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True patriotism

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

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

U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, receives ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and party

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 3 pm.

Also present at the call together with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung

Lwin, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein and departmental heads.

They cordially discussed matters relating to political developments in the country and work programmes for further cooperation in the region.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives delegation led by ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives RFA Executive Producer

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Union I&C Minister receives ASEAN Secretary-General

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People on the east and west banks of Thanlwin River are happy with the emergence of Thanlwin River Bridge (Hpa-an)

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PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 21 February, 2012

Satisfactory results

Agricultural industry needs proper changes as the age-old manual method or conventional method can no longer produce satisfactory results at a time when countries smaller in area and lesser in natural resources than Myanmar are exporting largest amount of rice superior in quality and popular in global markets.

Another disadvantage of the manual method is the high cost as it demands a great deal of manpower and causes a lot of wastage. Imagine the amount of wastage caused by human labour for the country's total paddy sown acreage of 17 million acres at a rate of six baskets per acre

(roughly, one basket of rice is equal to 44 pounds).

In contrast, mechanized farming cuts production cost by half and minimizes wastage to a considerable degree. Generally, mechanized farming is extra effective and more commercial in large-scale cultivation, especially for gigantic square-shape crop-growing plots.

Consequently, large-scale mechanized farms have become essential part of the nation to feed its own population and to compete with other global exporters in quality and quantity in the long run. The bottom-line here is the transformation of the whole agricultural industry into a production force fully adaptable to modern techniques and systems.

Undoubtedly, large-scale mechanized farms need a large amount of capital which is not within the reach of rural farmers tilling most of the

nation's farms. We now have some big domestic enterprises doing agro-business on a wider scale. But they alone cannot bring satisfactory results we are searching for. At this point, we need to create cooperative farms with the participation of farmers themselves.

We have the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry, the Cooperatives Ministry and other relevant organizations for all-round assistance including financial aids farmers need in setting up such cartels. What's more, the educative model farm in Nay Pyi Taw is providing peasants all over the country with valuable knowledge through demonstrations.

Almost definitely, new initiatives and new way of thinking and actions coupled with spiritual and material changes are the sine qua non of achieving satisfactory results.

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan meets Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr Surin Pitsuwan.

MNA



Union I&C Minister receives ASEAN Secretary-General

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr Surin Pitsuwan paid a call on Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan at the Minister's office here at 12:45 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, Managing Directors and Directors-General from Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Information.

At the call, they had a cordial discussion on rural areas development tasks and promoting cooperation in culture and media sectors between Myanmar and ASEAN, implementation of rural areas development tasks with eight poverty alleviation measures by forming central committee led by the President, preparations for successful holding of SEA Games 2013 by forming committee and measures for a greater transparency in the April by-elections.

Undertakings of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) and ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Cultural and Arts (AMCA) by Ministry of Information and Ministry of Culture under ASCC-ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community and follow-up tasks to be done at a time when Myanmar takes ASEAN Chairmanship.

After that, the Union Minister presented Myanmar Learning Society oil colour painting for ASEAN Secretariat through Dr Surin Pitsuwan.

MNA

Displaced people in Bhamo and Momauk Tsps provided with assistance

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe and party met displaced people, who fled on account of regional volatility, in the compound of Momauk Baptist Church in Alinkaung Ward, Momauk Township, Bhamo District on 17 February.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win said that the Head of State looking to improvement of socioeconomic life of national brethren is taking steps to join hands with national races armed groups by seeking common ground. While creating better living standard for locals more than before, the State is trying hard in order that the peace flowers can bloom in the country. The State with genuine goodwill is negotiating with armed groups to end the conflicts in the state, believing that the armed groups would show their enthusiasm for perpetual peace in the interest of the people. Just as the region restores peace, agriculture and livestock firms as well as resettlement would be carried out.

Deputy Minister U Phone Swe said that the State, officials and well-wishers are providing necessary assistance to locals. On the other hand, they should stand on their own. If a state faces danger, endowed with Union Spirit, national people from remaining regions and state will be ready to lend a helping hand.

Hluttaw representatives, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission secretary and officials explained assistance plan for displaced people and measures necessary for stability of state.

The deputy ministers and officials presented Sky Net DTH TVs and accessories provided by the President, cash assistance by Border Affairs Ministry, SWRR Ministry, Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association and rations by the WFP to locals.

The displaced people at Yogyi Ywama monastery and Gayuna Bhamo transit camps in Bhamo Township were also provided with Sky Net DTH TVs and accessories, cash and ration.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win presents Sky Net DTH TVs and its accessories provided by the President to national races family in Momauk Baptist Church compound in Alinkaung Ward, Momauk Township.—MNA

Myanmar Medical Association (Mawlamyine) holds 10th Medical Conference

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—The tenth Medical Conference of Myanmar Medical Association (Mawlamyine) was held at the General Hospital (Mawlamyine), attended by Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, Hluttaw Speaker U Kyin Pe, the State Ministers and invited persons yesterday.

The Mon State Chief Minister formally made an opening address, and Chairman of Myanmar

Medical Association (Central) Dr Kyaw Myint Naing and Chairman of Mawlamyine Medical Association (branch) Dr Aye Nyein extended greetings.

Afterwards, the Mon State Chief Minister and the Chairman of MMA formally opened the medical show corners. And they then looked around the show corners with guests.—MNA

Han Golf Masters Academy to open basic golfing course

YANGON, 20 Feb—Han Golf Masters Academy starts 10-day basic golfing course at Myanma Training Golf Course in Mayangon Township here on 27 February.

Veteran golfers U Chan Han and U Ko Ko Lay and assistants trainers from Han Golf Masters Academy will teach golfing techniques.

Those who want to join the course may have to enlist no later than 26 February. For more details, one may contact Myanmar Training Golf Course (Ph: 01-651797, 651374 and 092037671).—NLM



Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb—The US military's strategic shift to the Asia-Pacific region

'Iron Dome' system moves to Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, 20 Feb—A defence system used to protect Israeli cities from rocket attacks will be deployed in Tel Aviv for a drill, the Israeli military said on Sunday.

Known as the Iron Dome battery, the movable shield against medium-range rockets known to be used by Hamas and Hezbollah is part of Israel's multi-layered defence capability, and will be set up in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area for the first time for several days.

The military stressed the deployment of anti-rocket equipment is a part of pre-planned training exercises, although the Iron Dome has never appeared in central Israel.

"The battery is being placed in various locations from time to time," the military's public affairs unit said. *Ynet News*, an Israeli news agency, said on Sunday that although terrorist organizations have yet to fire rockets into the Tel Aviv area, security officials are aware the groups own rockets with the capability, and expect the city to be the main target in upcoming conflicts.

Internet



The Israeli missile defence system "Iron Dome".

INTERNET

US strategic shift to Asia-Pacific provides opportunity to improve ties with China

provides an opportunity to improve the US relations with China, Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff said on Sunday.

Speaking during an interview with the USTV news network CNN, the top US military officer said that the US military has "taken a decision to rebalance ourselves toward the Pacific" in a re-strategy move.

"I think this is more opportunity than liability to improve our relationship with

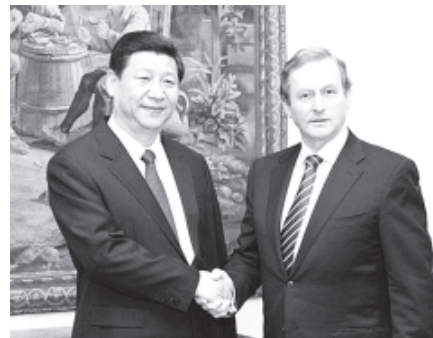
China, and I am personally committed to having that as the outcome rather than get into an arms race or into some kind of confrontation with China," Dempsey said.

The Obama administration has launched with a big fanfare its "Pivot to Asia" strategic shift since late last year, arousing widespread suspicion that the US move is aimed at containing the rise of China, whose influence in the Asia-Pacific region has been rapidly increasing to counterbalance the US

dominance.

During the 13 to 17 Feb visit to the US by China's Vice President Xi Jinping, the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to further boost their cooperative partnership based on mutual respect and mutual benefit. They also agreed to promote the steady and sound development of bilateral military ties based on the principle of mutual respect, mutual trust, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Xinhua



China's Vice-President Xi Jinping (L) shakes hands with Ireland's Prime Minister Enda Kenny at Dublin Castle in Dublin on 19 February, 2012.—XINHUA

Xi, in Ireland, expresses support for euro

DUBLIN, 20 Feb—Vice President Xi Jinping, in line to become China's next leader, reassured his hosts in Ireland about his country's support for the euro and the eurozone.

Xi, expected to succeed Hu Jintao this year as China's president and general secretary of the Communist Party, arrived in Dublin on Saturday after visiting the United States.

His trip comes at a time when the eurozone, of which Ireland is a member, faces a huge debt crisis with more of its members facing tough economic times and ratings downgrades. In his talks with Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny, Xi said China attaches importance to the status of the euro and expressed optimism about the prospect of the single European currency. "We believe the European Union has the ability, wisdom and solution to push forward relevant reforms and adjust itself to overcome the current difficulties," Xi said, the official *Xinhua* news agency reported.

"China will continue to support, in its own way, the efforts of the EU, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund in resolving (the) sovereign debt crisis in Europe." The EU is China's biggest export market, and a stable euro is seen as being good for the Communist country.

