory this year at the Humana Challenge tournament. The 37-year-old American will be making his first start since his two-shot victory 10 days ago when he tees it up Thursday in the Arizona desert.

"The main thing, I guess, is that any tournament that I've won I've gone into with very low expectations," said Wilson who posted his fifth career win and third in the past 13 months at the Humana. "I am not trying to win the tournament, just go out there and play the best I can and see what I shoot.— Internet



Mark Wilson comes into the Phoenix Open as one of the favorites after already posting one victory this year at the Humana Challenge.

INTERNET



Venus Williams

Venus Williams excited to play again

WORCESTER, 2 Feb — Recovery never comes fast enough for Venus Williams. The latest has been especially slow for Williams, who plans to return this weekend in the Fed Cup matches against Belarus after a five-month layoff caused by Sjogren's Syndrome, an autoimmune disease that can cause fatigue and joint pain. Williams practiced with the US team Wednesday morning and said she's thrilled to be so close to competing again for the first time since the opening round of the US Open. "I think just being on a team and just having some adrenaline just gives me even more energy, to be honest," she said at a news conference Wednesday. "I need to be on a team every week and not at home." Williams has had to learn the difference between recovering from an injury and an illness. That has meant pacing herself more in practice and minding doctors' orders not to push it while she tries to regain her form. The former world No. 1 and seven-time Grand Slam singles winner, Williams isn't used to taking it easy.

"The difference is acceptance—trying to accept how you feel and limitations. Listening to your body and taking care of yourself," she said. "Instead of trying to run through a wall, just really kind of take a step back and be smart. I think that's kind of what I've learned." — Internet

DISTRICT NEWS

Environmental conservation talked

PAKOKKU, 2 Feb—Pakokku Township Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Subcommittee organized the talks on environmental conservation at the Dhammayon in Kaing Village on 28 January.

Staff Officer of the Township Forest Department U Wai Lwin explained establishment of one-acre teak plantation in each village, cultivation of three teak plants and 20 hardwood plants for each household and setting up of group-owned forest plantation. Senior Forester U Wai Phyo talked about environmental conservation.

Myanma Alin

Breeding of golden Hamilton's carp extended



KANGYIDAUNT, 2 Feb—Officials of Ayeyawady Region and Patheingyi/Kangyidaunt Township Fisheries Departments visited the fingerling hatching camp of U Mahn Kyaw Shein in Thabawngu Village of Kangyidaunt Township on 13 January.

They provided fingerlings of golden Hamilton's carp and technological assistance to the farmer.—District IPRD

Loud pupils 'ahead of quiet ones'



LONDON, 2 Feb—Children who shout out in lessons are more likely to do better in maths and reading than their quieter classmates, research suggests. The study found evidence that blurting out answers in class can be good for a child's learning. It concludes that pupils who always shout out can be nearly a year ahead of their quieter peers who have similar levels of inattention in lessons.

Researchers from the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring at Durham University looked at the maths and reading assessments of 12,251 four and five-year-olds at 556 schools in England. The children were tested in English and maths at the end of their first year at school using a computer programme.

Teachers were asked to rate pupils' behaviour and impulsiveness based on three different factors - blurting out answers before questions have been completed, having difficulty waiting their turn and interrupting and intruding on others, such as pushing into conversations or games. Hyperactivity, impulsivity and inattention are all symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The findings, published in the Learning and Individual Differences journal, suggest a link between shouting out in class and attainment. It suggests that children who continuously blurt out answers have up to a nine-month advantage in reading and maths compared with pupils who had similar levels of inattention in lessons but never shouted out. The researchers also found a strong link between inattention and under-attainment.—Internet

People of Tibetan ethnic group turn prayer wheels in Dukezong ancient city of Shangri-la County, southwest China's Yunnan Province on 1 Feb, 2012. Meaning "Moonlight City" in the Tibetan language, Dukezong has been a city in which merchants came to do businesses long ago. Protection work have been intensified in recent years to the ancient city that has a history of more than 1,300 years.—XINHUA



Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(3-2-12 09:30 am ~
4-2-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

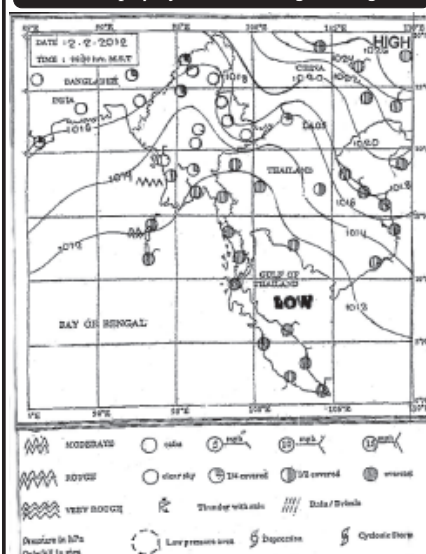
- * News
- * Zinathuka Yan Aung Chan Tha Reclining Buddha
- * News
- * Kanyin Dam, a booster for agricultural productivity in Ayeyawady Region
- * News
- * Arts & Science Fair (ILBC)
- * News
- * A Myanmar Tapestry
- * News
- * Myanmar Cultural & Food Festival in Bangladesh
- * The Excellent Yangon Expo (2012)
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Ayeyawady..not a Divider
- * Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan)
- * Myanmar Movies
- * "Mommy's Girls"

