Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

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True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Only Myanmar people can bring peace, development and prosperity to the nation

All the people should be well aware of the fact that some powerful nations are today attempting to influence weaker ones resorting to various ways and means. So, the entire people of the Union need to join hands in safeguarding the independence and sovereignty. Only Myanmar people can bring peace, development and prosperity to the nation. It should be noticed that the nation would fall again under the alien subjugation if national unity broke up.

Excerpt from the message sent by President U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012

Seventh day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues

Representatives attending seventh day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—The seventh 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 563 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

At the meeting, duties were assigned to vice-chairmen of joint committee and bills discussed. At the duty-assignment session, members of Joint Bill Committee U T Khun Myat of Kutkai constituency and U San Tun of Kachin State constituency No.1 were assigned as vice-chairmen of the committee; members of Joint Public Accounts Committee U Thurein Zaw of Kawkareik constituency and U Thein Win of Sagaing Region constituency No.9 as vice-chairmen of the committee. The Hluttaw approved the assignment of duties.

At the bills discussion session, fishery sector, agricultural sector, trade sector, monetary sector, mining and minerals sector, industrial sector, construction sector and electricity sector that include in the national planning bills were discussed by U Maung Maung Thein of Kayan constituency, U Ye Tun (a) U Min Tun of Hsipaw constituency, U Than Myint of Taninthayi Region constituency No.10, U Maung Maung Soe of Thakayta constituency, U Nay Win Tun of Shan State constituency No.9, U Maung Toe of Minhla constituency, U Win Myint of Myingyan constituency, U Pe Than of Myebon constituency, U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe constituency, U Win Than of Thabaung constituency, Daw Win Maw Tun of Yenangyoung constituency, Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region constituency No.8, U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing constituency, U Kyi Myint of Hmawby constituency, U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency No.2 and U Kyi Tha of Gwa constituency.

The session ended at 3:10 pm and it will continue at 10 am tomorrow.—*MNA*

Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section, secondly-opened section in the time of the new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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Fatal shark attacks see spike in 2011

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Researchers say diabetes quadruples birth defects risk

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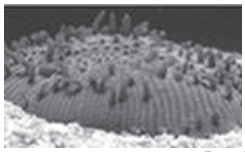
Corals inflate to escape being buried alive in sand



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Minhla retransmission station extends coverage to 3000 W

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Minhla Retransmission station in Bago Region extends its coverage to 3000 W from 300 W (VHF Channel No.J 12) for better consumption of MRTV programme. Minhla, Moenyo, Letpadan and Okpo Townships can receive MRTV programme through UHF-system outdoor antenna and Thayawady, Hinthada, Ingapu and Gyobingauk Townships, UHF-system Booster Outdoor Antenna. The programme will be broadcast through both the old and the new retransmissions till 15-2-2012. The broadcast of new retransmission can be received though UHF Antenna alone, starting 16-2-2012.—*MNA*

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PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 9 February, 2012

May beautiful flowers in eternal blossom

High to the sky are the snow-capped mountains in the northern-most part of Myanmar shinning like silver. Rising from these mountains, Maykha and Malikha rivers converge at Myitsone to form Ayeyawady River which flows gently down to the delta at the edge of the ocean in the south. Thanks to this river, east and west, north and south, left and right is the picturesque scene of green and lush forests, basin plains, and crop plantations.

Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan nationals and so many tribes have been residing in Myanmar in amity and harmony since yore till now. Customs, beliefs, languages and traditions differ from each other regions and races however different cultures have a lot in common basically.

National brethren living under the same roof of the Union also share the same socio-economic life. Pleasures and pains they shared along the course of history, never letting down each other for better or worse. The strong Union Spirit had sowed the seeds of mutual understanding and magnanimity among national brethren to find a harmonious world of their own.

Not even a single distinguishing feature can be found in national brethren scattering over the nation. However, rivers and creeks, and forests and valleys pose barriers to this connectedness and poor transport has widened the short distance between national brethren. The east and west banks of Ayeyawady River are within visible distance, nevertheless day-trip was impossible and thus the regions were miles behind other parts of the nation in development.

Nowadays, national technicians are building roads on the mountains and constructing bridges across the rivers the length and breadth of the nation. There have been 11 bridges spanning Ayeyawady River inclusive of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkham) opened a few days ago. Other regions and states have also seen the river-crossing bridges one after another. New motor road networks have been under construction linking far and wide the nation, leading to short distance between nation brethren and smooth travel as well.

Yangon-Mandalay Highway linking the entire nation, Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) on India-Myanmar-Thailand Tripartite Highway and bridges small and large across Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Thanlwin rivers will connect and develop every part of the Union, aiding to economic, education, health and social development of the entire national people.

Unity is the strength of the Union. All the national brethren are to try to maintain unity, the key characteristic of the Union. Backed by the sound foundations of the nation, efforts for eternal peace will make the flowerbed of the Union in full bloom.

Drive safely

Union FM receives Belarusian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Dr Valery Sadokho, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus at his office, here, at 3 pm today.

They discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries.—*MNA*

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of HE Mr Murat Yavuz Ates as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Murat Yavuz Ates was born on 27 July 1965. He graduated from Ankara University, Faculty of Political Sciences in 1986 and also obtained Master's Degree from Ankara University, Faculty of Social Sciences in 1989. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Junior Diplomat and has served in various capacities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Turkish Embassies in Riyadh, Brussels, Tokyo and Dubai. At present, he holds an appointment as Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Director-General, in the Energy, Water and Environment Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Murat Yavuz Ates will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon.

He is single.—*MNA*

Second coord meeting held for 65th Anniversary Union Day

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—The Management Committee for Organizing the 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012 held the second coordination meeting at the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Management Committee Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt.

The Chairman invited the detailed reports on preparations for the celebration by the subcommittees in line with the directives of the Central Committee and urged them to coordinate tasks among them.

Chairmen and officials of the subcommittees reported on preparations for organizing the 65th Anniversary Union Day and tasks to be done.

After giving necessary instructions, the Union Minister fulfilled their requirements.

MNA

Draft report on preparations of Myanmar in conformity with climate change clarified

YANGON, 8 Feb—A clarification on the draft report on preparations of Myanmar in conformity with climate change, jointly presented by Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of the Ministry of Transport and United Nations Environment Programme-UNEP was held at Myaing Hay Wun Café at 8th-Mile in Mayangon Township this morning.

Leader of the project management group Dr San Hla Thaw (retired Director-General of DMH) extended greetings.

Project Director U Tin Ngwe (retired Director-General (Attached) of DMH) explained the history of the project.

Project Coordinator U Aung Win (UN Consultant) submitted detailed report on the project.

Officials replied to queries raised by medial persons.

It is learnt that arrangements are being made to present the draft report to the people and invite suggestions from the people. After completion of the report in April 2012, the paper will be submitted to the ministry concerned and the government. If the approval is sought, the report will be sent to the UNEP.—*MNA*

MoH, Nagaski University sign MoU

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb — A memorandum of understanding between Ministry of Health and Nagaski University, Japan, was signed at the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) on 6 February.

The MoU includes exchange of experts and scholars between the ministry and the university, providing teaching and research aids to the ministry and cooperation between the two sides.

The MoU was signed by Professor Takechiko Koji of Nagaski University, Director General of the Medical Science Department Dr Than Zaw Myint, Acting Director-General of the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) Dr Myo Khin, Director-General of Medical Research Department (Central Myanmar) Dr Tun Naing Oo.—*MNA*

Clinton, Israeli FM discuss Iran, peace talks

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday discussed with her Israeli counterpart Avigdor Lieberman a wide range of issues, including Iran, bilateral ties and the peace talks with the Palestinians.

In their meeting that lasted about 40 minutes, the pair discussed some seven topics, "just a little bit on each," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said.

"With regard to Iran, they talked extensively about the impact that the new sanctions are having in our efforts to work with countries around the world to wean them from Iranian oil and, obviously, our mutual commitment to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and to increase the pressure through these sanctions," Nuland told reporters at a regular news briefing.

Following the European Union's decision last month to target Iran's oil exports for sanctions, US President Barack Obama ordered on Sunday to freeze all property of the Iranian government and the financial institutions under US jurisdiction, including that of the Central Bank of Iran, in an effort to tighten the pressure on the Islamic republic over its controversial nuclear programme.

The Obama administration prefers a diplomatic approach to Iran' s alleged attempt to acquire nuclear weapons, while rumours are growing about an imminent strike by Israel on the Islamic republic 's nuclear facilities.

Hillary Clinton

Nuland noted that in her meeting with Lieberman, Clinton reaffirmed "our unshakable commitment" to the relationship with Israel, not only to Israel's security, but to its democracy.

She said on the peace talks with the Palestinians, Lieberman reaffirmed Israel's commitment to the two-state solution and its interest in continuing the process of "trying to get to direct talks."

Xinhua

US to send second ship to bolster Philippines

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb— The United States will soon give a second Coast Guard cutter to the Philippines as part of efforts to boost the ally's military amid tensions at sea with China, officials said on Tuesday. The United States last year transferred its Hamilton cutter to the Philippines, which made it the flagship of its notoriously dilapidated navy and recently sent it on a mission to the disputed Spratly islands.

Lawmakers will this week conclude formalities to send to the former US colony another cutter, the Dallas, Representative Ed Royce and senior Pentagon official Peter Lavoy told a congressional hearing. "It should soon be on its way to Manila," said Royce, a Republican from southern California whose district has a significant Filipino American community.

"The US and the Philippines want peace and stability in this region, which is key to the global economy," Royce said as he chaired the hearing of a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee.

The Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries have accused China of bellicose behaviour over disputes in the South China Sea. Despite historical sensitivities about US troops, the Philippines has said it would welcome further rotations by US forces on its soil and more joint exercises.

Lavoy, the top civilian at the Pentagon handling East Asia, said that the United States was "considering a range of military capabilities" as it helps the Philippines move from "an inward focus on domestic threats to an outwardly focused military that needs to be reorganised to address external concerns."

But Lavoy was non-committal when asked whether the United States would be willing to provide *F-16* fighter jets to the Philippines, saying it was critical to look at affordability and other factors.

Kurt Campbell, the assistant secretary of state for East Asia, said that cooperation also depended on human rights. Congress has blocked $3 million due to concerns over extrajudicial killings by the Philippine military.

Internet

***United States turned over 10 helicopters to the Philippines for its poorly-equipped military.—*INTERNET**

***Residents grieve at the site of a bomb attack in the Zaafaraniya neighbourhood in Baghdad recently. A suicide bomber detonated his explosive-filled taxi near a funeral procession in Baghdad on Friday, killing 31 people in the latest attack in a Shi'ite neighbourhood amid rising violence since an Iraqi political crisis erupted in December. —*INTERNET**

Russian Navy to update nuclear fleet

MOSCOW, 8 Feb—The Russian Navy will receive at least 10 new Borey class strategic nuclear submarines by 2020, *Kommersant Daily* said Tuesday.

According to the report, the new submarine fleet is expected to become the core of Russia's naval force in the future, in line with a revised state armament procurement programmeuntil 2020.

The programme also envisions the procurement of 10 Graney class nuclear attack submarines and 20 diesel-electric subs, including six Varshavyanka class vessels, said the report.

In addition to submarines, the Navy will receive 14 frigates, 35 corvettes, six Buyan class small artillery ships and six Ivan Gren Class large landing ships.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said last year that the updating of warships and submarines for the Navy would be a priority over the next decade.

The Russian government has allocated five trillion rubles (about $166 billion) for this purpose.—*Xinhua*

10 killed in US drone strike in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 8 Feb— At least 10 people were killed and two others injured when a US drone launched two missile strikes in North Waziristan Region of Pakistan's northwest tribal belt on Wednesday morning, local media reported.

According to the report by local TV channel ARY, the attack was launched early in the morning when a US drone fired two missiles at a militants' hideout in Spalga Village of North Waziristan, a militancy-hit tribal area at Pak-Afghan borderlands. The report said that the death toll may further rise as the injured are in critical condition. On Wednesday morning's drone strike came just one day after Defence Minister of Pakistan Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar said that the issue of US drone attacks is unresolved and Pakistan would continue raising the issue to the United States. Washington believes that the Northwestern tribal belt of Pakistan is a militant-militant area and these militants are a continuous source of headache to NATO forces operating in Afghanistan.