Xi said developing China-EU relations is a priority of China's foreign policy. The Irish leader was quoted as saying his country wants to build closer relations with China and would provide preferential treatment for Chinese investors in Ireland. The two leaders witnessed the signing of several cooperation documents. "I look forward to opening a new chapter in the close and warm relationship between Ireland and China," *The Irish Times* quoted Kenny as saying.—Internet

Karzai asks US not to negotiate with Taliban on their behalf

ISLAMABAD, 20 Feb—Afghan President Hamid Karzai has asked the US not to negotiate with the Taliban on their behalf.

"Americans cannot negotiate on our behalf with the Taliban and with us on behalf of the Taliban," *The Dawn* quoted Karzai, as saying.

He was quick to clarify his government's stand on the withdrawal of objection to the Taliban setting up their liaison office in Qatar.

"We only and only agreed to the establishment of office of the Taliban in Qatar.... Venue of talks, actual talks between us and Taliban, should be something we decide. Our preference is Saudi Arabia or Turkey," he added.

Karzai's vision of an Afghan led reconciliation is

one in which his government and the Taliban sit face to face and "talk in an environment of clear and absolute transparency where the entire Afghan nation can see the process unfolding and where Afghanistan can have certain conditions".

Earlier this week, the dialogue on peace and stability in Afghanistan



Karzai

between Kabul and Islamabad had reportedly faltered because of persisting differences over how to fight terrorism and questions about what role the US will play in it.

"What we are talking is how to bring peace and stability to the two countries (Afghanistan and Pakistan) and the region at large," Karzai said.

"Our dialogue is at an advanced stage, we are discussing real issues. But what we have not come to as yet are the mechanisms we need to achieve the objective of a region free of extremism, radicalisation and violence it brings on us," he added.

The other contentious issue, he said, was the role of US "as an important player" in the attainment of that goal.

Internet

Two people killed in ambush, shootout in N Philippines

MANILA, 20 Feb—Two people were killed in an ambush and shootout in northern Philippine province of Cavite early Monday morning, police said.

Citing an initial investigation, Philippine National Police spokesman Agrimero Cruz Jr said that at

about 5:45 am, a certain Boy named Evangelista, a sheep farm owner, allegedly ambushed three persons on board a motorcycle while traversing along Centennial Road corner Kalayaan Street in Batundalig Village.

A victim identified as Joel Hernandez Manisi of Chut village, La Paz, Tarlac Province, died on the spot while the two other victims survived and were brought to a hospital for treatment, he said.

At around 8:20 am, the elements of the Cavite Provincial Police Office engaged the suspect in an encounter during a pursuit operation that resulted in his death, Cruz said.

The suspect was allegedly armed with an M-16 rifle and a caliber 45 pistol, he said.

Further investigation was ongoing to determine the motive of the ambush, he said.

Xinhua

Motorcycle linked to Iranian bombers

BANGKOK, 20 Feb—Thai police said a motorcycle found abandoned on a Bangkok street was providing more clues about the activities of a suspected Iranian terrorist ring.

The Honda, which was left parked in front of a store, was dusted for fingerprints and traced to a motorcycle shop in the city's Klong Tan area where it had been purchased by one of the five suspects in the ring.

Police said they found a

sticker on the seat of the bike with the word "sejail" on it. Sejail comes from the Koran and is often used as a nickname for the rockets that Palestinian guerrillas have been lobbing into Israel over the years, the *Bangkok Post* said on Sunday.

National Deputy Police Chief Pansiri Prapawatt said investigators were trying to determine if the motorcycle was to have been used in any plot to attack Israeli diplomats or other targets in

the Thai capital.

The *Post* said five individuals had been identified as suspects in the alleged ring, including two who have apparently fled to Iran and two others captured after being injured by an explosion last week not far from where the motorcycle was found.

The fifth suspect has not been identified but police were seeking an arrest warrant, the newspaper said.

Internet

Person injured in central Nigeria explosion

LAGOS, 20 Feb—One person was injured in a car explosion in the town of Suleja in central Nigeria's Niger State on Sunday morning, a police spokesman confirmed with *Xinhua*.

Police spokesman in Nigeria's capital Abuja Mohammed Garuba told *Xinhua* that reports reaching him indicated that one person

had been injured in a car explosion in central north Niger State. Nigeria's rescue agency also confirmed the explosion. "NEMA has alerted other response agencies to an explosion reported in Morocco area of Suleja. Public are strongly advised to desist from getting close to explosion and allow rescue workers access to site,"

according to a text message reaching *Xinhua* from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) spokesman, Yushau Shuaib.

Suleja, 45 km from Abuja, has been a hotspot of attacks in recent years. A Christmas Day bombing of the Saint Theresa Catholic Church there killed more than 40 people last year.—Xinhua

Health Tip: Take care of your skin

The skin is your body's largest organ, and it requires tender care to stay healthy.

The Cleveland Clinic mentions these suggestions to care for your skin, inside and out:

- * Drink plenty of water each day.
- * Carefully and thoroughly cleanse your skin each day, removing all makeup before bed.
- * Eat a balanced, nutritious diet.
- * Use a gentle toner on your skin after you wash.
- * Always moisturize your skin after cleansing and toning, even if your skin is oily.—Internet



Joyce Lallam, 14, one of more than 3,000 children in northern Uganda who are suffering from a mystery ailment known as nodding disease, poses outside her family home in Tumangu Village this month. For several years, scientists have tried — and failed — to determine the cause of the disease, which locals say has killed hundreds of youngsters.

INTERNET

'Nodding disease' confounds experts, kills children

KAMPALA, 20 Feb — Patrick Anywar, 14, lies curled up naked in the dust and midday heat of a Ugandan village, struggling to look up at his younger brother and sister playing in front of the family home. After a minute's effort to face his siblings, Anywar's head slumps onto his chest and his emaciated body is gripped by convulsions.

Anywar is one of more than 3,000 children in northern Uganda who are suffering from a debilitating mystery ailment known as nodding disease, which has touched almost every family in the village of Tumangu. For several years, scientists have tried and failed to determine the cause of the illness, which locals say has killed hundreds

of youngsters. What they do know is that the disease affects only children and gradually devastates its victims through debilitating seizures, stunted growth, wasted limbs, mental disabilities and sometimes starvation.

Anywar's mother, Rugina Abwoyo, has already lost one son, named Watmon, to the disease in 2010. Now she says she can do little but watch on helplessly as another child slips away. "Before he was walking and running like other children, but now someone always has to stay home to look after him," Abwoyo told AFP. "The disease is terrible — it does not let him drink or eat by himself."

Internet

Dogs can boost exercise rates for moms-to-be

LONDON, 20 Feb — Pregnant women who own a dog are 50 percent more likely to get the recommended 30 minutes of exercise a day by going for brisk walks, a new study finds.

Because walking is a low-risk exercise, walking a dog could be part of a wider strategy to combat obesity and improve the health of pregnant women, suggested the researchers at the University of Liverpool in the UK. The findings from their study of more than 11,000 pregnant women appear in the journal *PLoS One*.

"Although the higher physical activity levels of adult dog owners has already been demonstrated in the US and Australia, this is the first study of its kind to examine whether the effects also apply to pregnant women.

By not managing their weight and exercise, pregnant women risk unnecessary weight gain, as well as a difficult labor or weight problems for the child in later life," Dr Carri Westgarth, from the university's Institute of Infection and Global Health, said in a university news

release.

However, researchers found no association between the weight of pregnant dog owners and those without pets, suggesting that there is much more to maintaining weight than just walking a dog.

"Dog walking alone cannot reduce the numbers of obese pregnant women. We also found that some pregnant women with dogs didn't go out walking," Westgarth said.

Healthy eating, along with other forms of exercise such as hiking or swimming, are also important in preventing women from gaining too much weight during pregnancy, researchers said.

Internet



Disabled elderly say they want dignity, control

SAN FRANCISCO, 20 Feb — Two factors — a sense of dignity and a sense of control — are critical to quality of life for disabled elderly people, according to a new study that also found that most disabled seniors rate their quality of life as "fair to very good." The two factors were emphasized by 62 disabled seniors (white, black,

Hispanic, and Chinese American) who were interviewed by researchers at the San Francisco VA Medical Centre and the University of California, San Francisco.

"By 'control,' these elders mean a sense of autonomy in their activities of daily living," lead author Dr Jennifer King, who was a medical student at the UCSF School of Medicine at the time

of the study, said in a UCSF news release. "Because of disability, not all of them are able to do all activities on their own, but they want to feel they have some say in how those activities progress throughout the day," she explained. When the study participants were asked to rate their quality of life, 87 percent responded "fair to very good," which was in the middle of the five-point

scale that ranged from "excellent" to "poor."

"These folks are not doing badly," senior investigator Dr Alexander Smith, a palliative medicine doctor at SFVAMC, said in the news release. "Their quality of life, as they rate it, is definitely higher than some might assume it would be for older people with disabilities."

Internet

Chinese automakers buy into Europe



This file photo shows a showroom of Chinese manufacturer Great Wall Motors, in Sofia. With a brand new Bulgarian plant set to start churning out cars by end-February, China's Great Wall Motor hopes to establish a foothold to expand sales across Europe, says its local partner Litex Motors.

INTERNET

SOFIA, 20 Feb — Chinese automakers have returned in force to Europe, buying up brands and plants after early efforts to get a foothold in one of the world's largest car markets failed. Great Wall Motor is the latest China entrant, with production at its plant in Bulgaria due to start Tuesday, giving it access to the European market of some 500 million people

with a very competitive line up which may give Europe's established firms pause for thought.

