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Monday, 13 February, 2012

True patriotism

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

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

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win host reception and dinner in commemoration of 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—A reception and dinner hosted by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win to mark the 65th Anniversary Union Day for 2012 was held at the City Hall here this evening.

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win cordially greeted dignitaries who were present at the dinner.

The dinner was also attended by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal U Thein Soe, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and their wives, union ministers, the chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, senior military officers, chairmen and secretaries of committees of the hluttaws, the commander of



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win greet those at the reception to mark 65th Anniversary Union Day and dinner.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win enjoy performance of artists at the reception and dinner to mark 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012.—MNA



the Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and their wives, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental heads, members of the central committee for organizing the 65th Anniversary Union Day, chairmen of the sub-committees and invited guests.

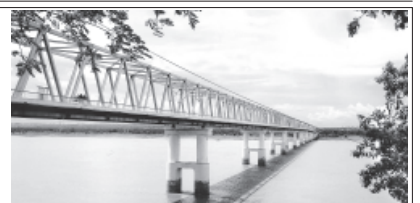
Before and during the dinner, the music band of Myanma Radio and Television entertained the dignitaries with

songs and national dances and vocalists performed to the accompaniment of the music band.

After the dinner, artists from the Fine Arts Department and students from the cultural universities of the Ministry of Culture performed dances at open-air theatre outside the City Hall.

MNA

Anawrahta Bridge brought about easy access between Chauk and Seikpyu in Magway Region



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PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 13 February, 2012

Educational opportunities in Sagaing Region

Sagaing Region in the central and northern part of Myanmar with a population of nearly five million still has many things to do for education and job opportunities.

In this regard, President U Thein Sein, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party visited Sagaing on 11 February and helped improve educational opportunities for local students there. They made arrangements to open the Arts and Science University (Sagaing) and to upgrade Cooperative College (Sagaing) and Technological College (Sagaing) to university level.

There were a chorus of voices wishing the President good health which reflects the amicable cooperation between the people and the government. From the Yadanabon Ayeyawady River bridge to Sagaing town a large number of local people and students were warmly welcoming the President and his entourage. It actually is a significant day for Sagaing Region.

Beginning next academic year, local students will get the opportunity to pursue higher arts and science in their own region. Arrangements are under way to build Arts and Science University (Sagaing) in a shortest possible period.

Cooperative College (Sagaing) will become a university in the coming academic year. Moreover, Technological College (Sagaing) will also become a university. All these development programs will surely increase educational opportunities for students of Sagaing Region.

Local youths taking these opportunities without fail will become intellectuals and intelligentsia serving the interest of the region and country.

DISTRICT NEWS

Fire drill exercised at Central Sanpya Fish Market

YANGON, 6 Feb—A fire drill was exercised at Central Sanpya Fish Market of Yangon City Development Committee in West Magyidan Ward in Kyimyindine Township on 3 February.

Departmental officials explained fire preventive measures to families of the market.

Later, they viewed demonstrations of fire brigade members in the fire drill.

Kyemon



President Office Union Minister inspects development undertakings in Yesagyo, Pakokku townships



Union Minister U Soe Maung speaks in meeting with local people at No. 111 Basic Education Primary School in Htanngetau Village-tract, Yesagyo Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung met community elders, locals and students at No. 111 Basic Education Primary School in Htanngetau Village-tract, Yesagyo Township, Pakokku District, Magway Region on 6 February.

The Union minister attended a ceremony to upgrade TaungOo Village Basic Education Middle School (Branch) into BEMS in TaungOo Village-tract the following day. He called teachers to turn out morally good and competent students of international level. Two donors from the village donated K 2.5 million to the school.

The Union minister met villagers of Ma-u-aukseik Village-tract and gave talks on rural development and poverty alleviation scheme and explained health, education and economic matters.

The Union minister attended opening ceremony of Kyakpyae Village Basic Education High School in Pakokku Township on 8 February. He then local people at Balaba Village BEHS and Koyin Village BEPS and called for opening of a library in each village-tract.

The Union minister then presented gifts and foodstuffs for village-tracts and cordially greeted the locals.—MNA

National scrutiny card issued in Pobbathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi viewed staff of Immigration and National Registration Department and members of the township national scrutiny cards issuance supervisory committee issuing national scrutiny cards to locals at Thiri Mingalar Monastery in Kyitaungkan Village, Pobbathiri

Township here this morning.

The Union minister called for cooperation of ward/village administrators, community elders and social organizations in taking national census in 2014. He coordinated with personnel to fulfill work requirements of the locals.—MNA

Myanmar eyes cooperation with Vietnam on audit field



Union Auditor-General U Lun Maung meets National Assembly Chairman of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Sinh Hung.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Auditor-General of the Union U Lun Maung, at the invitation of Auditor-

General of the Social Republic of Vietnam Mr Dinh Tien Dung, paid a goodwill visit to Vietnam from 6 to 10 February.

Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Sinh Hung received the Auditor-General and party on 7 February. During the meeting, they agreed to mutually cooperate in audit sector.

The Myanmar delegation visited Auditor-General's Office, No. 1 and No. 6 Region Audit Offices and held discussions with the Vietnamese Auditor-General, Deputy Auditor-General Mr Cao Tan Khong and personnel for cooperation prospects.

MNA

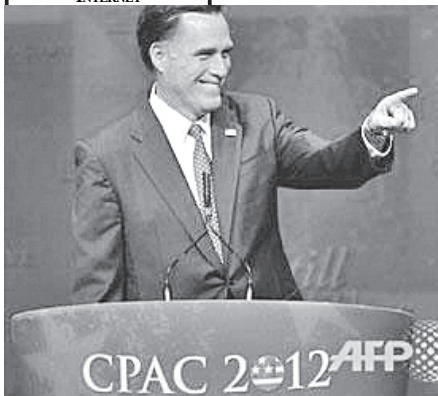
Water supply launched

THANBYUZAYAT, 6 Feb—A ceremony to launch supply of water, undertaken by Thanbyuzayat Township Development Affairs Committee, was held in Kayinthaung Village of Thanbyuzayat Township on 1 February.

Local authorities and departmental officials formally launched the water supply works and inspected arrangements for sufficiently supply of water to the village.—Township IPRD



Republican presidential hopeful and former Mass Gov Mitt Romney addresses the 39th Conservative Political Action Committee in Washington, DC.
INTERNET



Mitt Romney wins Maine caucuses

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb—The Republican Party in US state of Maine announced on Saturday that former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney had won the

state's caucuses, giving his campaign a much needed bounce after embarrassing losses earlier this week.

According to state Republican Chairman Charlie Webster, Romney won 2,190 votes, 39 percent in the state's non-binding caucuses, while Texas Congressman Ron Paul, whose campaign has a strong presence in the state, got 1,996 votes, about 36 percent.

Only 194 votes separate the two candidates. Behind the two frontrunners, Rick Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator, got 18 percent. Newt Gingrich, the former House speaker, got 6 percent.

Maine's caucuses began 4 February and runs throughout the week. But the results announced on

Saturday accounted for just 83 percent of all precincts in the state. Webster said any caucus results that come in after Saturday wouldn't be counted no matter how close the vote turned out to be.

Although the Maine caucuses were non-binding and being described as a "beauty contest," both Romney and Paul badly need a win here. Romney lost Colorado, Missouri and Minnesota earlier this week to Santorum, handing over the political momentum and risks being seen as a fragile frontrunner.

Romney, who originally hadn't scheduled any event, made appearances in Maine earlier in the day, and that might have helped him.

Internet

Canada pulls out of NATO surveillance project

OTTAWA, 12 Feb—Canada has decided to pull out of a NATO project that collects strategic information through unmanned aerial vehicles.

"NATO has been informed of these decisions. The details of our withdrawal are still under discussion with NATO," said Kim Tulipan, spokeswoman for the national defence department. The full withdrawal will be effective this spring, she added.

The Alliance Ground Surveillance project was conceived in 1992. Canada signed a memorandum of understanding with 13 other countries, including the US, Germany and Norway, in 2009. Xinhua reported on Friday quoting the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

The programme, with its main operating base in Italy, provides NATO the ability to have "eyes on target" at strategic weapons to help monitor weapons of mass destruction and military force build-ups, evacuation operations, civil unrest and anti-piracy. Meanwhile, Tulipan stressed that Canada's commitment to NATO remains firm.—Internet

Judge killed, four family members injured in E Afghanistan attack

JALALABAD, 12 Feb—Unidentified gunmen shot dead a judge and injured four of his family members Saturday night in an attack in the country's eastern Province of Nangarhar, a district chief said on Sunday.

"Unknown armed men broke into the house of Judge Mohammad Basir in Khogyani District on Saturday night, killing Basir on the spot and injuring four of his family members," administration chief of the district, Mohammad Hassan, told Xinhua.

He said Basir was serving

as a judge in neighbouring Kunar Province but was visiting his family in Khogyani District.

The official said the attackers fled the scene, adding the injured included two children and two women.

Motive behind the killing was not known. No group claim responsibility for the attack so far. Civilian casualties have increased for a fifth successive year as a total of 3,021 Afghan civilians were killed in 2011, a 8 percent rise over the same period of 2010, according to a UN annual report released earlier

this month.

The report attributed 77 percent of the civilian deaths last year to the attacks of Taliban militants and other armed groups opposing the Afghan government. Another 14 percent of the deaths were attributed to Afghan and NATO-led forces and 9 percent were unattributed.

Targeted killings of civilians by anti-government militants also increased in 2011, as the UN mission in Afghanistan recorded 495 such killings across the country last year.—Internet

Afghan children carry their goods in Torkham border between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan on 10 Feb, 2012. Hundreds of Afghan children work in Torkham to make money and support their families.—XINHUA



Car bomb seriously wounds Iraqi police chief

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb—Iraqi officials say a car bomb south of Baghdad has seriously wounded a local police chief. Police officials say Lt Col

Salman Kadhim was badly hurt when the bomb that was hidden in a parked car in the town of Jbala detonated on Saturday. Jbala is about 60

miles (95 kilometres) south of Baghdad.

Two of Kadhim's guards were also wounded in the explosion. A local health official confirmed the injuries.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to the media.

Iraqi security forces have long been targeted by insurgents seeking to highlight instability in the Shiite-dominated government and its efforts to protect people from violence without US help.

Internet



An Iranian navy vessel fires during an Iranian military exercise on the Sea of Oman, near the Strait of Hormuz in southern Iran on 1 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Iran adds two news subs to navy fleet

TEHRAN, 12 Feb—Iran said it has added two light submarines to its navy at a time when the country is threatening to block the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Rear Adm Habibollah Sayyari said the two Ghadir-class submarines were designed and manufactured by Iranian experts, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The 120-ton submarines are extremely maneuverable, well-suited for missions in shallow waters and equipped with at least two torpedo tubes, RIA Novosti reported.