Wiping out suspected militants from Northwestern Pakistan is also vital to win the long war against terrorism carried out by both Washington and Islamabad.

Anger against the US drone strikes in the Waziristan tribal areas runs high in Pakistan because the attacks have killed hundreds of innocent people including women and kids since 2004.

This is the fifth strike of its kind in northwestern tribal area of Pakistan since the beginning of 2012. To date, 36 people have been killed and several others injured in 13 missile strikes launched by US drones.—*Xinhua*

Two die in hand grenade attack in Pakistan's Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 8 Feb— A hand grenade attack killed two persons in the Pakistani port City of Karachi on Tuesday night, police said.

Six more people were injured in the attack at Liyari area of the city, police officer Nasir Aftab said.

He said that four people riding two motorcycles threw a hand grenade at women and children who were taking drinking water from a plant.

The motorcyclists fled after the attack.

Local residents said the grenade was threw at people outside the office of People's Aman Committee. The committee is considered pro the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party but was banned last year after the powerful group Mutahida Qaumi Movement blamed it for violence.

The police officer said a search was launched for the attackers. No group claimed responsibility for the attack as of now. Local residents staged a demonstration against the attack and demanded the government to apprehend the culprits.

The injured, including women and children, were taken to a local hospital.

Xinhua

Bomb blast rocks northern Afghan town

PUL-E-KHUMRI, 8 Feb— A bomb blast rocked Baghlan-e-Jadid City in northern Baghlan Province Wednesday morning with feared casualties, an official said.

Xinhua

Three militants killed, 13 arrested in Afghanistan

KABUL, 8 Feb— Three armed militants have been killed and 13 others detained during joint Afghan and NATO-led coalition operations in five provinces, the Afghan Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

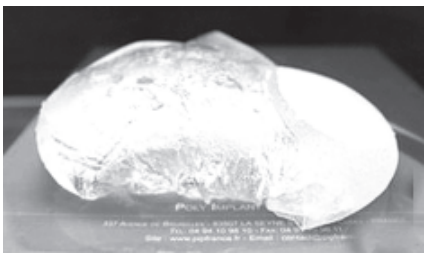
Xinhua

***Policemen look at a destroyed vehicle a day after a bomb attack occurred in southwestern Baghdad recently. A suicide bomber drove the car into a crowd of Shi'ite pilgrims in the Bayaa district of southwestern Baghdad, killing nine people and wounding 28, police and hospital sources said.* INTERNET**

Commons Health Select Committee hears evidence on PIP implants

LONDON, 8 Feb — About 1,000 private patients with PIP breast implants have contacted the NHS in England. The figure was given by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS Medical Director, in evidence to the Commons Health Select Committee. Last month the NHS in England said it would remove PIP implants from private patients but would not replace them. It is thought around 40,000 women in Britain have PIP implants, the vast majority of surgery being for breast augmentation performed in the private sector. Professor Keogh said 745 NHS patients with PIP implants had so far been identified but this figure may rise. Most of this surgery was reconstructive following breast cancer.

In December the French government recommended the removal of all PIP implants because of concerns about high rupture rates and doubts about their long-term safety. In January an expert committee led by Professor Keogh said there was no need for routine removal but recognised the anxiety the issue was causing women. He said there was a "significant uncertainty" about the safety of PIP implants and his committee was doing all it could to collate hard evidence; countries which had recommended the implants be removed were acting on the same information available in the UK.—*Internet*



***PIP implants were banned in 2010 as they contain unauthorised silicone filler.*— INTERNET**

Transplant jaw made by 3D printer claimed as first

LONDON, 8 Feb — A 3D printer-created lower jaw has been fitted to an 83-year-old woman's face in what doctors say is the first operation of its kind. The transplant was carried out in June in the Netherlands, but is only now being publicised. The implant was made out of titanium powder — heated and fused together by a laser, one layer at a time. Technicians say the operation's success paves the way for the use of more 3D-printed patient-specific parts. The surgery follows research carried out at the Biomedical Research Institute at Hasselt University in Belgium, and the implant was built by LayerWise — a specialised metal-parts manufacturer based in the same country.

The patient involved had developed a chronic bone infection. Doctors believed reconstructive surgery would have been risky because of her age and so opted for the new technology. The implant is a complex part—involving articulated joints, cavities to promote muscle attachment and grooves to direct the regrowth of nerves and veins. However, once designed, it only took a few hours to print."

Once we received the 3D digital design, the part was split up automatically into 2D layers and then we sent those cross sections to the printing machine," Ruben Wauthle, Layer Wise's medical applications engineer, told the *BBC*.

Internet

***A computer model of the fitted 3D-printed jaw is shown next to an image of the manufactured part.* INTERNET**

Researchers say diabetes quadruples birth defects risk

LONDON , 8 Feb — The risk of birth defects increases four-fold if the pregnant mother has diabetes, researchers say. The Newcastle University study, published in the journal *Diabetologia*, analysed data from more than 400,000 pregnancies in North East England. The risk of defects such as congenital heart disease and spina bifida were increased. National guidelines already recommend having good control over blood sugar levels before trying to conceive.

Both Type 1 diabetes, which tends to appear in childhood, and Type 2 diabetes, often linked to diet, lead to problems controlling the amount of sugar in the blood. This is known to cause problems in pregnancy, such as birth defects, miscarriage and the baby being overweight due to too much sugar. There is concern that rising levels of diabetes, particularly Type 2, could make the issue worse. Researchers analysed data from 401,149 pregnancies between 1996 and 2008—1,677 women had diabetes. The risk of birth defects went from 19 in every 1,000 births for women without pre-existing diabetes to 72 in every 1,000 births for women with diabetes. Their report said that sugar levels in the run-up to conception were the "most important" risk factor which could be controlled. The lead researcher, Dr Ruth Bell from Newcastle University, told the *BBC*: "Many of these anomalies happen in the first four to six weeks."—*Internet*

***Insulin can be used to control sugar levels during pregnancy.* INTERNET**

India aviation sector rescue plans unveiled

NEW DELHI, 8 Feb — India has set out plans to allow aviation firms to import jet fuel directly, as part of a package aimed at bolstering the ailing air industry. A ministerial panel also recommended debt restructuring for Air India and that foreign firms could take a stake of up to 49% in Indian carriers. The measures will now go to the cabinet for final approval. Five of India's six main airlines are loss-making. They have been particularly badly hit on fuel price. Analysts say the import proposal could save them up to 20% on fuel costs. Share prices in airlines soared on the news, with Kingfisher up 20%, SpiceJet 19% and Jet Airways 16.8%.

The Group of Ministers meeting, held in Delhi, was headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee. Aviation Minister Ajit Singh said that "companies will be allowed to import fuel directly for their use. This has to go to the cabinet. The Group of Ministers has approved this. We will try to see whether some kind of credit arrangement can be made."

***The aviation minister admits the sector is in a "rough patch"*— INTERNET**

The fuel move will cut the tax burden for the airlines. The carriers at present must buy from oil marketing companies and are subject to a number of levies. Mr Singh also said that Air India would be allowed to issue 74bn rupees ($1.5bn) through bonds and other means as part of a restructuring package. The cabinet must also decide on whether to allow foreign airlines to buy stakes of up to 49% in India's airlines.

Correspondents say that allowing foreign investment will bring much-needed cash for the ailing carriers. Mr Singh has admitted the aviation sector is in a "rough patch". Last week oil firms halted supplies to Air India for four hours, saying they had not been paid. Air India has been making heavy losses and its debt burden has been raising increasing concerns about its long term viability. Kingfisher Airlines recently announced significant losses and shut its budget carrier, Kingfisher Red, last year. A recent internal report also raised finance-related safety concerns over Kingfisher Airlines and Air India Express. —*Internet*

***Citibank has branches in 13 cities in China.*— INTERNET**

Citigroup wins approval to launch credit cards in China

HONG KONG, 8 Feb — The Chinese unit of Citigroup will be the first non-Asian bank to launch credit cards in China. The US-based bank announced on Monday that the move had been approved by China's banking regulator. Citibank (China) will offer credit cards to Chinese customers later this year. Citi is looking to cash in on China's increasing consumption, and had already established consumer and corporate banking businesses in the country.

"This approval represents a significant milestone in the continued expansion of Citi's business in China, a priority market for Citi," said Stephen Bird, chief executive officer for Citi Asia Pacific. Until now, Hong Kong's Bank of East Asia was the only 'foreign' bank to offer credit cards in China. Citi has offered 'co-branded' credit cards with Shanghai Pudong Development Bank (SPDB) since 2003. Citibank has branches in 13 Chinese cities.— *Internet*

Theme parks and TV channels drive Disney profits

NEW YORK, 8 Feb — Profits at Walt Disney have risen thanks to the rising popularity of its theme parks and earnings from its television channels. Disney reported profits between October and December last year of $1.46bn(£0.92bn), a rise of 12%. However revenue in its film business fell, despite the successful release of the Muppets movie in the United States. Disney's shares fell by 1.3% in after-hours trading in New York.

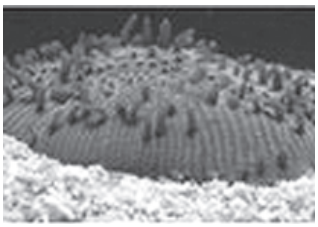
Revenue overall for the quarter rose by 1% to $10.8bn, slightly short of analysts' expectations. It was helped by higher ticket prices and attendance levels at Disney's theme parks. The company said those revenues were boosted by the opening of Toy Story Land at Hong Kong Disneyland in November. Disney's television businesses performed solidly, the company said, with cable and satellite distributors paying more to carry ESPN sports programming.

Internet

***The Muppets movie has made more money than expected for Disney.* INTERNET**

Business

Corals inflate to escape being buried alive in sand



CANBERRA, 8 Feb — Coral might appear solid and inanimate, but surprising new footage of a mushroom coral inflating itself to escape a sandy burial has brought the organizm to life. A scientist from the University of Queensland used timelapse photography to capture the footage. It was already known that the species could release itself from the sandy seabed, but it was not clear how. Since corals move so slowly, time-lapse imagery was used to find out.

Dr Pim Bongaerts captured the footage and published his findings in the journal *Coral Reef*. As sandy sediments shift on the seabed, corals need to breathe and prevent themselves from being smothered. "Sedimentation presents a major threat for corals, as they can become covered in a layer of sand from which they are unable to escape," explained Dr Bongaerts. To find out how mushroom corals — a particularly mobile family of corals — did this, the researcher brought specimens into the lab and put them in aquaria in order to film the process.

"I covered the corals in sediment and, from that moment on, started photographing them every 10 seconds for 20 hours," Dr Bongaerts said. Unlike many of the more familiar branching and "staghorn-type" corals, mushroom corals have a relatively thick layer of fleshy tissue on top of their tough calcium carbonate skeleton.

Internet

Fatal shark attacks see spike in 2011

NEW YORK, 8 Feb — The numbers are in, and 2011 continued the downward trend in shark attacks in the United States. That's the good news. The bad news: Worldwide shark-related deaths were higher than they've been in nearly two decades, according to the report released today (7 Feb). The 2011 spike in shark-attack fatalities — all of which occurred outside of the United States — suggests tourists are venturing to more remote places, said ichthyologist George Burgess, director of the University of Florida's International Shark Attack File, which released the shark-attack numbers.

"We had a number of fatalities in essentially out-of-the-way places, where there's not the same quantity and quality of medical attention readily available," Burgess, of the Florida Museum of Natural History, said in a statement. "They also don't have histories of shark attacks in these regions, so there are not contingency plans in effect like there are in places such as Florida."

The report tallied 75 global shark attacks, a number closely matching the decade average. Twenty-nine attacks occurred in the United States, with 11 of those from Florida. Other countries with multiple shark attacks included: 11 in Australia; five in South Africa; four in Reunion; three each in Mexico and Russia; and two each in the Seychelles and Brazil. As expected, surfers and others involved in board sports took the brunt of the attacks, accounting for 60 percent of unprovoked shark attacks, swimmers 35 percent and divers about 5 percent.

"It's more than coincidence that we've had this drop over this last decade," Burgess said.