Prices for its base Voleex C10 model, the Steed 5 pick-up and Hoover H5 four-by-four run from just 8,000 euros to 14,700 euros (\$10,600 to \$19,400) and the company, which has 10 sites in China, says is aiming for production of 500,000 vehicles overseas by 2015.

Analysts said it may be surprising that Chinese firms seem so determined to get into Europe, a saturated market where car sales are declining, but there are benefits for them, especially in terms of branding and prestige. "It is a way for them to make progress in quality levels," said Yann Lacroix, analyst at Euler Hermes in Paris. In Britain, Geely Motors plans to start selling a mid-range sedan by the end of the year at a very competitive 10,000 pounds (\$15,460, 12,000 euros).

Internet

US consumer prices up 0.2% in January

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — US consumer prices rose by 0.2% in January, driven by the rising cost of clothes and petrol, the US Labour Department has said.

The figures also showed that the annual rate of inflation was 2.9% last month, down from December's rate of 3%. However, core inflation — which strips out food and energy costs — rose to an annual rate of 2.3%. The Federal Reserve has said it is not intending to raise interest rates until 2014 because inflation has stayed low. The



The cost of living has not been rising that sharply over the past year.—INTERNET

monthly increase was less than analysts had expected. Consumer price inflation hit a high of 3.9% in September.

The Labour Department

said the fuel oil index rose 1.4%, as oil and petrol prices increased again after dropping late last year.

Internet

Gas prices are highest ever for this time of year



In this 16 Feb, 2012 photo, a customer fills up at an Irving Oil gas station, in Berlin, Vt. Gasoline prices have never been higher at this time of year. At \$3.51 a gallon, gas is up 23 percent since 1 Jan.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 20 Feb — Gasoline prices have never been higher this time of the year. At \$3.53 a gallon, prices are already up 25 cents since 1 Jan. And experts say they could reach a record \$4.25 a gallon by late April. "You're going to see a lot more staycations this year," says Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research. "When the price gets anywhere near \$4, you really see people react."

Already, W Howard

Coudle, a retired machinist from Crestwood, Mo, has seen his monthly gasoline bill rise to \$80 from about \$60 in December. The closest service station is selling regular for \$3.39 per gallon, the highest he's ever seen. "I guess we're going to have to drive less, consolidate all our errands into one trip," Coudle says. "It's just oppressive." The surge in gas prices follows an increase in the price of oil.

Oil around the world is priced differently. Brent crude

from the North Sea is a proxy for the foreign oil that's imported by US refineries and turned into gasoline and other fuels. Its price has risen 11 percent so far this year, to around \$119 a barrel, because of tensions with Iran, a cold snap in Europe and rising demand from developing nations. West Texas Intermediate, used to price oil produced in the US, is up 4 percent to around \$103 a barrel. That's 19 percent higher than a year earlier.—Internet

Business

Stonehenge inspired by sound illusion, archaeologist suggests

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — Theories about the purpose of Stonehenge range from a secular calendar to a place of spiritual worship. Now, an archaeologist suggests that the Stonehenge monument in southern England may have been an attempt to mimic a sound-based illusion. If two pipers were to play in a field, observers walking around the musicians would hear a strange effect, said Steven Waller, a doctoral researcher at Rock Art Acoustics USA, who specializes in the sound properties of ancient sites, or archaeoacoustics. At certain points, the sound waves produced by each player would cancel each other out, creating spots where the sound is dampened.

It's this pattern of quiet spots that may have inspired Stonehenge, Waller told an audience on Thursday (16 February) in Vancouver, British Columbia, at the annual meeting of the American Association for

the Advancement of Science. The theory is highly speculative, but modern-day experiments do reveal that the layout of the Stonehenge ruins and other rock circles mimics the piper illusion, with stones instead of competing sound waves

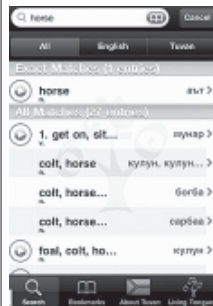
blocking out sounds made in the center of the circle. In support of the theory, Waller pointed to myths linking Stonehenge with music, such as the traditional nickname for stone circles in Great Britain: "piper stones." One legend holds that Stonehenge

was created when two magic pipers led maidens into the field to dance and then turned them to stone.

Waller experimented by having blindfolded participants walk into a field as two pipers played. He asked the volunteers to tell him whenever they thought a barrier existed between them and the sound.

Internet

Digital tools 'to save languages'



There's an app for everything—even an endangered language like Tuvan.—INTERNET

LONDON, 20 Feb — Facebook, YouTube and even texting will be the salvation of many of the world's endangered languages, scientists believe. Of the 7,000 or so languages spoken on Earth today, about half are expected to be extinct by the century's end. Globalization is usually blamed, but some elements of the "modern world", especially digital technology, are pushing back against the tide. North American tribes use social media to re-engage their young, for example.

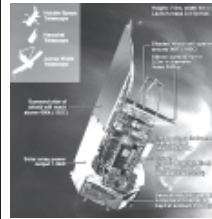
Tuvan, an indigenous tongue spoken by nomadic peoples in Siberia and Mongolia, even has an iPhone app to teach the pronunciation of words to new students. "Small languages are using social media, YouTube, text messaging and various

technologies to expand their voice and expand their presence," said K David Harrison, an associate professor of linguistics at Swarthmore College and a National Geographic Fellow.

"It's what I like to call the flipside of globalisation. We hear a lot about how globalisation exerts negative pressures on small cultures to assimilate. But a positive effect of globalisation is that you can have a language that is spoken by only five or 50 people in one remote location, and now through digital technology that language can achieve a global voice and a global audience."

Internet

Herschel telescope 'in last year'



The Herschel telescope has to be kept extremely cold to study its frigid targets.

INTERNET

PASADENA, 20 Feb — Herschel, Europe's billion-euro space observatory, has entered what is likely to be its last year of operation. The telescope studies the formation of stars, and has taken some remarkable pictures since its launch in May 2009. But its detectors require a constant supply of superfluid helium to keep working, and the store of this coolant has now dropped to less than 100kg.

This past week saw Herschel begin what engineers believe will be the final 365 days of its mission life. "There's quite a bit of

uncertainty in all this, of course," said Dr Paul Goldsmith from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, US. "It could be 11 months, it could be 14 months, and we're naturally hoping for the latter. It's certainly true that we have enough observations proposed to go well past the year if the helium lasts that long," he told BBC News.

Dr Goldsmith has been discussing the observatory's successes during a special seminar here in Vancouver at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He is the US space agency (NASA) project scientist on the mission. Although principally a European Space Agency (ESA) venture, Herschel has a 6% contribution from the Americans, who provided some mission-enabling technology for two of the telescope's three instruments.—Internet



Motorola Droid 4 released; Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 announced



WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — Motorola may have hit a rough patch, but it's emerging with new devices and possibly the guidance of its new parent company, Google. The Droid 4 is one of Motorola's latest devices to hit the market, wowing with its medium size, full QWERTY keyboard, 4G support and stellar battery life. But while Motorola's playing catchup, Samsung forges ahead with plans to release a Galaxy Tab 2, ready with Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich. HTC's ramping up its ICS efforts as well, with plans for an early access preview of Android 4.0 on its Sensation line of smartphones.

Motorola Droid 4

Motorola's hit several strong points with the latest Droid 4, including a sleek slide-out QWERTY keyboard that will convert any BlackBerry user. At \$199 with a two-year contract, this new smartphone features a 4-inch, 960x540 LCD panel. The five-row rubber keypad is one of the best, with a well-spaced layout and backlit keys. The Droid 4 comes with support for Verizon's 4G LTE network. The battery life is also notable, though the battery itself isn't removable. The biggest downside for the Droid 4 at this time is its lack of Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich.

Samsung Galaxy Tab 2

Samsung's slipped a few details about its latest tablet, the Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 (7.0). It's the ICS successor to the original Galaxy Tab model, which has faced several obstacles in gaining an ICS upgrade. The 7-inch 1024x600

PLS LCD display is accompanied by a 1GHz dual-core processor and 1GB of RAM. The Galaxy Tab 2 will also come with Wi-Fi and a 3-megapixel rear-facing camera. While there's several perks to the Galaxy Tab 2, there's also some signs that this is an entry-level device compared to Samsung's other well-fitted tablets. The main camera, for example, is fixed-focus and lacks an LED flash. The VGA resolution is also not as popular as the 1.2-megapixel or above we're accustomed to seeing, and at 10.5mm thick, it's also not the thinnest in the market.—Internet

Hi-tech cars: Driver distraction warning in US

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — US transport safety officials have proposed guidelines to limit driver distraction from gadgets built into cars. The planned voluntary rules would cover "integrated electronic devices, including mobile phones". Officials want distracting functions to be disabled when driving. In 2010, US figures suggested that "distraction by a device or control integral to the vehicle was reported in 26,000 crashes".

The new proposals include goals to reduce the amount of inputs required to operate a device—the number of buttons to push—and reducing unnecessary visual information. There are also guidelines requiring one-handed operation and a two second limit on "off-road glances"—the time spent looking at the device. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) also wants built-in gadgets the driver can use to turn-off non-essential functions while the car is moving, and keep them disabled until the car is parked.—Internet



Officials said they might in the future issue further guidelines covering portable devices like smartphones.—INTERNET



So far 4.0 "Ice Cream Sandwich" runs on only a handful of phones and tablets like the Samsung Galaxy Nexus.—INTERNET

Why 'Android fragmentation' isn't so bad

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — Even though Android is the most popular smartphone platform in the US, and even though there were 10 billion Android app downloads as of December 2011, many Android users are frustrated that they're still treated like a second-class app market. That's because "fragmentation" makes it more complicated to develop Android apps that will run on most Android phones. New research from Localytics claims that Android fragmentation might be becoming less of an issue.