The Iranian navy now has 16 of the subs, first commissioned in 2007. Iran has threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping route for oil, in response to a Western embargo on Iranian oil exports.—Internet



US soldiers and Afghan security forces secure an area near a car bomb blast attack in the city of Kandahar recently. The car bomb in the south Afghan city of Kandahar killed at least seven people and wounded 19, the province's media office said.—INTERNET

Roadside bomb kills five Afghan police, wounds another

TRINKOT, 12 Feb—Five policemen were killed and another sustained injuries as a roadside bomb struck a police van in Uruzgan Province, 370 km south of Kabul on Friday evening, a police official confirmed on Saturday.

"A mine planted by anti-government militants struck a police vehicle outside provincial capital Trinkot yesterday evening, leaving five policemen dead on the spot," deputy to the provincial police chief Gulab khan told Xinhua.

Another police was injured in the incident, he said.

He also blamed the enemies of peace, a term used by Afghan officials against Taliban militants for organizing the attack; but the outfit has yet to make comment.

Xinhua

Seven militants killed, 18 arrested in Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 Feb—Afghan forces, backed by NATO-led coalition troops, have killed seven armed militants and detained 18 other suspects over the past 24 hours, the Afghan Interior Ministry said on Sunday. "Afghan police, army and coalition forces launched nine joint operations in Kabul, Helmand, Uruzgan, Ghazni, Khost, Paktia and Herat provinces over the past 24 hours," the ministry said in a statement. "As a result of these operations, seven armed militants were killed, two wounded and 18 others were arrested," it said.

The joint forces also seized a handful of weapons in the operations, it said.

Xinhua



Iraqi security forces inspect the scene of a car bomb attack outside the northern city of Mosul, 225 miles (362 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq recently. A car bomb killed a number of people outside the northern city of Mosul on Monday, Iraq officials said, in the latest in a series of attacks to target the country's Shiites since the US withdrawal.—INTERNET

US-style alcohol tests to be used for problem drinkers

LONDON, 12 Feb — Problem drinkers in London are to be given American-style sobriety tests aimed at keeping them dry. The pilot scheme has been given the go-ahead by the Ministry of Justice to use a concept copied from South Dakota, US. Those convicted of serious drink-related offences, like assault or criminal damage, will be offered the 24/7 Sobriety Programme as a sentencing option instead of prison. Electronic tags will be used to monitor alcohol in the blood.

It involves technology that has never been used before in the UK. Those behind the scheme say if offenders do not curb their drinking they will receive a short prison sentence. The idea has been criticised both in the UK and the US as being draconian and an ineffective way of treating genuine alcohol issues.

The plan has been supported by the Deputy Mayor of London, Kit Malthouse, who heard about the programme and has been looking at how to adapt it for UK use. — *Internet*



The tags will measure the alcohol in the wearer's blood every half hour. — *INTERNET*

Men can inherit a form of heart disease from father via Y chromosome

LONDON, 12 Feb — Men can inherit heart disease from their father say scientists who have tracked the condition to the Y chromosome that dads pass to sons. By studying the DNA of over 3,000 men they found a particular version of the sex chromosome increases the risk of coronary artery disease by 50%. As many as one in five British men carry this version of Y. And the risk it confers is in addition to other heart risk factors like cholesterol, *The Lancet* reports.

Experts already know that men develop heart disease a decade earlier than women, on average. By the age of 40, the lifetime risk of heart disease is one in two for men and one in three for women. Lifestyle



The Y chromosome determines that a baby will be a boy. — *INTERNET*

factors like smoking and blood pressure are important contributors. This latest work suggests the male Y chromosome can also play a role in coronary artery disease — a common form of heart disease that kills thousands each year in the UK. Dr Maciej Tomaszewski, from the University

of Leicester, and colleagues studied 3,233 biologically unrelated British men who were already enrolled in other medical studies investigating heart disease risk. When they carried out genetic tests on the men they found that 90% possessed one of two common versions of Y chromosome — named

haplogroup I and haplogroup R1b1b2. And the risk of coronary artery disease among the men carrying the haplogroup I version was 50% higher than in other men. The scientists say they now need to pinpoint precisely which genes on the Y chromosome are responsible. But they believe they already know how they exert their effect — by upsetting a man's immune system. — *Internet*



Kindergartners who can pay attention may reap benefits later

MONTREAL, 12 Feb — Children who are attentive in kindergarten are likely to have “work-oriented” skills in higher grades, which provides lifelong benefits, according to a new study.

It included more than 1,000 children whose attention skills were assessed in kindergarten.

As they moved from first to sixth grade, the children were rated on how well they worked alone and with others,

their levels of self-control and self-confidence, and their ability to follow directions and rules.

Over time, the children were categorized into three groups: high, medium or low classroom engagement. Boys, aggressive children and children with lower cognitive skills in kindergarten were much more likely to be in the low group, according to the University of Montreal

researchers.”

There are important life risks associated with attention deficits in childhood, which include high-school dropout, unemployment and problematic substance abuse,” study author Linda Pagani said in a university news release.

“Our findings make a compelling case for early identification and treatment of attention problems, as

early remediation represents the least costly form of intervention.” The study was published online recently in the *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*.

“For children, the classroom is the workplace, and this is why productive, task-oriented behavior in that context later translates to the labor market,” Pagani said.

Internet

Japan's Fanuc to build machine tools factory

TOKYO, 12 Feb — Japan industrial robot maker Fanuc Ltd plans to build a new factory near Tokyo to double its domestic output capacity of machine tools to produce parts of smart phones by the end of the

year, the *Nikkei* financial daily reported on Sunday. Fanuc will boost domestic output aimed at meeting rising global demand for smart phones, the *Nikkei* said.

The company hopes to raise price competitiveness by concentrating its

production operation in Japan, the newspaper said, doubling production of a machine tool that can make frames for smart phones to 5,000 units per month by December, the *Nikkei* reported without citing sources.

Internet

British Airways and Virgin Atlantic escape Nigeria fine

LONDON, 12 Feb — Nigerian authorities have thrown out fines totalling \$235m (£149m) against British Airways and Virgin Atlantic. Nigeria's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) accused the two airlines of overcharging for flights to

the nation and colluding over fares. In November, it fined the carriers, but that punishment has been overturned by a judicial panel set up to review the case.

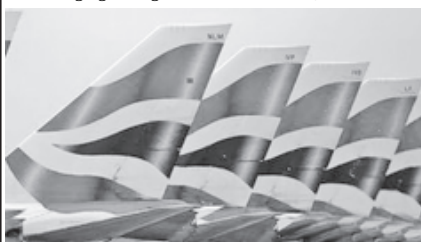
The airlines have denied the allegations. In a statement British Airways said: “We are

pleased that the appeal has been allowed.” “We have been flying there [Nigeria] for more than 75 years and pride ourselves on offering competitive fares, a choice of products and connections to our Nigerian customers.” But the head of Nigeria's CAA, Harold Demuren, said he would pursue the case.

“As far as we are concerned, the two airlines are guilty,” he said.

Under the original punishment, British Airways was due to pay \$135m and Virgin Atlantic \$100m. Under an agreement between the two countries, BA and Virgin share 21 return flights a week from Britain to Nigeria.

Internet



British Airways has been flying to Nigeria for 75 years. — *INTERNET*

Valentine's Day savings: 20 ideas to spend less



It's all about the colour of tissue paper you use for this hearts window display.

INTERNET

NEW YORK, 12 Feb — While the origins of Valentine's Day show it as a day to celebrate love and romance, today, centuries later, it's a day as much about spending money on your loved ones as it is about showing them your love. Last year, couples spent \$1.7 billion on flowers, \$3.4 billion on dining out and \$3.5 billion on jewelry, according to a survey released by CouponCabin.com. Men spent about \$160 on their valentine, while women spent nearly

\$75 on theirs, the survey found.

And this year, total spending will hit \$17.6 billion, according to the National Retail Federation. Despite the statistics, showing your love doesn't mean you have to blow your budget. Try these 20 low-cost ideas for turning your 14 Feb back into a celebration full of love, not an empty bank account. Take a hike or a walk on the beach, or just get outside to enjoy whatever environment in which you live. Treat your loved one to breakfast in bed. Make paper flowers full of heartfelt messages your loved one can keep instead of spending money on real flowers that will wither. Make a CD of your and your loved one's favorite love songs.

Turn loose photos and memorabilia into a scrapbook documenting your relationship or a special time you shared together. Create a coupon book of tasks or special things you'll do for your loved one throughout year. Make it a movie night in to avoid the crowds and curl up with popcorn and your favorite classic. Go on a picnic and make it elegant with candles and a tablecloth. Make something homemade for your loved one, such as jewelry or a painting or a collage. Even if you don't think of yourself as crafty, just a homemade card made with your best efforts will be appreciated. — *Internet*

Business

Watery alien planets might be stripped dry by gravity

NEW YORK, 12 Feb — Alien planets might experience tidal forces powerful enough to remove all their water, leaving behind hot, dry worlds like Venus, researchers said. These findings might significantly affect searches for habitable exoplanets, scientists explained. Although some planets might dwell in regions around their star friendly enough for life as we know it, they could actually be lifelessly dry

worlds. The tides that we experience on Earth are caused by the gravitational pull of the moon and sun. Our tides are nothing compared to what we see elsewhere in the solar system — the gravitational pull Europa experiences from Jupiter leads to tidal forces roughly 1,000 times stronger than what Earth feels from our moon, flexing and heating Europa. Heat is a major factor in how capable a planet might be of supporting life as

we know it. What scientists call the habitable zone of a star is defined by whether liquid water can survive on its surface, given that life exists virtually wherever there is liquid water on Earth.

Internet

The Space Shuttle orbiter Challenger lifts off from Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, on 28 Jan, 1986, in a cloud of smoke with a crew of seven aboard. The shuttle exploded after this photo, taken from atop the Vehicular Assembly Building, was made. — INTERNET



NASA eyes plan for deep-space outpost near the moon

HOUSTON, 12 Feb — NASA is pressing forward on assessing the value of a "human-tended waypoint" near the far side of the moon — one that would embrace international partnerships as well as commercial and academic participation, SPACE.com has learned. According to a 3 Feb memo from William Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator for human exploration and operations, a team is being formed to develop a cohesive plan for exploring a spot in space known as the Earth-moon libration point 2 (EML-2). Libration points, also known as Lagrangian points, are places in space where the combined gravitational pull of two large masses roughly balance each other out, allowing spacecraft to essentially "park" there. A pre-memo NASA appraisal of EML-2, which is near the lunar far side, has spotlighted this destination as the "leading option" for a near-term exploration capability.

EML-2 could serve as a gateway for capability-driven exploration of multiple destinations, such as near-lunar space, asteroids, the moon, the moons of Mars and, ultimately, Mars itself, according to NASA officials. A capabilities-driven NASA architecture is one that should use the agency's planned heavy-lift rocket, known as the Space Launch System, and the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle "as the foundational elements." — Internet

Future of long-distance love is cool but creepy

NEW YORK, 12 Feb — It's 2025 and your boyfriend has been temporarily posted to Tokyo, while you're still stuck in the Boston-Atlanta Metropolitan Axis. How will you keep in touch? Well, maybe hug shirts and larger-than-life videoconferencing will help you out.

