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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.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein felicitates Iranian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mahmoud Ahmadenejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2012.—*MNA*

Improve socio-economic life of national races

Lip services and talks are not enough to achieve national unity. So, it is required to build roads, railroads and bridges to overcome the natural barriers between regions of national races; and to improve the education and health standards; to lay economic foundations to improve the socio-economic status of national races. We have to improve the living conditions for national brethren, using the roads, bridges, educational institutions, hospitals and health centres.

President U Thein Sein

(Excerpt from the speech delivered at the regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30-3-2011)

Ninth day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — The ninth day session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here today, attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 546 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

During the meeting, one new proposal was submitted, and discussion of bills continued.

Representatives on arrival at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

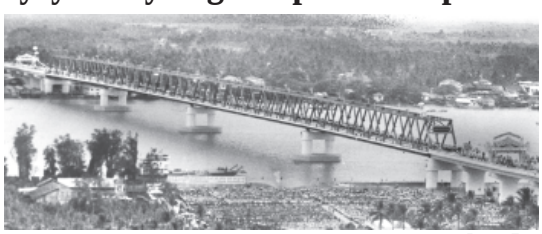
U Thurein Zaw of Kawkareik Constituency submitted **the proposal urging the Union Government, in the interests of the people, to take action on suggestions of the Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee on the findings of the Union Auditor-General over the river water pumping stations, reservoirs, dams and diversion weirs built by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation as the suggestions are crucial issues for the people and urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve it.**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw invited those representatives who want to discuss the proposal to enlist after the meeting.

During the session to discuss bills, Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) constituency, Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region constituency No 6, U Myint Tun of Bago Region constituency No 10, Daw Khin Than Myint of Ngaputaw constituency, U Sein Myint of Botahtaung constituency, U Aung Sein of Manaung constituency, U Bo Ni of Yamethin constituency, U Aung Hsan of Pabedan constituency, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Kayin State constituency No 5, U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency No 6, U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha constituency, U Shwe Maung of Buthidaung constituency, U Kyi Myint of Latha constituency, U Zaw Myint Pe of Mandalay Region constituency No 5, U Zone Hle Htan of Chin State constituency No 2 and U Nyi Nyi Myint of Ottwin constituency discussed the education sector, economic sector, construction sector, social sector and management sector including in the National Planning Bills of the State.

The meeting ended at 4 pm and the tenth day session will resume at 10 am on 13 February.—*MNA*

Ayeyawady Bridge (Dedaye) brings Ayeyawady Region up to development



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PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 11 February, 2012

Hundred fruits, Single stalk

Our land is rich in natural resources, blessed with temperate climate and fertile soil. The land is emerald green covered by forests and farms with constant flow of rivers and creeks in all seasons. It enjoys food sufficiency thanks to bumper harvest of rice and crops. It is the land of justice, liberty, equality and Lawkapala-Taya.

National races have been living in mixed communities on this land since time immemorial. It is accepted that Myanmar dates back to some 40 million years according to the archaeological evidences. Since the establishment of city states, Myanmar has stood tall throughout Bagan, Pinya, Sagaing, Inwa, Toungoo, Nyaungyan and Konboung periods.

In the course of history, the nation was torn apart in times of disunity and stood powerful in times of unity between monarchs and the people. National people have experience in repelling and overcoming every difficulty, hardship and obstacle of different eras and different political systems with power of unwavering spirit and Union spirit.

Though fallen under colonial yoke, all Myanmar national races fought back the imperialists with whatever weapon they could get no matter where they were in. National races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine, and Shan repulsed the invaders with great valour out of Union Spirit and could claim back the independence and sovereignty, restoring the life of independent nation.

For the present time, we still need to work hard to keep abreast of global countries. We have to build a new democratic nation with the strength of the entire national people, opening a new chapter. The government has put socio-economic improvement of national people high on its agenda building clean government and exercising good governance while fulfilling requirements in economy, education and health sectors of the nation.

The government is focusing on equitable development of all the regions in the Union regardless of size and distance, and the result was smooth transportation and swift commodity flow. National brethren spread over highland and mainland but in reality, they are like fruits of a single stalk.

National races have lived on this land since yore in harmony and amity. In the future, all need to attach great importance to perpetuity of the Union. It is high time to strive for eternal peace across the Union and modernization of the nation with single-mindedness.

Anti-human trafficking website set up

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Central Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Person has launched its website—www.myanmarhumantrafficking.gov.mm recently. The website contains strides of the Myanmar for anti-human trafficking, MoU on anti-human trafficking, existing laws on prevention against human trafficking, Myanmar's five-year anti-human trafficking plan, actions against human trafficking, news and articles on human trafficking, seminars and meeting records.—*MNA*

Public notice for remonstration

1. Mro National Party, headquartered at No.245, New Ward No.4, Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, applied for registration as a political party on 10-2-2012 in accord with Political Party Registration Law Section 4. In applying for its registration, the party has submitted its name, flag and logo to be used as mentioned under.
2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rule 14 (d) that those who wish to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party name, flag and logo may do so with firm evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

Flag of Mro National Party

Seal of Mro National Party

Union Election Commission

FM receives head of EA, SEA, Pacific International Committee of Red Cross

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Head of Operations for East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific of the International Committee of the Red Cross Mr Alian Aeschlimann paid a courtesy call to U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 8.30 am today.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussions on matters relating to cooperation between Myanmar and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

MNA

UNFPA officials call on Union I&P Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi received Director Mr Werner Haug of New York-based UNFPA, Director Mr Pauk Cheung of UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and Resident Representative Mr Mohamed Abdel Ahad and party of UNFPA of Yangon at the ministry, here, at 9.30 am yesterday.

At the call, the Union Minister explained future plans for collecting the domestic transfer census 2012 and the national census 2014, conducting the training courses, formation of the Central Census Commission and the Central Census Committee, constitutions of national census committees at different levels, ways and laws for collecting the census.

The Union Minister replied to queries on work plans of the census by responsible persons of the UNFPA.

Next, members of the UNFPA delegation shared their experiences at international level on possible difficulties in collecting the national census, assistance for training and technology.

The members of the UNFPA delegation met the work groups led by the director-general of the Population Department at the meeting hall of the ministry at 10.30 am and focused on tasks of national census.

MNA

Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Dr Myo Myint being welcomed by Ambassador of the Russian Federation Dr Mikhail M Mgeladze at the reception to mark Diplomatic Service Day at Russian Embassy in Yangon on 10 Feb, 2012.

MNA

Competitions on modes of national races dress held

YANGON, 10 Feb—Hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day competitions on modes of national races dress were held at Hlaingmingalar Hall in Hlaing Township on 4 February.

One of the members of Yangon Region Committee for Organizing the Competitions presented a flower basket to the female competitors who presented their national race dresses.

The competitions cover a variety of dresses of national races from 13 township in Yangon West District.

NLM-001

China, India promise closer relations

BEIJING, 10 Feb— China and India, who fought a war in 1962 over unresolved border issues, pledged to improve ties, Chinese media said on the visit of India's foreign minister.

In a lengthy report on the trip of Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna, *Xinhua News Agency* quoted analysts as saying the minister's visit involved more than inaugurating his country's new embassy in Beijing.

The two South Asian nuclear giants, whose relations have not always been cordial, have lately sought to bring about an improvement even as India remains concerned about China's military growth, its close ties with traditional rival Pakistan and its growing influence in the Indian Ocean.

China too is concerned as India strengthens its military to meet any threat and looks on with suspicion at New Delhi's closer ties with the United States.

Krishna said "a modern and expansive chancery (Embassy) clearly reflects our expectations of ties with China," *Xinhua* said. The visitor Wednesday met with Chinese leaders including Communist Party Polit Bureau member Zhou Yongkang and Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi.

Xinhua quoted Ma Jiali, an India expert at the Centre for Strategic Studies of the China Reform Forum, as saying the meetings showed both China and India "attach great importance to and have great enthusiasm for" the development of the bilateral ties. Zhou said China and India, as the world's largest developing economies, have multiple opportunities for bilateral cooperation, and that the two can deepen political trust and properly handle questions left over by history such as border issues to safeguard peace in border areas.

Last month, China and India signed an agreement in New Delhi to set up a working mechanism relating to their border affairs.—*Internet*

Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) meets with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Beijing, capital of China, on 9 Feb, 2012. —XINHUA

Obama praises Italian PM's economic efforts

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb— US President Barack Obama on Thursday praised visiting Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti for his efforts to fight the debt crisis and boost market confidence. Obama said he appreciated Monti's "strong start" as Italy's newly-named prime minister and the "very effective measures" he was promoting in his country.

With stewardship, experience and his knowledge of economics, Monti has boosted confidence within Italy for a reform agenda, and has also generated confidence across Europe and the world markets, Obama said.

US President Barack Obama(R) and Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti shake hands during meetings in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, on 9 February , 2012.—INTERNET

Obama assured Monti, who assumed his post last November to address Italy's debt crisis and restore fiscal stability, that the United States would do whatever it could to help stabilize the situation in the eurozone. "It has not been a crisis of the euro," Monti said in a speech at the Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics before his meeting with Obama, adding that the euro has shown remarkable stability and solidity. Monti said Italy doesn't need financial support at present. "But it needs better governance and wants to contribute to better governance," the prime minister said.

Monti said budgetary consolidation, labor reform, liberalization and competition are the three pillars for economic growth in Italy. "If markets see the improvements in the policy outlook for Italy and sustainability of the budget, they will deliver a benefit to Italy in the form of lower interest rates," Monti said. He said he was confident European integration will be strengthened through the crisis.—*Xinhua*

Nine PKK members killed in eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 10 Feb— Nine members of the banned Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) were killed and three others captured in an operation in Turkey's eastern province of Bingol on Thursday, an official statement said.

Acting on a tip-off, the Turkish security forces staged an operation against a house in Ilicalar neighbourhood in Bingol Province on Thursday, said a statement issued by Bingol governor's office.

"In the operation, nine terrorists were killed and three others were captured alive," the statement said, adding that the security forces also seized nine AK-47 (kalashnikov) rifles, five hand grenades, one rocket launcher, two M-16 rifles, some C-4 explosives, two radios and organizational documents in the house.

Listed as a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, the PKK took up arms in 1984 in a bid to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. More than 40,000 people have been killed in conflicts involving the PKK during the past over two decades.—*Xinhua*

Eight militants killed in E Afghanistan operations

KABUL, 10 Feb— Eight militants have been killed in joint Afghan forces and NATO-led Coalition troops operations in eastern Afghan Region, NATO-led forces said on Friday. "Afghan and Coalition forces killed eight militants and detained two suspected individuals in eastern Afghanistan during operations throughout the past 24 hours, 9 Feb," the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) forces said in a Press release.

"A Coalition Force air strike killed six militants in response to rocket propelled grenade and small arms fire in Nijrab District, (eastern) Kapisa Province," it said, adding "The joint forces also killed two insurgents after receiving mortar fire in Khost District, Khost Province,"

The Afghan National Police arrested two individuals who matched biometric data during routine clearance in Khost District of eastern Khost Province. The detainees were transported to a nearby base for questioning, it added. "Operations in RC-East (Regional Command-East) are still ongoing," it said.

Afghan officials often use the word "militants" referring to the Taleban. However, the militants group, who launched in May 2011 a rebel offensive against Afghan and NATO forces, has yet to make comments.