MYANMAR TV

(3-2-2012) (Friday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:40 am
- 2. Dhamma Puja Song
- 8:00 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:25 am
- 4. 65th Anniversary Union Day Programme
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 4:00 am
- 6. Martial Song
- 4:20 am
- 7. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:25 am
- 8. Performance With Song
- 4:30 am
- 9. Teleplay (Health)
- 5:00 am
- 10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:05 pm
- 11. Myanmar Language
- 6:00 pm
- 12. Evening News
- 7:45 pm
- 13. Documentary
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. TV Drama Series
- 16. Song Lovers

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 3rd February, 2012

Sl. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C)		For Tomorrow	
		Minimum	Maximum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	28/84	16/50	Partly Cloudy	
2	Kayah	31/88	11/52	Partly Cloudy	
3	Kayah	34/93	22/72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
4	Chin	28/68	07/45	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sgaw	28/84	12/54	Partly Cloudy	
6	Lower Sgaw	34/93	14/57	Generally fair weather	
7	Tanintharyi	36/97	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
8	Bago	32/90	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
9	Magway	34/93	15/59	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	33/91	15/59	Generally fair weather	
11	Maw	35/95	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
12	Yamethazan	35/95	21/76	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
13	Rakhine	33/91	15/59	Partly Cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	27/81	16/50	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	28/84	04/37	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	13/55	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	33/91	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	35/95	15/59	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	33/91	15/59	Generally fair weather	

During the past (24) hours, light rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Tanintharyi Region and Mon State, weather have been partly cloudy in Upper Sgaw, Bago and Yangon Regions, Rakhine State, generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin State, (°C) to (°C) below February average temperatures in Upper Sgaw Region and Northern Shan State, (°C) to (°C) above February average temperatures in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin State, (°C) to (°C) above February average temperatures in Bago Region and Mon State and about February average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Lashio, Nantun, Pindagang and Holo (°C) each.

Bay Reference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and cloudy in the Andaman Sea elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Strong Easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at time Duhail, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanintharyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (20) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Iran, IAEA agree to continue talks

TEHRAN, 2 Feb—Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) agreed to continue their talks regarding the Islamic republic's nuclear programme after three days of meetings, the semi-official Fars news agency reported on Tuesday.

Fars also said the newly-concluded meetings were "positive and constructive" and that the next round of the talks has been scheduled but did not specify the date and location.

On Sunday, a high-ranking IAEA delegation headed by chief inspector

Herman Nackaerts arrived in Tehran for a visit to Iran's nuclear facilities.

However, the talks were held behind closed doors and no details about the process or outcome were released.

Last November, the board of the IAEA adopted a resolution on Iran's disputed nuclear programme, which called for intensified dialogue to find solutions to unresolved issues.

However, Iran has said the resolution will not stop its nuclear programme that is peaceful in nature despite the West's accusation of military purposes.—Internet

President U Thein Sein meets officials of Kuok, Wilmer investment companies of Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received the officials concerned of Wilmer and Kuok Investment Companies, based in Malaysia, at the State Room of Valley Wing of Shangri-La Hotel in at 4:00 pm on 29 January.

At the meeting, they had a discussion on investment opportunities in sugarcane, rubber and oil-palm plantations and agro-based industries in Myanmar.

Also 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, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin and President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung.

MNA



President U Thein Sein receives personnel of Malaysia-based Kuok and Wilmer investment companies at Shangri-La Hotel.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein giving an interview to Senior Reporter of The Straits Times Ms. Rupali Karekar.—MNA

President U Thein Sein gives interview to The Straits Times Senior Reporter



NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein gave interview to Senior Reporter Ms. Rupali Karekar of The Straits Times at the State Room of Valley Wing of Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore at 5:30 pm on 30 January.

During their meeting President U Thein Sein answered the queries shot by the senior reporter about current changes and developments in Myanmar, reform

process and future work programmes as well as the role of media in Myanmar.

Also present on the occasion together with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt.

MNA

Cash donated to Mandalay General Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint this morning attended the cash donation for construction of the intensive care unit at Cardiovascular Care Department at the hall of Mandalay General Hospital.

The Chief Minister accepted K

200 million donated by U Thant-Daw Chit Chit (Myint Myint Khin, Htomonh-La Monh) of Railway Station Housing on 78th Street between 30th and 31st streets in Mandalay.

Medical Superintendent Dr U Win spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Endeavours of the new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to boost agricultural production (Kanyin Dam)



Page 2



Chief Justice of the Union receives Mr Quintana

Page 10



Seventy-four die in Egypt soccer tragedy

Page 14

2012 already looks like a winner for automakers

Page 4