As communication technology has improved over time, it's helped long-distance couples stay in real-time contact and enjoy conversations almost as if they were sitting face to face. There aren't good studies on whether more people maintain long-distance romantic relationships now than in the past, said Linda Young, a relationship counselor and board member of the Council on Contemporary Families, a nonpartisan, nonprofit group that aims to educate the public about family and relationship science. Young's anecdotal experience, however, is that there are more separated lovers now. "The impression I get is that yes, it's true," she told *InnovationNewsDaily*.

The possible increase in the number of far-flung lovers isn't just a result of better tech, she said, but also of the poor economy in the US. "Because of job opportunities or lack of opportunities, people are going where they have to go," she explained. — Internet



A worker feeds a baby green turtle (Chelonia mydas) at a turtle conservation centre in Serangan on Bali island on 11 Dec, 2009. Green turtles are listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna. — INTERNET

science

Kodak to stop making cameras, digital frames



A Kodak Easyshare digital camera is displayed at B&H Photo & Video, in New York. Eastman Kodak Co said on 9 Feb, 2012, it will stop making digital cameras, pocket video cameras and digital picture frames in order to focus on its more profitable businesses. — INTERNET

ROCHESTER, 12 Feb — Picture it: Save for a few disposable point-and-shoots, Kodak is exiting the camera business. Eastman Kodak Co said Thursday that it will stop making digital cameras, pocket video cameras and digital picture frames in a move that marks the end of an era for the beleaguered 132-year-old company.

Founded by George Eastman in 1880, Kodak was known all over the world for iconic cameras such as the Brownie and the Instamatic. For the last few decades, however, the Rochester, New York-based company has struggled. It was battered by Japanese competition in the 1980s, and failed to keep pace with the shift from film to digital technology. The company sought bankruptcy protection from creditors last month in a case that covers \$6.7 billion in debt. It has a year to devise a restructuring plan. Citigroup Inc was approved to lend the company \$650 million to continue operating.

Exiting the digital camera business is especially poignant for the Kodak. In 1975, using an electronic sensor invented six years earlier at Bell Labs, a Kodak engineer named Steven Sasson created the world's first digital camera. — Internet

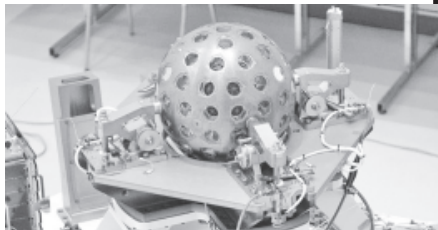
Italian satellite is a laser disco ball for science

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb — If Albert Einstein were alive to witness Italy's Laser Relativity Satellite (LARES) in action, he might just start dancing. That's because the tungsten sphere, just over a foot in diameter, is meant to orbit the Earth and help scientists prove part of the genius's general theory of relativity — by firing lasers at it.

Due to be launched later this month, LARES is covered in 92 reflectors designed to

bounce laser light fired from ground stations back to its origin, thus allowing scientists to measure its precise distance and orbit. Using these measurements, it's hoped that they'll see proof that the satellite's orbit is being altered by a warping of space-time around the Earth as it rotates. This effect is called frame-dragging, and should be present if the concepts of general relativity hold true.

Conclusive proof that



the frame-dragging is taking place may take several years to confirm, as it's possible for variables such as tall mountain ranges to affect the satellite's orbit as it passes over them. With an expected accuracy of 99%, however, the LARES will provide

LARES will help scientists on the ground study the warping of space-time. — INTERNET

scientists with much higher precision than previous satellites have been able to offer. — Internet



A man drives the Tesla Motors Model X electric vehicle after its unveiling at the Tesla Design Studio in Hawthorne, California on 9 Feb, 2012. Tesla Motors Inc on Thursday showed off a prototype of its Model X, a battery-powered SUV that represents the company's bet that consumers will buy a range of electric vehicles spun from a common platform. — INTERNET



Facebook 'defriending' led to double murder in Tennessee

NEW YORK, 12 Feb — As reported by *Reuters* this week, 36-year-old Billy Payne Jr and his 23-year-old girlfriend, Billie Jean Hayworth, were both murdered after removing and blocking a woman previously on their Facebook friend's list named Jenelle Potter. The parents of an 8-month-old baby boy named Tyler where allegedly shot and killed within their own home by Marvin Enoch "Buddy" Potter Jr, the 60-year-old father of the blocked woman, as well as 38-year-old Jamie Lynn Curd who has a romantic interest in Jenelle Potter. When police discovered the victims, Payne also has his throat slashed open and 8-month-old Tyler was found unharmed laying in the arms of the deceased mother.

When asked how Facebook played a role in the murder, Johnson County Sheriff Mike Reece stated "That's basically what sparked it. Her life is spent at that computer. She's had some health problems, and she wasn't working." Reece continued "It's just a senseless thing. She'd been blocked on Facebook by Billy Jean. Once you cross her, it's a big thing to her father, too. And he's something to deal with."

Internet



PM Manmohan Singh (C) shakes hands with European Council President Herman Van Rompuy (L) as EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (R) looks on prior to a meeting and signing ceremony in New Delhi.—INTERNET

Canada and China deepen trade ties

OTTAWA, 12 Feb — Canada and China have reached government deals in uranium exports and other sectors, as the two countries deepen trade ties. Canada said on Thursday it would allow the sale of uranium to China for energy generation.

Canadian businesses also signed deals with Chinese enterprises worth \$3bn (£1.9bn) in Beijing. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's delegation is on a four-day visit to China. The trip is aimed at attracting Chinese investment in Canadian natural resources, as well as shifting the focus of energy sales towards Asia.

Canada is home to one of the largest producers of uranium, Cameco, and the deal announced on Thursday allows it to sell uranium from its Canadian projects into China. "This agreement will help Canadian uranium companies to substantially increase exports to China, the world's fastest growing market for these products," Mr Harper's office said in a statement.

In 2010, Cameco agreed deals with China to supply more than 29 million pounds of uranium over 15 years. "We couldn't deliver Canadian uranium here until this agreement was signed so it

opened the door for us to do that," said Tim Gitzel, chief executive of Cameco, who is part of the trade delegation. China is the world's biggest energy user.— *Internet*

Mr Harper's visit is aimed at selling Canadian energy exports to China.
INTERNET



Nigeria recaptures

Boko Haram 'Christmas Day bomber'

ABUJA, 12 Feb — A man suspected of masterminding the deadly bombing of a Nigerian church on Christmas Day has been recaptured, Nigeria authorities have said. Officials say the suspect, Kabiru Sokoto, was captured in the eastern state of Taraba. He is accused of being a member of the Islamist sect, Boko Haram, which has said it carried out the attack.

His escape last month was a huge embarrassment for the police, whose head was sacked shortly afterwards. Boko Haram has staged a series of increasingly deadly attacks in recent years—last month 185 people were killed during a series of bombings in Kano. Dozens of people died when a church

on the outskirts of the capital, Abuja, was bombed on Christmas day.

Mr Sokoto was first arrested last month, but escaped the next day while being escorted by police. "He was re-arrested this morning at Mutum Biu in Taraba State by the [secret police]," a security source told AFP. "He's being flown to Abuja now by the Nigeria air force."

Authorities say Mr Sokoto planned the 25 December bombing of St Theresa Roman Catholic church in Madalla, just outside Abuja. He fled last month while police took him for a search of his house. Police said their convoy was attacked by suspected Boko Haram members.— *Internet*

Vega rocket set for maiden voyage

PARIS, 12 Feb — Europe's Vega rocket is finally set to make its maiden flight on Monday. The 30m-tall vehicle, first conceived in the 1990s, will launch on what is termed a qualification flight from the Kourou spaceport in French Guiana. It will carry nine satellites into orbit but the object of the mission is really to prove the rocket's systems all work as designed.

Vega has been developed to assure European access to space for payload classes weighing less than 2.5 tonnes. At the moment, these smaller satellites tend to ride converted Russian ICBMs to get into orbit and they can sometimes wait many months to get a launch slot.

Vega should allow European operators to have more control over the schedules of

their space projects. It also means that the value of what it is an immensely high-tech enterprise will return to the European economy, not to foreign industry.

"Vega gives Europe the ability to launch small satellites," said Jean-Jacques Dordain, director general of the European Space Agency (ESA).

"New technologies—and in particular the miniaturisation of technologies—are making for more and more small satellites."

This is particularly true of scientific satellites such as Earth observation spacecraft. So, Vega has a fantastic perspective in front of it provided we succeed," he told me. The launch in French Guiana is scheduled to take place between 10:00 and 12:00 GMT.

Internet

Will halt US drone strikes: Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb — Head of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party Imran Khan has said his party will stop US drone strikes in the country if it comes to power.

PTI will "free the nation from American slavery and US drones would be shot down", the *Dawn* quoted Khan as saying. It will "not let the US attack Pakistan via drone strikes".

He was speaking at a public rally in Swabi in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province on Friday.

Those in power should be embarrassed about the ongoing drone attacks that violate Pakistan's sovereignty and kill innocent people, he said. Khan declared: "We won't beg, we won't take loans and will generate our own funds."

Internet

Marines pictured in front of Nazi symbol

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb — Several US Marine snipers in Afghanistan posed for a photo in front of a flag bearing the symbol used by the Nazi SS, the Marine Corps confirmed.

The photograph of the sniper corps team, deployed to Sangin district in southern Afghanistan's Helmand Province in 2010, showed up on the Internet, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

The Marine Corps said Thursday the Marines, based in Camp Pendleton, Calif, had been assigned to one of its scout sniper teams, the newspaper said. The photograph showed them in front of a US flag with a flag bearing the Nazi SS symbol below.

A statement by Lt Col Stewart Upton said those involved are not currently

part of the unit.

"Those involved acknowledged that the symbol could be misinterpreted and is not in keeping with our Marine Corps ethos and values," the Marine Corps said. Marine officials were quoted as saying those involved were not Nazi sympathizers.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation has written Marine Corps Commandant Gen James Amos and US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta, urging the photograph be removed from the Internet and those involved in the incident be court-martialed, the *Times* reported.

Col John Guthrie of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force's office of inspector general said his office became aware of the

photograph in November and got confirmation from a commanding officer in Afghanistan that the personnel were part of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion out of Camp Pendleton, the *Times* said.

Separately, the Marine Corps is investigating an incident in which a video showed some Marines based at Camp Lejeune, NC, urinating on the dead bodies of Taliban fighters.

Internet



ESA's Vega programme represents an investment of more than one billion euros.

INTERNET

Iran, G5+1 talks likely in near future

TEHRAN, 12 Feb — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Salehi said on Friday that it is possible that nuclear talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany (G5+1) are to be held in near future, the official *IRNA* news agency reported. The G5+1 have some ambiguities and Iran is trying to clarify on those ambiguities, Salehi said, according to *IRNA*. But he did not elaborate on the nature of the ambiguities and Iran's mechanisms to solve them.