Afghan forces and NATO-led coalition troops have intensified cleanup operations throughout the post-Taleban country recently. Over 110 militants have been killed and more than 430 others detained across the country since the beginning of this year, according to figures released by the Afghan Interior Ministry.—*Xinhua*

A bloodstain at the scene of a bomb blast, as an Afghan police officer inspects the scene in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 9 Feb, 2012. Two Afghan policemen were killed and one more was wounded by a bomb blast in Lashkar Gah, police officials said.—INTERNET

Blasts hit northern Lebanese city

BEIRUT, 10 Feb— Two bombs exploded Thursday night in Lebanon's northern city of Tripoli, where protests in solitary with Syrian anti-government protesters have been held for days, local TV reported.

Xinhua

Thai security personnel inspect the site of bomb explosion in Pattani province in southern Thailand on 9 February, 2012. A retired teacher was killed and 13 villagers wounded when a truck bomb exploded on Thursday in Thailand's restive Muslim south, the latest in a wave of separatist violence in the region bordering Malaysia. Police blamed ethnic Malay rebels for the bombing in front of a public health office in Pattani, one of three provinces gripped by eight years of separatist unrest. The bomb was hidden inside a pickup truck and damaged 10 other vehicles, police said. Of the 13 wounded, three were in critical condition.—INTERNET

Two soldiers wounded in ambush in N Philippine

MANILA, 10 Feb— Two government security personnel were wounded in an ambush staged by suspected leftist rebels in the northern Philippine Province of Camarines Norte on Thursday, a military official said.

Major Angelo Guzman, spokesman of the 9th Infantry Division, said Private First Class Alexander Saragosa and Private Arnel Sebua were injured after elements of New Peoples Army guerrillas ambushed them at around 1:15 am, local time in the village of Daguit in Labo town. The rebels fled after sensing a military reinforcement were heading to the area.

The NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been waging a guerrilla campaign in the countryside for more than four decades. The Philippine military estimates over 4,000 NPA guerrilla fighters are scattered in more than 60 provinces throughout the country.—*Xinhua*

Gene therapy 'gave me sight back'

LONDON, 10 Feb — Three US citizens who lost their sight in childhood have reported a dramatic improvement in vision after having gene therapy in both eyes. There was some improvement after the genetic fault in one eye was corrected four years ago. Now, one woman has described her joy at seeing her children's faces, after her second eye was treated. The research increases hopes that gene therapy can be used in a range of eye conditions, said a UK expert.

The three have Leber's Congenital Amaurosis (LCA), a rare inherited disease caused by defects in a gene encoding a protein needed for vision. It appears at birth or in the first months of life, leading to severely impaired vision, involuntary eye movements and poor night vision. The disorder, which can be caused by 'mistakes' in more than 10 different genes, prevents normal function of the retina; the light-sensitive layer of cells at the back of the eye.

Several teams around the world are carrying out early trials of gene therapy in blindness, including experts at the Philadelphia Children's Hospital and the University of Philadelphia, US. Only a handful of patients worldwide have received the treatment to boost a faulty gene underlying an inherited form of blindness. The US researchers revealed in 2008 that 12 people with LCA had recovered some vision after being injected in one eye with an engineered virus carrying the gene RPE65. In a follow-up study they treated the other eye of three of them, and found it improved their sight even more. The subjects could see better in dim light and two were able to find their way around obstacles. The results were revealed in the latest edition of the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

Internet

Tami Morehouse: 'It's just incredible to see'. INTERNET

Atlanta anti-obesity ads 'risk child stigma'

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb— A leading US health official has warned that a campaign started by a children's hospital to fight childhood obesity poses health risks. Alan Guttmacher, a child health expert at the National Institutes of Health, says Atlanta-based Strong4Life "carries a great risk of increasing stigma". The campaign has been criticised for using stark images of overweight children to warn of obesity risks.

The hospital behind the campaign said it raised awareness of obesity dangers. The US state of Georgia has the nation's second highest childhood obesity rate. Dr Guttmacher's response comes after online activists mounted a month-long counter-campaign.In a letter to fat activist Shannon Russell, Dr Guttmacher, director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, said childhood stigma "can reinforce unhealthy behaviours".Stigma also "poses risks to the psychological health" of obese adolescents, Dr Guttmacher wrote.

The Strong4Life campaign, run by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, has posted billboards in the Atlanta area since August featuring unflattering black and white photos of unhappy fat children. The posters are accompanied by a warning banner and messages such as: "Chubby isn't cute if it leads to type two diabetes"; and "Being fat takes the fun out of being a kid".—*Internet*

***Children's Healthcare launched the campaign around Atlanta in August.*— INTERNET**

French weight loss drug 'killed at least 1,300'

PARIS, 10 Feb—Mediator, a drug licensed for use by diabetics that became widely prescribed in France as a slimming aid, "probably" caused at least 1,300 deaths before it was withdrawn, a study published on Thursday said. Mahmoud Zureik of the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm), who co-led the probe, told *AFP* that around 3,100 people had required hospitalisation during the 33 years during which the drug was sold. However, these figures could well be an "underestimate," he said. The study, appearing in the specialized journal *Pharmacoepidemiology & Drug Safety*, finetunes an estimate by Zureik in 2010 that the death toll from the scandal was between 1,000 and 2,000. Mediator, known by its lab name as benfluorex, was initially licensed to reduce levels of fatty proteins called lipids, with the claim that it helped diabetics control their level of blood sugar. But it also suppressed appetite, which meant it gained a secondary official use to help obese diabetics lose weight. In fact, it was widely sold on prescription for nondiabetics wanting to slim. In 2009, Mediator was pulled from the European market amid evidence that it damaged heart valves and caused pulmonary hypertension.

Its French manufacturer, Servier, is being probed on suspicion of dishonest practices and deception. The new study is an extrapolation based on figures for deaths from faulty heart valves, although not from hypertension, among major users of the drug.—*Internet*

Mediator, a drug licensed for use by diabetics that became widely prescribed in France as a slimming aid, "probably" caused at least 1,300 deaths before it was withdrawn, according to a study in the Pharmacoepidemiology & Drug Safety journal. INTERNET

China's exports and imports dip raising growth concerns

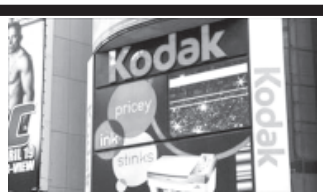
BEIJING, 10 Feb — China's exports fell in January, the first decline in more than two years, raising fresh concerns about the impact of a global slowdown on its economy. Exports fell 0.5% from a year earlier amid sluggish global demand. Shipments were also hurt as factories were shut during the Lunar New Year. Meanwhile, imports dipped 15.3% raising fears about slowing domestic demand.China has been trying to boost domestic consumption in a bid to offset slowing exports and rebalance its economy.

Analysts said while the closure of establishments during the Chinese New Year affected the numbers, the decline could not be attributed to the festival alone. They said that the bigger-than-expected drop, especially in imports, was worrying as it gave an indication of slowing growth. "The collapse of imports begs particular attention," said Ren Xianfeng of IHS Global in Beijing. "A fall of over 15% in January cannot be entirely explained by the lunar calendar, and adds weight to the view that economic output is slower than headline indicators might suggest." Earlier this month, the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing reported that the import index for January fell to 46.9 from 49.3 in the previous month, showing slowing demand at home. Despite these numbers, analysts said the dip was likely to be short-lived and imports may start to rise in the coming months.

The export sector has been key to China's economic growth in the past few years as global firms have turned to Beijing to take advantage of its low-cost manufacturing. However, a slowdown in the US and the eurozone, which are two of the biggest markets for Chinese goods, has seen the pace of growth of shipments slow in recent months. —*Internet*

***The manufacturing and export sectors are key drivers of growth in China.*— INTERNET**

Business



***Kodak struggled to compete with increasingly sophisticated cameras on mobile phones.*— INTERNET**

Kodak exits digital camera market

NEW YORK, 10 Feb — Eastman Kodak, whose name became synonymous with photography, is to stop making digital cameras. The 133-year-old company said it would also end production of video cameras and digital picture frames. Kodak said it would concentrate on more profitable divisions such as photo printing and desktop inkjet printers. The company, which entered bankruptcy protection from its creditors last month, said that the changes should save about $100m (£63m) a year.

Kodak said in a statement that it had been cutting its exposure to loss-making operations for some time. "Today's announcement is the logical extension of that process, given our analysis of the industry trends," said Pradeep Jotwani, president and chief marketing officer at Kodak. The company will continue to honour product warranties and provide technical support for the discontinued products.—*Internet*

Unexpected loss for India's Tata Steel

MUMBAI, 10 Feb — Tata Steel, the largest producer in India, unexpectedly reported a loss for the last three months of 2011, hit by weak demand. The company saw a net loss of 6.03bn rupees ($122m; £77m) in the third quarter, Tata Steel said in a statement. That compares with a net profit of 10bn rupees a year earlier. Higher prices for raw materials as well as falling demand and prices in Europe contributed to the decline, Tata said.

Tata Steel is the world's tenth largest steelmaker and the biggest in India. INTERNET

Analysts were expecting a 3.4bn rupee net profit, according to *Reuters* news agency. The company operates two thirds of its capacity in Europe, where the debt crisis is hitting demand. The head of Tata's European operations said he did not expect demand to pick up this year. "We are accelerating cash conservation in expectation of muted but stable demand in our core markets in 2012," he said in a statement.

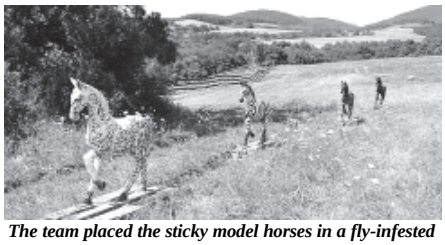
Analysts said Tata Steel was being squeezed from both sides. — *Internet*

Zebra stripes evolved to keep biting flies at bay

LONDON, 10 Feb—Why zebras evolved their characteristic black-and-white stripes has been the subject of decades of debate among scientists. Now researchers from Hungary and Sweden claim to have solved the mystery. The stripes, they say, came about to keep away blood-sucking flies. They report in the *Journal of Experimental Biology* that this pattern of narrow stripes makes zebras "unattractive" to the flies. They key to this effect is in how the striped patterns reflect light.

"We started off studying horses with black, brown or white coats," explained Susanne Akesson from Lund University, a member of the international research team that carried out the study. "We found that in the black and brown horses, we get horizontally polarized light." This effect made the dark-coloured horses very attractive to flies. It means that the light that bounces off the horse's dark coat — and travels in waves to the eyes of a hungry fly—moves along a horizontal plane, like a snake slithering along with its body flat to the floor.

Dr Akesson and her colleagues found that horseflies, or tabanids, were very attracted by these "flat" waves of light. "From a white coat, you get unpolarised light [reflected]," she explained. Unpolarized light waves travel along any and every plane, and are much less attractive to flies.—*Internet*



***The team placed the sticky model horses in a fly-infested field.*— INTERNET**

New Zealand study aims to find link between clouds, sea creatures

WELLINGTON, 10 Feb — The creation of clouds might begin with microscopic organizms living in the oceans. That's the theory an international team of atmospheric and marine scientists hopes to test off the east coast of New Zealand. The 23 scientists from New Zealand, Australia, Finland, the United States, Canada and Ireland will leave New Zealand next week aboard a research vessel operated by New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA). The vessel will set sail for the Chatham Rise, an underwater platform that runs for more than 100 km, next week. "We need to understand what role ocean processes play in cloud and climate," voyage leader and NIWA principal scientist Dr Cliff Law said in a statement. The three-week study, called SOAP (Surface Ocean Aerosol Processes), would examine how some phytoplankton, the microscopic plant cells that live in the sunlit surface waters, released sulfur compounds that could escape to the atmosphere.