If correct, this could start bringing more popular apps to Android phones faster—or maybe even first. But the catch is, the Android ecosystem is far more variable than the iPhone landscape. That makes it a bigger long-term risk for app developers.

Many popular consumer apps are still rolled out first for the iPhone. (Hello,

Instagram?) That's because many Android phones are running substantially older versions of Android, which limits which apps they can support. Plus, Android phones come in a dizzying array of sizes, configurations, and capabilities—compared to a fairly small selection of iPhone models. Also phone manufacturers and wireless carriers tend to customize the Android interface (in "flavors" such as HTC Sense and Motorola Blur).

Localytics provides analytics tools that app developers use to monitor how people use apps. Data gathered from Localytics users during two weeks in January indicate that most Android phones now have "remarkably similar specifications." Localytics notes that this significantly simplifies the job of deploying mass market Android apps.—Internet



Iranian Intel official says 'Stuxnet virus infected 16,000 computers'

TEHRAN, 20 Feb—A senior Iranian intelligence official has claimed that an estimated 16,000 computers were infected by the Stuxnet virus, which targeted the country's nuclear facilities and other industrial sites in 2010. The Iranian State media quoted a deputy intelligence chief identified only as Ahangaran, as saying



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad tours Tehran's research reactor centre in northern Tehran, Iran, on 15 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

thousands of computers were infected by Stuxnet, but he did not specify whether worldwide or just in Iran.

He also said that Iran is facing difficulties in obtaining anti-malware software because of international sanctions, forcing the country to use its own experts to design the software, *Fox News* reports. Iran had earlier acknowledged the malicious software affected a 'limited number' of centrifuges, a key component in nuclear fuel production. Iran claimed that its scientists discovered and neutralized the malware before it could cause serious damage.

Internet



France's President Nicolas Sarkozy addresses his first major re-election campaign rally in Marseille, southern France, on 19 February, 2012.—INTERNET

Budget panel at odds on spending benefits

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb—Top members of the US House Budget Committee predicted slow going in the coming debate over President Obama's budget proposal Sunday. Rep Paul Ryan, R-Wis, and Rep Chris Van Hollen, D-Md, both accused their colleagues on the opposite sides of the aisle of intransigence and dogmatic partisanship and blamed it for the seeming lack of progress in getting spending under control and the economy back on track.

Ryan, chairman of the House Budget Committee,

said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that Democrats refused to trim spending to offset the extension of the payroll tax cut. "What just drives me crazy is we couldn't get the Democrats in the Senate and the White House to support cutting \$100 billion over 10 years to make sure that this did not hurt the deficit," he said.

Van Hollen, the committee's ranking Democrat, countered by arguing continued slashing of government spending would end up slowing the economy down and aggravating the unemployment problem. "It

[payroll tax cut] will help economic growth," Van Hollen said. "It could add up to 1 percent GDP this year. You are putting more money in the pockets of the American people, and they can go out and spend that money buying goods and services."

Internet

UNESCO to launch new Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre in southeast Europe

PARIS, 20 Feb—A new Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre in southeastern Europe based in Sofia, capital of Bulgaria, will open on Monday, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) said on Sunday.

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova is due to inaugurate the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO while she officially visits the country, said a UNESCO statement.

The centre to be opened in Sofia is one of six around the world that focus on intangible cultural heritage. This centre is the only one in Europe, therefore "plays a crucially important role," the UN cultural agency said. Underlining the importance of UNESCO centres and institutes in advancing the

Organization's strategic objectives and priorities, the UNESCO's chief said "they amplify UNESCO's messages in societies and regions across the world and promote networking and exchange of relevant technical information."

These centres play a key role in reinforcing UNESCO's impact on education, science, culture and communication in the world." During her visit to Sofia, Bokova will hold meetings with Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev and other senior government officials as well as prominent Bulgarian intellectuals.

Xinhua



Uttar Pradesh state Chief Minister Mayawati (C) poses for the media after casting her vote at a polling station in Lucknow, India.—INTERNET

UK govt to store people's phone call, messages, e-mail details under new anti-terror plan

LONDON, 20 Feb—The British government has planned to store the details of every phone call, text message, email traffic and websites visited online as a part of its new anti-terror plans.

Under the new scheme to counter-terrorism, landline and mobile phone companies and broadband providers will be ordered to store the data for a year and make it available to the security services.

The databases would not record the contents of calls, texts or emails, but the numbers or email addresses of who they are sent and received by, *The Telegraph* reports.

This will be the first time that the security services in the country would have widespread access to information about who has been communicating with each other on social networking sites like Facebook. Direct messages between subscribers to websites such as Twitter would also be stored, as well

as communications between players in online video games, the report said.

The plan has been drawn up on the advice of MI5, the home security service, MI6, which operates abroad, and GCHQ, the Government's "listening post" responsible for monitoring communications. Under the scheme the security services would be granted "real time" access to phone and Internet records of people they want to put under surveillance, as well as the ability to reconstruct their movements through the information stored in the databases. According to the paper, the move is certain to cause controversy over civil liberties, but would also raise concerns over the security of the records.

Access to such information would be highly prized by hackers and could be exploited to send spam email and texts. Details of which websites people visit could also be exploited for commercial gain.—Internet

Chinese defence minister meets with Indonesian counterpart

BEIJING, 20 Feb—Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met with his Indonesian counterpart Purnomo Yusgiantoro on Monday and exchanged views on bilateral ties and relations between the two militaries.

During their talks, they praised the communication and cooperation between the two militaries.

Liang, who is also a state councillor, said the two militaries have achieved encouraging progress in recent years with close contact between the two defence departments and high-level military officials.

"The two sides have promoted pragmatic cooperation in all fields, such as personnel training,

equipment and technology, joint exercise, maritime security and multilateral safety," Liang said. "China is ready to work with Indonesia to promote the two countries' strategic partnership and make new contributions to regional development and prosperity." Yusgiantoro said the two militaries have enjoyed sound development in recent years.

"Indonesia attaches great importance to the two countries' defence and security cooperation and hopes to further strengthen friendly communication and cooperation between the two militaries so as to promote regional peace, stability and development," he said.

Xinhua

Santorum leads Romney by eight points in US poll

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb—White House hopeful Rick Santorum has opened an eight-point lead over presumptive frontrunner Mitt Romney among likely Republican voters nationwide, a new poll showed on Sunday.

Thirty-six percent of those surveyed said they supported the Christian conservative, while 28 percent said they preferred the former Massachusetts governor, according to the latest results from Gallup's daily tracking poll. Less than a week ago, Romney was leading Santorum, a former US senator from Pennsylvania,

by two points, putting the two candidates in a statistical tie. Former House speaker Newt Gingrich trails the two leaders with 13 percent, while veteran libertarian Texas congressman Ron Paul was not far behind with 11 percent, the poll showed.

Santorum — who surprised Romney with wins in nominating contests earlier this month in Missouri, Minnesota and Colorado — is now trying to maintain his momentum for the 28 February primary in Michigan, Romney's home turf.

The Gallup poll was conducted from Tuesday through Saturday among about 1,200 likely Republican voters.

The margin of error is plus or minus four percentage points. In late August the Republicans will confirm their candidate to face Democrat Barack Obama in the 6 November presidential election.—Internet



Rick Santorum

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives RFA Executive Producer



NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Executive Producer of RFA Mrs SuSan Lavery at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 4.45 pm today.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, the chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Committee and the secretaries, the Hluttaw representatives from national race parties and local media men.

At the meeting, the Speaker of Hluttaw had a cordial discussion with the visiting guests on the formation of Hluttaw and its responsibilities, measures being taken for improvement of capacity building of Hluttaw representatives to ensure perpetuation of Hluttaws, paying study tour of international parliaments, and steps being taken for further formation of necessary committees in addition to four original committees as the Hluttaw committees play a leading role in the flourishing of democracy.

The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and officials responded to questions raised by local and foreign media men.—MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives a delegation led by Executive Producer of RFA Mrs SuSan Lavery at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building.—MNA

People on east and west banks of Thanlwin River are happy with the emergence of Thanlwin River Bridge (Hpa-an)

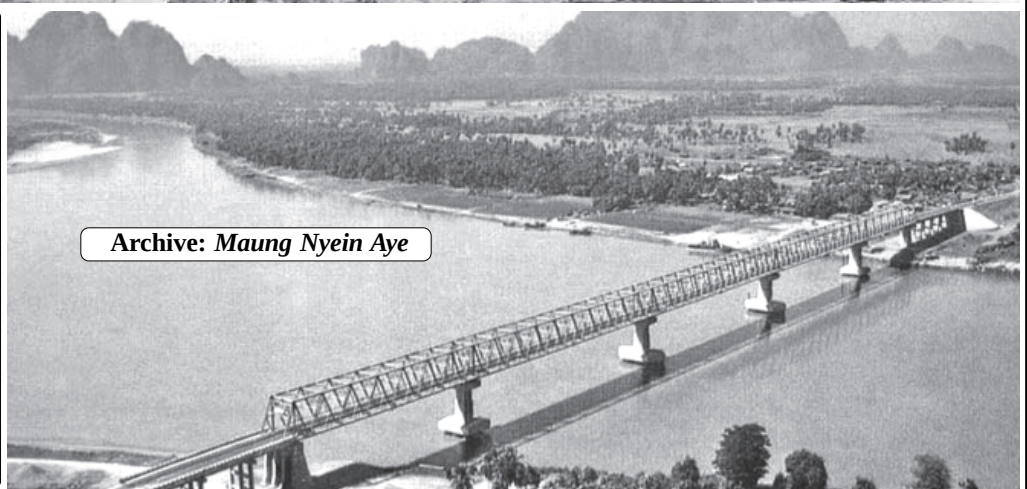


* The emergence of Thanlwin River Crossing Bridge (Hpa-an), main entrance to Kayin State, makes people keep in helpful smoothly transportation those from Kayin State and the rest States and Regions.