Internet

File photo shows a whale shark swims in the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta. INTERNET

NASA should participate in dark matter-mapping mission

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb — NASA should contribute $20 million worth of hardware to Europe's planned Euclid dark-matter observatory, but only "in the context of a strong US commitment" to the proposed Wide-field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST), a panel of astrophysicists said. The National Research Council's Committee on the Assessment of a Plan for US Participation in Euclid was asked by NASA in November to determine whether that mission would help fulfill any of WFIRST's science objectives. The European Space Agency (ESA) wants NASA to provide near-infrared detectors for Euclid in exchange for a spot on the 12-member Euclid science team and early access to the mission's science data. ESA has said that if the United States wants to participate, a formal memorandum of understanding must be signed by mid-May. The panel said that while participating in Euclid would advance dark-matter research, identified as a key priority in the most recent decadal survey of proposed astrophysics missions, it is no substitute for WFIRST.

Internet

science

Trendnet security cam flaw exposes video feeds on net

NEW YORK, 8 Feb — Feeds from thousands of Trendnet home security cameras have been breached, allowing any web user to access live footage without needing a password.

Internet addresses which link to the video streams have been posted to a variety of popular messageboard sites. Users have expressed concern after finding they could view children's bedrooms, among other locations.

US-based Trendnet says it is in the process of releasing updates to correct a coding error introduced in 2010. It said it had emailed customers who had registered affected devices to alert them to the problem. However, a spokesman told the *BBC* that "roughly 5%" of purchasers had registered their cameras and it had not yet issued a formal media release - despite being aware of the problem for more than three weeks.

"We first became aware of this on 12 January," said Zak Wood, Trendnet's director of global marketing. "As of this week we have identified 26 [vulnerable] models. (In) seven of the models, the firmware has been tested and released. "We anticipate to have all of the revised firmware available this week. We are scrambling to discover how the code was introduced and at this point it seems like a coding oversight." Mr Wood added that the California-based firm estimated that "fewer than 1,000 units" might be open to this threat in the UK, but could not immediately provide an exact global tally beyond saying that it was "most likely less than 50,000". — *Internet*

***One user uploaded a montage of what he said were Trendnet feeds to alert the media to the problem.*— INTERNET**

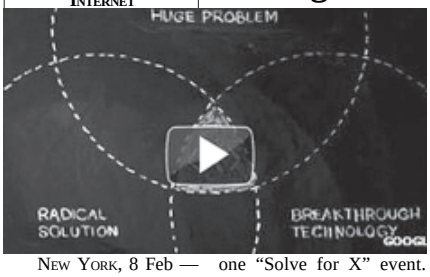
Renesas, Fujitsu, Panasonic in talks to merge system chip ops

TOKYO, 8 Feb— Renesas Electronics Corp, Fujitsu Ltd and Panasonic Corp are in talks to merge their chip operations, four sources familiar with the matter told *Reuters* on Wednesday. The three firms are considering spinning off their system chip design and development divisions, with production to be transferred to California-based Globalfoundries Inc, which is planning to set up a company in Japan, the sources said.

The government-backed investment fund Innovation Network Corp is likely to be involved in the project, according to the sources. *The Nikkei* newspaper has also reported that Elpida Memory Inc officials and Globalfoundries would meet this week to discuss a possible sale of Elpida's Hiroshima factory. Elpida said in a statement that the report on the sale of the Hiroshima plant was incorrect, but did not specify what element of the report was wrong.—*Reuters*

In an online video Google says "X" is any seemingly insurmountable problem. INTERNET

Google 'Solve for X' meetings target tech 'moonshots'



NEW YORK, 8 Feb — Solutions to the "world's greatest problems", ideas dubbed "technology moonshots", are the focus of Google's latest attention-grabbing venture. "Solve for X" meetings bring together "entrepreneurs, innovators and scientists" to crack global problems. Executive chairman Eric Schmidt has already hosted one "Solve for X" event. Google plans to hold others "a few times a year".

The plan has been compared with the annual TED and Ted Global conferences. In a blog post written by Astro Teller and Megan Smith, the search firm says: "Moonshots live in the grey area between audacious projects and pure science fiction; they are 10x improvement, not 10%. That's partly what makes them so exciting."

Google has already posted a number of Solve for X talks from its inaugural event, held last week in the Cordevalle resort in San Martin, California. Of that event, Mr Schmidt tweeted: "Last week we hosted a conference on the real ideas of the future... no longer science fiction."

Solve for X talks, Google says, are selected on the basis of being able to answer three questions: "Does it highlight a huge problem?"; "Is there a concrete solution that could make a radical impact?"; and "Does it explain breakthrough science and technology that could enable this solution?"—*Internet*

Facebook launches widescreen photo viewer similar to Google

NEW YORK, 8 Feb — Rolling out gradually to Facebook users, the social network is launching a new version of the photo viewer that allows pictures to be displayed at a significantly larger resolution than previous designs. On a typical 153 laptop, pictures display as large as 960 pixels wide and 720 pixels tall. After the user clicks on a photo, the new interface launches and covers the entire screen with the photo as well as a white space on the right side. Users can like, share or comment on the photo on the right side of the screen. In addition, Facebook is rotating out advertisements underneath the comments as well as sponsored stories.

In order to navigate through a typical Facebook album, the user hovers the mouse over the picture.

Internet

***Rolling out gradually to Facebook users, the social network is launching a new version of the photo viewer that allows pictures to be displayed at a significantly larger resolution than previous designs.*— INTERNET**

TECHNOLOGY

Obama touts plan for better math and science instruction

WASHINGTON, 8 Feb—President Barack Obama announced on Tuesday an $80 million plan to improve mathematics and science instruction in US public schools as one of his initiatives to revive the economy.

"(W)e're a nation of tinkerers and dreamers and believers in a better tomorrow," Obama said at the White House Science Fair attended by more than 100 students from all over the country. "We know that innovation has helped each generation pass down that basic American promise, which is no matter who you are, no matter where you come from, you can make it if you try," he told the students, praising them for "making sure America will win the race to the future".

Obama said he will request Congress for the $80 million when he submits his 2013 budget next week.

The plan, to be administered by the Department of Education, would provide training for 10,000 science and math teachers while boosting to 1 million the number of students graduating in the sciences, technology, mathematics and engineering in the next decade.

Praising support from the private sector, the president said the Carnegie Corporation is leading a group of businesses and foundations that has created a $22-million fund to provide added support for this teacher-training programme.

The White House organized the science fair, which included innovative projects by more than 100 public-school students to highlight the benefits won by improving the teaching of science and math.

Since he came to power in 2009, Obama has emphasized the urgency of improving mathematics and science teaching in public schools as part of his plan to springboard economic recovery. —*Internet*

President Barack Obama watches as a marshmallow is launched in a gun designed by Joey Hudy (L) of Phoenix, Arizona, in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington during the White House Science Fair.
INTERNET

Britain's Prince Charles (L) and his wife Camilla (C), Duchess of Cornwall, look at two first editions of a Charles Dickens book, as they stand with actress Gillian Anderson during a tour of the Dickens Museum in London to mark the 200th birthday of novelist Charles Dickens.—INTERNET

Pakistan gets new fighter planes from US

ISLAMABAD, 8 Feb—With an eye to India, Pakistan Monday received the last of 18 *F-16* fighter jets from the US. *Dawn* said the primary consideration for purchasing the new aircraft was to improve the fighting capability of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) vis-à-vis the Indian Air Force.

The last *F-16D Block 52* aircraft as well as the first two of the upgraded fighter jets have arrived in the country.

The fighter aircraft is equipped with state-of-the-art avionics suite and latest weapons with night precision attack capability.

"One *F-16D Block 52* and two *F-16 Block 15 MLU* (Mid Life Upgrade) aircraft arrived today from the US at PAF Base Shahbaz (Jacobabad)," PAF said in a statement.

"The arrival of last *F-16D Block 52* aircraft marked the completion of delivery of 18 aircraft of this category. The other two *F-16 Block 15* aircraft ... were earlier sent to USA for Mid Life Upgrade," it further said.

The *F-16* programme included purchase of 18 new jets, upgrade of 35 older aircraft and those purchased from the US under Excess Defence Articles (EDA) programme, and procurement of munitions. The *F-16* aircraft sale to Pakistan was announced in 2005.

WikiLeaks expose of leaked US diplomatic cables show that the deal was meant to assuage Pakistan's fears of an "existential threat it perceived from India".

The diplomatic cables suggest that the purpose of the sale was to divert Pakistan's attention from "the nuclear option", and give it "time and space to employ a conventional reaction" in the event of a conflict with India.
Internet

Florence Green, last WW1 veteran, dies

KINGS LYNN, 8 Feb—Florence Green, a veteran of the Women's Royal Air Force and the last living veteran of World War I, died at the age of 110 in an English nursing home. Green died in her sleep during the weekend, the *Norfolk Eastern Daily Press* reported.

While she became the last survivor of the millions who served in the war, Green was only identified as a veteran in 2008, the newspaper said. A gerontology researcher discovered her service records, which were under her maiden name, Patterson.

"She would never blow her own trumpet and certainly wouldn't shout about the fact she was the last veteran," June Evetts, at 76 the youngest of her three children, said. Green enlisted at the age of 17 in 1918 and worked as a waitress in the officer's mess at RAF Marham. The base, home to wooden biplanes during World War I, now houses supersonic Tornadoes, which have seen service in Afghanistan. Green said she enjoyed her work but discovered when a pilot took her up for a spin that she was afraid of flying.

In her last years, Green lived with her older daughter in Kings Lynn until moving to the nursing home just before Christmas. RAF Squadron Leader Paula Wilmott said a delegation from Marham had been planning to visit Green this Friday with a cake for her upcoming 111th birthday.
Internet

Brazil files suits against Twitter on police traps

BRASILIA, 8 Feb—The Brazilian government has filed a lawsuit against Twitter and its users in a bid to stop publication of messages alerting drivers to police speed traps and drunk-driving checkpoints. The suit was filed in a federal court in the central-west state of Goias.

Brazil has asked for the "immediate suspension of all accounts that give information about the location of police radar," the office of the Attorney General of the Union, who defence the state's interest, said in a statement. The government also wants "the definitive closure of accounts revealing the date, time and place of police checkpoints," the statement said.

Several Brazilian states have adopted strict zero-tolerance laws to tackle drunk-driving. Drivers are increasingly using social media sites such as Twitter to alert others to the location of police checkpoints. The attorney general's office said such a move constituted "a direct blow to human life and security" of Brazil's citizens. About 55,000 people die in the country each year in road accidents.

News of the lawsuit raged on Twitter, with some applauding the government's move and others criticizing it, noting that driver tweets also helped others avoid accidents and traffic bottlenecks, CBN radio reported. San Francisco-based Twitter announced last month that it could block tweets on a country-by-country basis if legally required to do so.

Twitter pledged to be transparent and said it would post details of any removal of content to Chilling-Effects.org, a public database of takedown requests. No posts relating to the Brazil case were found on Tuesday.
Internet

Italian cruise ship captain must remain under house arrest, judge rules

ROME, 8 Feb—The Italian captain of the shipwrecked cruise liner *Costa Concordia* must remain under house arrest while investigators look into possible charges against him, a court in Florence, Italy, ruled Tuesday, a defence lawyer said.

The court rejected a prosecution motion that Francesco Schettino be sent back to jail as well as a defence motion that he be set free, according to lawyer Alessandro Antichi. Schettino's other attorney, Salvatore Parascandola, called the ruling "quite positive" as it rejected the prosecution's request to send the captain back to jail.

When informed of the ruling, Schettino "maintained his serenity," Parascandola said. Attorneys will likely wait until 9 February, when the full text of the court's decision is published, to decide whether to appeal, Antichi said.

The captain faces possible charges of manslaughter, shipwreck and abandoning ship in connection with the 13 January incident. The vessel struck rocks and rolled onto its side in the waters off the Italian island of Giglio. At least 16 people died. Authorities say 16 people remain missing from the roughly 4,200 people who were aboard the ship.

The captain of the Costa Concordia cruise liner Francesco Schettino faces possible charges of manslaughter.—INTERNET

Schettino has said managers of the cruise line instructed him to sail close to the island and has denied allegations that he was sailing too fast. He has said the rock the ship struck was not indicated on his charts of the area.—*Internet*

Five missing after Japan refinery tunnel collapse

TOKYO, 8 Feb—Five workers were missing Tuesday after an undersea tunnel collapsed as it was being constructed at one of Japan's largest oil refineries, emergency services and reports said. Local media said divers were being sent to the site in Kurashiki, where firefighters confirmed to *AFP* they were dealing with an incident at the site, which lies around 550 kilometres (350 miles) west of Tokyo.