Once in the atmosphere, the compounds formed aerosol particles, on which water started to condense, stimulating the production of clouds. Some microorganizms concentrated at the sea surface produced organic compounds, which, it had been suggested, produced tiny aerosol particles when associated with bubble bursting in breaking waves. The scientists aim to measure the composition of surface waters, the overlying air and the exchange or "flux" between the two. Law said they hoped to see variation and trends in properties as they moved across blooms of different phytoplankton along the Chatham Rise. "The SOAP voyage will be quite a challenge. In addition to finding plankton blooms we need calm conditions for some measurements and strong winds for others," said Law. The work is funded by New Zealand's Ministry of Science and Innovation.— *Xinhua*

Whales 'stressed by ocean noise'

BOSTON, 10 Feb — Noise from ships stresses whales nearby, researchers have shown. Ships' propellers emit sound in the same frequency range that some whales use for communicating, and previous studies have shown the whales change their calling patterns in noisy places. Now, researchers have measured stress hormones in whale faeces, and found they rose with the density of shipping.

The species studied in the Bay of Fundy in Canada, the North Atlantic right whale, is listed as endangered. It had been thought that hunting by the Basque people a few hundred years ago brought a robust population down to barely sustainable levels.

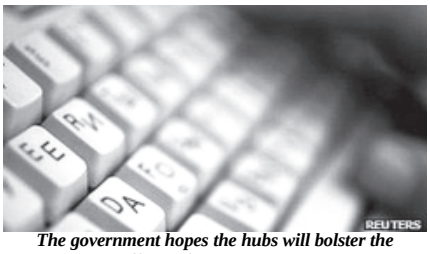
But recent research suggests the big population decline happened much earlier, for reasons that are unclear. Dr Rosalind Rolland of the New England Aquarium in Boston, US, who led the new study, said the population was now up to an estimated 490 individuals from about 350 a decade ago.

North Atlantic right whales (Eubalaena glacialis) roam up and down the east coast of North America, coming to the Bay of Fundy typically in late summer to feed. Aquarium scientists have been studying them in the bay since 1980. But the new study, reported in the *Royal Society journal Proceedings B*, came about through chance.— *Internet*

***Right whales come to the Bay of Fundy late each summer to feed.* INTERNET**

science

Regional cybercrime hubs launched across England



***The government hopes the hubs will bolster the national effort to fight e-crime.*— INTERNET**

LONDON , 10 Feb — Three police cybercrime teams have been launched as part of a £6m regional effort to combat growing threats. Yorkshire and the Humber, the Northwest and East Midlands will each get its own dedicated unit. They will work alongside the Metropolitan Police Centre e-crime Unit which deals with national online security. The funding is part of £30m targeted at bolstering e-crime prevention nationally over the next four years. The new centres will consist of three members of staff—a detective sergeant and two detective constables.

The initiative was announced at the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) e-crime conference in Sheffield on Wednesday.

A training period is required before the hubs will be fully operational, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Janet Williams, who heads ACPO's e-crime efforts, said. "These three additional policing units are going to play a critical role in our ability to combat the threat," she added."It is anticipated the hubs will make a significant contribution to the 'national harm reduction' target of £504m." Harm reduction is calculated using a "harm matrix" — a system which factors in costs such as how much the criminal stood to gain, how much money was invested in the crime, and the potential cost to the victim. "In the first six months of the new funding period alone we have already been able to show a reduction of £140m with our existing capability," Ms Williams said. —*Internet*

Ofcom targets phone and broadband switching 'slammers'

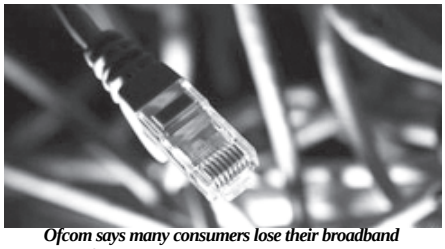
LONDON , 10 Feb — Landline phone and Internet providers which switch customers to their service without their consent —a process known as "slamming"—are being targeted by Ofcom. The telecoms regulator says that an estimated 520,000 UK households were "slammed" last year. It argues that all switches should be verified by a third party to prevent abuses.

The telecoms industry has expressed concern that this could add to costs.

Other suggestions put forward by the regulator include:

* Making the new provider responsible for the switching process
* Simplifying the process to make sure that consumers are not confused and do not have to contact different providers
* Addressing technical problems which can cause the wrong lines to be switched
* Tackling loss of service caused by a change of provider; Ofcom says one in five consumers lose their broadband connection for about a week when they switch

"Many people think that the current systems are too difficult and unreliable which is why we have made it one of our priorities to tackle this problem," said Ofcom's chief executive Ed Richards. "Today's proposals are designed to make the process easier and safe from slamming."—*Internet*



***Ofcom says many consumers lose their broadband connection for a week when they switch provider.*— INTERNET**

TECHNOLOGY

***The black box device is fitted to the policy holder's car.*— INTERNET**

AA to launch sat-nav tech tracked insurance policy

LONDON , 10 Feb — The AA is set to launch a new insurance policy which uses sat-nav technology to track driver performance. The firm said the system would allow its better drivers to receive cheaper premiums. It follows similar efforts by smaller insurers. Larger rival Direct Line has told the BBC it is also piloting its own "black box" scheme. Critics of the technology said that data should not be used as a reliable measure of a driver's ability. The system involves the installation of a small black box into the driver's car which records how they drive.

The measures include monitoring speed, braking severity, cornering and the types of roads used during certain times of day. This information is transmitted remotely to the insurers, and can also be accessed by users via a website which gives information on overall performance, warning them if they are likely to be moved to a higher premium. "The reports are pretty detailed," AA spokesman Ian Crowder told the BBC ahead of Wednesday's formal announcement. "The point is that these sorts of devices firmly put in the hands of the driver a responsibility for driving safely. It makes you think."The information could be used to prove who was at fault in accidents, Mr Crowder added, but such detailed information would only be disclosed with a court order.

He added that the system could also detect sudden hard braking so assistance could be sent. Extreme speeds would be greeted with "a stern email" to the driver.

Internet

US House Speaker John Boehner hosts a news conference on issues including the payroll tax break extension and the Stock Act at the Capitol Hill in Washington on 9 Feb, 2012.—XINHUA

Mexico, Chile, Peru, Colombia to strengthen Asia-Pacific presence

BOGOTA, 10 Feb—Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru on Thursday announced a joint project to boost their presence in international markets with a specific eye to the Asia-Pacific Region, the Mexican trade promotion agency ProMexico said.

Carlos Guzman, director of ProMexico, said the four Latin American countries had agreed to start building joint strategies such as carrying out marketing surveys, attending trade fairs and opening joint promotion offices in the main cities of Asia-Pacific.

Guzman, who was speaking at the end of the Meeting of Agencies Promoting the Pacific Alliance held in the Colombian Capital, said he was optimistic about the joint work agreement as it represented an important opportunity for both the Latin American countries and their Asian counterparts.

"Due to the world financial crisis, the global economy is being reconfigured and operations are increasingly transferred toward emerging economies," he said, adding most of the world's future economic growth is expected to be from the Latin American and Asian regions.

Maria Claudia Lacouture, president of Colombia's Proexport agency, also said the alliance was instrumental for the four countries' investment and export opportunities in Asia-Pacific.

"The results of the meeting are very positive. We have come to a work plan that we from now on will develop in order to, as a group, take advantage of more business opportunities," Lacouture said.—*Xinhua*

Cuba, Paraguay vow to propel L American integration

HAVANA, 10 Feb—Cuba and Paraguay agreed Thursday on the need to eliminate any obstacle toward further regional integration, which they said is the hallmark of the current Latin America. Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez and visiting Paraguayan counterpart Jorge Lara Castro made the remarks during their talks, which also focus on bilateral cooperation.

Castro recalled the historical ties between Havana and Asuncion, and he thanked Cuba for supporting his country on many international issues.

A joint declaration issued after the meeting said the two sides would increase cooperation in healthcare, education and other areas.

Castro arrived here Wednesday for a three-day trip. He will visit the Research Centre on the World Economy in Havana, before attending the International Book Fair that officially opens on Thursday.

Cuba and Paraguay have had close ties in education and healthcare as Cuba have trained 908 Paraguayan students in its medical schools since 1999 and 499 Paraguayans are currently studying at Cuban universities.

The Caribbean island also sent a team of doctors to Paraguay to provide ophthalmologic services to low-income patients.

Xinhua

Activists take part in a protest against bullfighting on 9 February, 2012, at Bolivar Square in Bogota. INTERNET

People visit the third art work exhibition of college students at China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province,on 8 Feb, 2012. The six-day exhibition opened on Wednesday, displaying more than 200 works.—XINHUA

Sarkozy says to keep Fessenheim nuclear plant running

PARIS, 10 Feb—French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Thursday vowed to keep Fessenheim nuclear plant running, local media reported.

"We will not close this station, it's out of the question," the president said during his visit to the country's oldest nuclear power plant in Alsace in northeastern France.

"I will never accept the closing of the Fessenheim station for political reasons," he said.

Sarkozy's remarks came ahead of a two-round presidential election scheduled in April and May. Socialist frontrunner Francois Hollande had promised to reduce France's reliance on nuclear energy from 75 percent to 50 percent by shutting down 24 reactors by 2025.

"Wanting to close Fessenheim is a scandal, because it would mean sacrificing your jobs for backward political thinking," Sarkozy added.

The closure of the plant would come "at the cost of jobs in the nuclear industry, the cost of our industrial competitiveness and the cost of our energy independence," he was quoted by local media RFI as saying.

As the world's most nuclear-dependent country, France owns 58 reactors and has been a leading international proponent of atomic energy.—*Xinhua*

Bolivia accuses US of spying on Latin America

LA PAZ, 10 Feb—Bolivian President Evo Morales on Thursday accused the United States of spying on his and other Latin American countries.

The Bolivian president said the spying is done under the cover of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

"I am convinced that some NGOs, especially those funded by the USAID, are the fifth column of espionage in Bolivia, not only in Bolivia, but also in all of Latin America," Morales said during a Press conference in Oruro, a southwestern Bolivian City.

Morales said the United States, through the cover of development aid operations of those organizations, knows "all the details of the activities of the social sectors and union leaders" in those Latin American countries.

The president regretted that some union leaders were allegedly used by these NGOs to stir disputes such as the one over a highway project in an indigenous territory in his country.

Morales has ordered to temporarily suspend the construction of the new highway amid strong public criticism for police crackdown on indigenous protesters in September last year.

Also at the Press conference, the Bolivian president pledged to resolve the indigenous conflict through broad consultations based on international rules established by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Bolivian Constitution.

Xinhua

Israeli technology minimizes bird hits in flight

TEL AVIV, 10 Feb—Bird hits can be particularly nasty for an airplane, forcing it to land or send it crashing to the ground, often with devastating consequences.

Now, fresh research has developed a digitized system with the ability to track migrating birds in real-time, minimizing the possibility of such collisions. Bird hits have claimed more than 200 lives worldwide since 1988, according to Bird Strike Committee US. The US Air Force also reported more than 5,000 bird strikes in 2007 alone.

Researcher Yossi Leshem, zoologist at the Tel Aviv University, has developed a system to track migrating birds and minimize the possibility of collisions. Since the beginning of Leshem's programme, there has been a 76 percent drop in collisions - saving USD 800 million and countless lives since 1984, according to a Tel Aviv statement.

Adapted from weather radar technology, Leshem's system has been implemented throughout Israel. It tracks birds' movements, then reports details of their coming and going, including the height at which they are flying, and which route they are taking.

Based on this information, the Israel Air Force (IAF), which funds the research along with Israel's Ministry of Defence, can alter flight plans accordingly.