Salehi said that Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili's letter to EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton has either been sent by now or it is going to be sent, therefore it is expected that the negotiations will be held in the near future, according to the report. Earlier this month, Salehi said that "Preparatory work has been done to go ahead with nuclear talks and consultations are underway to take next steps. I hope negotiations with the G5+1 will be held in the

near future." On 1 Feb, Salehi told the semi-official *Fars* news agency that Iran was ready to resume negotiations with the G5+1 and announced that Teheran would soon send a letter to the six world powers to announce its readiness for talks. "Mr (Saeed) Jalili as Iran's chief nuclear negotiator had earlier announced his readiness to hold talks with the G5+1 and he will announce this once again," Salehi said, adding "We hope that the meeting will be held not in a far future."

Nuclear talks between Iran and the G5+1 in Istanbul in January 2011 failed to reach any agreement as Teheran rejected any notion of suspending enrichment in exchange for trade and technology benefits, as called for by several UN Security Council resolutions passed since 2006. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said, on 1 Feb, that another meeting between the UN nuclear watchdog and Iran over its nuclear programme would take place in Teheran on 21 to 22 Feb.

Xinhua

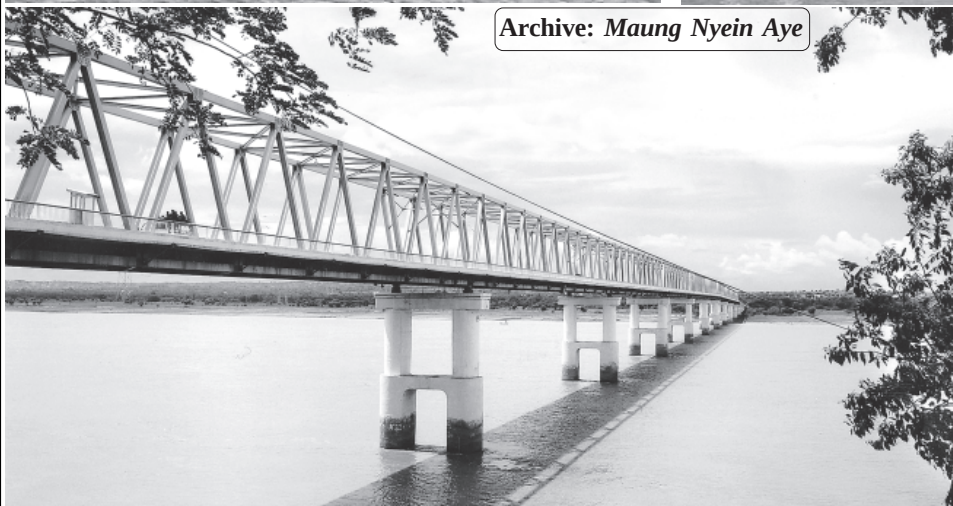


Military personnel attend the multinational exercise Cobra Gold on Hat Yao beach in Chonburi Province, Thailand, on 10 Feb, 2012.

XINHUA

Anawrahta Bridge brought about easy access between Chauk and Seikpyu in Magway Region

- * The government built Anawrahta Bridge, the second Ayeyawady river crossing bridge, in Magway Region. The bridge was built with the aim of motorboats and watercraft plying east bank and west bank of Ayeyawady River to save time and to bring smooth and secure transport along the route.
- * With the emergence of Anawrahta Bridge, transport between Chauk on east bank of Ayeyawady river and Seikpyu on west bank of Ayeyawady river has become swift and smooth. Meanwhile, due to the bridge, there emerged better transport among Saw, Pauk and Kyaukhtu on west bank of Ayeyawady river and Mindat and Kanpetlet in southern Chin State including regions in Seikpyu Township, thereby improving the socio-economic status of the local people.
- * The poor transport of the past brought about development gap and friendship among regions. With the advent of the bridge, the national people of different regions have now been able to the fruits of development and to further cement friendly ties among them.



Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

Facts about Anawrahta Bridge

1. The total length of the bridge is 5191 feet with the 4191 foot-long main bridge and the 1000 foot-long approach structure.
2. The upper part of the main bridge is of steel truss type and the lower part is of reinforced concrete piers.
3. The upper part of the approach structure is of reinforced concrete floor and the lower structure is of reinforced concrete piers.
4. It is complete with 28 feet wide motorway flanked by two six feet wide pedestrian lanes. The water clearance of the bridge is 350 feet and it can bear 60 tons of loads.
5. The construction of the bridge started on 26-7-1996 and completed on 10-3-2001.

Translation: MT

Russia to suspend children adoption by US citizens

Moscow, 12 Feb—The Russian Foreign Ministry on Saturday signaled that Moscow may temporarily suspend adoption of Russian children by US citizens following a series of mistreatment allegedly committed by American adoptive parents. In a statement posted on its website, the ministry listed a string of cases about US adoptive parents' abuses of Russian children, saying that it is necessary to make some

amendments to Russian laws to introduce stricter criteria for foreign adopters. "Regarding incessant series of crimes in the United States against adopted Russian children, Russian Foreign Ministry believes that the adoption procedures for the US citizens should be suspended until the Russian-US adoption deal, signed on 13 July, 2011, comes into force," the ministry said.—Xinhua

Fidel Castro holds 9-hour talks with foreign intellectuals

HAVANA, 12 Feb—Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro had a nine-hour meeting on Friday with intellectuals invited to a book fair, the country's official website Cubadebate reported on Saturday. Castro had discussions with intellectuals and writers from 22 countries during the meeting which started from 1:20 pm (1820 GMT) and lasted till 10:20 pm (0320 GMT

Saturday), the report said.

The main topic, according to Cubadebate, was the need of scientists and intellectuals to join hands to prevent the dangers threatening mankind like climate change and war. Among the guests were Argentine Nobel Peace laureate Adolfo Esquivel and other famous writers and journalists.—Xinhua

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win greet those present at the reception to mark 65th Anniversary Union Day and dinner.
(News on page 1)—MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Air) leaves for Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Delegation led by Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein left Yangon for Singapore to attend Singapore Air Show 2012 this morning.

The delegation was seen off by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, the commander of Ayeyawady Naval Headquarters, the commander of Mingaladon Airbase, senior military officers and officials.

The commander-in-chief (Air) was accompanied by Col Lwin Oo of Office of Commander-in-Chief (Air), Lt-Col Tin Aung Tun and Col Han Win Htut. The show started today and ends 16 February.

MNA



Nay Pyi Taw City Hall illuminated with colourful lights in Union Day night.
(News on page 16)—MNA

Steel trusses being fixed at Ayeyawady Bridge

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Steel Truss Fixing Ceremony of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) was held on Michaungye bank this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe, Magway Region ministers, Managing Director of Public Works U Kyaw Lin and deputy managing directors, and officials.

The Union minister and the chief minister fixed golden bolt at the steel truss, sprinkled it with scented water and lifted it.

Special Project Group (4) of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction undertook the

construction of the bridge over the fourth defile of Ayeyawady River on Michaungye-Pahtanago road in Magway Township in Magway Region. The rail-cum-road bridge has the length of 3215 feet, the 2624-ft-long approach roads, 3939-ft-long and 38-ft-wide railroad, 28-ft-wide two-lane motorway, three-ft-wide sidewalks, 320-ft-wide and 57-ft-high clearance area. It will withstand 60 tons of loads.

Upon completion, it will play a significant role in development of the region as it joins Patheingyi Road on western part of Ayeyawady River and Yangon-Pyay-Magway-Mandalay Road on eastern part.

MNA

Some Myanmar workers receive treatment for choking at factory fire in Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—A fire broke out at Thai Union Frozen Products Factory in Thasai area-7, Samut Sakhon, Samut Sakhon District in Maha Chai, Thailand, yesterday, and 37 workers were taken to hospital as they were choking in fumes.

About half of 37 workers — thirty-one

Myanmar women migrant workers and six Thai workers — discharged from the hospital on the same day and the remaining patients will be discharged within three days.

The fire caused by the gas cylinder explosion started at the prawn cold storage room of the factory where

over 8000 Myanmar workers and over 2000 Thai workers working.

Two helicopters fought the fire about 3.14 pm and managed to control the fire around 7 pm. Fire engines could not reach the factory as the entrance to it is narrow.

MNA

Deputy Minister emphasizes breeding of mythun in Mindat District

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye made a trip to Mindat, Matupi and Kanpetlet townships of Chin State from 4 to 7 February and met mythun breeders and other livestock breeding entrepreneurs.

He coordinated with

departments concerned on development of mythun breeding industry.

In the meeting, the deputy minister explained arrangements for disbursement of loans to breeders to be able to extend breeding of mythun and change of breeding system from semi-extensive system to semi-inten-

sive system.

He discussed correct accounts for herds of mythuns and matters related to pasture land. Later, he attended to the need for establishment of the emergency lab to conduct the breeding centre in Mindat.

MNA

POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS UPGRADED TO BEMS

BRANCHES: Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun presenting permits of upgrading schools to a school head at a ceremony to upgrade post primary schools into BEMS branches held in Myaing Township on 8 February.
(News reported)
MNA



Uniforms presented to bus workers

YANGON, 12 Feb—Yangon North District All Private Bus Lines Supervisory Committee provided uniforms to bus workers at the hall of Insein Township General Administration Department

on 29 January.

Yangon Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin presented 1700 sets of uniforms worth K 8,415,000 to bus workers.
District IPRD

65th Anniversary Union Day...

(from page 16)

At 7.30 am, the guard of honour of defence services (Army, Navy and Air) took position at the square.

Chairman of 65th Anniversary Union Day Holding Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on the dais took salute of the guard of honour. Together with the guard of honour, the Vice-President and those present on the

occasion saluted the flag to the accompaniment of the national anthem by band of the guard of honour.

The Vice-President read the message sent by President U Thein Sein.

In commemoration of 65th Anniversary Union Day, ministries, Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, roundabouts, Myanmar Gems Museum, Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Jade Garden, Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market and Thabyegon Market were decoratively illuminated by colourful lights.—MNA

State flag
hoisting
ceremony
of 65th
Anniversary
Union Day
held at the
square of
Nay Pyi
Taw City
Hall.

MNA



Photo shows those present at the ceremony to hoist and slute the State Flag of the 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012 held in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Photo shows those present at the ceremony to hoist and slute the State Flag of the 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012 held in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Dy FM wraps up China visit

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrived back here by air today from Beijing, the People's Republic of China, after paying a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China, at the invitation of Mrs Fu Yin, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

On 8 February, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint and his Chinese counterpart had a bilateral

meeting and the latter hosted a luncheon. The deputy minister paid a courtesy call on Mr Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. They had a discussion on further promoting existing bilateral relations and cooperation between two countries.

Deputy Minister U Maung Myint and Myanmar delegation also visited to Harbin, Heilongjiang Provinces and Dalian, Liaoning Provinces.

MNA

65th Anniversary Union Day observed in Myeik

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—The 65th Anniversary Union Day was observed in Myeik this morning at Myoma Stadium. The attendees saluted Union flag and late martyrs.

Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo of Myeik District read out the message sent by President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu Agga

Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Union Day.

After the ceremony, the deputy commissioner and the participants viewed educative booths of the government departments in commemoration of the Union Day.—MNA



Human-trafficking prevention and health knowledge shared

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—An educative talk on prevention against human trafficking and health knowledge was given at Women Domestic Science

Training School in Seikpyu on 7 February.