"We received a report that an accident occurred at the No 2 undersea tunnel in the port of Mizushima, involving six workers," said a spokesman for the Kurashiki City fire department. "One of the six got out but the five others are missing," he said without disclosing further details.

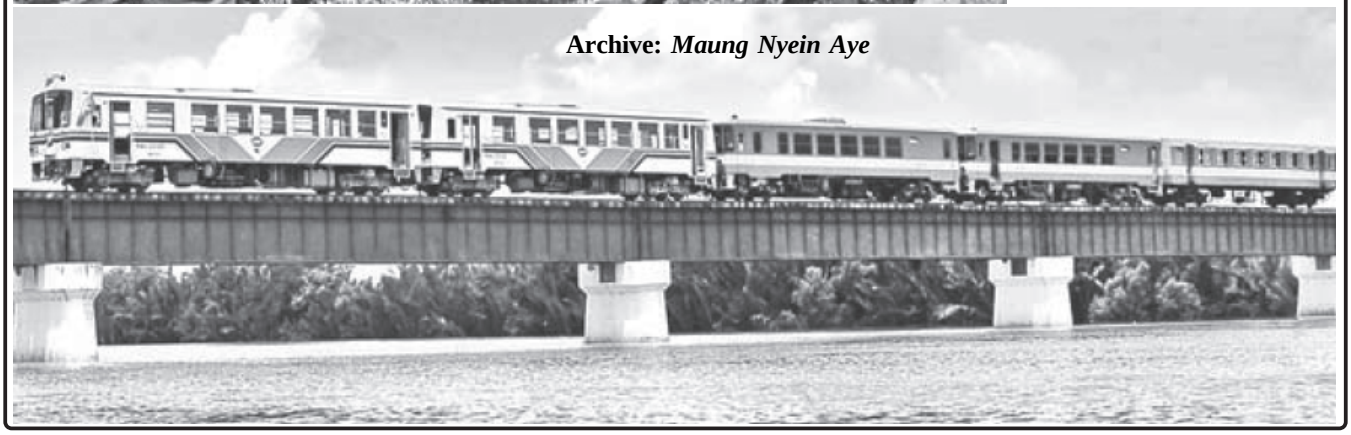
Jiji Press said the accident happened at an oil refinery operated by JX Nippon Oil and Energy Corp. *NHK* said seawater may have poured into the tunnel and police are sending divers to the accident site.—*Internet*

Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section, secondly-opened section in the time of the new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

* Construction of Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section of Dawei-Myeik railroad construction project started on 12 December 2008. Its opening was held at Dawei railway station in Dawei, Taninthayi Region on 4 June 2011.
* The 19.31 mile-long Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section of 132.5-mile-long Dawei-Myeik railroad construction project was put into service. Dawei railway station is far about three miles and two furlongs from Dawei. Dawei Port railway station was built near Dawei.
* Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section is 19.31 miles long.
* There are two over-180ft bridges and 63 under-180 ft bridges along the Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section. Along the railroad section, Port station, Nyaungzin station and Thayetchaung station are block stations and Shinmokehtee station and Thayethnagwa station, . It is a first-ever section of Dawei-Myeik railroad construction project.
* The train will run from Dawei port station to Thayetchaung station on Dawei-Thayetchaung railroad section. Dawei-Ye train will leaves from Yay station instead of Dawei Port station.
* Thanks to the opening of Yangon-Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei-Myeik road in Tanithayi Region, regions and states along the road are easily reachable by car. There exists a railroad that links Mawlamyine of Mon State to Dawei of Taninthayi Region. People can easily go to Myeik from Dawei by train.
* Upon completion of Dawei-Myeik railroad, people can easily get to the four corners of the country from Myeik to Mawlamyine of Mon State, Bago Region and Yangon by train.

Translation: MT

Archive: *Maung Nyein Aye*



Myanmar, Singaporean entrepreneurs to give talks on business 13 Feb

YANGON, 8 Feb—A 115-member delegation from 70 companies led by Chairman Mr Tony Chew of International Enterprise (IE) and Singapore Business Federation (SBF) of Singapore will meet Myanmar entrepreneurs at the UMFCCI, here, on 13 February to discuss promotion of investment and business between the two countries.

They will discuss advertisement, banking services, steel and electronic equipment, agricultural produce, oil palm and rubber cultivation, garment, foodstuff, mining, construction materials, engineering, tobacco, accounts and revenue, personal goods, cosmetics and fashion, oil and gas, chemical products, transport, communication, wood and tyre, education and hotels and tourism industries. Those wishing to join the talks are to take out registration forms from the federation in person or representative and submit them to the federation, not later than 11 February.—*MNA*

Malaysian military delegation wraps up visit

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb — The goodwill visit of the Malaysian delegation led by General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Zulkifeli bin Mohd Zin, Chief of Malaysian Defence Force ended today.

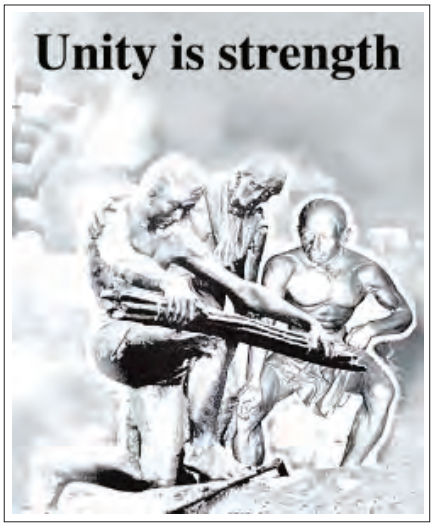
They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hsan Oo and Military Attaché of the Malaysian Embassy in Yangon Col Gan Seng Lock.

During the visit, the delegation visited the Gems Museum, the Safari and white elephants in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.—*MNA*

Hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day

Still tied to smooth the way

Hline Bwa (Parami)



I recently visited Gaw Wein Jetty while I was in Mandalay in those previous summer days. I am no stranger to Gaw Wein's evening, but its scenery could still be etched on my heart, let alone tourists'. Bamboo rafts along the river are in orderly queue, like the yellow spots on an artist's canvas. Alongside stretching sands, those who fetch water and swim, vegetable patches on the sand banks, ferry boats, motor boats and ships, the rafts form a painting of Ayeyawady's evening. Among them, some run helter-skelter as ropes that tie them are cut. Ferry boats are struggling to avoid strike of bamboos running here and there. It may be because raft builders are incompetent, negligent, imprudent to choice right materials, or hurried in making the rafts so that their own possessions are lost and the environment is thrown into disarray. Sinking in thoughts of society, I realized that breakdowns of grouping or unity are often found in our society, as of rafts, damaging one's own interests and colouring the society. Men of intelligence are cause of most damages. Also, human beings are responsible to attempt to avoid these consequences.

Iraq and Afghanistan are good examples. Debris piling around the whole country, trembling neighbourhoods and horrible casualties shown even by incomplete figures throw a light on errors of strategy. While those who introduce the strategy prepare their backpacks and wave goodbye to the countries in ashes and burnt rubbles, disintegrated peoples of the hardly recognized democracies are left in cycle of tears and grieves. It will take years to remedy the situations. The proverb, "It is never too late to mend", is not for them. It takes them forever to mend.

"OK, we have democracy. We can talk freely with no fear. We can demonstrate and vote freely. All these are available, and all were not before 2003. But why don't you ask us about the other side of the story of the U.S. presence in Iraq? Why don't you ask about their crimes, atrocities, the pain and anguish that we suffered because of their military presence here?" Hussain Ali, a student in Baghdad said.

"What democracy are you asking me about, when my basic rights as a human being are stolen?" Wael al-Khafaji, a shopkeeper who has to deal with roadside attacks and bomb blasts daily. First, they had no worry about their future. If they protested, if they attacked or if foreign troops entered, they thought they would eventually establish democracy. These are consequences of democracy which is not fundamental and suited them.

Apart from imported democracies, outcomes of Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Bahrain which build democracy through violent protests by brute force do not have many differences. Despite poetic title, Arab Spring is the spring painted in blood and is supposed to end with troubles and poverty. What resulted from it are only splits between ethnic groups.

In light of these significant examples, genuine goodwill of the former government, which help the country walk on the road to democracy in stable and peaceful manner, and of the new government, which assume the power of the country well, on the State and people is tangible. The Union is in democracy without suffering grieves as in abovementioned countries thanks to this generosity. It is a practical model of firm Union Spirit.

As our country is now building a new and developed democracy, it is bounden duty for all national races to keep prevailing national unity stronger than ever and help the Union develop. In so doing, the government is bringing about equitable development of the Union and three pillars are picking up strengths. In developing the Union, making peace and democratic processes should be carried out in accordance with national objectives.

As said by the President in his address to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30 March, 2011, negotiations with armed groups, both under and beyond law, for long-lasting peace are made in carrying out peace processes. Peace-making groups comprised of Hluttaw representatives elected by the people, Region/State ministers, Union ministers were in peace talks with respective national races organizations.

Since the government took office, five groups out of remaining national races armed groups which had yet to reach peace agreement in these days inked peace deals in Union level as they understood strides and more transparent attitude of the government for making peace with national races armed groups. It is heartily learnt that four other groups have reached state-level peace agreement and are in dialogue in Union level and peace negotiation with another group is under way. Discussion with another group is starting. Dove coos will be soon heard across the nation.

The government, international organizations, charity groups are providing humanitarian aids to those who had fled perilous situations. As genuine goodwill has been shown to national brethren, based on Union Spirit in patience, remaining groups are supposed to enter peace talks.

It is encouraging that industrial zones and special economic zones are being established for development of the regions, creating job opportunities for local people and helping them generate more income and enjoy higher living standards, as security of lives and property of the people can be guaranteed for peace is restored.

In building the modern, developed new nation and practicing democratic market economy in consistence with the constitution, the democratically-elected government has been focusing on public-desired reforms, stability and development schemes. In doing so, it has promulgated 15 laws including new laws and amendment of old ones, which are designed to facilitate democratic procedures. The government would continue to make reforms in response to the aspirations of the nation and the people. In accordance with the slogan saying "Voices of the people, voices of the parliament; wishes of the people, wishes of the parliament; Parliament is there to fulfill the wishes of the people," parliament would follow the voices of the national brethren amplified by the MPs, thereby watering and fertilizing the democracy sapling.

In line with the provision in the constitution that says every possible assistance should be given to help enhance socio-economic life of people, farmers and workers, 8-point rural development and poverty alleviation scheme has been adopted and in wide operation setting the timeframe from July, 2011 to 31 December, 2015 for development of rural regions, home to the 70 per cent of the population of the nation. The Union is constituted with 330 townships and 82 sub-townships, some of which are dominated by national races. But, the scheme is being implemented equally for all nationalities without discrimination against races. The requirements of national races whose home regions were once hardly ever communicated with the other parts of the country due to various reasons inclusive of security concern have been discussed at the parliament and widely published on the newspapers as the MPs elected by them have comprehensively and heartily presented their conditions. Now, people have understood their situation and feel sympathetic towards them. This might have been the dawn of the peace.

In the past, investments barely flew into regions of nationalities owing to weak security stemming from discords among national brethren and profit-centered economic system. However, now mega business projects like Dawei Deep Sea Port Project in Taninthayi Region and Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port Project in Rakhine State have been in the course of implementation, which would result in unprecedented economic opportunities and jobs for local nationalities that would in turn be able to overcome difficulties of working overseas as illegal workers. Moreover, the government put the people at the fore and has never been hesitant to step back from any case regardless of its potential profits if it violates the wishes of the people. And Myitsone Dam Hydropower Project in Kachin State has been the firm evidence of the government's attitude.