With the third and final radar installed in the north of Israel two years ago, a flock can be followed 40 miles into Lebanon, Syria, or Jordan, and the IAF gives a two-hour advanced warning of the arrival of a flock. Israel, on a flight path between Europe and Africa, is a superhighway of bird migration. Approximately 500 million birds fly through the country's airspace twice a year.

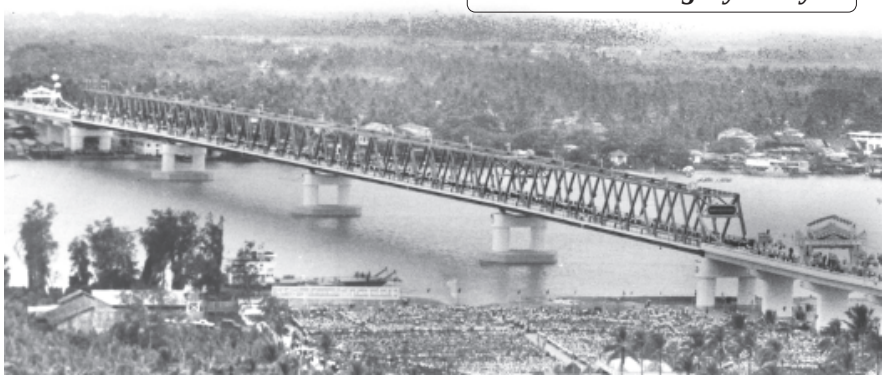
Before Leshem's project began, the Israeli Air Force lost 10 aircrafts after bird hits, and experienced about 75 collisions costing approximately USD 1 million in damages each, which also resulted in the deaths of three pilots.—*Internet*

Xia Wenqiong (R), who was just rescued from abduction in Sudan, hugs her relatives Branch 5 of Sinohydro Bureau 7 Co, Ltd in Pengshan County, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 9 Feb, 2012. A total of 47 Chinese were caught in the attack, which occurred in a southern Sudanese state 13 days ago. Twenty-nine of them were abducted by the assailants while the other 18 managed to flee. One of the latter went missing and has been confirmed dead. Among them, 24 Sichuan workers have all come back to Pengshan County safe and sound.
XINHUA

Ayeyawady Bridge (Dedaye) brings Ayeyawady Region up to development

* Ayeyawady Bridge (Dedaye) spanning the Ayeyawady River was built to link Kungyangon Township in Yangon Region and Dedaye Township in Ayeyawady Region.
* Work on construction of the Dedeye Bridge across the Toe River started on 10, June, 2000, by the Public Works.
* Ayeyawady Bridge (Dedaye) was inaugurated on 23 March, 2003, as a gesture of honouring the 58th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.
* Ayeyawady Bridge is over 4000 ft long and it becomes a part of Yangon-Kungyangon-Dedaye-Pyapon-Kyaiklat-Maubin-Yangon Road.
* Ayeyawady Bridge (Dedaye) helps access to the Pyapon-Kyonkadon-Seikmar-Ahmar road section, the Pyapon-Bogale road section, Maubin-Nyaungdon-Pathein road section, Nyaungdon-Hinthada road section and Nyaungdon-Thandwe road section.
* New bridges and roads including the Dedaye Bridge, benefit towns in Ayeyawady Region in transportation and shorten the travel time to other states and regions.
* It took two years and nine months to complete the bridge which is one of the projected bridges of the State.

Archive: *Maung Nyein Aye*



Facts about Ayeyawady River-crossing Bridge (Dedaye)

1.The bridge is 4088.3 ft long and 28 ft wide.
2.The motor road of the bridge is flanked by six-foot-in-width pedestrian lanes.
3.Reinforced Concrete pillars and RCD bored piles are used to construct the bridge.
4.Steel truss bridge can withstand 60 tons of loads.
5. Its water clearance is 36 ft high and 350 ft wide.

Translation: AMS

Four sufferers from KIA Battalion No. 10 seized without arms

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Tatmadawmen grabbed hold of four privates without arms, who fled from KIA Battalion No. 10, near Wahshapar Village, Ingyanyan Township, Myitkyina District of Kachin State at about 11 am on 5 February.

The four deserters who were working at farming in Naungpon Village, Nankwe Village-tract, Myitkyina were seized while going to Chaungzon by KIA Battalion No. 10 in October, 2011. They had to take KIA course. About two months after the course, they ran away to enter legal fold when asked to send small arms and ammunitions to KIA No. 10 Regiment Head Quarters in Hmyawpa Village.

KIA recruited them by force. They fled due to no desire to get involved in KIA, desire for peaceful livelihood with family, and deprived condition with no enough healthcare.—*MNA*

Paddy directly purchased from farmers for reserve rice

YANGON, 10 Feb—The State Reserve Rice Supervisory Committee held its meeting at the hall of Myanmar Rice Industry Association of UMFCCI Office Tower in Lanmadaw Township on 4 February.

The chairman, the vice-chairman and members discussed supervision for direct purchase of paddy from farmers for keeping reserve rice of the State, transport, storage, quality, weighing and financial management.

The State, the Central Cooperative Union and Myanmar Rice Industry Association jointly carry out purchase of paddy for the State from the farmers at 46 pounds of rice per K 330,000.—*MNA*

Hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day

With Union Spirit

Article:
Kyaw Myo Naung

It was over sixty years ago Myanmar gained independence from British colonialists. To be exact, this year is 64 years anniversary Independence Day. Union Day, Panglong Agreement, Aung San-Atlee Agreement have always come into our minds whenever we think of the word "Independence".

Since Myanmar had fallen under British Colonial rule, our forefathers had been struggling for Independence by scarifying lives. They had had to face so many hardships then. Many of Myanmar heroes had to scarifice their lives. All national races, namely Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan joined hands in fighting against the colonialists with the sense of nationalistic fervour.

Our forefathers fought against those enemies in variety of ways throughout the history. In doing so, they used guns and swords. It also included fighting, demonstrations and use of people strength by setting up BIA, BDA and PDF, spurring nationalistic fervours for independent by forming Wunthanu Organization. All national races joined in independence struggle because of nationalistic fervour and union spirit.

A union country is defined as a country where more than one national race live together. Myanmar is home to over 100 national races. They have long been living together throughout the history. So, it was named Union of Myanmar. Our country has people of different languages, but a bit same tradition, custom, religions.

All national races have fought against foreign countries that invaded one national race or a region. It would be more meaningful if people live in unison.

It was 30 March, 2011 that Myanmar has changed its name from Union of Myanmar into the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. An elected-government has emerged in accord with new constitution. Myanmar has taken a concrete step towards democracy system. Since taking office, the new government has been doing remarkable acts one after another. In its efforts for country progress, the government always thinks of development in all aspects.

Its strides for the country's development include continued implementation of basic infrastructures carried out by the-then government and extensions.

Basic infrastructures cover construction of roads and bridges, upgrading of industries, construction of dams for agriculture, poverty alleviation measures and making peace with national races armed groups.

On 4 February this year, Ayeyawady River-crossing Bridge (Sinkham) was put into service in Bhamo Township of Kachin State. It is one of the basic infrastructures much-needed for the country's development. Thanks to the bridge, it enables smooth flow of commodity as well as spurring economic development of that region and the whole country. People can easily get to four corners of the country. It would ensure friendship among national races and national unity. It is 11th over-180-ft facility in the time of the new government. Ayeaywady River (Nyaungdon) was opened on 27-11-2011, Ayeyawady River (Pakokku) on 31-12-2011 and Yenwechaung Bridge on 28-1-2012 respectively. Thanks to those bridges, people can communicate easily through railroad and motor road networks.

Sound basic infrastructures are of utmost importance nation-building undertakings. So, the government gives first priority to the basic infrastructures. In doing so, what is the most important thing we must take into consideration is peace. The successive governments have been struggling for ensuring peace in different ways and did not achieve success as much as they wanted. Due to the conflicts among the national brethren, basic infrastructures did not come to materialize. At the same time, the country's economy was stagnant. It is the evil legacy of the British colonialism.

(See page 9)

It can be said that our country that lagged far behind in development till over 60 years after gaining independence sees a dawn light of development thanks to the goodwill of democratic government. Peace is essential to be on the right track to the development. Ensuring peace is for all our national races. Our Union is to be built for perpetual existence with the strength of national unity. Recently, a series of state/Union level peace talks with national races armed groups were held. Till 7-2-2012, there were 42 peace talks. In this regard, five groups have signed agreements at union level and other four, at state level. Two groups are still holding discussions. But, all these groups have agreed not to secede from the Union. It is evident that Union spirit is still in the hearts of all our national races even though discussions are going on.

Hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day

POEM

Union where all forces join

* **No one can ever divide us**
Always we are united

* **No one can ever destroy us**
Always we are marching forward

* **No one can ever frighten us**
Always we are building new nation

* **Our internal strength**
Lies within
With unity and amity
Towards the same goal
No one can ever stop us

* **History countable by years in thousand**
Kinfolk of single motherland
As a solidified strength
Through thick or thin
All striving in harmony
In our territorial land, water, airspace
For the good of golden land
Unifying all internal forces
Ever standing as the Union
Would we not be the ones
Unable to maintain our status

* **Never will we tolerate any intrusion**
Never will we tolerate attempts to disgrace nation
Never will we become culprits in history
Showing world our pride and courage
National fervor remains ever high
And also powerful forever
Our efforts worthy of note
National goal not far
And on the correct path we are
Forward march to democracy
Unity is the obligation

Zaw Min Min Oo (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**

With Union...

(from page 8)

It can be said that our country that lagged far behind in development till over 60 years after gaining Independence sees a dawn light of development thanks to the goodwill of democratic government. Peace is essential to be on the right track to the development. Ensuring peace is for all our national races. Our Union is to be built for perpetual existence with the strength of national unity. Recently, a series of state/Union level peace talks with national races armed groups were held. Till 7-2-2012, there were 42 peace talks. In this regard, five groups have signed agreements at union level and other four, at state level. Two groups are still holding discussions. But, all these groups have agreed not to secede from the Union. It is evident that Union spirit is still in the hearts of all our national races even though discussions are going on. In such short period of time, to reach these stages is due to the government's genuine goodwill.

Here, I would like cite a General Aung San's word that he spoke at a time when he was in London for Independence. He said, "Our plain region could make coordination with national races if there is no foreign interference." Needless to say, there were a lot of British's invasions in the cases of delay of Aung San-Atlee Agreement and Panglong Agreement facing difficulties. We must take lessons from these conditions. Holding face-to-face discussion is the best answer. The already-achieved results come from direct discussions.

What is the most-wanted one by all our national races is peace. Our country's progresses are warmly welcomed by neighbouring countries, ASEAN countries as well as Asian countries and the world countries. The world countries have recognized the new government's political reforms and intensification of better relationships with the world's countries. Foreign investments are flowing into the country. Due to the country's peace, there would be development and more amiable friendships among national races.

Today, Myanmar is marching towards a developed, flourishing, democratic country and on the right track. Peace is a main ingredient to ensure development. Only when the country has peace, would there be smooth transportation.

As a result, we could build sound basic infrastructures that ensure economic relations and production.

The government's peace talks with national races armed groups become more and more successful step by step, thereby leading to the country's eternal peace. All these groups have promised not to break from the Union at the Union/state level peace talks. Only then we can achieve Union spirit that prevailed at a time when Myanmar started falling under the colonial rule. It was Union Day Panglong Agreement was signed on 12 February, 1947 that could support to bring Independence. It is important for us all to have more unity among our national races wherever Union Day falls.