* Thanks to the construction of Thanlwin River Crossing Bridge (Hpa-an), the areas of east Thanlwin dwellers will surely improve the economic, education and health sectors.

* Narrowly gaps between the remote areas and developed ones will be of the bridge and it much contributes to greater development of the people in the fur flung areas on account of the bridge.

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye



Salient points of Thanlwin River Crossing Bridge

1. The Thanlwin River Crossing Bridge (Hpa-an) is situated 2 miles 6 furlongs far from the south of Hpa-an, Kayin State.
2. The construction of the main bridge is 1771 feet with 28 feet motorway flanked

by 5 feet pedestrians on each side. The total length of the bridge including approach structure is 2252 feet.

3. It is steel truss type bridge and on Thaton-Myainggaly-Barkat-Hpa-an Road.
4. The construction of the bridge was as of 4-4-1994 and opened 4-8-1997.

Translation: TLA



**Pyithu
Hluttaw
Representative
at sixth
day
session of
Pyithu
Hluttaw.
MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for sixth day

(from page 16)

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Aung Than Oo answered seven questions related to the power supply sector.

U Aung Kyaw Khin of Kyauktan constituency asked **whether the ministry had a plan to install power cables to Ayemyathida Ward, Shwepyithaya Ward and Thidar Myaing Ward in Kyauktan Township.**

The deputy minister replied that to install the cables to the wards, the ministry would spend estimated 48 million kyats on installation of cables and establishment of one 315-KV transformer in Ayemyathida Ward, estimated 68 million kyats on installation of cables and 500 KVA transformer in Shwepyithaya Ward.

The ministry would need over 230 million kyats to supply power to the three wards and the budget would be limited to supply power to the three wards simultaneously. Therefore, the ministry would seek annual budget for supply power to each ward.

U Win Myint of Myingyan constituency asked **whether the ministry had a plan to supply power to Hsimikhon area in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region.**

He replied that there was a 66/11 KV 5 MVA sub-power station built by the Water Resources Utilization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Hsimikhon area. The sub-power station had transported power to Hsimikhon-1 river water pumping station through 11 KV cables, to Hsimikhon-2 river water pumping station through 3.73 MVA cables and Nganhmyar river water pumping station through 5.745 MVA cables, he said.

The 66/11 KV 5 MVA Sub-power Station was established to supply power to the three river water pumping stations which would benefit 12972 acres of farmland. However, the three stations currently used only 2.5 MW, benefitting 2059 acres and 1.5 MW was in surplus. AS the was no more farmland to be irrigated by the three stations, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation could allow to supply the surplus power to Hsimikhon area.

Therefore, 11 KV cables would install and two 200 KVA transformers or one 315 KVA transformer would be built to supply power to the area and the work are to be carried out in self-reliance basis.

The work would be allowed if it was agreed with the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 and the

ministry would also assist in the work.

Dr Daw Aye Myint of Shwedaung Constituency asked **whether there is a plan to replace 100 KVA transformer of Energy Ministry in use at Ngwarmayan village in Ngwarmayan village-tract in Shwedaung Township in Bago Region with 200 KVA transformer.** The deputy minister answered: As Ngwarmayan village in Ngwarmayan village-tract in Shwedaung Township of Bago Region is close to oil storage and distribution division of the Energy Ministry, the electricity is supplied to the village from (11/0.4) KV, 100 KVA transformer which supplies electricity to the oilfield of the Energy Ministry. Following higher number of electricity consumers, reaching 201, more electricity consumption at night and oil pumps and water pumps run by the Energy Ministry, the existing transformer becomes far from meeting the demand and electricity cut took place in the village and staff quarters.

For distributing round-the-clock electricity to the village, the transformer owned by the Energy Ministry will no more be used in the 2012-2013 fiscal year and new 100 KVA transformer will be installed.

U Kyaw Soe Lay of Mohnyin Constituency said **Nabar-Mohnyin-Mogaung 66 KVA Power Grid has been completed cent per cent and asked when the electricity will be distributed through the power grid, whether electricity will be supplied to village-tracts in Mohnyin and Mogaung Townships, which villages, if any, will receive electricity, and how the villages out of the project can get access to electricity.** The deputy minister answered: The power grid is under construction. Nabar-Mohnyin section has been completed by 95 per cent and Mohnyin-Mogaung section by 82 per cent. Each (66/11) KV 5 MVA power station is being built in Mohnyin and Mogaung. These are completed by 50 per cent and will distribute electricity when the power grid is completed in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Villages nearby Mohnyin and Mogaung could get access to electricity by installing 11 KV power grids from these stations, (11/0.4) KV transformers in the villages and 400 V power grid. As in other Regions or States, these measures are to be taken by their own efforts. The Ministry of Electric Power No (2) will allow and provide technical assistances if electrification committees of the villages submit applications satisfying 24 requirements for village electrification tasks issued by the Ministry of Electric Power No (2).

The ministry is striving to supply electricity to the whole country. Apart from Kachin State, it is working simultaneously to supply electricity to Chin, Shan and Rakhine States. If the power grids are completed, Mohnyin, Mogaung, Hopang and Myitkyina will get access to round-the-clock electricity.

U Sikhamram of Khaunglanphu Constituency asked **whether there is a plan to build small-scale hydropower plant three miles from Ahtam creek for supplying electricity to downtown Khaunglanphu.** The deputy minister answered: The constitution states small- and medium-scale hydropower distribution tasks are to be carried out by legislation of respective Region/State. Ahtam creek lies about three miles from Khaunglanphu. Feasibility tests for building small-scale hydropower plant were conducted in 2008. Electricity can be supplied to Khaunglanphu with 41 households using electricity. Other households are scattering. Stretching low voltage power grid will have to be installed to supply electricity from three-mile distance to wider population. Solar and wind power systems should be installed under the programme of respective states.

The ministry has planned to install 30 KVA power station to distribute electricity to wider consumers in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. It will be carried out, based on fund allotment. The ministry provided oil for two hours a day to towns where electricity is supplied by generators. To distribute electricity for more hours, regional authority and local consumers have to pay the cost for oil.

U Zaw Win Aung of Myinmu Constituency asked **whether electricity distribution network can be established from 33 KVA power grid of Myinmu Township in Sagaing District and ChaungU in Monywa District.** The deputy minister answered: (33/6.6) KV 2 MVA power station was built in Myinmu and 33 KVA power grid was installed from Dagundine power station in Mandalay. The electricity was supplied to Myinmu through Ywathitgyi of Sagaing.

Upon completion of Ohntaw power station (Kantalu) in 2010, the electricity is supplied to Myinmu from Ohntaw (Kantalu) power station through 33 KVA power grid. It reduces the length of power grid by 20 miles and increase voltage. One (33/11) KV 5 MVA transformer replaced the (33/6.6) KV 2 MVA transformer in Myinmu in September 2010. (6.6/0.4) KV Transformers in downtown areas were replaced with (11/.0.4) KV transformers. Despite electricity cuts for various reasons, there is no cut for two or three days in a row and for the whole day. For installing new power grids, the electricity is cut in day time and the distribution resumes at night.

Myinmu is 20 miles far from 33 KV power station in ChaungU. But the main power station is in Monywa, only 37 miles from Myinmu. Power grid between Monywa and ChaungU is for ChaungU alone and small in size. To connect Myinmu and ChaungU, new 20-mile 33 KV power grid is

assumed to be installed. Actually, it is needed to install 37-mile 33 KVA power grid from Aungchantha power station in Monywa. It is technically inappropriate. For installing 33 KVA power grid, the overall estimate is K800 million. The government has to use the fund in installing power grid.

It is not necessary to install 33 KVA power grid between Myinmu and ChaungU.

U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency submitted the proposal that **the Hluttaw urged the government to establish National Anti-Corruption Commission independent and reliable by the people for taking actions against corruption in order to emerge Clean Government and Good Governance.**

The date for discussion of the proposal will be announced again and those who want to discuss it are to register today evening.

At bill discussion and approval session, with respect to the proposal on **"Workers dispute settlement bill"**, Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi replied: all presentation for amending it by Bill Committees and Daw Nan Say Awa of Hpa-an Constituency are agreed upon. The proposal of U Thuang Han of Yinmabin Constituency on adding new para under para 49 in principle is agreed to. But, phrases that include in the proposal are to be amended as those in Bill Section (1) so as to make it clear.

U Thuang Han of Yinmabin Constituency presented the agreement on the amended proposal because of being reasonable one. The Hluttaw approved the amended bill with "Yes" votes.