(See page 9)

Hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day

POEM

Bonds of amity

*** Mon, Rakhine, Shan, Kachin**
Bamar, Chin, Kayin, Kayah
A unified force they are
Nationalities of Myanmar

*** Sincere and vigorous**
Amity the core
Truthfulness ever in hearts
All along history

*** Indivisible all are**
Always in harmony
For community prosperity
Foster they patriotism

*** All with gallantry**
In this tranquil Myanmar
They all aware of
Ill effects of disunity
Soul is Panglong spirit
Progress of motherland
Always they perpetuate
The bonds of amity

Thaung Ko Ko (Trs)

Objectives of the 65th Anniversary Union Day

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

Still tied to smooth…

(from page 8)

The harmonious moves of the Union have brought about important phenomena, winning the trust of ASEAN fellow countries. ASEAN Summit held in Bali of Indonesia in November, 2011 had unanimously declared Myanmar's chairmanship of the ASEAN for 2014. Furthermore, the prolonged icy relations between Myanmar and the US and other western countries have got warmer and warmer, proven by US Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton's visit to Myanmar, the first-ever visit of a US Secretary of State to Myanmar in more than 50 years. Her visit was followed by foreign ministers of Singapore, Britain and Japan and high-ranking officials including ministers from the western countries.

Driving the Union on the path to democracy in stability and tranquility, the President had goodwill visits to the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India and the Republic of Singapore. He also paid goodwill visit to Indonesia while attending ASEAN Summit. Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Ms Sheikh Hasina and Prime Minister of Belarus Mr Mikhail Myasnikovich paid goodwill visit to Myanmar. The strength of the Union serves as a feather in the cap of the nation and its people, attracting guests of honour who in turn consolidate the strength of the Union.

The people play a very fundamental role in developing and modernizing the Union and democracy can be effectively exercised only when there is unity among national brethren plus stability of the State. When the Union gets developed by practicing democracy, the socio-economy of the national brethren will be improved. Thus, national consolidation is of pivotal importance to the Union.

Now is the time of rebuilding the Union on democratic grounds, filled with risky challenges and opportunities. It is of dire need to surmount those challenges with Union Spirit, grasping the opportunities.

The Union has been founded so strongly, which is naturally blessed with favourable conditions for prosperity and it is up to ethnic armed groups and political organizations influencing nationwide how to walk on. In fact, they should seek a common ground and focus on matters of mutual interest instead of pointing the finger at each other, arguing over bigotry. Because, the Union is ours, the entire national people but not someone or some races' land. And it is also our bounden duty to prevent our land from degradation and extinction.

The national brethren are the primary actors in modernization process of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It also needs to have strong and powerful political might, economic might and defence power, all of which base on the people. Only when all the nationalities are united and the Union is stable and peaceful, can there be political might and can democracy system be practiced effectively. Only when the Union develops by exercising democracy system, can socio-economic life of national brethren be better.

Again, public participation is instrumental in building economic might. It might need the collaborative efforts of entire national brethren across the country to exploit scattered resources and to establish agro-based industrialized nation. Intellectual and Intelligentsia of all the diverse nationalities can build the modern, developed, new nation systematically tapping natural resources.

Unity can be typically portrayed as rafts sailing across the river. If the river is seen as the global stage, some disunited nations are like disordered rafts giving troubles to the surroundings, and united and prosperous nations can be depicted as well-organized rafts sailing in calmness. The bamboos of the disordered are bound to be dragged one and another and left again in turmoil. This is totally unacceptable to the Union and should be avoided. So, nationalities of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar need to march towards modern, developed, new democratic nation, the future goal of the State, in compliance with the objectives of the 65th Anniversary Union Day, fostering the existing unity in order that Myanmar can exist alongside the world.

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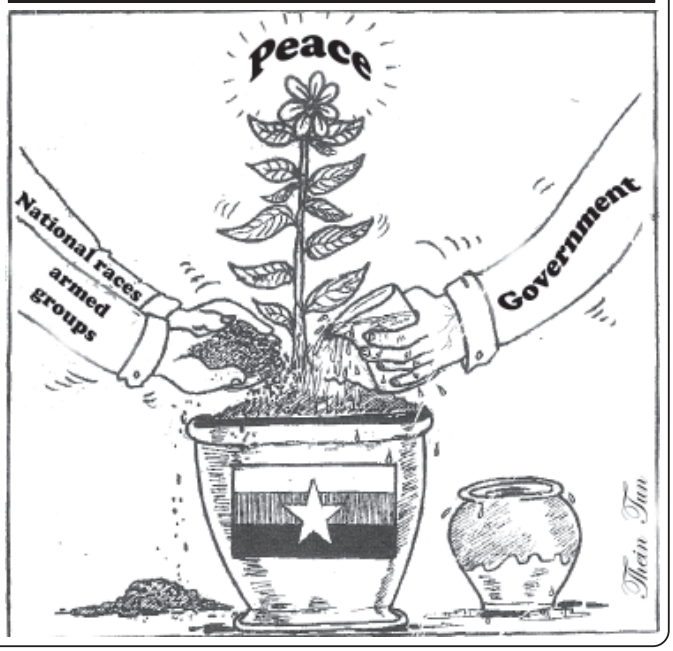
Translation: HKA+TKK

Iraq and Afghanistan are good examples. Debris piling around the whole country, trembling neighbourhoods and horrible casualties shown even by incomplete figures throw a light on errors of strategy. While those who introduce the strategy prepare their backpacks and wave goodbye to the countries in ashes and burnt rubbles, disintegrated peoples of the hardly recognized democracies are left in cycle of tears and grieves. It will take years to remedy the situations. The proverb, "It is never too late to mend", is not for them. It takes them forever to mend.

Hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day



Myanmar delegation participates in 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit

Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun discusses with Dr. R K Pachauri, Director General of the Energy and Resources Department of India.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb — A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun participated in the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from 2 to 4 February in New Delhi.

The summit was opened with an address by Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi on 2 February.

The summit was taken part by forest ministers and representatives from 29 countries, representatives from international organizations and experts.

The participants discussed environmental impacts including biodiversity loss, the climate change and degradation of land and water resources.

During the summit, Union Minister U Win Tun said that Myanmar has laid down 21st century programme, the climate change convention, biodiversity conventionand the Rio declaration as part of efforts for the boosting the economy to be in harmony with environment.

During the 20-year post-Rio period, Myanmar has been participating in the UN Climate Change Convention, the biodiversity convention, prevention of desertification convention, Vienna convention, Montreal treaty and Stockholm convention focusing control of organic pesticides, he added.

Myanmar declared the national environmental policy in 1994, Myanmar Forestry policy in 1995, the Forest Law in 1992 and wildlife, floral and Fuana and forest reserves conservation law in 1994.

As part of the UN environmental conservation programme, Myanmar, joining hands with the NGOs, is drawing the national level report and the tasks which would be in harmony with environment.

According the statistic in 2000, Myanmar released 74 tons of carbon every year while its forests absorb about 142 tons of carbon.

The Union Minister also expressed the country's hope for participation in regional and global environmental conservation programmes as the country is still facing the over population, poverty, deforestation and wrong land utilization.

During their stay in India, the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Win Tun held talks with Dr. R K Pachauri, Director General of the energy and resources department of India, over jointly conducting energy and environmental conservation courses.—*MNA*

Unity in diversity

*** We were a sovereign State for centuries,**
Unified by monarchs, living in unity.
Myanmar was deprived of her sovereignty,
After three wars with imperialist enemy.

*** Though remained under the colonial yoke,**
Rising whenever there was a chance of hope.
With whatever weapons they could lay,
Expecting the independence on the way.

*** To demonstrate the unity of the brethren,**
It was on the 12th February, 1947.
Hills and plains held a conference,
Emerged as the historic Panglong Agreement.

*** Voice of unity reverberated wide and far,**
Sparked the Union Spirit that shall endure.
Forced to haul down the Union Jack,
Saw the replacement with the Union flag.

*** Times have changed, so have priorities,**
But what has not changed is Unity.
Today sees the peace and tranquility,
National solidarity chimes in with eternity,
What we've seen is Unity in Diversity!

Maung Swe Ngae

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book.
(News on page 1)—MNA

Union Commerce Minister receives delegation of Itochu Corporation

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb — Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received a 10-member delegation led by Executive Vice President Mr Yoichi Kobayashi of Itochu Corporation at his officer here today.

During the meeting, the Union Minister called on the corporation to establish factories to produce value-added products in stead of importing agricultural products from Myanmar as Myanmar has to import around three tons of palm oils every year.

He also invited the Itochu Corporation to invest in the groundnut oil, sesame oil, and rice sector in Myanmar as the government has already removed restrictions on trading rice and edible crops and called for running joint-venture businesses which would also benefit Myanmar business entrepreneurs and the Itochu Corporation as well.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, the director-general of the Directorate of Trade, the managing director of the Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading and officials.—*MNA*

Union Education Minister receives Belarusian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Belarusian Ambassador to Vietnam Mr Valery Sadokho from Hanoi called on Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, at the Minister's office this morning. The discussion focused on cooperation in research, and sending delegation and trainees for Master Degree and Ph.D courses.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Ba Shwe, Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department, Director-General U Zaw Htay of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), Director-General Dr Soe Win of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) and officials.

MNA

Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye receives Belarusian Ambassador to Vietnam Mr Valery Sadokho from Hanoi.—MNA

Biogas of septic tanks…

(from page 16)

The sewage tank killing is very frequent but it continues to happen repeatedly out of negligence. Bio gas from the sewage tank is toxic to humans and the authorities concerned have warned to take great care in going to smelly and closed places especially into sewage tanks.

MNA

Cuban makes statues using tobacco leaves

HAVANA, 8 Feb—A Cuban sculptor uses tobacco leaves to create wonderful pieces of art, and has made life-size as well as miniature sculptures of Winston Churchill, Che Guevara, John F Kennedy, Charles Chaplin, Luciano Pavarotti and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

With his unique work, Janio Nunez Leal has pieces in many private collections around the work, the *Prensa Latina* news agency reported.

Nunez, who worked as a "torcedor" or cigar twister in many cigar factories, first took up the idea of becoming a tobacco sculptor in 1994.

His work will be on display at the 14th Habano Cigar Festival to be held 27 Feb-2 March.

Tourists wanting to know more about Cuban culture and tobacco are flocking to his recently opened studio-workshop in Boca Ciega beach in Havana.

In 2000, Nunez met Celia Sandy, granddaughter of former British prime minister Winston Churchill, who was known for his love for Cuban cigars.

Nunez then created a life-size sculpture of Churchill.

He says his sculptures are made only of tobacco leaves, using only an idea without any mold or frame.

His pieces, however, must be well preserved at 18-24 degrees Celcius and a relative humidity of 60-70 percent.

Internet

Hindu devotees offer prayers and get blessings from the Lord Murugan's chariot during a procession to mark the start of Thaipusam, an annual festival, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
INTERNET

People gather at Yuyuan Garden in China to celebrate the Lantern Festival at the end of the Lunar New Year celebrations. Traditional lanterns are displayed on the 15th day of the new year.
INTERNET

Stun gun used on woman at McDonald's

FAYETTEVILLE, 8 Feb—Sheriff's deputies used a stun gun on a woman who was holding up the drive-through line at a North Carolina McDonald's restaurant, a sheriff's spokeswoman said.

Deputies used what is called a "drive stun," not a full stun-gun hit, on Evangeline Marrero Lucca, 37, said Debbie Tanna of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office.

Lucca cut to the front of the line at the McDonald's in Fayetteville Friday afternoon and sat there for about 20 minutes before deputies arrived, *The Fayetteville Observer* reported.

"She did not want to wait in line," Tanna said. "They told her she had to go around and wait like everybody else did and place her order that way, that they weren't set up at that window to take her order or take her money. ... She wasn't having any of that." Tanna said Lucca refused to move her vehicle and got confrontational with employees. "When we arrived, she really got mad," Tanna said.

Customer Anthony Rich, who witnessed the incident, said deputies ordered Lucca out of the car but she refused. He said this continued for 20 minutes or so before officers forced Lucca out of her vehicle.

"Two or three officers entered the car with her and started trying to forcibly drag her out of the car and that's when you could hear the clicking sound of the Taser one time," Rich said. "They pulled on her a couple of times and then they Tased her again and when they Tased her the second time she just flopped out of the car like a fish." Lucca was charged with second-degree trespassing.

Social workers took custody of her 3-year-old child, who was in the car at the time of the incident, Tanna said.