Nowadays, the country sees sign of peace. It is time we should not fight each other. Myanmar is a resource-rich country but is lagging behind in development because we had long fought for over 60 years. We can not get richness without peace. Ensuring eternal peace is within our reaches. We all must neglect evil things. Let's march towards our goal, a democratic country together with Union spirit.

*****

Translation: MT

Hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Iranian FM

YANGON, 11 Feb—On the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2012, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a meesage of felicitations to H.E Mr Ali Akbar Salehi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

MNA

Application for registration of political parties scrutinized, granted

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—The Union Election Commission (UEC) is scrutinizing and granting the applications for registration of political parties. Mro National Party applied for registration as a political party to the UEC today.—*MNA*

Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee Chairman receives Chairperson of Politics, Information and Public Relations Committee of House of Representatives of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Chairman of the Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee Thura U Aye Myint received a delegation led by Chairperson Mrs Rachadapom Kaewsanit of Politics, Information and Public Relations Committee of the House of Representatives of Thailand at the Hluttaw Committee Hall No. 1 of Hluttaw Building, here, at 9 am today.

Also present at the call were the secretary of the Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee, members and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

At the call, Chairman Thura U Aye Myint explained democratization process in Myanmar and progress of reforms. They cordially discussed cooperation between committees of the two countries for undertakings of Hluttaw affairs.

After the call, the Thai delegation visited the Hluttaw buildings and convening the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Officials conducted them round the Hluttaw buildings.—*MNA*

321 regencies, cities in Indonesia heavily prone to natural disasters

JAKARTA, 10 Feb—As many as 321 regencies and cities in Indonesia or 65 percent of total are categorized as strongly prone to natural disasters.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, head of Centre of Data Information and Public Relation at the National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB), said in a statement Thursday that his office had completed a map of national risk.

The map is based on 13 types of disaster.

"The disaster risk map contains danger, vulnerability and capacity maps. Based on that, there are 321 regencies/cities with high risk against disaster or 65 percent. Meanwhile, 173 regencies and cities have moderate risks (35 percent) and there is no area with low risk of disasters," he said.

The 13 disaster types in Indonesia are earthquake, tsunami, volcano eruption, tornado, drought, flood, land slide, tidal wave, land and forest fire, epidemic and plague, technology failure, building fire and social conflict. "Therefore, local governments need to prioritize development against disasters," Nugroho said.

However, he added 138 regencies and cities still have no local agencies for disaster management.—*Xinhua*

Workers iron the bed sheets for the bunks on trains at the washing workshop in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 8 Feb, 2012. Before and after the seven-day Spring Festival holidays from 23 Jan when millions of Chinese travel back to and from home, railways face the busiest transportation period of the year, with many people working responsibly on their posts. —XINHUA

Firemen fight a fire at the French architect Le Corbusier's Cite Radieuse (The Radiant City) on 9 February, 2012 in Marseille, southern France. This building, built in 1952, is classified as historical building (part of French heritage).
INTERNET

Airbus: Air traffic in Spain to nearly double by 2030

BLAGNAC, (France) 10 Feb—A new forecast released on Wednesday by European aircraft manufacturer Airbus suggests air traffic in Spain will almost double by 2030, requiring Spanish airlines to buy as many as 400 new passenger planes over the next 20 years.

For Spanish airlines, Airbus estimates the number of passenger planes with more than 100 seats will increase from 244 aircraft in 2010 to a total of 441 aircraft in 2030. Of the current fleet, 203 aircraft are expected to be replaced with more eco-efficient types and 197 aircraft are to be bought for growth to, from and within the Spanish market.

"Having a strong and vibrant aviation sector will make a real contribution to the short, medium and long term health of the Spanish economy, providing a real contribution to GDP, jobs and attractiveness for investment through international connectivity," said Rafael Alonso, Executive Vice President of Customer Affairs at Airbus.

The vast majority of the 400 new aircraft, approximately 317 of them, are expected to be narrow-body aircraft which seat up to 250 passengers. About 58 others are expected to be wide-body aircraft, seating between 250 and 400 passengers, while the remaining 25 aircraft are expected to be jumbo jets.

"Spain is a preferred destination for many international air travellers and as well one of the main hubs that connect Europe with Latin America," Alonso said, adding that low cost carriers will also play an important role in increasing passenger traffic in Spain.

Internet

China to build its first archaeological museum in Xi'an

XI'AN, 10 Feb—China's first archaeological museum will be built in Xi'an, capital of the northwestern Shaanxi Province this year, local authorities has said.

The museum will aim to popularize knowledge of archaeology among common people and diversify China's museum types, said Zhao Rong, director of the provincial cultural relics bureau, at a provincial meeting attended by cultural relics officials.

The museum is also likely to exhibit the process of archaeological excavation, archaeology technology, as well as ideas about archaeology, according to Wang Weilin, director of the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology. The museum will consist of four major sections including a specimen exhibition area, archaeological materials showroom, public participation area, and culture industry area, Wang said.

The museum is designed to cover 10 hectares in Qujiang, a southeastern district of Xi'an.—*Xinhua*

US allows women to serve closer to battlefield

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb—US Defence Department on Thursday announced it will open up over 14,000 positions to women, including those in direct ground combat units, allowing women to serve closer to the battlefield.

In a notification to Congress, the Pentagon said it intends to change a 1994 rule that prohibits women from direct ground combat positions. The Pentagon said because the modern-day battlefield is "non-linear and fluid, with no clearly defined front line or safer rear area, combat support operations are dispersed throughout the battlespace," it is opening up over 13,000 Army positions previously closed to women, such as tank mechanic and field artillery radar operator.

Additionally, the 1994 policy prohibited women from being assigned below brigade level to units whose principal mission was to engage in combat.

The Army, Marines and Navy have been granted exceptions to the policy to allow select positions at the battalion level in specialties already open to women, opening 1, 186 additional positions, the department announced.

"Women are contributing in unprecedented ways to the military's mission. Through their courage, sacrifice, patriotism and great skill, women have proven their ability to serve in an expanding number of roles on and off the battlefield," Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta said. "We will continue to open as many positions as possible to women so that anyone qualified to serve can have the opportunity to do so."

Despite the change, the Pentagon still prohibits women from serving in about 238,000 military positions, almost all of them in the Army and Marine Corps.

Xinhua

File photo taken on 10 Nov, 2011 shows Laoyemiao Wind Power Plant in Duchang County, east China's Jiangxi Province. China installed 18 gigawatts of wind power turbines in 2011, capturing about 40 percent of the global total and pushing up China's total installed wind power capacity to 62.7 gigawatts, the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) said in a report on 7 Feb, 2012.—XINHUA

Smoke rises from a building as fire broke out a commercial plaza in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 9 Feb, 2012. At least 6 people were hurt and some 30 shops were burnt as a commercial market caught fire in Lahore on Thursday. Chief Fire Officer told the media that thirteen water tankers took part in the fire extinguishing operation, whereas 30 shops turned to ashes by the time when the fire came under control.—XINHUA

World's biggest offshore windfarm opens in Britain

LONDON, 10 Feb—The world's largest offshore windfarm opened off the coast of Cumbria, Britain on Thursday, according to British authorities. Britain's Department of Energy and Climate Change said in a statement that Edward Davey, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, opened the offshore windfarm near Walney in Cumbria.

With 102 turbines and a total capacity of 367.2 MW, the windfarm could provide enough power for 320,000 households. "Britain has a lot to be proud of in our growing offshore wind sector. Our island's tremendous natural resource, our research base and a proud history of engineering make this the number one destination for investment in offshore wind," said Davey.

"And Walney is the newest, biggest and fastest-built jewel in that crown, providing clean power for hundreds of thousands of households," he said.

Statistics show that Britain has more than 1.5 gigawatts(GW) of installed offshore wind power, and is planning to raise its capacity to 18 GW by 2020. As many as 70,000 people could be employed in the British offshore wind industry by the start of the next decade.—*Xinhua*

Cuba opens international book fair, hopes for Castro show

HAVANA, 10 Feb—Cuban cultural authorities on Thursday opened the 21st International Book Fair, which organizers said will be attended by over 200 cultural and literature figures from over 40 countries.

A total of 130 exhibitors, including 66 from other countries will participate in the book fair, at which over four million books will be put up for sale. Among the foreign guests is Argentinean Peace Nobel laureate Adolfo Esquivel.

Many are speculating whether Cuba's former leader Fidel Castro might repeat last year's surprise visit to the book fair. Last year, the 85-year-old leader showed up and met with Cuban and foreign participants.

"He has not denied the possibility of coming to the meeting, but he has not confirmed it yet," Zuleica Romay, president of the Cuban Book Institute, said of Castro's possible visit.

The former Cuban leader has recently unveiled two volumes of his autobiography entitled "Guerrilla man of time."

The book fair was officially inaugurated Thursday evening in the fortress of San Pedro de La Cabana.—*Xinhua*

Photo illustration of a South Asian leopard.—INTERNET

Leopard drags away and eats 14-year-old girl

KATHMANDU, 10 Feb—A leopard dragged away and devoured a 14-year-old girl in western Nepal in what is thought to be the fifth deadly attack by the same animal in just two months, police said on Thursday.

The youngster was cutting grass in the forest near her home in Baitadi District, on the border with India, when she was attacked by the animal, said Bishnu Bahadur Karki, a local deputy superintendent of police.

"The locals found the body torn into pieces and eaten below the neck at the forest area yesterday," he told *AFP*.

Karki said three young girls and a 35-year-old pregnant woman had been killed in the weeks leading up to Wednesday's attack and police believed the same animal was responsible for all the deaths.

"The leopard has continuously been victimising and terrorising the people of Pancheshwor village. We requested the district forest office to allow us to kill it but they refused, saying that the law does not provide such permission," Karki told *AFP*.—*Internet*

Driver whisks six students off NC bus before it bursts into flames

NORTH CAROLINA , 10 Feb— After noticing smoke seeping inside, a North Carolina bus driver rushed six elementary school children off her vehicle moments before it burst into flames.

The incident occurred Wednesday afternoon as Lindora Richardson was driving the children home from Chantilly Montessori Elementary School, a public school in Charlotte, school district spokeswoman Tahira Stalberte said.

"We are very proud of her and for her following proper procedures," said Stalberte, speaking on behalf of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, on Thursday. "It could have taken a very different turn had she not done her job correctly."

Richardson told Vinnie Politan of HLN, CNN's sister network, that she was driving on her route through a Charlotte neighbourhood when she detected a "burning smell" and pulled over to investigate. "As that was going on, smoke started to come from under the dash of the bus," she recalled. At that point, Richardson guided the young students on board to the back of the bus.

Driver saves kids from burning bus. INTERNET

Describing the children as "calm," she said that they exited "one-by-one" through the rear emergency exit. The bus driver said she and the students, ages 5 to 10, then "walked so far up the street" where they witnessed the smoke and flames engulf the vehicle.

Internet

36 cracks found in an aircraft's wings

LONDON, 9 Feb—An Airbus has been hit by a second wing scare after 36 hairline cracks were found in a single *A380* superjumbo. The discovery came to light during detailed inspections following a flight hit by a turbulence, prompting the European Aviation Safety Authority (EASA) to order inspections on some other *A380s*, the *Sun* reported.

The cracks were no more than two centimetres in length.

The world's largest passenger airliner — *Airbus A380* — is a double-deck, wide-body, four-engine jet airliner manufactured by the European corporation Airbus.

According to Qantas, the flag carrier of Australia, which has 12 *A380s*, the cracks posed no safety threat and differed from those found by manufacturer Airbus in the wings of two other *A380s* last month.

The wings of Airbus planes are made in Britain.