In addition to the existing labour union laws, that bill is submitted urgently which is needed for the formation of Labour Unions soon in Myanmar in accord with the law. It is drafted in line with international standards. After it has been approved, the labour unions could settle the labour disputes in accord with the laws. Thanks to the urgent formation of labour unions, Myanmar would achieve the international recognitions regarding the Myanmar's democratization processes. ILO would have factors to lift ban on Myanmar.

According to, Bill Committee Chairman submitted the proposal on "To fix the dates for discussions on particular projects submitted in National Planning Bill in accord with the Pyithu Hluttaw Bylaw 133 with the Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development as the way Budget Bill was discussed in accord with Union Hluttaw Bylaw 89 (a) and submitting to obey the prescriptions described in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Bylaws 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90 and 91 to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, as an important proposal. It was approved with "yes" vote.

Representatives Dr Nay Lin, Dr Win Myint, U Tin Maung Oo, U Win Than, U Win Oo, Dr Maung Maung Wint, U Kyi Tha, U Aye Maung, U Thein Lwin, U Kyi Min, U Min Swe, U Mann Maung Maung Nyan, Daw Nan Wah Nu, U Sai Thiha Kyaw, U Ba Shein, Dr Soe Yin, Col Htay Naing, Col Myint Ko Ko and Col Tint Hsan and those from outside - U Myint Swe and U Khin Maung Soe, U Nay Win, U Win Myint, U Tin Htwe, U Taik San, U Toe Naing Mann, U Win Thein, U Aye Lwin and U Thein Oo as members of Legal Affairs and Special Affairs Assessment Commission.

Political Affairs and Security Affairs sub-commission, Economic Affairs sub-commission, Social and Cultural Affairs sub-commission, Science, Technology, Research, Information and Communication Technology sub-commission and Legal Affairs sub-commission, covered by the commission will be formed with suitable persons. The Hluttaw approved the assignment of new members. The meeting came to an end at 2:30 pm and will go on at 10 am tomorrow.—MNA

Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues for sixth day

(from page 16)

Kayin State government would manage to relocate 54 persons on the land (7.92 acres) in Ohntawkwun in Ward No. 2 of Kamamaung Township by opening dossier La/Na (39).

Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency No. 1 asked about **multipurpose transport of Kalatan River**. In response, the Union Minister said that framework agreement on construction and dealing of Kalatan River multipurpose transport supportive project and protocol on facilitation of multipurpose transport of Kalatan River were signed in New Delhi on 2 April, 2008.

Thanks to the project, Sittway Jetty 6000-ton vessels can stand at, two jetties for 300-ton vessels in Sittway and Paletwa and other related port buildings would be visible in Myanmar. Moreover, Myanmar would get six 300-ton vessels and benefits of stable water course along the Kalatan River and emergence of a highway from Paletwa to India-Myanmar border.

Rakhine and Chin states would have better transport that creates chance to deal with foreign trade and then direct trade not only with India but also with other countries using international seaports, and have other benefits such as regional development along the Kalatan River, abundance of job opportunities, border trade opportunities and better transport means in the region.

According to bilateral bond between the two countries, Myanmar would provide required land plot. For the first step, 324-m-long and 139-m-wide retaining wall would be built 500-m-long land plot in parallel with the Kalatan River between Phaungtagyi port yard and Mingyi Kyauktan. After being reclaimed, the land plot would be extended to the river on which port buildings including 273-m-long and 15.2-m-wide main jetty, 136-m-long and two 9.5-m-wide approach bridges would be constructed.

In Paletwa, Inland Water Transport is making measures to construct jetties in coordination with the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, and Public Works is also taking steps to pave a highway from Paletwa to Myanmar-India border. As there was no report concerning EIA and SIA, measures for EIA, SIA would be made in coordination with India.

There isn't any plan to remove the Sittway People's hospital, Sittway Myoma Market and Odan Ward along with Kalatan River, residences of the rural people and hospital in Kyebingyi Ward, as they are far from Sittway Port project. Besides, the project isn't near with public-owned lands, and there wouldn't be any blocks of airway due to not building high apartments in those places.

Concerning a proposal "whether or not there is any plan to conserve Pin Creek between Paletwa and Matupi Townships" presented by U Salai Khwe Yan of No. 12 Constituency of Chin State, the Union Minister said that there is a watercourse along Laymyo River from Rakhine State to Paletwa. It is needed to seek strong and weak points and natural impacts in repairing part of the watercourse.

If the cliff is removed, aqua animals will be in ruin. Such plan will make small motorboats move along the river. So, the State's budge should be spent on other sectors beneficial to region. Plans for removing of cliffs in Sinkitaung Village-tract, Lonpote above Pikon Village and Htaikbi Parauang above Awekyi Village would be reported after making field trips.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe



Amyotha
Hluttaw
Representatives
at 6th day
session of
Amyotha
Hluttaw.
MNA

Tint replied to questions of four Hluttaw representatives.

U Than Swe of Taninthayi Region Constituency No. 2 asked if **there is a plan to repair Dawei-Myitta Road**. In response, the deputy minister said that Dawei-Myitta Road was repaired by using annual capital fund and maintenance fund. But, due to torrential rains in this rainy season, there were flood on the road three times that damage the road in a short time.

So, motors can run smoothly more than before because damaged roads and bridges were repaired and maintained with the funds of maintenances for 2011-2012, which was caused by the floods.

Forest Department has instructed the company to construct bypass because some log-loaded trucks are now running on that road section. Local people need to make cooperation in its maintenances Taninthayi Region Government is doing the management of that road section. So, funds for upgrading and maintenances of it will be solicited in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

U Nyunt Hlaing of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No. 4 raised the question on "Is there any plan to repair on Zalun-Danubyu-Kyeinpinsae road section on Hinthada-Nyaungdon-Yangon motor road."

Regarding the question, the deputy minister replied: due to Nargis cyclone occurred in May 2008, the road was under flood. Till 31.5.2011, Road construction project special groups have carried out the maintenances and repair of road measuring 35 miles and 7 furlongs long.

It was carried out in cooperation with Seinsakaing Co. Ltd through BOT system.

Plans are under way to build Kyeinpinsae-Danubyu- Zalun motor road by construction project special group (4) of the Ministry of Construction as an all-weather one.

With respect the question of U Sai Win Maung of Shan State Constituency No. 5 on "Is there any plan to construct Muse bypass", the deputy minister replied: arrangements are being made to fix scales on both sides in addition to the old ones so as not to traffic jam and traffic contestations at Asia World Gate at the entrance to Muse. Under the supervision of Township Development Committee, Thein Than Chi Co is building two miles and three furlongs long bypass stretching from the entrance to Kyangaung.

Township Development Committee will carry out upgrade of road from Muse entrance to Yahtak junction into concrete one out at a cost of K1685 with Thein Than Chi Co through BOT system during six months.

At present, there is no any plan to construct eight-mile-long road to Manwein gate of Muse 105 mile as Muse bypass. There are four to and fro roads at Muse gate.

At 105 mile border trade gate, pass of

motor vehicles is allowed during 6 am to 9 pm daily. Traffic jams occur due to the drivers overtakes each other at the times of the gate's open and close.

With respect the question of U Har Shein Bway of Chin State Constituency No. 8 on "Is there any plan to upgrade Yaysaung strategic road stretching towards 37 mile post of Mindat-Matupi motor road", the deputy minister replied: jeep road stretching from Mile post No. 35/0 to Shwe Aung Tha Village of Htilin Township Mindat-Matupi motor road was built with the funds of border areas and national races development.

Four village roads linking to Shwe Aung Tha village in Htilin Township are village-to-village roads built by Ministry of Border Affairs.

The distance between Mindat-Matupi feeder and Shwe Aung Tha village is about 68 miles, which it takes three and half hours drives. Construction of bridges on that road has been completed. Ministry of Construction has no plan to occupy and upgrade it at present.

Member of the Government's Grantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee U Nyan Lin submitted the committee's report and proposal to discuss the report. It was seconded by a representative. The Hluttaw approved the proposal. The Hluttaw announced the nomination of representatives who want to discuss it.

Proposal of Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 8 on "Urging the Union Government to boost the paddy production productivity and to make the farmers earn more income" was discussed by representatives U Swe Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No. 12, U Saw Maw Tun of Bago Region Constituency No. 1, U Kan Nyunt of Sagaing Region Constituency No. 5, U Saw Ohn of Mon State Constituency No. 9, Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No. 7, U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No. 12, U Gan Hsai of Kachin State Constituency No. 2, Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 1 and U Sai Paung Nat of Shan State Constituency No. 12.

They discussed that good quality seeds and good agricultural practices are to be used for boosting the productivity of the farmers. Experienced agriculturalists are to educate the farmers continuously. Free markets are to be created for sale of paddy crops at home and abroad. It is suitable programme add agricultural lessons in the course syllabus of basic education starting 2012.

With respect to the proposal, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw said: for promoting farmers' life, all-out efforts are being made by the ministry to develop agricultural sector in all aspects. As

parts of its programme, the ministry is carrying out seed production, access to modern agricultural practices, training and education and research and development of quality paddy strains and agricultural methods while making cooperation with entrepreneurs for seed production, which is quality, marketable paddy strains.

The ministry has implemented a total of 24 agricultural research fields; 17 fields for quality paddy strains and 7 central fields; in States and Regions, and a total of 100 acres of quality paddy strains nurturing at Yezin University of Agriculture and 100 acres of those in Shwetaung field with a hand of Chinese agriculturalists so high yield quality paddy strains could be produced more and more. Besides, the ministry is making efforts on distributing fertilizers to farmers in cooperation with private companies as progress of producing crops and paddy depends on using fertilizers correctly and on time.