"Our top priority was making sure people weren't hurt because we didn't know if she was going to drive the car off and run over somebody," Tanna said. "Then there was the baby in the car we were concerned about."—*Internet*

Tigers attack tourist bus in China

BEIJING, 8 Feb—A group of 27 visitors to a Chinese zoo had the shock of their life when their bus was attacked by enraged Bengal tigers. The trauma continued for 20 mintues since the tiger zone's gatekeeper had gone out for lunch.

According to zoo authorities in Shandong province's Capital Jinan, the incident occurred Saturday noon when around five adult tigers bit into the bus' tires and smashed the bus with their paws, breaking its windows, the *Shanghai Daily* reported.

The zoo staff learned about the incident only after they looked at the security cameras and rushed to open the gate for the tigers 20 minutes later, *Jinan Times* reported. No one was hurt in the incident.

Internet

Chinese workers clean the exterior of a McDonald's in Beijing on 19 April, 2010.
INTERNET

Man jumps off Metro overpass in China

BEIJING, 8 Feb—A man in China stunned many people on Monday when he jumped off a Metro station overpass amid rain, following a quarrel with his girlfriend, but soon got up and left the spot.

According to several witnesses, the young man quarrelled loudly with his girlfriend and suddenly leaped from the overpass linking Metro Line 4 and Line 10 at Hongqiao road station in Shanghai City, the *Shanghai Daily* reported.

He landed on the sidewalk. "It's horrible. I saw a man jumping from overhead," said a blogger on Weibo.com. People took pictures of the man and posted them online. The man was seen crouching on the sidewalk next to a fallen bike.

While confirming the incident, the Shanghai Metro operator said the man later stood up and left by himself.

Internet

George Clooney gets challenged for wrestling match

LONDON, 8 Feb—Actor George Clooney has been challenged for a wrestling match by Muppet character Miss Piggy at the British Academy of Film and Telivision Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2012.

The outspoken puppet star of the movie "The Muppets" is the official red carpet host of the film awards, and is looking forward to the possibility of meeting "The Descendants" star, who is dating former WWE wrestler Stacey Kleiber. "I don't wrestle girlfriends. However, if George wants to wrestle, bring it on! Best two out of three falls? Winner gets a dinner?" contactmusic.com quoted Miss Piggy as saying.

The BAFTA Awards will take place at the Royal Opera House on 12 February.

Internet

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II (C) visits Dersingham Infant and Nursery School in Dersingham, Norfolk, to mark the start of her diamond jubilee celebrations.
INTERNET

Learning many languages 'no problem for infants'

SINGAPORE, 8 Feb—A child's language learning ability is not hindered even if he or she is taught multiple languages, according to a landmark study.

The study of 100 infants, aged between 18 and 30 months, found they could coordinate different sets of rules when learning different languages.

The infants were taught a new word using a video display, and then an element, for example, the tone, would be changed. Researchers would track the children's eye movements to see if they thought the meaning of the word had changed.

Associate Professor Leher Singh from the National University of Singapore's Department of Psychology found that children aged 18 months could differentiate words using vowels and tones in the languages that they are learning, and it did not matter if they were monolingual English learners or English-Mandarin bilinguals.

When children reached the age of 24 months, English learners were able to identify that a vowel change means a change in meaning for English words.

English-Mandarin learners, meanwhile, were able to consider both vowel and tone changes when identifying that there was a change to the meaning of Mandarin words.

She also found that children aged 30 months were able to translate between English and Mandarin but could only do so from the language that they were dominant into the non-dominant language.

For example, if an infant learns 60 percent English and 40 percent Mandarin, the child can translate rapidly from English to Mandarin but not vice versa.

The landmark study did not come without its own challenges. "When working with children ... you are not sure if you caught the child in a bad or uncooperative mood," said Assoc Prof Singh.

Her team is looking to study this area further and are recruiting about 200 children between the ages of two to four. Parents can contact Ms Calista Chan at psycjc@nus.edu.sg.—*Internet*

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Srl No	Tender No	Description	Quantity
1.	12(T)25/MR(ML) 2011-2012	Rolled Steel for Diesel Electric Locomotive Tyre(Rough Turn)	360 Nos
		Wheel Monoblock Rolled Steel (Rough)	60 Nos

Closing date & time - 9.3.2012 (Friday) (12:00) Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 13.2.2012 during office hours and for further details, please contact: Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon.
Phone: 95-1-291994, 95-1-291985

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (96)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (96) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MINDORO VOY NO (120)

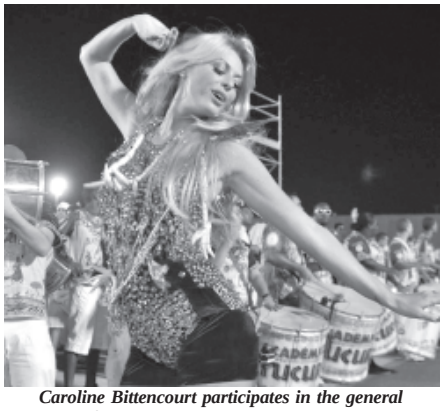
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MINDORO VOY NO (120) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD JAPAN

Phone No: 256924/256914



***Caroline Bittencourt participates in the general rehearsal of the samba school prior to the 2012 Carnival at the Anhembi Sambodromo in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 5 Feb, 2012.—*XINHUA**

TRADEMARK CAUTION NOTICE

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(For. Patrick Mirandah Co. (S) Pte Ltd, Singapore)
Dated 09 February,2012.

Bankruptcies soar in Spain

MADRID, 8 Feb —The number of Spanish firms and individuals declaring bankruptcy rose 13.3 percent last year to 6,755, the highest total since the country's bankruptcy law took effect in 2004, officials said Tuesday.

One in every three companies that went bankrupt in 2011 was in the construction or property business, according to a report from the National Statistics Institute.

Bankruptcies in Spain declined by 7.2 percent in 2010 after skyrocketing 80 percent the previous year as the economic crisis deepened.

More than 5,800 firms filed for bankruptcy last year, an increase of 16.7 percent over 2010, while individual bankruptcies dipped 3.9 percent to 934.

The 2008 global financial meltdown came as Spain was struggling to contain the damage from the bursting of a decade-long real estate bubble. The ensuing slump has led to numerous business failures and pushed the country's jobless rate to nearly 23 percent, representing 5.2 million people out of work.

Internet

Ministry of Information
Invitation for open tender of Printing and Publishing Enterprise to purchase Duplex Board (Local)

1. Duplex Board (Local) will be purchased for Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information-
   (a) Duplex (32"x40") 180 Gsm - 2000 packets
   (b) Duplex (32"x46") 180 Gsm - 2000 packets
2. Application forms of open tenders may be taken out from Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr from (8-2-2012) to (14-2-2012) during the office days.
3. The open tenders are to be submitted to Office No.7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, in the presence of the members of the tender committee from 13:00 hr to 14:00hr on (15-2-2012). The tenders, later than the designated date, will not be considered.
4. For the application forms of open tender and detailed information, may contact the following address.

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Office No. (7), Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 412327, 412323

Japan International Cooperation System

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has signed the Exchange of Notes with the Government of Japan on December 04, 2009 and the Grant Agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency on December 23, 2009 concerning the Japan's Grant Aid for the Project for Construction of Primary School-cum-Cyclone Shelter.
Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) acts as the procurement agent for and on behalf of the Department of Basic Education No. 1, the Ministry of Education for procuring products and services under this grant. JICS now invites the Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction of eleven (11) primary school-cum-cyclone shelters in Labutta and Bogale Townships in Ayeyawady Region. Further information is available on JICS's website (http://www.jics.or.jp/jics_html-e/index.html).

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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in respect of "Pharmaceutical products".

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **AVENTIS PHARMA S.A.**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 9 February 2012

British teachers want toilet-trained pupils

LONDON, 8 Feb —Many teachers in Britain are fretting and frowning to notice how parents are sending their kids to schools even without toilet-training.

Teachers have reported a huge rise in primary pupils wetting themselves in class as they are unable to use the loo, the *Sun* reported.

A whopping 62 percent of the staff noticed more toilet "accidents" in junior classes in the last five years, according to a survey.

This statistics rose to 71 percent among those working with three to five-year-olds. One disgruntled teacher said: "Parents do not spend the time toilet-training their children - they feel it is the school's job."

Internet

***Students take cover under their desks during an earthquake drill at the Baclaran Elementary School Unit-1 in Paranaque city, metro Manila on 7 Feb, 2012. The drill aims to help students and school staff learn how to react properly during high-intensity earthquakes. A magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck the central Philippine island of Negros on Monday, triggering landslides that toppled houses.—*INTERNET**

LA mom left baby with homeless couple

LOS ANGELES, 8 Feb — A Los Angeles woman was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly leaving her 6-month-old baby with a homeless couple, police said.

The woman, whose name was not reported, left the baby with the couple Monday night, a woman who identified herself as Kass told KTLA-TV, Los Angeles.

"I was just sleeping in my tent with my boyfriend, you know, and then we got woken up by a lady just shaking our tent and trying to unzip it," Kass said.

She said the woman came into the tent, "sat down and started yelling, 'They're after me! They're after me! The cops are after me!'"

The woman allegedly asked the couple to watch her child while she went to find a bottle, but after an hour the couple called the police.

The couple told police the baby was shaking, had a soiled diaper and would not stop crying. Police arrested the woman and her boyfriend when they returned to the tent for the baby — the woman was charged with child endangerment.

Kass told KTLA-TV she believes the woman and her boyfriend live on the streets with the baby. The baby was placed in custody of Child Protective Services.—*Internet*

Cute cats and dogs do yoga postures

This series of cute cats and dogs yoga photo were shot by Dan Borris. These pictures not only look cute, but also express the real yoga passion of yoga enthusiasts. You must be very curious about where these cats and dogs come from? They are borrowed from the Animal Defence League, Dan Borris said: want to become a yoga master, must take time and perseverance for many years to gain experience, but the miracle is that these cats and dogs in just sixteen weeks!

Germany hunts out deer calling champion

Hunting enthusiasts grunted, bawled and bellowed in the battle to be named Germany's champion deer caller.

The 18 men and one woman used sea shells, ox horns and hollow plant stems to perfect their deer calls on Friday.

This year's winner, Tasso Wolzenburg, said he was impressed with the competition.

"Even if I were a real deer, I'd still have been amazed at today," he said.

Competitors were scored on their ability to imitate red deer calls during the breeding season in three different categories: a young deer, a dominant rutting buck, and an older deer.

The skill is part of a centuries-old tradition in Germany, and is used by hunters to lure the deer out of the forest and away from any rival hunters' guns.

The top three finalists in the German championship automatically secure their place to compete in the European championship.

Toilet-loving boy, 4, gets free commode

A Wisconsin 4-year-old fascinated by toilets is the star of a video produced by fixture-maker Kohler that has more than 100,000 hits on YouTube. Dustin Kruse of New Berlin, who first started showing an interest in toilets when he was only 18-months-old, came to the attention of Kohler when he visited the company's Design Centre in the city of the same name with parents Jim and Michele Kruse and his mother later sent the company a letter asking about a possible demo model of the boy's favourite toilet, a $380 dual-flush toilet, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported on Monday.

The company decided instead to send the family a free toilet with a company plumber to ensure it was properly installed. The company filmed Dustin during a recent return to the Design Center, where dozens of different toilets are on display, and created a YouTube video that has gained more than 100,000 views.

Man, firefighter trapped in elevator

Authorities in Chicago said a man trapped in an elevator was rescued by a firefighter, but the pair soon became stuck in a second elevator.

Fire officials said firefighters responded to the Park Monroe Condominiums around 9:15 pm on Sunday on a report of a man stuck in an elevator between the 21st and 22nd floors, the *Chicago Tribune* reported on Monday.

The officials said a firefighter went up an elevator in an adjoining shaft and used the ceiling hatches to bring the trapped man to the second elevator. However, that elevator then became stuck and the men were rescued by firefighters in a third elevator.

The cause of the malfunction was not immediately determined, fire officials said. No injuries were reported.

News Album

Angelina Jolie's still a bad girl, says beau Brad Pitt

LONDON, 8 Feb—Brad Pitt has revealed that partner Angelina Jolie still possesses a naughty side, which is reserved only for him.

The 36-year-old actress once lived what she described as a 'dangerous' life and was well-known for her dark and provocative nature.

But eventually the heavily tattooed star changed her wild image into that of a doting mother and humanitarian.