According to Qantas, this cracking was not related to the turbulence, or specific to Qantas, but was traced back to a manufacturing issue.

"This type of cracking is different from the 'type two' cracking found on certain *A380s* in the global fleet, which is now the subject of a European airworthiness directive," said an official statement by Qantas.

The future airline customers include British Airways (BA) and Virgin Atlantic. While the BA is to take delivery of the first of 12 *A380s* in 2013, the first of Virgin's eight superjumbos will arrive in 2015.—*Internet*

US Navy plane parts fall on Japan

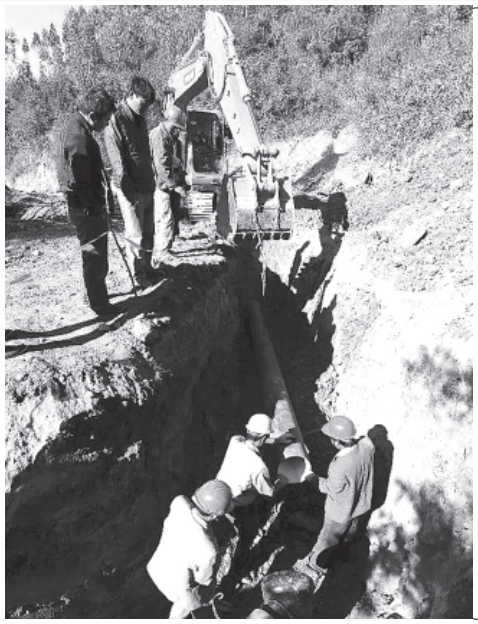
TOKYO, 10 Feb—The US Navy was investigating on Thursday how several chunks of one of its aircraft — including one around 2.2 metres (seven feet) by one metre — fell off as it flew back to its base in Japan.

Six pieces from an *EA-6B Prowler*, including a part of the engine cover, plunged to earth as the plane flew over Yamato, near Tokyo, causing "minor damage to a privately-owned vehicle", the US Navy said.

The aircraft, from the US Navy's Yokosuka base in Kanagawa prefecture, "was returning from a routine training flight when the parts... fell off and the plane landed safely."

An official from Yamato city said aircraft regularly dropped debris, adding that a house was damaged in 2010 by a piece of falling metal.

The US has around 50,000 troops stationed in Japan at bases all over the country and tensions with host communities are not uncommon. "The Navy deeply regrets any inconvenience this event may have caused its neighbours," said a statement from the US forces.—*Internet*



Workers lay a water pipeline in Shuangbai County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 8 Feb, 2012. A 33-kilometre water pipeline was being laid from the Baizhushan Reservoir to the county seat to ease drinking water shortage caused by the drought of three consecutive years. XINHUA

Over 500 elephants killed in DR Congo's Virunga national park since 2010

KINSHASA, 10 Feb—Over 500 elephants have been massacred since 2010 by poachers at the Virunga national park in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), revealed Guy Mbuyama, technical director of the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature (ICCN), on Wednesday.

He was speaking in Kinshasa during a forum organized to discuss about the problem of poaching.

"Since 2010, over 500 elephants have been massacred by poachers.

The threat is real and if we do not take necessary measures, then elephants may disappear from Virunga national park," Mbuyama warned.

He said that besides the elephants, the poachers were also killing chimpanzees, gorillas, rhinos, hippopotamus and Okapis.

The ICCN official said he was surprised to find a lot of bush meat on the markets in South Kivu and North Kivu Pprovinces and yet the authorities were not raising any concerns.

Mbuyama decried the upsurge of poaching incidents at the Virunga national park which is considered as a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

"Currently, ICCN has a strategy to protect the biodiversity and other animal species in Virunga national park. However, the implementation of this strategy should be supported by the government," he concluded.

Xinhua

Dog kills woman who saves children from attack

LONDON, 10 Feb —A middle-aged woman in Britain was killed before her five children while trying to prevent the family dog from attacking them.

Petite Cassandra Smith, 49, of Warwickshire leapt in to fight off the frenzied Alsatian when it went for daughters Charlotte, 28, and Annette, 26. But the dog flew at her and sank its jaws into her face and throat, the *Sun* reported on Thursday. Her five terrified children — including Shelley, 25, Kayleigh, 21, and Jayson, 30 — helplessly looked on screaming in horror. As their mom lay in a pool of blood in the living room of their flat, the children somehow managed to escape and knock on a neighbour's door for help.

A neighbour later found the three-year-old dog who the lady had bought only six months ago "chewing her face".

Internet

A man with child walk past a snow-covered car in central Tbilisi, on 9 February, 2012. The temperatures in the Georgia's capital dropped today to -6 C. INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV JURONG VOY NO (5)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JURONG VOY NO (5) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PULAU CEBU VOY NO (44)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PULAU CEBU VOY NO (44) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 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: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SN QUEEN VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SN QUEEN VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.2.2012 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: M/S SEANET SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RATU VOY NO (477)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATU VOY NO (477) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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14 dead, thousands affected in Peru deluge

LIMA, 10 Feb— At least 14 people were killed while 29 others were injured and some 44,000 more were affected in Peru during past two days by heavy rains and ensuing flooding and landslides, authorities said on Thursday.

Nonstop downpours are pounding 80 percent of the country and at least 4,861 people have been left homeless, according to a statement issued by the National Civil Defence Institute, or Indeci.

The San Martin Province, located in a central part of the Peruvian Amazon, has been hit hardest by the rains with 18,030 people affected and 202 left homeless.

The territorial rains have caused numerous rivers to overflow as at least 669 homes, schools, medical centers were destroyed and croplands of thousands of small farmers were damaged.

Almost 19 kilometres of highways were severely damaged while another 783 kilometers suffered lesser damage. Four bridges collapsed and another 13 were left in bad shape.—*Xinhua*

Thousands displaced as flash floods hit S Philippines

COTABATO CITY,10 Feb— Thousands of people have been displaced as flash floods triggered by heavy downpour hit southern Philippines, a local official said on Friday.

Apple Agolong, a councilor in the city of Dapitan, said at least 12 low-lying villages in the City were flooded, forcing more than 4,000 people to evacuate and move to state-run schools and churches.

She said floodwaters, about 3-metre deep, reached the roofs of houses but there were no reported casualties.

"The ongoing rain since Wednesday flooded our villages. There was no typhoon. The local government is now assisting those affected by the floods," said Agolong.

Weather forecasters on Friday warned residents of the southern region of Mindanao of heavy rains brought about by an approaching low pressure area.

Xinhua

***Civilian volunteers carry relief goods as they cross a damaged road destroyed at the height of the powerful earthquake in Guihulngan Town, Negros Oriental Province, central Philippines on 9 February, 2012.—*INTERNET**

Toxic bootleg brew kills 22 people in India

BHUBANESWAR, 10 Feb— Officials say at least 22 people have died and more are sick after drinking toxic bootleg liquor made from cough medicine in eastern India.

A hospital administrator in Orissa state said the farm laborers fell ill in the past two days after drinking the brew. Bhubananda Maharana also said Wednesday that another 31 workers were being treated for symptoms of liquor poisoning.

India's poor often buy cheap bootleg liquor made of syrups and medicines that are spiked with methyl alcohol and other industrial spirits to give it a kick.

Orissa's top elected official has ordered an inquiry.

Government spokesman SK Panda also said two pharmaceutical companies that produced the cough medicine have been sealed.—*Internet*

6.3-magnitude quake hits Fiji

BEIJING, 10 Feb — An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale jolted the region of Fiji islands at 9:47 am Friday (Beijing Time), according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

The epicentre, with a depth of 560 km, was monitored at about 17.9 degrees south latitude and 178.5 degrees west longitude, the center said in a statement.

Xinhua

55 rescued from snow-hit Tibet highway

LHASA, 10 Feb— A total of 55 people who have been stranded on west China's Xinjiang-Tibet Highway since Tuesday due to heavy snowfall have been rescued, a local rescue team said Thursday.

Traffic on the highway, which links the Tibet and Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous regions, resumed on Thursday following a rescue operation conducted by armed police, according to Zheng Jinshui, a police officer in charge of the rescue.

Continuous snowfall and temperatures as low as negative 30 degrees Celsius didn't stop the rescuers, who have cleared snow from a total 95 km of highway in Ngari prefecture, according to Zheng. The Xinjiang-Tibet Highway is a major transport route linking Tibet to other parts of the country.—*Xinhua*

5.3-magnitude quake hits Xinjiang

BEIJING, 10 Feb— An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Kazak Autonomous County of Barkol, Hami Prefecture, in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, at 2:57 am Friday Beijing Time, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

The epicentre, with a depth of 7 km, was monitored at 44.9 degrees north latitude and 93.1 degrees east longitude, the centre said in a statement.

Xinhua

***People skate on the frozen canal in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on 8 Feb, 2012. The cold snap in Europe has frozen most of the canals in Amsterdam. Amsterdam has more than 100 canals and 1,000 bridges, making "a city of canals".* XINHUA**

Rats assault Israeli army base

The mostly female garrison at an Israeli army base says it is holding out as best it can against a legion of infiltrating rats. The women of the military's Home Front command at Beersheba told Ynetnews.com they have been overrun by rampaging rodents for more than five months and are near the breaking point.

"It's terrible," one soldier admitted. "They swarm the offices, the bedrooms, the dinning hall and the sewage system."

Another trooper said extermination efforts haven't worked and everyone at Beersheba is on high alert. "The rats roam freely around us," she said. "We're so scared that we can't sleep at night."

Ynetnews said the military is refusing to surrender in the campaign, but the issue has made it to the floor of the Knesset where Home Front Minister Matan Vilnai reminded lawmakers that rats can be a persistent foe that isn't easily defeated.

News Album

Pakistani fishermen use cranes to pull the carcass of a whale shark from the waters at a fish harbour in Karachi on 7 Feb, 2012. The 40-feet whale, weighing about 6-7 tons, was found dead in Arabian Sea in the port city of Karachi.

Giant whale shark washes up in Pakistan

Experts said the carcass of a giant whale shark that washed ashore at Pakistan's Karachi Harbour likely got lost and became trapped in the shallow waters.

The cause of the animal's death was unknown Tuesday, but Muhammad Yousuf, owner of the boat that discovered the carcass, said it was dead when his crew found it on Tuesday, *News Pakistan* reported on on Wednesday.

Yousuf said the whale shark carcass was sold to the Karachi Fish Harbour Authority for an undisclosed amount that was said to be less than the $18,700 offered by a bidder at the local fisheries auction hall.

Hina Baig, a biologist with the National Institute of Oceanography, said the animal must have become lost and ended up trapped in the shallow waters.

"Whales use [echo-sounds] to find their way in water and if a large ship comes in the way, they get disoriented," Baig said.

Icelander films alleged legendary creature

An Icelandic man said he has captured video of a creature he believes is the legendary Lagarfljots Worm.

Hjortur Kjerulf said he shot the video last weekend on the river Jokulsa i Fljotsdal, which runs into Lagarfljot lake, and it appears to depict a giant snake-like creature swimming upstream, *iceNews* reported on Wednesday.

However, some critics have said the video could be depicting some old netting that became frozen in the river, making it appear to be a swimming snake.

The legend behind the Lagarfljots Worm, which was first sighted in 1345, claims it began as a regular worm thrown into the lake by a woman who was angry when it failed to make her gold ring grow. The ring, which the legend says the woman also threw into the river, is said to have made the worm grow to a gigantic size.

Actress Angelina Jolie arrives at the 18th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles on 29 Jan, 2012. INTERNET

Jolie to be a presenter at the Oscars

BEVERLY HILLS, 10 Feb— Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie is to be a presenter at the 84th Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, telecast producers said on Wednesday.