Forming an irrigation water users' association, the ministry is promulgating techniques how to properly use water, fertilizers not to disturb surroundings, including giving good agricultural practices for growing paddy and crops systematically.

It is a duty bound for each and every farmer to do so while the State and the private companies are making physical and mental efforts to achieve improvement in agricultural sector.

According to the President's speech citing that we should do our best to improve agricultural sector by transiting the consideration on being a farmer due to lack of education into the one on being a farmer in spite of their good education, the ministry has tabled a proposal to add an agricultural subject in the courses of BEHS students, starting from coming academic year, to the Union Government Office.

The Hluttaw announced that the proposal is proved.

U Hla Swe of No. 12 Constituency of Magway Region presented a proposal "to prepare for hosting the 27th SEA Games-2013 by selecting athletes from Basic Education High School/Higher Education level inter-school matches, from Region/State level matches, from inter-ministry matches".

A representative agreed with it.

The Hluttaw announced to submit name lists if the hluttaw representatives who have facts to be discussed.

The 6th day of third regular meeting of the first Amyotha Hluttaw ended at 3:50 pm today, and continues its 7th day at 10 am on 21 February, 2012.

Today's session of the Hluttaw saw eight queries replied by respective Union Ministers, one proposal submitted, three proposals tabled and one proposal discussed to be proved.

MNA

Union FM receives ASEAN Secretary-General

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—A delegation from the ASEAN Secretariat led by the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan held a meeting with the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin at the Ministry here at 9 am today. Dr Surin Pitsuwan is currently visiting Myanmar at the invitation of the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Wunna Maung Lwin.

During the call, they discussed matters on the progress of ASEAN Community Building, ASEAN Secretariat's contribution towards Myanmar's endeavors on taking the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014 and ASEAN's call for the lifting of unilateral sanctions on Myanmar.

MNA



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin meets delegation led by Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr Surin Pitsuwan.

MNA

Union I&P Minister inspects issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi inspected issuance of household registration certificates and citizenship scrutiny cards at Basic Education Primary School in Daitaya village in Pyu Township of Bago Region on 18 February as Immigration and National Registration Department is issuing certificates and cards to local people on

public holidays.

He asked difficulties and attended to the needs.

The Union minister explained about importance of the documents. Officials answered queries raised by local people. The Union minister cordially greeted local people there.

MNA

NPE staff make pilgrimage and excursion to Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—The staff members and their families of News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information as pilgrimage and excursion made a trip to Hsandaushin Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda at 8.30 pm on 18 February.

Altogether 135 pilgrims led by group leader Chief Editor U Than Myint Tun of *The New Light of Myanmar* daily performed the

1000-oil lamps offering ritual on the passage of the pagoda square. They donated K 152,100 to Pagoda Board of Trustee the next morning.

Looking to improvement in performance of staff members at workplace and their relaxation, pilgrimage and excursion is scheduled to set off on 25 February for second time and on 2 March for third time.

MNA

Talk on Myanmar-Thailand trade promotion to be held

YANGON, 20 Feb—A Thai delegation led by Assistance Director General Mr. Somdet Susomboon of Department International Trade Promotion is holding a meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs at Conference Hall of UMFCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyaw Swa Road in Lanmadaw Township here at 9 am till 3 pm tomorrow.

The delegation includes a total of 42 members of 27 companies in Thailand.

The meeting will focus on matters

relating to bilateral cooperation in investment and trade in selling of electronic accessories, plastic, packing, cosmetic and kitchen wares, foodstuff, home-decoration devices, vehicle accessories, rubber products, jewellery center, women and children's clothes.

Those wishing to attend the meeting may contact IRD of UMFCCI not later than 22 February, (Ph: 214344 to 214349).

MNA

Myanmar Selected Karate-do team demonstrates

YANGON, 20 Feb—A demonstration of Myanmar Selected Karate-do team took part in the XXVI SEA Games led by Secretary of Myanmar Karate-do Federation U Soe Win was held at Bago District Sports Ground on 16 February.

It was also attended by Deputy Director

of Sports and Physical Education Department of Bago U Thein Myint, Chairman of Karate-do Subcommittee of Bago Region U Aung Than and officials concerned, enthusiasts and students of BEHSs and Bago University totaling 500.

MNA

Bushfire threatens homes in Western Australia's town

SYDNEY, 20 Feb—Residents in the town of Northcliffe in Western Australia's southwest have been advised to evacuate after a bushfire escaped containment lines, authorities said on Monday.

The Department of Environment and -(DEC) said on Monday morning the fire was about 8 kilometres south of Northcliffe after breaking containment lines on Sunday.

Northcliffe, with a population of 400, has also been placed on emergency alert. The DEC said firefighters were expecting the wind to change to a more southerly influence later on Monday and the risk of fire impact to properties in the area could be increased.

"At the moment, the police have indicated to us that they have visited between 35 and 40 homes asking people to evacuate, and that's within a four-kilometre radius of the north-west corner of the fire," DEC Incident Controller Peter Keppel told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). Around 70 fire-fighters are battling the blaze, assisted by five aerial water bombers, according to Keppel.

About a dozen people evacuated from their homes spent the night in a shelter in Northcliffe. The Northcliffe District High School has been closed for the day. The fire, caused by lightning 10 days ago, has burnt through more than 26,000 hectares of bush land and forest.—Xinhua



Mine where a roof collapse accident happened in Puxian County of Linfen City, north China's Shanxi Province, on 19 Feb, 2012. Seven workers were killed in the coal mine roof collapse accident. The accident occurred at about 1 pm on Sunday, trapping seven workers who were working in the shaft. Rescuers are still searching for the remaining three.—XINHUA

Small, micro-enterprises need specific, suitable support

BEIJING, 20 Feb—China has set its sights on promoting small and micro-sized enterprises (SMEs) development this year, and experts said what those enterprises need is specific and suitable support. Small firms play an irreplaceable role in fostering economic growth, increasing employment, facilitating scientific and technological innovation and maintaining social stability. However, they bear the vulnerabilities such as limited size, weak influence and the lack of resources. In face of the uncertainty of the market and economic development, small and micro-sized enterprises need more effective support from the government to survive and develop.—Xinhua



Few workers operate in an assembly line as the production shrinks in Wenzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 30 June, 2011.—XINHUA

Coal mine collapse kills seven in north China

TAIYUAN, 20 Feb—Seven workers have been confirmed dead as of Monday morning after the roof of their coal mine collapsed Sunday in the northern province of Shanxi, local authorities said.

The accident occurred Sunday noon in a shaft of the Beiyu Coal Mine in Puxian county in the city of Linfen, trapping the seven who were then checking the shaft.

By 10:20 am Monday, rescuers have pulled out all the trapped workers' bodies, said a statement from the city government.

Beiyu Coal Mine is a legally-run coal mine owned by Shanxi Puxian County Hongyuan Group.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Xinhua

International strawberry symposium opens in Beijing

BEIJING, 20 Feb—The seventh International Strawberry Symposium opened in northern Beijing on Saturday with over 1,000 agri scientists from around the world exchanging latest technologies of strawberry cultivation.

Vice Premier Hui Liangyu attended the opening ceremony of the symposium, scheduled from 18 to 22 February, in Changping District.

When visiting the Strawberry Expo Garden, Hui said boosting strawberry production with high technology is part of China's efforts to upgrade its agriculture sector and to help increase farmers' incomes. The symposium is also a platform for the

international exchanges and cooperation of agricultural technologies and efforts should be made to introduce more advanced technologies in the field from foreign countries to boost the modern agricultural industry in China, Hui said.

Initiated by the International Society for Horticultural Science in 1988, the International Strawberry Symposium is held every four years and is a high-level academic event showcasing the latest global high-tech achievements, production and development in the strawberry industry.

This year's symposium is the first time the event has been held in an Asian country. Xinhua



Models present bridal gowns during 2012 Wedding Fair in Zagreb, capital of Croatia, on 18 Feb, 2012. Over 300 exhibitors specializing in bridal wear, entertainment, wedding cakes, photography, stationery and flowers took part in the show. XINHUA

Iran halts oil sales to France and Britain



Apparent retaliation for EU crude import ban, Iran says has considered replacements for the cut.—INTERNET

TEHRAN, 20 Feb—Iranian officials said crude oil sales to Britain and France had been cut off amid a dispute over economic sanctions.

A spokesman for the Oil Ministry said Tehran didn't need the business and had new customers lined up for the

barrels. "Exporting crude to British and French companies has been stopped," the unidentified spokesman said on the ministry Web site. "We will sell our oil to new customers."

Iran has warned several European nations they would

also be cut off in retaliation for new international sanctions aimed at Iran's nuclear programme. The European Union had pledged to stop importing Iranian oil starting on 1 July. The British newspaper *The Guardian* said the move could push up

the price of Brent crude, a blend of North Sea oils that is used as a benchmark for crude futures. China, India, Japan and Italy are considered the biggest customers for Iranian crude, which accounts for the lion's share of Iran's export revenues.—Internet

Three die in Arizona house fire

SAN CARLOS, 20 Feb—Three people died in a house fire on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in southeast Arizona, a Bureau of Indian Affairs agent said.