Township Administrator U Ye Htut Naing spoke on the occasion and Police Captain Kyaw Soe of the township Police Force gave talk on knowledge about trafficking in person and head of the township Health Department Dr Than Than Chit on health knowledge.

MNA

Russian engineer sentenced for spying

MOSCOW, 12 Feb—A Russian engineer convicted of selling the CIA information on testing of strategic missile systems was sentenced in Russia to 13 years in prison for treason.

Lt Col Vladimir Nesterets had worked as a senior testing engineer at Plesetsk Space Centre, used mainly for launches of military satellites and tests of ballistic missiles, *RIA Novosti* reported.

"Nesterets has pleaded guilty on charges of selling information about testing of new Russian strategic missile systems to CIA officers in exchange for money," the Russian Federal Security Service said in a statement.

Nesterets, sentenced to a high-security prison by a military district court, also was stripped of his rank, the FSB said. *RIA Novosti* said details about the closed-door trial were not available for national security reasons.

President Dmitry Medvedev said on Tuesday Russian



The seal of the Central Intelligence Agency sits on the floor of the foyer at the CIA Headquarters, Langley, VA.—INTERNET

counterintelligence operations exposed 199 foreign spies in 2011. Medvedev did not provide details on the spies' home countries but said some of the agents were Russian nationals.

Internet

'Stolen' \$9m jewels found in drawer

THE HAGUE, 12 Feb — Five years after their disappearance, jewels thought stolen from the wife

of the US ambassador to the Netherlands in 2006 have been found in The Hague. Dawn Arnall realised her 7m euro (£5.9m; \$9.3m) gems were missing months after staying in a Dutch hotel.

Unknown to her, the jewellery had been found and was held for safekeeping by the hotel, *AFP* reports, before being given to an employee as unclaimed.

The employee, assuming the items were costume jewellery, forgot about them. Only after she recently found them in a

drawer and took them to a jeweller for valuation did their true worth emerge.

They were then handed in to police and have since been returned to the US. Mrs Arnall, whose husband Roland was the US ambassador to the country prior to his death in 2008, had received an insurance payout for her loss.

It is not known if the Dutch hotel employee can expect a finder's reward from the insurance company for returning the jewellery.

Internet

The previously missing jewels included a diamond considerably bigger than this one (file photo).

INTERNET



Hackers attack Croatian president's website

ZAGREB, 12 Feb—Website of Croatia's Presidential Office was attacked and shut down for hours by hackers on Wednesday night, according to a statement from the office.

The attack started at about 10:40 pm (2140GMT) Wednesday night, and the

website went back to normal at around 1 am Thursday.

Local media reported that the hackers claimed to be linked with the international hacker group named "Anonymous," which carried out the attack in protest of Croatian President Ivo Josipovic's supporting for the controversial Anti-

Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), the global anti-piracy and anti-counterfeiting agreement. The "Anonymous" threatened to attack again on Saturday. The Presidential Office said it would take necessary steps to protect the website.

Xinhua

Italian small towns cut off, at least 53 killed by cold snap

ROME, 12 Feb—Italy's winter woes continued on Friday when snow fell heavily in much of central and southern Italy, cutting off a number of remote towns, amid forecasts over worsening weather in coming days.

Rome remained on high alert, with schools and public offices closed and snow-removal crews in place, although most of the city endured rain and sleet during the daytime on Friday rather than a repeat of white covering that paralyzed the capital last weekend, according to the ANSA news agency.

Italy's Civil Protection Department, however, warned that snow is expected to continue over the night in Rome. Lots of Romans stocked up on food stuffs on Friday in anticipation of

possible shop closures or shortages, leaving many supermarket shelves empty and prompting price rises.

"There is heavy snow from Emilia Romagna down to the northern part of Calabria," Paola Pagliara of the Civil Protection Department was quoted as saying by ANSA.

The current cold snap has caused at least 53 deaths in Italy since the start of the month, including a 42-year-old homeless Romanian woman who was found frozen to death in Rome on Friday, ANSA reports said.

While forecasts have varied, as much as 30 centimetres of snow were expected to fall in Rome, prompting the mayor to order drivers to put chains on their tires in an effort to thwart a repeat of last week's massive

traffic jams that trapped thousands of motorists for hours.

"Rome is already prepared and we are hoping for the best," said Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno, who has been sharply criticized for the city's response to roughly two feet of snowfall last week that brought the capital to a standstill for days.

The city has increased its stock of salt and snow plows and recruited more personnel, including inmates from Rome's Rebibbia prison to disperse salt around local government offices at the Capitoline Hill.

According to local media, Rome has redoubled efforts to guarantee continued bus, metro and taxi services and has made more shelter available to the homeless.

Xinhua

Nazi surgical set withdrawn from auction

LONDON, 12 Feb—A set of surgical tools once used by a Nazi war criminal was withdrawn a day ahead of its scheduled auction on Saturday following phone and e-mail threats.

The wooden box of tools belonged to Anton Burger, a Major in the German dictator Adolf Hitler's paramilitary organization Schutzstaffel (SS), who worked at the Theresienstadt concentration camp between July 1943 and February 1944, the *Daily Mail* reported.

An estimated 140,000 Jews were held and 33,000 of them killed at the camp and it is believed that the tools were used in the Nazi's brutal experiments on prisoners.

The set was to go under the hammer at Villa Hall Auctions in Bude, Cornwall.

The police said the messages prompted safety concerns for staff and there would be a police presence at the auction even though the controversial lot has been withdrawn.

Disguised as a music box, the set contains instruments that would have been used in amputations, including a saw and scalpels. It belonged to the late Jewish man whose wife is the current owner.

The kit's case contains scissors, scalpels, and saw-like knives. The equipment was originally made for Anton Burger, the commandant of World War II concentration camp Theresienstadt.

Internet



In this image made available by Villa Hall Auctions UK on 7 Feb, 2012 show a surgical kit said to belong to a Nazi war criminal who oversaw a labour camp is being put up for auction in Britain. Villa Hall Auctions, a small auctioneer in Cornwall, southwest England, said on Tuesday the wooden box of equipment was engraved with the name of Anton Burger, an SS commander of the Terezin ghetto—a labour camp north of Prague in then-Czechoslovakia.—INTERNET

Children's Theatre Festival kicks off in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 12 Feb—The third Children's Theatre Festival kicked off in Nepali capital Kathmandu on Friday, with Russian Writer Anton Chekov's famous story Vanka adopted as a play in the inauguration. The week-long theatre festival was organized by Nepal's Shaillee Theatre with the support of Russian Culture Centre

Nepal. It aims to advocate child rights and help in the development of child psyche with the medium of theatre. Many children in Nepal are like Chekov's Vanka who comes from the countryside and is forced to work in the town areas in houses, hotels and even as a conductor in public vehicle. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony,

Shanta Das Manandhar, a veteran writer of the children literature in Nepal said that theatre is very important for the development of a person and a society. "This kind of children theatre festival would prove very fruitful for a child as he is the future of the nation," he said.

Director of the Russian Culture Centre Stainslav Simakov said this kind of event will help for the overall development of children. "This will help children for their improved academic performances and their extra-curricular activities," he said. Mahesh Poudyal, the translator of the play Vanka, told *Xinhua* that the main aim of the festival is to make every child aware of their rights and improve their ability. The festival will showcase different dramas and at the end evaluate and announce prizes for the best drama throughout the festival.

Xinhua



A man drives a snowplow vehicle in San Gregorio Matese, Italy, as temperatures sink as low as minus 33 Fahrenheit (minus 36 Celsius) in eastern Europe.—INTERNET

Icy roads hazard after snow fell in England and Wales



The Met Office has issued "yellow" warnings, telling people to "be aware" of ice on the roads.— INTERNET

LONDON, 12 Feb—The snow that fell in England and Wales overnight will turn to ice later, causing potentially hazardous driving conditions, the Met Office has warned. Snow fell in many areas, while other parts of the UK mainly had rain. Dozens of schools in England closed, including 30 in Staffordshire and Cheshire, one in Wiltshire, four in

Lincolnshire and two in Cambridgeshire.

Temperatures will drop to -10C (14F) in rural areas and -4C (25F) in towns on Friday night, said BBC forecasters. The Met Office has issued "yellow" warnings, telling people to "be aware" of ice between 17:00 GMT on Friday and midday on Saturday across England and Wales.

Motorists should be aware that driving conditions could become hazardous, it said.

A "level three" cold weather alert, issued by the Met Office on behalf of the Department of Health, also remains in place for England, telling people to "be prepared" for severe cold weather and icy conditions until Monday morning. The largest amount of snow overnight fell in Lincolnshire, which had up to 8cm (3in), and the coldest temperature, of -7C, was recorded at Houghton Hall in Norfolk.

Internet

Overfishing cost five times more than the value of EU subsidies, the report says.

INTERNET



Overfishing 'costs EU £2.7bn each year'

LONDON, 12 Feb — Overfishing of EU fisheries is costing £2.7bn (3.2bn euros) a year and 100,000 jobs, a

report has said. The research, by the UK-based New Economics Foundation, said a third of Britain's fish consumption could be met if stocks were allowed to recover. Separate research suggests that half of fishermen would not be willing to give up their livelihoods.

Last week, a report said there were reasons to be optimistic that fisheries could recover from past exploitation. "Overfishing is bad for the economy," said report author Rupert Crilly, environmental economics researcher for the foundation's Ocean2012 initiative. "With the stroke of pen, European fisheries

ministers are wiping out millions of pounds and thousands of jobs each year by allowing overfishing to continue."

The report, Lost at Sea, concluded that the restoring 43 of the continent's fish stocks to their "maximum sustainable yield" (largest annual catch that can be maintained over the long-term) would result in an additional 3.5m tonnes of fish reaching markets, "enough to meet the annual demand for almost 160m EU citizens". It added: "Overfishing is the single most destructive force in the marine environment."

Internet

Husband dies soon after wife of 65 years

WESTMONT, 12 Feb—A Pennsylvania husband and wife married more than 65 years died just 88 minutes apart—their granddaughter said they couldn't live apart from each other.

Marjorie Landis, 87, died at Laurelwood Care Centre in Johnstown after a long illness on Monday, and her husband, James Landis, 89, suffered a fatal heart attack 88 minutes later, *The (Johnstown) Tribune Democrat* reported.

When his wife died, James Landis was at her side, the newspaper quotes granddaughter Erin Miller as saying.

"The last thing he said to her was, 'It's OK. I love you. We had many good years together. I will see you real soon,'" Miller said. "I just think he died of a broken heart. I don't think they could have lived apart from each other."

James Landis, who had been an Air Force pilot, met the former Marjorie Engelbach at a Johnstown dance in 1946. He earned an engineering degree and went to work for Bethlehem Steel. She raised the Westmont couple's children, Gary and Gail.

People who knew the couple said they were almost always together, whether bird-watching, playing board games, making Christmas cookies together or taking cruises to Alaska, Hawaii and elsewhere. At church, he was a deacon, and she was a Sunday school teacher. The Rev Douglas Stevens, pastor of Westmont Presbyterian Church, said he had no trouble coming up with a theme for the homily at the couple's funeral.