Jolie won her Oscar in 2000 for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in "Girl, Interrupted." She also received a nomination in 2008 for her lead performance in "Changeling." Her other film credits include "Kung Fu Panda 2," "The Tourist," "Salt," "Wanted," "A Mighty Heart," "Mr and Mrs Smith," "Taking Lives" and "The Bone Collector." Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2011 are to be presented on 26 February at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Centre.—*Internet*

Singer Katy Perry and her husband, actor Russell Brand arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles on 28 Aug, 2011 in Los Angeles. INTERNET

Perry and Brand reach divorce settlement

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb—Pop star Katy Perry and comedian Russell Brand informed Los Angeles Superior Court they have reached a settlement in their divorce, documents show.

Perry and Brand married in October 2010 and filed for divorce in December 2011.

People.com said the couple filed the paperwork on Tuesday, stating they have reached a settlement regarding the distribution of their property.

Perry also requested to legally restore her maiden name to Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson, People.com said.—*Internet*

Naomi Watts to play Princess Diana

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb— British actress Naomi Watts is to play Diana, Princess of Wales, in a film about the last two years of her life, the movie's producers said.

Director Oliver Hirschbiegel is scheduled to start shooting "Caught in Flight" in England this year, *The Hollywood Reporter* said.

The entertainment industry trade newspaper quoted Watts as saying it is "an honour to be able to play this iconic role — Princess Diana was loved across the world, and I look forward to rising to the challenge of playing her on screen."

Hirschbiegel said he is confident Watts will be able to capture "the warmth, humanity and empathy of such a global icon as Princess Diana."

Watts' film credits include "21 Grams," "I Heart Huckabees," "King Kong" and "J Edgar."—*Internet*

Actress Naomi Watts is to play Diana, Princess of Wales, in a film about the last two years of her life, the movie's producers said. INTERNET

Actress Parminder Nagra has filed for divorce from photographer James Stenson, court documents show.— INTERNET

Nagra and Stenson divorcing

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb— British actress Parminder Nagra has filed for divorce from photographer James Stenson, court documents show. TMZ said Nagra cited "irreconcilable differences" as the reason for the split.

The couple dated for seven years before marrying in 2009. They are the parents of a 2-year-old son.

Nagra is best known for her work on TV's "ER" and "Alcatraz," as well as the movie "Bend It Like Beckham."—*Internet*

Billy Connolly joins 'Hobbit' cast

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb— Scottish actor Billy Connolly has signed on to play dwarf warrior Dain Ironfoot in Peter Jackson's two-part "The Hobbit" project, the director said on Wednesday.

"We could not think of a more fitting actor to play Dain Ironfoot, the staunchest and toughest of Dwarves, than Billy Connolly, the Big Yin himself," Jackson said in a statement issued to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

"With Billy stepping into this role, the cast of 'The Hobbit' is now complete. We can't wait to see him on the battlefield!"

"The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" is set for release on 14 December, while "The Hobbit: There and Back Again" will open in theaters on 13 Dec, 2013.

The movies are prequels to "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, which also were directed by Jackson and were based on fantasy novels by JRR Tolkien.

The ensemble of "The Hobbit" movies includes Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman, Cate Blanchett, Ian Holm, Christopher Lee, Hugo Weaving, Elijah Wood, Orlando Bloom and Andy Serkis.—*Internet*

Rep: Macaulay Culkin is in good health

NEW YORK, 10 Feb— Macaulay Culkin is in "perfectly good health," his publicist said after the former child star was photographed looking gaunt and disheveled in New York.

The unflattering photo of the 32-year-old "Home Alone" and "Uncle Buck" actor sparked fans' concern when it was posted Thursday on the Web site of "Entertainment Tonight."

But Culkin's publicist told UsMagazine.com there is no cause for alarm.

"Macaulay Culkin is in perfectly good health. For 'Entertainment Tonight' or any other media to speculate otherwise is thoughtless, irresponsible and destructive," the representative said.

"He is thin, so when he loses one pound it just looks like more," an unnamed source close to the actor told UsMagazine.com.—*Internet*

Actor Macaulay Culkin and actress Mila Kunis attend Michael Jackson's burial service held at Glendale Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California on 3 Sept, 2009.— INTERNET

Djokovic unveils wax figure of himself in Serbia

BELGRADE, 10 Feb — An estimated 6,000 adoring fans braved frigid temperatures on Thursday to get a glimpse of the world's top seeded tennis player Novak Djokovic in the central Serbian town of Jagodina, reported the Serbian news agency *Tanjug*.

Novak Djokovic

Djokovic arrived in Jagodina to reveal his life-like statue at the wax museum in the town. The event was attended by the town's mayor, Dragan Markovic-Palma, and the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Ivica Dacic. According to Markovic-Palma, the timing of the unveiling of Djokovic's wax figure was fortuitous, given the fact that Djokovic had received the award as top sportsman for 2011 at the Laureus Sports Award in London only days earlier.

"We believe that Nole is the most successful Serbian athlete and that his figure should be in a museum," said Markovic-Palma, adding that other Serbian athletes would not be ignored in the future, naming basketball players Vlade Divac and Sasha Djordjevic as possible entries. The wax figure was made by Belgrade sculptor Svetomir Radovic after reviewing extensive video recordings and photographs of Djokovic in action. The life-size figure is dressed in attire worn by Djokovic and holds a racket used by him in an actual tennis match.

Xinhua

Out-of-sorts Bartoli reaches Paris quarter-finals

PARIS, 10 Feb — Home favourite Marion Bartoli shook off some first-set rustiness to defeat Croatian Petra Martic 7-5, 6-1 here on Thursday and take her place in the WTA Paris Open quarter-finals. After breaks of serve were exchanged three times in the first eight games, Bartoli broke for a 6-5 lead when Martic put a forehand long and took the first set when the stretching Croatian could only find the net with a forehand. Bartoli had served erratically in the first set, committing six double-faults, but Martic's challenge wilted in the second set and the 27-year-old second seed was able to close out a routine victory.

"It was my first match since the Australian Open, where I really hadn't played well against Zheng Jie in the third round," said Bartoli. "I'd left off on a bad match, so it wasn't easy to get back on the horse. But once I'd won the first set, I started to hit the ball a lot better, which enabled me to raise my game.

"It's essentially a question of confidence, but it's never straightforward to come back after two weeks without playing." Bartoli will now face Italy's Roberta Vinci after the seventh seed overcame a second-set slump to beat American qualifier Bethanie Mattek-Sands 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

Internet

France's Marion Bartoli hits a return to Croatia's Petra Martic during their tennis match at the Paris' WTA tournament at Pierre de Coubertin stadium in Paris.— INTERNET

Harry Redknapp becomes the next England manager, according to Alan Shearer. INTERNET

Alan Shearer says Harry Redknapp is the right man for England

LONDON, 10 Feb — The Football Association should "move heaven and earth" to ensure Harry Redknapp becomes the next England manager, according to Alan Shearer. "I think he is made for it," the former England captain — who scored 30 goals and won 63 caps between 1992 and 2000 — told *BBC* Sport's Football Focus. "He understands players and players understand him. That is a perfect mix. I'd move heaven and earth to get him." Fabio Capello resigned from his job as England manager on Wednesday.

The Italian decided to quit after publicly disagreeing with the FA's decision to strip John Terry of the England captaincy while the Chelsea defender awaits trial in July, accused of racially abusing QPR defender Anton Ferdinand .

Terry has always strenuously denied the accusation, and has vowed to clear his name. Shearer says he understands Capello's frustrations at the situation, but he also believes the FA's decision was correct.

"Having been England captain, particularly leading up to the tournament, you are asked to do all sorts with the media," he said. "It would have been hard for John Terry to do that without people asking millions of questions." With four months to go before Euro 2012, Shearer believes the next England manager should share the same nationality as his players for both practical and idealistic reasons.

Internet

Van Persie first to reach 20 goals

Arsenal striker set to finish season as Barclays Premier League top scorer

LONDON, 10 Feb — Arsenal striker Robin van Persie has become the first Barclays Premier League player to reach 20 goals for this season. The prolific Dutchman, who leads the League's scoring charts, reached the milestone during the Gunners' 7-1 thrashing of Blackburn Rovers at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday. Van Persie went on to score twice more, meaning the 28-year-old has now scored 22 goals in only 24 Barclays Premier League fixtures this campaign.

The Arsenal striker was also the first man to reach 10 goals and he did that while scoring a hat-trick too, in the 5-3 win over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in October. Van Persie's 22 goals put him six ahead of Newcastle United's Demba Ba (16), and seven away from Manchester City's Sergio Aguero and Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (both 15). None of those four have ever won the Barclays Golden Boot award for the top scorer in a season, with Man Utd's Dimitar Berbatov winning it with 20 last term and Man City's Carlos Tevez with 20 the year before. The last man to score 30 goals in a Barclays Premier League season was former Man Utd forward Cristiano Ronaldo, who struck 31 in only 34 matches in the 2007-08 campaign.— *Internet*

Arsenal striker Robin van Persie has enjoyed a remarkably prolific 2011-12 season.— INTERNET

Lazio hit back to resurrect title hopes

ROME , 10 Feb — Ten-man Lazio thrust themselves back into title contention with a stunning come-from-behind 3-2 victory over Cesena at the Stadio Olimpico here on Thursday. The bianco-celeste turned around at the break 2-0 down and with a numerical disadvantage but a remar-kable 10-minute period just after the restart flipped their fortunes around.

Lazio forward Miroslav Klose controls the ball during their Serie A football match against Cesena in Rome's Olympic Stadium.— INTERNET

Strike pairing Adrtian Mutu and Vincenzo Iaquinta, from the spot, had given Cesena a seemingly unassai-lable half-time lead, particularly given Abdoulay Konko had been sent-off for the hosts. But goals from Hernanes, Senad Lulic and Libor Kozak turned the match on its head and moved Lazio up to third, temporarily at least.

"It's a great win for us, it's always very hard to be 2-0 down and playing with 10 men," said match-winner Kozak, who was making his comeback after injury.

"I'm happy to be back in and to have scored an important goal, my first in the league." Lazio now trail leaders Juventus by just three points, although they have played more games then all their immediate rivals.

Internet

Woods opens PGA Tour season with 68 at Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, 10 Feb — Tiger Woods got his 2012 PGA Tour season off to a solid start, firing a four-under 68 at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am to sit five strokes back of a trio of leaders.

Woods took advantage of some perfect weather in Thursday's first round at the Spyglass Hill golf course — considered the tougher of the three courses the field will tackle this week. "I drilled it great today," Woods said. "I feel much more confident with my game."

The 14-time major winner was five strokes back of a threesome at the top of the leaderboard, New Zealand's Danny Lee, Charlie Wi of South Korea and American Dustin Johnson who all reached nine-under.

Wi posted a course-record 61 on the par-70 Monterey Peninsula Country Club course while Johnson and Lee carded 63s on the par-72 Pebble Beach Golf Links. Ken Duke and Brian Harman were tied for fourth just one stroke back of the leaders.

Woods, who is now ranked 18th in the world, made the turn at two-under on a bright sunny day on the Monterey Peninsula.

The ideal conditions saw a bevy of low scores.

Wi flirted with a 59 for much of the day on Monterey while two-time winner Johnson got off to a six-under start through six holes.