Lifestyle Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

"She's still a bad girl," the *Daily Mail* quoted Pitt as telling on CBS 'This Morning.'

"Delightfully so. It's not for public consumption," he added. Jolie had once infamously wore then-husband Billy Bob Thornton's blood in a vial around her neck.

The Oscar winning actress also gave brother James Haven a passionate kiss on the lips at the 2000 Academy Awards and has spoken publicly about bisexual trysts.

However, the 'Lara Croft' actress had earlier revealed in an interview with 60 Minutes that her inner bad girl now 'belongs to Brad.'

Internet

Timberlake marks 31st birthday in Canada

FERNIE, 8 Feb— American pop star and actor Justin Timberlake celebrated his 31st birthday enjoying winter sports at a resort in British Columbia, *Postmedia News* said.

Timberlake, an avid snowboarder, spent the weekend in Fernie, checking out a resort specializing in high alpine skiing accessible only by snowmobile, the report said.

"One of our employees had quite the interesting experience," Commit Snow & Skate owner Adam Laurin told the newspaper about how Timberlake popped in to buy ski equipment. "It was one of those 'no way, no way, that's not him' moments."

"He was cat-skiing," an unidentified Fernie resident and ski shop employee said. "They take you up into different areas and drop you off, no chairlift, no tracks, and you get to make clean lines. ... There was a lot of talk in town. Lots of word of mouth. A lot of people had heard about it or knew about it."—*Internet*

Friends say Pippa's unattached

LONDON, 8 Feb— Friends of Pippa Middleton say the British socialite is not dating longtime friend George Percy as media reports claimed last week.

Middleton, 28, became a celebrity after her sister Kate married England's Prince William last April. Percy, 27, is the future duke of Northumberland.

The pair have known each other since both were students at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Although some British tabloids said last week they started dating this month, two of their friends and a source close to Percy's family are shooting down the romance reports.

"They have always just been friends," a source told Us Weekly. "I don't know how this particular rumor got so out of control! ... Both of them say they are friends and I've not heard or seen anything to suggest otherwise."

"I couldn't imagine them together," a second insider said. "Their friendship is more like brother and sister."

"I wouldn't follow this gossip!" a source close to the Percy family told the magazine.—*Internet*

***Kate Middleton is escorted into Westminster Abbey for her wedding to Prince William by her father Michael, as her maid of honor Philippa Middleton holds her gown, in London on 29 April, 2011.*—INTERNET**

Horror film 'Excision' to get 2012 release

BEVERLY HILLS, 8 Feb— Anchor Bay Films says it has acquired the North American distribution rights to "Excision," a horror movie starring AnnaLynne McCord.

The debut feature of director-writer Richard Bates Jr also features performances by Traci Lords, Ariel Winter, Roger Bart, Jeremy Sumpter, Malcolm McDowell, Matthew Gray Gubler, Marlee Matlin, Ray Wise and John Waters.

The movie had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival last month.

"We are pleased to be adding 'Excision' to our slate this year," Kevin Kasha, executive vice president of acquisitions and co-productions for Anchor Bay Films, said in a statement. "It has an amazing cast and we know Anchor Bay fans will love it."

"I have been influenced my entire life by the films which Anchor Bay has brought to audiences. I could not be more excited that they have chosen to take my film out in North America," said Bates.—*Internet*

***AnnaLynne McCord attends the CBS, CW, CBS Television Studios and Showtime Television Critics Association party in San Marino, California on 3 Aug, 2009.*—INTERNET**

Bidding for 'Godfather' script tops $7K

LAS VEGAS, 8 Feb— Bidding is up to $7,500 for the charity auction of a screenplay of "The Godfather" autographed by one of the classic Hollywood film's producers.

The Las Vegas Sun said the price is being driven up by the fact Diane Hutton turned down a $500 offer to sell it on TV's "Pawn Stars" because she felt it was worth more.

The proceeds from the sale are to go to Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, the organization for which Hutton works.

The script will be sold after the bidding ends on Thursday during the charity's Heart of Hope Award luncheon at the Mirage hotel in Las Vegas, the newspaper said.

"Who would have thought that teaching a warehouse worker about what to look for in discarded books would have led to a $7,500 auction bid?" Hutton told the *Sun*. "I'm grateful that 'Pawn Stars' got the ball rolling on this — and for our supporters who have really stepped up."—*Internet*

***Actors Robert Duvall and James Caan (right) who starred in the first Godfather movie appear at a 2/10/05 promotional event in New York for EA Games which is producing "The Godfather" video game for release in mid 2005.*—INTERNET**

Federer recalls emotional 2001 Davis Cup win vs US

FRIBOURG, 8 Feb — Roger Federer hopes to recapture the emotion of Switzerland's 2001 Davis Cup victory against the United States when they meet again in the first round this weekend. Federer recalled the Swiss win on Tuesday, when as a 19-year-old he won three matches for a 3-2 victory in his home city of Basel. "I think it was my first emotional outburst on a tennis court because I was so exhausted on Sunday after winning singles, doubles and singles," Federer said.

Federer said that performance, against a US team led by Todd Martin, "definitely got me in winning ways." Months later at Wimbledon, he beat four-time defending champion Pete Sampras in the fourth round. "It was a start of great things for me and I'm happy playing America again," said the 30-year-old Federer, who will line up in singles on Friday with Stanislas Wawrinka against Mardy Fish and John Isner. Federer owns a record 16 Grand Slam singles titles, but he hasn't won the Davis Cup trophy.

Federer's skipped the first round of the Davis Cup since 2004, and changed his preparations to play Davis Cup this year. He hasn't played on clay so early in the season since 2004 in Romania, and it's been seven years since he played in Europe in February.

Internet

Swiss Davis Cup tennis player Roger Federer, right, talks with Swiss Davis Cup team captain Severin Luethi, left, during a training session in the Forum Arena in Fribourg, Switzerland, on 6 Feb, 2012. Switzerland faces US the World Group first round.— INTERNET

Martinez: Wigan ready for survival battle

Latics boss says spirit in the camp is strong ahead of vital run of matches

LONDON, 8 Feb — Wigan manager Roberto Martinez says he has great confidence in his side as they face up to a crucial stage in their fight to avoid relegation from the Barclays Premier League. The Latics are currently at the foot of the table, but only five points separate the bottom five sides and Martinez said the spirit was good in the camp. Wigan ended a run of four straight League defeats against Everton at the weekend— and were only denied victory by a late Victor Anichebe header.

"I wasn't happy with the last two performances [at Tottenham and QPR], I thought the situation we are in really affected us – but that wasn't the case on Saturday," he said. "I saw a free team, a group of players who really enjoyed getting on the ball and working for each other and that really pleased me and gives me great confidence to look forward to the end of the season. "We've been in this situation before, we know it's going to be extremely difficult, but you look at the crowd and they're right behind the team. We are a strong unit and that's the challenge we've got ahead."

Latics defender Emmerson Boyce agreed that the Wigan fans could prove vital as the team looks to get out of trouble. "We need them more than ever now to stay behind us and get us through some tough challenges," he told Wigan's official website.

Internet

Wigan battled to a draw against Everton in the League at the weekend.— INTERNET

Dereck Chisora can beat Vitali Klitschko, says Lennox Lewis

LONDON, 8 Feb — Former world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis thinks unfancied Brit Dereck Chisora has the power to shock Vitali Klitschko later this month. Klitschko chose to meet 28-year-old Chisora, instead of another Londoner David Haye, in the defence of his WBC heavyweight title on 18 February. The 40-year-old Ukrainian was last defeated nine years ago by Lewis. "Vitali is very good but Chisora has a chance. All it takes is one punch on the chin to win," said Lewis.

Chisora has lost his last two title fights after defeat by Tyson Fury in their battle for the British and Commonwealth belts and a controversial points loss against Robert Helenius in December. But the Zimbabwe-born fighter insists he can bounce back in style by knocking out Klitschko in Munich. Lewis stopped Klitschko in the sixth round of their 2003 bout in Los Angeles to retain his WBC and IBO crowns before retiring from the sport. And he believes Chisora has the punching power to cause a big upset.

"I always say if you walk into the ring, you have to get wet," said the 46-year-old. "If he [Klitschko] is in the fight, in the ring, and he gets punched, there is a chance that he might get hurt or knocked out. "It will be an interesting fight." Chisora, whose two scheduled fights against Klitschko's younger brother Wladimir were cancelled, won the race to face Vitali ahead of compatriot Haye.

Internet

Pettersen chases Tseng in Australia

MELBOURNE, 8 Feb — Suzann Pettersen of Norway opens the LPGA season on Thursday with her sights set on the formidable task of overtaking top-ranked Yani Tseng. And she knows it might take more than one season to get there.

Pettersen and Tseng tee off in the Women's Australian Open with a strong field at Royal Melbourne Golf Club including world No 4 Christie Kerr, No 7 Jiyai Shin, No 9 Stacy Lewis, No 10 Brittany Lincicome and Australia's former world No 1 and four-time champion Karrie Webb.

Pettersen, who has been No2 to Annika Sorenstam, Lorena Ochoa and now Tseng, says she has what it takes to assume the top ranking. "It's always been a dream of mine," she said. "And I definitely think my game is there. "Yani's got a great head start over all of us and it's probably going to take more than a season to catch up with her."

Tseng has shown off her new, more powerful swing at Royal Melbourne, honing the tweaks to her technique as she familiarized herself with the sandbelt course.

Tseng started 2011 with a title at the Women's Australian Open and went on to win a total of 12 tournaments, including two majors and seven on the LPGA Tour to finish a long way clear atop the rankings.

Internet

Suzann Pettersen of Norway

Kimi Raikkonen sets fastest pre-season testing time on F1 return

JEREZ, 8 Feb — Kimi Raikkonen set the fastest time on the first day of pre-season testing, his first day of running with other drivers since his return to Formula 1. The Finn, who is driving for Lotus this season, headed the new Force India car driven by Paul di Resta as the teams tested their vehicles in Jerez, Spain. All the teams are running 2012 cars apart from Mercedes and HRT. Marussia, formerly Virgin, are not taking part. Red Bull, McLaren and Ferrari all had low-key first days. "It was a positive day," said Raikkonen. "The lap times don't matter today. I'm happy with the balance of the car, which feels good, and the fact that we didn't have any major issues. "Also, I did more than a race distance today and did not have any physical problems at all, which is good." After a slow start following the late arrival of some parts, Red Bull's Mark Webber began to set ominously quick times. The Australian, whose team have won the drivers' and constructors' titles for the last two years, eventually finished fourth fastest, 0.826secs off Raikkonen's pace.

Webber said: "It's very early days but so far, so good. We had some late parts because of the fog at the airport but we made a reasonable recovery.

Internet

Kimi Raikkonen

International Sports

Woods offers solution against long putters

PEBBLE BEACH, 8 Feb — Tiger Woods has a solution to long putters — make them no longer than the shortest club in the bag. Woods said Tuesday at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am he has "never been a fan" of long putters that players either anchor into their belly or the broom-style putters that are pressed against the chest."I believe it's the art of controlling the body and club and swinging the pendulum motion," Woods said. "I believe that's how it should be played. I'm a traditionalist when it comes to that."

Woods said he has spoken to Royal & Ancient chief executive Peter Dawson the last several years about how the language could be written in the Rules of Golf that effectively would ban such putters. "My idea was to have it so that the putter would be equal to or less than the shortest club in your bag," Woods said. "And I think with that, we'd be able to get away from any type of belly anchoring."—*Internet*

Tiger Woods talks to reporters during a news conference at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament in Pebble Beach, Calif, on Tuesday.— INTERNET

Mark Cavendish claims first Team Sky win at Tour of Qatar

DOHA, 8 Feb — Britain's world road race champion Mark Cavendish recorded his first victory as a Team Sky rider on stage three of the Tour of Qatar. Cavendish, making his Team Sky debut, outsprinted Belgian race leader Tom Boonen at the end of the 146.5km stage from Dukhan to Al Gharafa Stadium. The 26-year-old, who was taken ill before the Tour, admitted: "I'm not 100% fit but we wanted to ride well "Hopefully I can get on a roll now and win some things." Cavendish was in a lead group of around 30 riders when crosswinds split the peloton into three groups 30km from the finish. But he was helped in the leading bunch by team-mates Bernhard Eisel and Juan Antonio Flecha before timing his finish to perfection.