"I'm going to talk about the bonds of love because that really is what held them together and it was so obvious for all to see," Stevens said. He said they were "inseparable" and one was always talking about the other. "That's the kind of marriage all of us would want to have," Stevens said.—Internet

50,000 people remain stranded in snowbound Serbian villages

BELGRADE, 12 Feb—With the discovery of six bodies on Saturday, the death toll in Serbia climbed to 20 that could be attributed to the freezing temperatures which have gripped the region for more than a month.

Meanwhile an estimated 50,000 people in isolated and remote villages remain cut off despite intensified efforts by the government to clear snow-packed roads, according to local media.

The bodies of four people in the northern Serbian city of Novi Sad were discovered in

unheated homes, the death of a man near Ljig, just south of Belgrade, was attributed to the sub-zero temperatures, while the body of a 68 year-old woman was discovered in a snow bank about 500 meters from her home near Kraljevo.

When the Serbian government announced a state of emergency almost a week ago, an estimated 70,000 people were stranded, mainly in mountainous regions in the south of the country. Since then, roads had been cleared to about 20,000 citizens, leaving an estimated 50,000

Father forces son to run naked in snow

NEW YORK, 12 Feb—A man who made his young son run around and do pushups in the New York City snow in his underwear has incited outrage from people who say he is cruel.

The father, He Liesheng, 44, a Chinese businessman vacationing in New York last month, posted a video of his

son, He Yide, begging him to pick him up, the *New York Post* reported.

Instead of taking his son inside, He urged him to run faster through the snow.

He said he is taking an "eagle dad" approach to raising his son, who was born prematurely with several health problems.

"When the old eagle teaches its young, it takes the young eagles to the cliffside, beats them, and pushes them to teach them to use their wings," He told a Chinese newspaper.

"I believe I am helping my son in this way—to force him to challenge limitations and exceed his own expectations," He said.

Viewers of He's video have voiced concern about his parenting tactics.

"You are torturing your child," one viewer commented on the video.

"Why didn't you run with your son naked too?" said another.

Internet

Internet

Morocco opens North Africa's biggest car plant

TANGIERS, 12 Feb—The biggest car factory in North Africa has been officially opened in Morocco by the French firm Renault. The plant is in Melloussa, a small town on the Mediterranean near Tangiers, in an area close to Europe which offers tax benefits to manufacturers.

Low-cost cars will be produced under the Dacia brand for emerging markets and Renault executives say up to 10% of the production could be sold locally. It employs about 2,000 local staff and intends to triple production by 2015. The BBC's Nora Fakim in

Tangiers says this could boost staff numbers to 6,000 and create up to 35,000 jobs indirectly.

In recent years, Morocco's economy has been expanding thanks to free trade deals with international partners, but unemployment remains an issue—especially for graduates, who hold weekly protests outside parliament. Morocco's King Mohammed VI attended the inauguration in Melloussa, along with the country's trade minister and the head of Renault.

Internet



The plant currently has the capacity to produce 147,000 cars annually.—INTERNET

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(For: Texchem Group, Malaysia)
Dated 13 February, 2012.

Two journalists killed at home in Bangladeshi capital

DHAKA, 12 Feb—Two Bangladeshi journalists of two private TV channels were killed on Friday night at their residence in capital Dhaka, police said.

Police Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Benazir Ahmed told *Xinhua* by phone the couple journalists were murdered and the reasons were still unknown.

Considering the case as a sensitive one, Ahmed said police will act quickly to arrest the killers of the two journalists.

Meherun Rumi was a reporter of ATN Bangla while her husband Sagor Sarwar, who worked for the Maasranga Television Channel as a news editor, was also a correspondent of the Bangla department of Germany magazine *Deutsche Welle*. Bangladeshi Home Minister Sahara Khatun, Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, Leader of the opposition and BNP chief Khaleda Zia in separate messages condemned the killing of the two journalists.

Xinhua

Pakistan vehicle sales up

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb—Vehicle sales in Pakistan rose by 17 percent to 96,900 units in the first seven months of the current fiscal year compared to 82,767 units in the corresponding period last year.

The Pakistan Auto-mobiles Manufacturers Association (PAMA) has revealed the sales data of car and light commercial vehicles Friday, *Daily Times* reported Saturday. The sales of cars and commercial vehicles went up by 2 percent on a yearly basis to 14,967 units in January 2012, while it increased by 34 percent on a monthly basis.—*Internet*

Rescuers work at the fire site in eastern Pakistan's Lahore, on 11 Feb, 2012. Fabrics and valuables worth millions of rupees reduced to ashes when huge fire broke out in the leading shopping mall in Lahore on early Saturday morning.
XINHUA



A vehicle runs on the Nyalam-Xigaze section of the China-Nepal Highway, where traffic has been resumed after heavy snowfall, in Nyalam County, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 11 Feb, 2012. Traffic has been resumed for small vehicles on the snow-hit Nyalam-Xigaze section of the China-Nepal Highway as of 2 pm Saturday, after being hit by heavy snowfall on 8 Feb. For the time being, traffic is still at a standstill on another 30-kilometer section of the highway that connects Nyalam County and Zhangmu Township, which lies on the border of China and Nepal.—XINHUA

Pentagon braces for budget cuts

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb—The US Defence Department is bracing for budget cuts set to be announced next week, *Xinhua* reported.

Pentagon Press

Secretary George Little said on Friday the defence budget proposals will have a topline request of \$525 billion for fiscal year 2013, set to begin in October, with \$88.4 billion more for overseas contingency operations, mostly in Afghanistan.

Defence Secretary Leon Panetta and Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey will spend time next week in Congressional testimonies, providing details and answering questions

regarding next year's defence budget after its scheduled rollout next Monday.

The budget is based on a strategy that reflects the \$487 billion spending cuts the Budget Control Act set for defence spending over the next 10 years. It calls for a smaller military, focused away from future protracted ground campaigns and supporting US national security priorities of the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East regions.

Interent

Shanghai car pileup kills three

SHANGHAI, 12 Feb—Three people were killed on Saturday afternoon in a pileup in suburban Shanghai, police said. Three sedans piled up at a crossing on the Nanliu Road in Pudong District at 3:50 p.m. One of the cars caught fire after the crash, police said. Police are still probing the cause of the accident.

Xinhua

US singer Whitney Houston dies at 48

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb—Famous US singer and actress Whitney Houston has died at age 48, media outlets reported on Saturday.

Her death was revealed



Singer Whitney Houston

by her publicist Kristen Foster, according to various media reports. Initial media reports said she was found by veteran music producer Clive Davis at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, in Beverly Hills, California.

She was in the Los Angeles area for a musical tribute to Davis. The singer had performed and spoken to reporters earlier in the week, according to reports.

The authorities are conducting an investigation into the cause of the death, the *Los Angeles Times* reported, quoting a law enforcement source.

A number of singers and performing artists remembered one of America's most popular singers on Twitter, lamenting the shocking death of the famed performer.—*Xinhua*

Three Gorges Dam to work at full capacity in May

YICHANG, 12 Feb—The Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydropower project, will work at full capacity by the end of May, when the last two power units will become operational, Chen Fei, general manager of the China Three Gorges Corporation, said Saturday.

Including the four 700,000-kilowatt power units starting to generate electricity last year, the six units are situated inside the

mountain on the right side of the river bank.

Construction on the underground hydropower station in central China's Hubei Province began in July 2001 to harness the power of the water discharged during flood season on the Yangtze River, China's longest waterway.

The Three Gorges Project, launched in 1993 with a budget equivalent to 22.5 billion US dollars, consists

of a dam, a five-tier ship dock and a total of 32 hydropower turbo-generators.

The 26 generators on the two sides of the dam had gone into operation as of October 2008, with each unit having a generation capacity of 700,000 kw.

The project generates electricity, controls flooding by providing storage space and adjusts shipping capacity on the river. Last year, it generated 78.29 billion

kilowatt-hours of electricity.

It also withstood three major floods last summer, taking the edge off the fierce flows by holding back the majority of the flood water in its reservoir to ease the flood's impact on the river's lower reaches.

The dam reservoir releases water in the dry season to ease droughts, particularly in downstream rice-growing areas.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 10 Feb, 2012 shows a laboratory of the European Genome Research Centre of China's Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) in Copenhagen, capital of Denmark. China's BGI formally opened its first European genome sequencing centre here Friday, with the aim of accelerating innovation and development of genomics research and applications.
XINHUA

Puppy rescued from basement drain

Animal rescuers in Detroit said a puppy spent 12 hours stuck in a basement drain before it was rescued.

Kevin Hatman, a spokesman for the Michigan Humane Society, said the group received a call around 8 am Thursday from a homeowner who said the dog, believed to be a dachshund mix about 1-2 months old, apparently crawled into the basement drain sometime Wednesday night and found itself unable to wiggle free, the *Detroit Free Press* reported Friday.

Hatman said Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society rescue crews responded and worked with a plumbing company and Aaron's Excavating Inc of Waterford Township. They dug a 7-foot-deep trench to free the canine, which travelled about 15 feet from the drain opening and became wedged within the pipe that connects to a storm drain line beneath the house.

The spokesman said the puppy was freed around 5:30 pm and was "a little cold, a little hungry but in good condition considering his ordeal."

A contestant runs with his Bicyrobot during the 2nd Annual Bicyrobot Championship in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 8 Feb, 2012. The contest serves as a platform for nurturing young talents in the field of robotics.



Women sue over hospital baby switching

A lawsuit two Russian women filed against the hospital where they were born in 1975 accuses medical workers of switching them at birth.

The women, identified in court documents as Arkhipova NM and Buanova OV, are seeking more than \$100,000 compensation for the "moral trauma" they received as a result of being sent home with the wrong families from the Belyayevka village hospital, *RIA Novosti* reported on Friday.

The women said they have taken DNA tests that determined they were not genetically related to the people they thought to be their parents.

Store shutting down over BBQ smell

The owners of a boutique in a Chicago suburb said they are being forced to close down due to odors from the barbecue restaurant next door.

Honor Lorenzini and Mary Kral, owners of the Urban Sole boutique in La Grange, said they are shutting down the shop, which sells shoes, a clothes and accessories, due to the constant odors from the Q BBQ restaurant next door, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported.

"Everything smells like smoke or barbecue. We can't dry clean clothes before we sell them," Lorenzini said. She said some customers have even returned items as a result of the odor.

Lorenzini said she and Kral spoke with the landlord and the restaurant owner, but they refused to do anything about the problem. However, Q BBQ owner Michael LaPidus said his business is not to blame for the boutique's closing.

"We have gone above and beyond in putting in a \$6,000 exhaust system that gets the smoke up into the air faster, and it's just unfortunate that they're closing," LaPidus said.

"It's unfortunate they're going out of business, and they're desperate and trying to lay the blame on everyone else but themselves. I wish them well."

News Album



American actor Kellan Lutz

Kellan Lutz wants more 'Twilight' film

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb—American actor Kellan Lutz thinks "Breaking Dawn" may just be the beginning of a new chapter in "Twilight" saga and want more films from the franchise.

Lutz plays Emmett Cullen in the saga which also stars Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart in the lead roles.