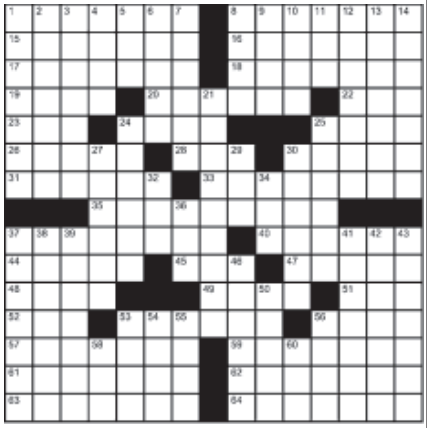
"Any time you are shooting nine-under you are making putts," Wi said. "It was really nice to see the ball go in today."

Internet

Charlie Wi of South Korea reacts to a missed putt for birdie on the 12th hole during the AaT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am the Monterey Peninsula Country Club (Shore Course), on 9 Feb, in Pebble Beach,California. INTERNET

International Sports

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Hastily made devices (2 wds)
8. Low relief enamel on ceramic
15. Smallest of the Great Lakes
16. Gives personal assurances
17. Small movable scale that slides along a main scale
18. Father's sisters, informally
19. "Iliad" warrior
20. Whooping birds
22. "Wheel of Fortune" buy (2 wds)
23. Software program that performs time-consuming tasks
24. Lentil, e.g.
25. Auditory
26. Drunk (2 wds)
28. Drink from a dish
30. Black European thrush
31. Like some mushrooms
33. Water diffused as vapour
35. Artist's media (2 wds)
37. Break, in a way (3 wds)
40. Constrain (2 wds)
44. About to explode
45. "Harper Valley ___" (acronym)
47. Agreeing (with)
48. Anchovy containers
49. Break
51. ___ Victor (acronym)
52. "Go on ..."
53. Ancient Egyptian documents
56. Sean Connery, for one
57. Harmful
59. Erstwhile (2 wds)
61. Islands of the central and S Pacific
62. What a tailor does to an old coat's insides
63. Those who group similar things
64. Chair part

Down

1. Deserving affection
2. Not using liquid
3. Concluding musical passages played at a faster speed
4. ___ Christian Andersen
5. Altdorf is its capital
6. Allotment
7. Reddish brown
8. "Terrible" czar
9. Grimace
10. Humorous play on words (pl.)
11. Appear
12. Therapeutic massage
13. Even smaller
14. Small bone, esp. in middle ear
21. Unshakably
24. Unite
25. Beginning
27. Depth charge targets (2 wds)
29. Hawaiian dish
30. Bony
32. Large North American deer
34. Publicity, slangily
36. Appear, with "up"
37. Spanish male gypsies
38. River to the Atlantic through Venezuela and Columbia
39. More pronounced bowed legs
41. Relating to pigs
42. Revenues
43. Most orderly
46. Dawn goddess
50. Lid or lip application
53. Johnnycake
54. Gulf V.I.P.
55. Two ___ in a pod
56. Ado
58. College entrance exam (acronym)
60. "A Nightmare on ___ Street"

Vania King reaches quarterfinals at Pattaya Open

PATTAYA, (Thailand) 10 Feb—Eighth-seeded Vania King advanced to the quarterfinals of the Pattaya Open by beating Alla Kudryavtseva of Russia 6-1, 6-3 Thursday. The American played well from the baseline to beat her friend and reach the quarterfinals for the first time since last September in Seoul.

King will next play defending champion Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia, who beat Urszula Radwanska of Poland 6-3, 6-2 in a match that was briefly suspended by light rain before the end of the first set.

Sania Mirza also advanced to the quarterfinals by beating Anne Keothavong of Britain 6-4, 7-5. Mirza, who lost the 2009 final to Vera Zvonareva, will play Taiwanese qualifier Hsieh Su-wei, who defeated Japanese veteran Kimiko Date-Krumm 7-5, 6-0.

Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(11-2-12 09:30 am ~ 12-2-12 09:30 am) MST
Oversea Transmission

* News
* A New Nation With New Strength (Prograssive Images) (States) (Part - I)
* News
* A New Nation With New Strength (Prograssive Images) (States) (Part - II)
* News
* The 4th Yangon Photo Festival
* News
* Musci Gallery
* Rice Bowl of Northern Shan State
* News
* Yoetayoke-Kyawktaw Railroad Section
* News
* AIM Bazaar 2012
* News
* Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Royal Quick-fried Fish"
* News
* Myanmar Donation Ceremony and Well-done sounds from Rural Area
* Myanmar Movies ''Beyond Love''

MYANMAR TV

(11-2-2012) (Saturday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw - Uppatathandi Paritta

8:00 am
2. Health programme

8:10 am
3. Poem Garden

8:30 am
4. 65th Anniversary Union Day Programme

8:40 am
5. International News

11:25 am
6. Game For Children

2:15 pm
7. Dance Of National Races

2:20 am
8. 65th Anniversary Union Day Programme

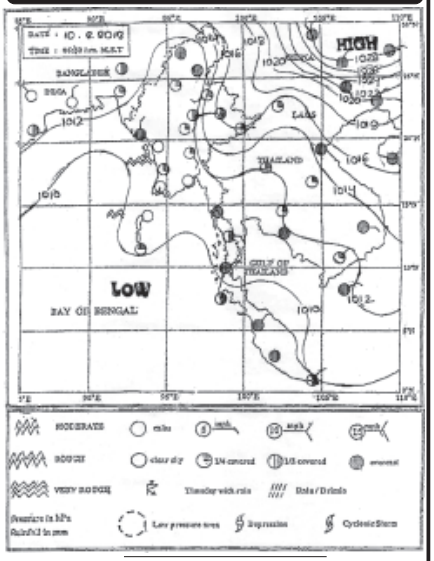
4:30 pm
9. 2012 University Entrance Examination (Mathematics)

5:00 pm
10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:05 pm
11. Beautiful "ASEAN"

8:00 pm
12. News
13. Union Day Programme
14. Cartoon Series
15. TV Drama Series
16. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 11th February, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	30/86	13/55	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	32/90	10/50	Partly Cloudy	
3	Kayin	37/99	15/59	Partly Cloudy	
4	Chin	22/72	06/43	Partly Cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	30/86	15/59	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	33/91	17/63	Partly Cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	34/93	18/64	Partly Cloudy	
9	Magway	35/95	15/59	Partly Cloudy	
10	Mandalay	35/95	18/64	Partly Cloudy	
11	Mon	36/97	18/64	Partly Cloudy	
12	Yangon	35/95	18/64	Partly Cloudy	
13	Rakhine	31/88	17/63	Partly Cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	28/82	13/55	Partly Cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	28/82	06/43	Partly Cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	09/48	Partly Cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	33/91	17/63	Partly Cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	35/95	15/59	Partly Cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	18/64	Partly Cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	18/64	Partly Cloudy	
Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today		During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) below February average temperatures in Kayin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Shan and Mon States and about February average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan (2°C), Heho (5°C), Lashio and Haka(6°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (1.10) inches.			
Bay Inference		Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.			
State of the Sea		Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.			
Outlook for sub-		Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.			

DISTRICT NEWS

Specialists, physicians give health care

DANUBYU, 10 Feb—Under the leadership of Ayeyawady Region Health Department, a combined team of Women's Chapter of Myanmar Medical Association (Yangon), Danubyu Karuna Association and Township Health Department gave health care services to the local people at Danubyu People's Hospital on 5 February.

Physicians and specialists provided surgical operation and medical check-up to over 1200 people.

Myanma Alin

Traffic rules booth opened

LOIKAW, 10 Feb—Directorate of Road Administration of Kayah State and Myanmar Police Force jointly opened the booth on traffic rules at the Kayah State festival in Loikaw from 10 to 18 January.

The Kayah State Chief Minister, the Speaker of State Hluttaw, state ministers and departmental officials visited the booth.

Myanma Alin

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UEC Chairman meets Yangon Region Subcommission, District and Township Subcommissions

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye meets Yangon Region Election Subcommission, District and Township Subcommissions.—MNA

YANGON, 10 Feb—Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye met responsible persons of the Yangon Region Election Subcommission, District and Township Subcommissions at the office of Yangon Region Government, here, at 1 pm today.

Chairman of the Commission U Tin Aye explained arrangements of the Union Election Commission to hold the free and fair by-election on 1 April in vacant constituencies at respective Hluttaws and tasks for Region, District and Township Sub-Commissions.

Chairman of the Yangon Region Election Subcommission U Ko Ko reported on preparations of Yangon Region to hold the by-election in the region.

Chairmen of subcommissions from four districts and six townships submitted reports on preparations for holding the by-elections in respective districts and townships.

Member of the Union Election Commission in-charge of Yangon Region Dr Daw Myint Kyi gave a supplementary report on matters related to the by-election.

Later, the meeting ended with a concluding remark by the Commission Chairman.

The meeting was also attended by chairmen, secretaries and members of subcommissions from four districts and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Mingala Taungnyunt, Mayangon, Kawhmu, Thongwa and Hlegu townships.

MNA

65th Anniversary Union Day going out live

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—MRTV, Nay Pyi Taw Myanma Radio and MRTV-4 will broadcast the State flag hoisting ceremony to mark 65th Anniversary Union Day live starting from 6.45 am which will be held at 7 am on 12 February here.—*MNA*

Giggs signs new deal

Welshman to keep playing until summer of 2013

Ryan Giggs: Awarded a new deal by Manchester United to continue his Old Trafford career.—INTERNET

LONDON, 10 Feb—Manchester United midfielder Ryan Giggs has put pen to paper on a new one-year contract to extend his remarkable career at Old Trafford.

The Welshman's deal had been set to expire in the summer but he indicated recently that he had no intention of hanging up his boots.

United have now confirmed that he has agreed fresh terms to keep him at the club until June 2013.

Giggs, turns 39 in November and the contract extension means he will now still be playing just a few months before his 40th birthday.

After progressing through the youth ranks with the Red Devils, Giggs made his debut in 1991 and has scored in every season of the Premier League since its inception.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has paid tribute to Giggs' longevity as a player and for being a role model for his fellow professionals.

He said: "Ryan is a marvellous player. In many ways, he epitomises all my teams here at United; he has constantly reinvented himself, adapted to the changing nature of the game and retained that desire and hunger for success.

"In every training session and match, he is the example for others to follow.

"The young players in the dressing room have a great chance to learn from a player who will continue to break records that anyone in the game will find hard to beat."

Giggs has also expressed his delight at the deal and is looking forward to playing a key role over the next 18 months.

"When I signed my first contract, I never thought I'd be able to play at United for 22 years but I feel good and I know I can still contribute to keeping the team pushing for honours," Giggs said.

"Winning the club's 19th title was a great feeling but this club is all about what we do next and I'm really pleased I can be part of that."

Internet

Victims from Mansi and Kutkai townships go home

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Some local people from villages in Mansi Township of Kachin State and Kutkai Township of Shan State (North) fled to the urban areas in Mansi and Kutkai Townships because of the lack of peace, stability and security. Local authorities concerned, officials and wellwishers are providing those with necessary assistance.

Thanks to the government's peace-making processes, the border areas restore stability, peace and security. Now, the conditions in Mansi and Kutkai townships have returned to normal. So, those local are moving back to their respective villages with the help of local authorities.—*MNA*

With Union Spirit

Hailing the 65th Anniversary Union Day

POEM

Union where all forces join

* No one can ever divide us
Always we are united
* No one can ever destroy us
Always we are marching forward
* No one can ever frighten us
Always we are building
new nation
* Our internal strength
Lies within
With unity and amity
Towards the same goal
No one can ever stop us
* History countable by years
in thousand
Kinfolk of single motherland
As a solidified strength
Through thick or thin
All striving in harmony
In our territorial land, water, airspace

ZAW MIN MIN OO (TRS)

PAGES 8+9 PAGES 8

Woods opens PGA Tour season with 68 at Pebble Beach

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