"I was well looked after by Bernie and Flecha, keeping me in position," said Cavendish. "I wanted to come off Boonen's wheel but then [Aidis] Kruopis from GreenEDGE came over on the right and boxed me in. I had to swing out and I wanted to wait for the headwind finish so left it late and came past Boonen."

Internet

DISTRICT NEWS

Village electricity supply discussed

PINLAUNG, 8 Feb—The meeting on supply of electricity was held in Lonbyin, Leinnya and Nantok village-tracts of Pinlaung Township on 18 January.

Local authorities explained supply of electricity to the villages and assistance of the departments concerned and replied to queries.

The meeting formed the village power supply committee for 17 villages of three village-tracts.

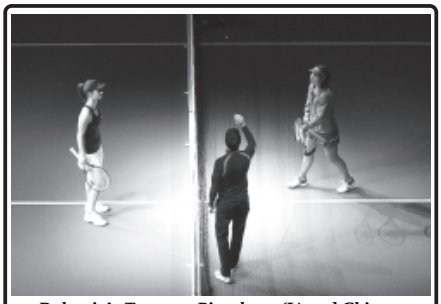
Township IPRD

Fire fighting practised

YANGON, 8 Feb—No. 1 Saw Mill of Myanma Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry held fire drill at its compound in Kyimyinedine Township on 24 January.

Head of Kyimyindine Township Fire Services Department U Than Htet Aung explained fire fighting.

Members of Township Fire Brigade and Factory Fire Brigade practised fire drill.—*Myanma Alin*



Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova (L) and Chinese opponent Li Na look at a referee tossing a coin prior to the start of their first round match on 7 Feb, 2012 at Pierre de Coubertin stadium in Paris, during the Paris' WTA tennis tournament. French Open champion Li Na of China was forced to quit her first-round match at the WTA Paris Indoor Open on Tuesday because of injuries.— XINHUA

Mitsubishi offers Dutch car plant for one euro

AMSTERDAM , 8 Feb — A Mitsubishi Motors boss has offered to sell its Dutch factory for one euro, a day after the Japanese car-maker said it was halting production there. As 1,000 workers blocked entrances to the plant, unions reportedly called a strike on Friday against the closure. Union leaders say shutting the plant would be a "disaster" for the southern Netherlands.

Mitsubishi has blamed the difficult operating environment in Europe for its decision. The Nedcar plant in the south-eastern province of Limburg currently employs 1,500 workers, producing Colts and Outlanders. Under Tuesday's offer, announced by Mitsubishi Motors President Osamu Masuko according to a spokesman, the plant would be sold for a euro "if the payroll of about 1,500 factory workers can be maintained".

The BBC's Netherlands correspondent Anna Holligan says that as things stand the factory is due to close down at the end of this year. The workers decided to go on strike to show they were not prepared to accept the decision "like lambs to the slaughter", Dutch broadcaster Nos reported. But it added that the unions wanted to find a suitable buyer for the plant.— *Internet*

The closure of the factory is planned for the end of this year, as things stand.— INTERNET

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(9-2-12 09:30 am ~ 10-2-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

* News
* A New Nation With New Strength (Significant Event)
* News
* Taking an Oath for Life
* News
* Memorable Trip of Delegates from GMS Tourism Meeting (Part- II)
* News
* Beautiful Myanma Silver Bowl
* News
* Shwe Settaw (Minbu)
* News
* Music Gallery
* News
* "SAHAJA YOGA" Experience the Joy and Peace of Self-realization
* News
* Me N My Travel "Market of Pyay City Development Committee"
* Myanmar Movies ''Pure Love''

MYANMAR TV

(9-2-2012) (Thursday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw - Uppatahandi Paritta

7:30 am
2. Morning News

7:50 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am
4. Health programme

8:10 am
5. Documentary

8:30 am
6. 65th Anniversary Union Day Programme

4:00 pm
7. Martial Song

4:10 pm
8. Musical Programme

4:20 pm
9. 65th Anniversary Union Day Programme

4:30 pm
10. 2012 University Entrace Examination (Myanmar)

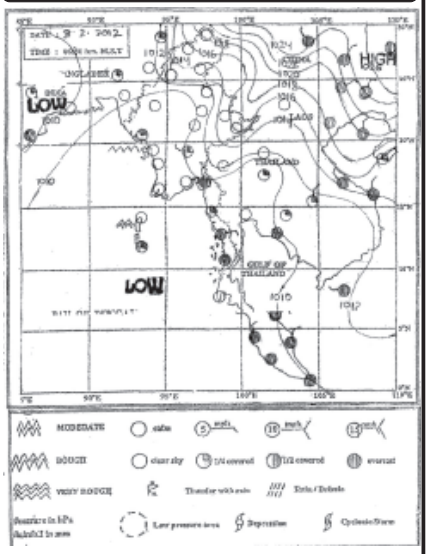
5:20 pm
11. Science and Environment

5:40 pm
12. Teleplay

7:40 pm
13. Union Day Programme

8:00 pm
14. News
15. Documentary
16. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 9th February, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F) Maximum	Minimum	For Tomorrow Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	28/82	12/54	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	32/90	10/50	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	36/97	19/66	Generally fair weather	
4	Chin	22/72	06/43	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	28/82	14/57	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	35/95	15/59	Generally fair weather	
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	19/66	Partly Cloudy	
8	Bago	34/93	20/68	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	36/97	17/63	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	33/91	15/59	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	36/97	19/66	Partly Cloudy	
12	Yangon	36/97	18/64	Generally fair weather	
13	Rakhine	33/91	17/63	Partly Cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	28/82	09/48	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	29/84	05/41	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	30/86	13/55	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	35/95	19/66	Generally fair weather	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	36/97	15/59	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	36/97	18/64	Generally fair weather	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	33/91	15/59	Generally fair weather	
Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today		During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Tanintharyi Region, Kachin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) below February average temperatures in Northern Shan and Kayin States, (3°C) above February average temperatures in Magway and Bago Regions, Rakhine State and about February average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan (2°C), Lashio and Heho (3°C) each.			
Bay Inference		Weather is partly cloudy in the Southwest and West Central Bay and generally fair in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.			
State of the Sea		Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.			
Outlook for subsequent two days		Generally fair weather in the Whole Myanmar areas.			

'Oldest living twins' aged 102 in Aberdeenshire

LONDON , 8 Feb — Two 102-year-old sisters who live in Aberdeenshire have been recognised as the world's oldest living twins by the Guinness World Records.

Edith Ritchie and Evelyn "Evie" Middleton were born in 1909 and reached their latest milestone in November last year.

The twins, whose maiden name is Rennie, live together in Bonnyton House care home in Ellon.

Neither of them has ever travelled outside of the UK. Although not identical, their mother would dress the girls in the same clothes. After leaving school the pair worked on farms before starting their own families. Evelyn married William Middleton and had four children, 12 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Edith married Nathaniel Ritchie and had four children, nine grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. When asked her secret to a long life, Edith said: "Simple living, hard work and a good husband."

Guinness World Records editor-in-chief Craig Glenday said: "Edith and Evelyn are a remarkable pair.

"When they were born the likes of Mark Twain and Florence Nightingale were still alive and we had yet to conquer the South Pole."

They're not just the oldest in the UK, they hold the world title. They've clearly benefited from good genes and a solid lifelong friendship that only twins can truly understand."

Internet

The twins who live in Ellon turned 102 in November last year.
INTERNET

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PL won't scrap handshakes

Pre-match ritual set to go ahead at Old Trafford

LONDON, 8 Feb—The Premier League has no plans to cancel the pre-match handshakes ahead of Manchester United's clash with Liverpool on Saturday, when Patrice Evra and Luis Suarez are likely to come face to face again.

It is understood the handshakes will take place as planned at Old Trafford as the Premier League believes cancelling them would negate the point of having the tradition in the first place.

Saturday's match will be the second encounter between Liverpool and United since Reds forward Suarez was banned for eight matches for racially abusing United's Evra last year.

The Uruguayan was suspended for last month's FA Cup tie between the two sides at Anfield, which Liverpool won 2-1.

Suarez's ban has now expired and he returned to action in Monday's league match against Tottenham.

Last month, the Football Association elected to cancel the handshakes between QPR and Chelsea ahead of their FA Cup clash in an effort to ease tensions due to John Terry's charge of racially abusing Rs defender Anton Ferdinand, an allegation the Chelsea captain denies.

Internet

Murray - I will win a Slam

World number four looking forward to the rest of the season

LONDON, 8 Feb—Andy Murray is adamant that he will win a Grand Slam despite his history of near-misses.

The Scot lost in the semi-finals at the Australian Open - his fourth successive last four defeat in Slams - and has also lost three finals.

But he came away from Melbourne feeling "much more positive" about his game despite failing to reach the final.

The British number one lost to eventual winner Novak Djokovic in a five-hour match.

Despite the defeat, the 24-year-old said it was a "huge turnaround" from the previous year when he lost the final in straight sets.

Murray, who is ranked number four in the world, was speaking during an event at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

He said: "It was a long, long match. One of the longest I have ever played on the tour and probably one of the highest standards as well."—*Internet*

Suriname forest reveals 46 new species

PARAMARIBO, 8 Feb—A "cowboy frog" and a "crayola katydid" are among 46 new species that have been discovered in the dense forests of the tiny South American nation of Suriname, scientists said Wednesday.

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

The findings were made by an expedition of international scientists, indigenous people and university students as part of a three-week river expedition organized by Conservation International. The journey took them along the Koetari and Sipaliwini rivers, where they also found intriguing new rock carvings, or petroglyphs, along the border with southern neighbour Brazil.

"As a scientist it's exciting to do research in such remote areas where countless new discoveries await you," said Trond Larsen, director of the Rapid Assessment Programme survey for Conservation International. The petroglyphs were found on caves near the Trio village of Kwamalasamutu, a site that Conservation Inter-national is helping local communities preserve as an ecotourism destination.

Internet

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

Significant night temperature (8-2-2012)

Namhsan	**(2°C)**
Lashio	**(3°C)**
Heho	**(3°C)**

Biogas of septic tanks toxic to humans

Four killed by septic tank gas in Pwintbyu Township

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—Four people were killed while draining the sewage water out of septic tank in Lema Village, Mezali Village-tract in Pwintbyu Township of Magway Region.

On 7 February afternoon, U Tin Ngwe, 46, together with five companions went down into the septic tank which has been in service for about ten years. They felt faint from gas and strong smell of the tank and lost consciousness due to the lack of oxygen. The villagers of the neighbourhood rescued them out of the tank and rushed them to Pwintbyu Township Hospital. On the way, U Maung Win died around 4.45 pm and host U Tin Ngwe, Chan Nyein Htay and Kyaw Myaing followed U Maung Win around 5.30 pm while receiving treatment at the hospital. The remaining two, Aung Ko and Aye Lwin are still under the cure.

(See page 10)

Hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day

Still tied to smooth the way

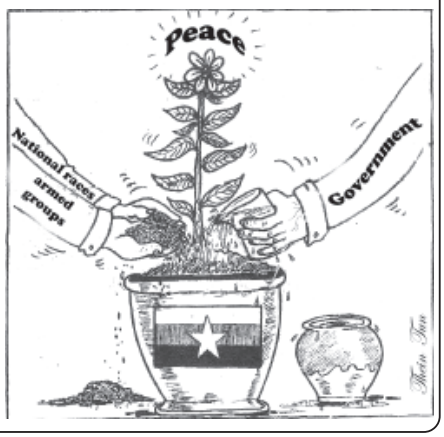
Iraq and Afghanistan are good examples. Debris piling around the whole country, trembling neighbourhoods and horrible casualties shown even by incomplete figures throw a light on errors of strategy. While those who introduce the strategy prepare their backpacks and wave goodbye to the countries in ashes and burnt rubbles, disintegrated peoples of the hardly recognized democracies are left in cycle of tears and grieves. It will take years to remedy the situations. The proverb, "It is never too late to mend", is not for them. "It takes them forever to mend."

HLINE BWA (PARAMI)

PAGES 8+9

POEM

Bonds of amity

*** Mon, Rakhine, Shan, Kachin**
Bamar, Chin, Kayin, Kayah
A unified force they are
Nationalities of Myanmar

Thaung Ko Ko (Trs)