"I love my character and I would love to do more. It's one of the things all the cast have talked about. It would be really cool to play more of my character and have some more lines. I know Stephanie has written more so who knows? It could happen," showbizspy.com quoted Lutz as saying.—Internet

Oscar organizers honour film science, technology

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb—Hosting Oscar organizers' Scientific and Technical Awards on Saturday night, actress Milla Jovovich, a veteran of effects-driven movies like the "Resident Evil" franchise, confessed she knew little about what actually goes on behind the cameras.

"I'm not an expert in technology. However I will say that as an actor, I certainly benefited from the many innovations you bring to filmmaking," she told a packed ballroom of technical wizards being honoured by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences in



Russian actress and host of the Scientific and Technical Awards Milla Jovovich arrives at the Scientific and Technical Awards presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science in Beverly Hills, California 11 Feb, 2012.

INTERNET

Beverly Hills.

The annual awards event is typically overshadowed by the Academy Awards, or Oscars, which will be given out on 26 February for the best film, performances, directing, writing and other film work of the year.

Saturday's scientific and technical awards were reserved for honourees including Douglas Trumbull, recipient of the Gordon E Sawyer Award for work that has "brought credit to the industry."

Reuters

Kelly Rowland honoured at Black Women in Music bash

LONDON, 12 Feb—Kelly Rowland, who is nominated for Best Rap Song at the Grammy Awards, was named Black Women In Music's rising icon.

According to the *Daily Mail*, Rowland was recognised for her longevity in the music industry as well as for being nominated for an award at the upcoming ceremony.

The former Destiny's Child singer, 30, glowed in a long gown and performed her new single 'Motivation' at the bash, the *Mirror* reported.



Kelly Rowland

Before the Black Women In Music ceremony, she had told the *LA Times* that she was still unsure over her future on X Factor in the UK.

"I know as much as anyone else. Everything is up in the air, but that's the excitement of working with Simon Cowell. He's unpredictable," she said.

"And the UK is just on fire with talent.

It's remarkable that people, the country, stays in on Saturday night to watch the show," she added.

Internet

Only man in my life is my son: Bullock

LONDON, 12 Feb—Actress Sandra Bullock has denied reports she's dating producer Jonathon Komack Martin, insisting the only man in her life is her son.

The 31-year-old has been romantically linked to Martin who is also the best friend of actor Ryan Reynolds. But the actress insists Martin is actually an old friend and not her latest love interest.

"For over a decade now, I have been so lucky to have Jonathon and Ryan as my friends, and I agree with the reports that they are both very handsome and a great catch," contactmusic.com quoted Bullock as saying.

"But the only man who has stolen my heart is my son. And for now I wouldn't have it any other way," she added.

Bullock adopted Louis Bardo in 2010.—Internet



Actress Sandra Bullock



Madonna (C) performs with Nicki Minaj (L) and MIA during the Halftime Show at Super Bowl XLVI between the New York Giants and the New England Patriots at Lucas Oil Stadium for NFL in Indianapolis, Indiana on 5 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

Madonna not happy about MIA gesture

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb—Pop icon Madonna says she "wasn't happy" after rapper MIA flipped her middle finger at a camera during the Super Bowl halftime show in Indianapolis.

The NFL and NBC immediately apologized for MIA's behavior and for the network's failure to keep it off of television.

Madonna called in to Ryan Seacrest's KIIS-FM radio show on Friday to give her perspective on the incident.

"I didn't know about it until I left. I was really surprised. I didn't know anything about it," Madonna told Seacrest.

"I wasn't happy about it. I understand it's punk rock and everything, but to me there was such a feeling of love and good energy, and positivity. It seemed negative. It's one of those things, it's such a teenager, irrelevant thing to do. ... There was such a feeling of love and unity there. What was the point? It was just out of place," she said.—Internet

Demi Moore seeking spiritual advice from Deepak Chopra?

LONDON, 12 Feb—Actress Demi Moore is reportedly seeking advice from Michael Jackson's former spiritual guru, Deepak Chopra. According to contactmusic.com, the 49-year-old is said to have consulted with Chopra in the wake of her hospitalisation last week after suffering a seizure.

While her whereabouts is unknown, it is rumoured she had gone to rehab for an "eating disorder and addiction issues." Moore and Chopra are old friends and



Demi Moore

she even served on the board of advisers at his Californian healing centre.—Internet

Guardiola says Barcelona at Real Madrid's mercy now

BARCELONA, 12 Feb — Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola admitted his side's sinking hopes of hanging onto their La Liga crown were at the mercy of bitter rivals Real Madrid following the shock 3-2 defeat at Osasuna. The loss left Real with the chance to open up a 10-point gap at the top if Jose Mourinho's side beat Levante on Sunday. "Win the title? Well, we will try to defend our Champions League crown and then attempt to negotiate each match in La Liga," said Guardiola on a freezing night in Pamplona. "We will see

what happens. But we are a significant distance behind which I guess will increase on Sunday. The league will be more difficult for us now.

"In the second half tonight we did well on this pitch but we should have done better in the first half. It was hard for us to get into this game but we have to congratulate Osasuna."

The reigning La Liga and Champions League winners have struggled on their travels this season with just four wins and succumbed to their second defeat on Saturday.

Internet



Barcelona's Sergio Roberto (L) and Osasuna's Javad Nekounam during their Spanish League match on 11 February.
INTERNET

Mali beats Ghana 2-0 for 3rd place at African Cup



Mali's Abdoulaye Youssouf Maiga, right, fights for the ball with Ghana's Daniel Tawiah Opare during the African Cup of Nations third place soccer match against Ghana in Malabo Stadium in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 11 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

MALABO, 12 Feb — Mali beat 10-man Ghana 2-0 Saturday in the third-place match at the African Cup of Nations for its best finish since it lost the 1972 final. Cheick Diabate scored twice for Mali, which avenged its 2-0 defeat to Ghana in the group stage. Ghana ended with successive losses after its surprising loss in the semifinals to Zambia. Diabate pounced on a rebound to put Mali ahead in the 23rd minute and then slid in for the goal that sealed victory with 10 minutes left. Ghana's Isaac Vorsah was ejected in the 64th minute. Four-time champion Ghana has finished third, second and fourth in the last three African Cups and hasn't won the title for 30 years. In Libreville, Gabon, on Sunday, Ivory Coast is favored to win its second African Cup title when it plays Zambia.

Internet

World champion Blake opens season with lifetime best



Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake competes at the men's 400m at the Camperdown Classic at National Stadium in Kingston on 11 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

KINGSTON, 11 Feb — Jamaican world 100 meters champion Yohan Blake opened his 2012 Olympic season with a lifetime best of 46.49 seconds to finish second in the 400 meters at the Camperdown Classic on Saturday. The man seen as the major challenger to world record holder Usain Bolt's sprint titles at the London Games looked sharp as he shaved three tenths of a second off his three-year-old previous best of 46.80.

He was passed in the last 10 meters by world 4x400 relay bronze medalist Alodin Fothergill who won in 46.28 seconds. "It's a wonderful feeling because as you can see I ran a personal best, so the season is going quite well," Blake told Reuters. "I am much stronger this year and also much faster, running 46.4 in my first outing is wonderful."—Internet



Milan go top after come-from-behind win

UDINESE, 12 Feb — Youngster Stephan El Shaarawy was the hero as AC Milan hit back from a goal down to beat Udinese 2-1 on Saturday and take over at the top of the Serie A table. The rossoneri leapfrogged Juventus, whose game at Bologna on Sunday night has been called off due to the snow, although they have played two games more than their rivals. Antonio Di Natale had given fourth-placed Udinese, who came into the game unbeaten at home this season, a first half lead but

Maxi Lopez equalised before El Shaarawy snatched the winner five minutes from time.

Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri was understandably delighted with the result, which ended a run of three games without a win, particularly given how the game seemed to be going at half-time. However, he was coy about the significance

this result would have in the title race.

"It was a great game for us, although I don't know whether it will be decisive (in the title)," he said. "Everybody played very well, like Maxi Lopez. He gave us depth and substance in attack and he also scored the equaliser."

Internet

US sweeps Federer's Swiss team out of Davis Cup

FRIEBURG, 12 Feb — Given a supremely tough draw in the Davis Cup, the United States is off to an exhilarating start. It swept Roger Federer and Switzerland in the first round, with Mardy Fish and Mike Bryan winning the doubles match on clay, a surface selected by Federer to exploit what was perceived as an American weakness.

But Fish and Bryan, paired for the first time in more than three years, were clearly up for this challenge Saturday before a Swiss crowd that at times turned angry. They defeated Federer and Stanislas Wawrinka, the reigning Olympic champions, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3. "This is probably going down as one of the most memorable (wins)," said Bryan, who played on the 2007 winning team.

The doubles victory gave the Americans a 3-0 lead

in the best-of-five, first-round series. Fish and Bryan built on the momentum from Friday's riveting singles matches when John Isner stunned Federer in four sets and Fish outlasted Wawrinka in five. "This was a big step forward for our guys to come in here and play against a team of this caliber," US captain Jim Courier said. "Our attitude remained strong all the while and we were ready for whatever. That is what you need for any road tie."

Handling partisan fans is among those demands, and sections of the crowd of some 7,000 were not pleased in the least when Bryan hit Federer and Wawrinka with volleys at close range. The US will again be on the road for the next round of Davis Cup, an April 6-8 quarterfinal against France or Canada. France leads that match 2-1 in Vancouver British Columbia.—Internet



US players Mardy Fish (L) and Mike Bryan (R) celebrate their victory during the Davis Cup first round doubles match against Switzerland's Roger Federer and Stanislas Wawrinka on 11 February.—INTERNET

International Sports

Tottenham hit five past Newcastle

LONDON, 12 Feb — Emmanuel Adebayor scored one and set up the other four goals as Tottenham stunned Newcastle at White Hart Lane. Adebayor set up Benoit Assou-Ekotto to open the scoring after just four minutes and then up strike partner Louis Saha to score his first for Spurs moments later. Saha smashed in a second and then Niko Kranjcar slotted home to make it 4-0, with Adebayor hooking in a goal of his own to complete the scoring.

Internet



Tottenham striker Emmanuel Adebayor played a part in all of their goals.—INTERNET

Wi maintains the lead as Tiger charges



Charlie Wi hits off the first fairway of the Spyglass Hill golf course during the third round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament on 11 Feb, 2012, in Pebble Beach, Calif.—INTERNET

PEBBLE BEACH, 12 Feb — Charlie Wi played bogey-free at Spyglass Hill for a 3-under 69 to build a three-shot lead on Saturday in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Now it's time for him to face his demons of self-doubt — along with a familiar force in golf.

Tiger Woods took another step toward showing his game is nearly back. He ran off five birdies in a six-hole stretch early in his round at Pebble Beach and had a 5-under 67 that put him four shots behind going into the final round, the closest he has been to the 54-hole lead in a regular PGA Tour event since the 2010 Masters.

With a new swing, it's starting to look like the old Tiger. "But the scenario doesn't change," Woods said. "The ultimate goal is to win a golf tournament." That's something Wi has never done in 162 previous PGA Tour events.—Internet

DISTRICT NEWS**Crime reduction talked**

KYAUKME, 12 Feb—A talk on crime reduction was held at Basic Education High School No 2 in Kyaukme on 3 February.

District Police Force Commander Police Lt-Col Soe Myint Oo made a speech, and police officers talked about combating narcotic drugs, prevention against trafficking in person and facts about traffic rules. They replied to the queries raised by those present.

Township IPRD

Stationery, assistance provided

YANGON, 12 Feb—Yangon West District Women's Affairs Organization donated stationery and assistance for increasing pass rate in matriculation examination in 2011-2012 academic year on 29 January at Kyimyindine BEHS No 1.

Chairperson of District WAO Daw Myint Myint Kyi made a speech and presented stationery and aid to officials.

Myanma Alin

**Finance minister wounded in Congo plane crash**

KINSHASA, 12 Feb—Democratic Republic of Congo Finance Minister Matata Ponyo Mapon was seriously injured in a plane crash on Sunday that claimed the life of President Joseph Kabila's chief adviser, the government said.

"The minister of finance and ambassador (Antoine) Ngonda were heavily wounded," government spokesman Lambert Mende said by telephone of the accident near the eastern town of Bukavu, in which a pilot was also killed. Ngonda is a roving ambassador for Kabila.

MNA/Reuters

Odemwingie treble piles on misery for Wolves

Wolverhampton Wanderers's Stephen Ward vies with West Bromwich Albion's Nigerian player Peter Odemwingie during their English Premier League football match. Odemwingie's hat-trick inspired a 5-1 thrashing of their local rivals.—INTERNET

LONDON, 12 Feb—West Bromwich Albion piled on the misery for struggling Wolves as Peter Odemwingie's hat-trick inspired a 5-1 thrashing of their local rivals in the 'Black Country' derby at Molineux on Sunday. Roy Hodgson's team took the lead in the 34th minute when Nigerian striker Odemwingie sent in a tame shot from the edge of the area which trickled through goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey's weak attempted save. Wolves equalised against the run of play through Scotland forward Steven Fletcher, who fired home from just inside the area on the stroke of half-time. Another Hennessey mistake allowed Albion to regain the advantage in the 64th minute.

After Wolves failed to clear a corner, Albion defender Jonas Olsson fired goalwards and Hennessey should have saved easily. Instead he allowed the shot to squirm over the line with Jamie O'Hara slightly obstructing his view. Odemwingie got the third in the 77th minute when he hooked in from close-range and former Wolves midfielder Keith Andrews rubbed salt into the wounds when his shot deflected home in the 85th minute. Odemwingie sealed Albion's biggest win at their hated rivals' home since 1962 as he finished off a flowing counter-attack in the 88th minute. Albion are now eight points clear of the relegation zone, while Wolves slump into the relegation zone, below 17th placed Blackburn on goal difference.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(13-2-12 09:30 am ~ 14-2-12 09:30 am) MST

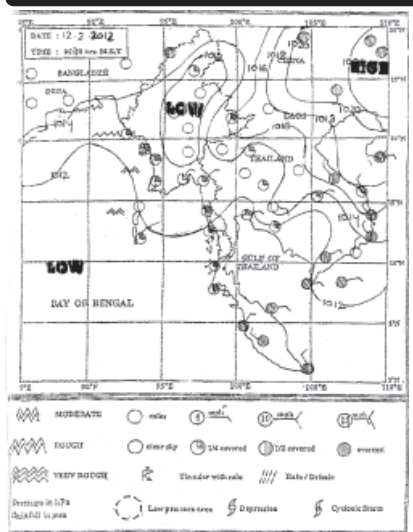
Oversea Transmission

- * News
- * Consulting Based Learning For ASEAN SMEs (Coldas Programme) Completion Ceremony
- * News
- * Marketable Good (Aluminium)
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * Products made from Myanma Water Hyacinth
- * News
- * Let's Observe the Traditions of "Matupi"
- * News
- * International Holocaust Commemoration
- * News
- * Sea Turtles Conservation
- * News
- * Youth of The Future (Episode-7) (Taekwondo)
- * News
- * Ancient Shwe San Taw Pagoda (Taungoo)
- * Myanmar Movies "My Teacher"

MYANMAR TV

(13-2-2012) (Monday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw - Uppatthandi Paritta
- 8:00 am
- 2. Health programme
- 8:05 am
- 3. Dance Of National Races
- 8:15 am
- 4. Union Day Programme
- 8:25 am
- 5. Cute Little Dancers
- 4:15 pm
- 6. Dance Variety
- 4:30 pm
- 7. 2012 University Entrance Examination (Chemistry)
- 5:05 pm
- 8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:10 pm
- 9. Myanmar Language
- 5:25 pm
- 10. Myanmar Idol
- 6:15 pm
- 11. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 12. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:40 pm
- 13. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. International News
- 16. World's Stars
- 17. India Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**Weather forecast for 13th February, 2012**

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	29/84	15/59	Partly Cloudy	(50%)
2	Kayah	31/88	18/64	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayah	37/99	18/64	Partly Cloudy	
4	Chin	19/66	09/48	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	32/90	13/55	Partly Cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	36/97	16/61	Generally fair weather	
7	Tanintharyi	34/93	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	
8	Bago	34/93	18/64	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	37/99	19/66	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	35/95	18/64	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	36/97	21/70	Partly Cloudy	
12	Yangon	36/97	20/68	Partly Cloudy	
13	Rakhine	29/84	14/57	Partly Cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	27/81	13/55	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	29/84	06/43	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	11/52	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	34/93	20/68	Partly Cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	37/99	17/63	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	36/97	20/68	Partly Cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	18/64	Generally fair weather	

During the past (24) hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (7°C) to (4°C) above February average temperature in Mandalay and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Southern Shan and Rakhine States, (5°C) to (6°C) above February average temperature in Magway Region and Mon State, (3°C) below February average temperature in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions and about February average temperature in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Namsan (4°C), Lashio, Pindag and Helio (6°C) each.

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.

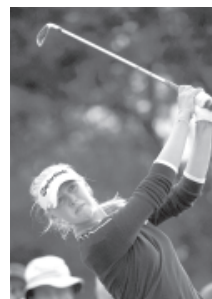
Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperature in the Central Myanmar areas.

Korda wins Women's Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 12 Feb—American teenager Jessica Korda won the Women's Australian Open on Sunday for her first LPGA Tour title, holing a 25-foot birdie putt on the second hole of a six-player playoff.

The 18-year-old Korda completed a two-sport, father-daughter Australian double with the breakthrough victory in the LPGA Tour opener. Petr Korda won the 1998 Australian Open tennis tournament, also in Melbourne. "It is a really special place for my family," Korda said. "Formy first win, I honestly could not have thought of a better place."

Korda closed with a 1-over 74 to finish at 3-under



Jessica Korda of the United States tees off on the 11th hole during the Women's Australian Open golf tournament at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Melbourne, Australia, on 12 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

289 in the first women's professional event at Royal Melbourne, the historic sand-belt layout that was the site of the 2011 Presidents Cup.

Stacy Lewis, Brittany Lincicome, Julieta Granada, So Yeon Ryu and Hee Kyung Seo also were in the playoff that matched the largest in LPGA Tour history. Playing in threesomes on the par-4 18th, all six players opened the playoff with pars. On the second, Lewis, Lincicome, Granada and Seo made par

and Ryu had a bogey.

Ryu and Seo, playing ahead of Korda and Nikki Campbell in the second-to-last group, topped the leaderboard at 4 under going into the final hole of regulation, but both closed with bogeys to shoot 73.

Lewis finished with a 70, and Lincicome and Granada shot 71. Playing in the first playoff threesome, Lincicome had a good chance to win on the first extra hole, but her 6-foot birdie try circled the cup and stayed out.—Internet

Premier League Result

Aston Villa 0 - 1 Manchester City

65th Anniversary Union Day 2012 State flag-hoisting and saluting ceremonies held in Nay Pyi Taw City Hall

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—In accord with the objectives of 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 and to build a modern and developed Union by practising discipline-flourishing democracy in accord with the constitution, State flag-hoisting ceremony to mark 65th Anniversary Union Day along with saluting ceremony went with a bang at the square in front of City Hall here this morning.

On the occasion, Vice-

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham read the message sent by Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The deputy speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, the deputy speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, Union ministers, judges of Supreme Court of the Union, members of Constitutional Tribunal, members of Union Election Commission, senior military officers of Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s office, representatives of Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander, deputy ministers, the deputy attorney-general, members of management

committee for holding of 65th Anniversary Union Day, departmental heads, honorary title holders, staff members of ministries, officials from townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, family members from regiments, social organization members, national races representatives and distinguished guests, totaling over 2300, were also present on the occasion.

Beginning 5 am, ministry staff, social organization members and national races representatives gathered at the square of the City Hall, and took designated positions.

Flag-hoisting company hoisted the State flag atop pole at 5:30.

(See page 9)



Chairman of 65th Anniversary Union Day Holding Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham reads out the message sent by President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Union Day.—MNA



Aungmyay Village BEMS (Branch) gets new school

YANGON, 12 Feb—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win attended a ceremony to open and hand over Ngwe Thazin new school building of Aungmyay Village Basic Education Middle School (branch) in Kawa Township, Bago District yesterday.

The region chief minister together with Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Kyaw Oo and

donor Thiha Thudhamma Manizawtaday U Ngwe Shein formally opened the new school building.

The region chief minister then visited Thayetgon Village Basic Education High School (Branch) and station hospital where he provided cash assistance to patients. U Ngwe Shein donated K 15 million for construction of operation theater to the hospital.—MNA

PawU Library opened in Madaya Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—PawU Library was opened in Nandawgyun village in Madaya Township of Pyin Oo Lwin District in Mandalay Region on 7 February.

Moetar Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suriyabhivamsa, Madaya Township Administrator U Aung

Swe Myint and Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw May Thu Myint formally opened the library.

Region Hluttaw Representative U Ko Lay and officials donated publications to the library.—MNA

US-style alcohol tests to be used for problem drinkers



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Kindergartners who can pay attention may reap benefits later

PAGE 4

Milan go top after come-from-behind win

PAGE 14

US sweeps Federer's Swiss team out of Davis Cup



PAGE 14

Lescott scores as Man City beat Aston Villa

BIRMINGHAM, 12 Feb—England defender Joleon Lescott preserved Manchester City's two-point lead in the Premier League by scoring a second-half winner in a 1-0 victory at Aston Villa on Sunday.

Lescott hooked in a far-post nod-down by Gareth Barry in the 63rd minute to settle a match City dominated at Villa Park.

Villa missed two great chances to equalise in a late rally, however, with an unmarked Carlos Cuellar heading over from six yards and Darren Bent's close-range effort drawing a fine reaction

save from City goalkeeper Joe Hart.

With 13 matches remaining, City maintain their narrow advantage over Manchester United, with Tottenham five points further back in third.

Meanwhile, Peter Odemwingie scored his first Premier League hat-trick as West Bromwich Albion beat local rivals Wolverhampton Wanderers 5-1 on Sunday.

Steven Fletcher cancelled out Odemwingie's opener to level the scores at 1-1 at the break before West Brom ran away with the game in the second half.—Internet