When police and firefighters arrived at the burning house early Sunday morning they were told by a 63-year-old woman that her grandchildren and a family friend were inside, according to Warren Youngman, assistant special agent with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Firefighters found the bodies of two boys, age 5 and 7, and a man, 50, dead in the rubble. Although their names were not released, the Arizona Republic confirmed on Sunday they were members of the San Carlos Apache tribe. Agents from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are investigating the incident. Youngman said the cause of the fire remains unknown.—Internet

Fire extinguished at BP refinery

SEATTLE, 20 Feb—A fire at the largest oil refinery in Washington State took about 90 minutes to put out, fire officials said. The blaze at BP's Cherry Point refinery on Friday afternoon caused no serious injuries, *The Seattle Times* reported.

The refinery in Whatcom County on the Canadian border north of Seattle is the third largest on the West Coast. BP spokesman Scott Dean said production continued during the blaze, although the fire slowed operations. Tim Hamilton, head of Automotive United Trades Organization, a gasoline supplier trade group, said the fire could cause an additional increase in prices at the pump in Washington. He said a 15-cent a gallon hike is already in the pipeline because of an increase in wholesale prices. Recommended Stories.

Internet



A girl takes a close look at the exhibits during the military force exhibition held in Mexico City, Mexico, on 18 Feb, 2012. The military force exhibition that held by Mexican air force and army was opened free to local citizens.—XINHUA

Chicago News Cooperative to end

CHICAGO, 20 Feb—The Chicago News Cooperative, a non-profit news organization, is expected to close its doors next week, a staff member said. The staff member, whose name was not released, said the CNC is scheduled to cease operation on 26 February, the *Chicago Tribune* reported on Friday.

The non-profit news organization, which was started in 2009, publishes a section in the Chicago edition of *The New York Times* twice a week, has a partnership with WTTW-Channel 11, Chicago public television, and WBEZ, Chicago public radio, and operates a Web site. Staff members were told in a meeting on Friday by Jim O'Shea, the CNC's managing editor, the

source told the *Tribune*. While the CNC was formed as a non-profit, it was hoped that it would eventually begin generating sufficient revenue on its own, the *Tribune* reported. Those revenues haven't materialized, the source said.—Internet

A boat with the Greek flag painted on, is trapped on the frozen lake of Kastoria town, in northwestern Greece, on 16 Feb, 2012. More than 650 people have died so far in Europe's coldest winter in decades. Snow and the record cold spell have paralyzed many countries, closing down schools and nurseries, and halting traffic. INTERNET



Trial begins Tuesday in cyber-suicide

NEW BRUNSWICK, 20 Feb—Jury selection is set to begin in the New Jersey trial of a man who either pulled a prank or committed a hate crime, officials say.

Dharun Ravi allegedly used his laptop and camera to record and Internet-broadcast his Rutgers University dorm roommate Tyler Clementi with another man in 2010, leading to Clementi's suicide, prosecutors say. Charged with spying, Ravi's trial in Middlesex County Superior

Court is scheduled to be televised on the truTV Channel, and has brought conflicting comment from legal analysts regarding the penalty for such an offence.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin on Tuesday.

The Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger said Sunday the case crosses the lines of bullying, cyberstalking, hate crime and invasion of privacy, or it may merely be a college prank.

The trial, which is expected to last four weeks,

is expected to expose the uncertainty of the justice system when dealing with what Susan Abraham, a New York law school and former New Jersey prosecutor, called "this kind of emotional bullying. Should it be treated in criminal courts, or some other way? The problem with criminalizing these postings and the things young people do on the Internet is a lot of them don't know what the rules are. Maybe they should."

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BANG PAKAEW VOY NO (192)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG PAKAEW VOY NO (192) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONG SAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DIBENA HAPPY VOY NO (138)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA HAPPY VOY NO (138) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (625)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (625) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

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Nine missing after bridge collapse

CIAMPEA, 20 Feb—Nine people in Ciampea, Indonesia, were swept away by a river after the bridge they were crossing collapsed Sunday, emergency officials said. Around 11:30 am, in the

midst of a rain shower in the Bogor district of West Java, the nine victims were traversing a bamboo suspension bridge that buckled, dropping them into the strong current below,



Residents examining a bamboo bridge that collapsed into the Cihideung River on Sunday in Cibanteng, Bogor. Antara Photo/Jafkhairi Residents examining a bamboo bridge that collapsed into the Cihideung River on Sunday in Cibanteng, Bogor.—INTERNET

Washington state avalanches kill four people

SEATTLE, 20 Feb—Two avalanches near Washington state ski resorts killed four people on Sunday, but eight others initially said to be missing were found alive, authorities said.

Three skiers died when an avalanche struck near the Stevens Pass ski area in the Cascade Mountains of north-central Washington, King County Sheriff's spokeswoman Sergeant Cindi West said. She said eight other people listed as missing following the avalanche had been found alive and unharmed. "There are three confirmed dead," West said. "The other individuals did self-rescue and are fine."

The snow came down at a road about 2 miles (3 kilometres) from Stevens Pass and about 10 miles (16 kilometres) from the town of Skykomish. In an unrelated incident, West said, a 41-year-old Seattle man was killed in an avalanche at the Alpent ski area while snowboarding out of bounds with friends.

MNA/Reuters

Bus accident kills 26 in northern Ecuador

QUITO, 20 Feb—At least 26 people were killed and 15 others injured on Sunday in Ecuador's northern province of Imbabura in a traffic accident, local police said.

The accident happened at 7 am local time (1200 GMT) when the driver of an inter-provincial bus lost control of the vehicle and fell into a 50-meter deep cliff in the mountainous region, said Doris Viteri, head of the Transit Control in Imbabura.

At least 41 people including the driver were confirmed to be on the bus at the time of the accident, which took place on the Ibarra-San Lorenzo highway, a police spokesman told local Press.

Emergency personnel was working to recover the bodies of those dead while all those injured were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment. Police said that while the cause of the

Antara news agency reported.

The weather conditions made it difficult for rescuers from the Bogor Fast Reaction Team to search for them.

Team head Budi Askomo told Antara: "We have deployed all members of the search and rescue team and prepared a rubber dingy, but due to the swift and muddy current it is difficult to rescuers to dive.

We have put a net about 1 km (about half a mile) in the river's downstream."

Internet

One killed, dozens injured in fatal coach crash in France

LONDON, 20 Feb—At least one Briton was killed and 24 others injured in a fatal coach crash in northern France, local media reported on Sunday.

The coach, carrying 47 British vacationers, was on its way back to Birmingham from Italy's Valle d'Aosta region, Sky News reported. A 61-year-old man was killed and a teenager was in critical condition, it said.

Xinhua

Police arrest suspected killer in Mexico

SAN DIEGO, 20 Feb—A fugitive wanted for the slaying of his wife in San Diego in 2010 was arrested Sunday in Tijuana, Mexico, police said.

Police had been searching for Armando Perez since 12 Oct, 2010, when Diana Gonzalez, his estranged wife, was killed in

a mens' bathroom on the campus of San Diego City College, the *San Diego Union-Tribune* reported.

Perez was named as the main suspect in the murder, police said.

He then fled to Mexico where he has been since. San Diego police homicide detectives obtained a warrant

for Perez's arrest, while the Mexican government issued a provisional arrest warrant allowing Perez to be detained in that country for extradition to the United States.

Perez is expected to be transferred from Tijuana to Mexico City, where he will be granted an extradition hearing.—Internet



An injured Palestinian boy receives a medical treatment after an Israeli airstrike at al-Shefa hospital in Gaza City on 19 Feb, 2012. Israeli fighting helicopters struck southern Gaza City on Saturday night in retaliation to earlier rockets attacks fired from the Gaza Strip on southern Israel, witnesses and security sources said.

XINHUA

Donate blood**Whitney Houston laid to rest beside father**

WESTFIELD, 20 Feb—Pop star Whitney Houston was buried next to her father, John Houston, in a private ceremony Sunday at Fairview Cemetery outside Westfield, NJ.

Police said security was tight for the burial, mtv.com reported.

Houston was found dead 11 Feb in the bathtub of her hotel room at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, Calif. The burial was a private affair with an invitation-only audience of friends and family.

A star-studded crowd

turned out in Newark Saturday for the funeral at New Hope Baptist Church.

Westfield police warned residents to expect several road closures prior to the burial Sunday and a heavy police presence in the area, *The (Newark) Star-Ledger* said.

Fairview covers 105 acres and is the final resting place of notables including Kool and the Gang co-founder Claydes Smith and Virginia Apgar, whose Apgar Score is a standard test for newborn infants to measure their health and viability.—Internet



Accident in Ecuador.—INTERNET

accident is being investigated, it is believed the driver was speeding.

Xinhua

Boss' dog uses building as a toilet

Workers at a Swedish company complain their manager allegedly allows his dog to urinate and defecate inside the building.

The staff-appointed environmental health representative at Scandinavian Avionics AB in Sturups told company officials the manager keeps his dog in the building and allows the animal to shed on the furniture and use the floors as a toilet, *The Local* reported on Thursday.

"The boss has his dog in the building, where it both urinates and defecates on the carpet," the representative wrote in a request for action.

The representative said he tried speaking with the manager, but he refused to budge on the canine issue.

The request for action said the representative will complain to Sweden's Work Environment Authority if the matter is not given due attention by officials.

Dutch sailor Laura Dekker shows her passport where an immigration stamp shows the written word

"Guppy," top page, after arriving to Simpson Bay, St Maarten. Dekker ended a yearlong voyage aboard her sailboat named "Guppy" that made her the youngest person ever to sail alone around the globe, although Guinness World Records and the World Sailing Speed Record Council did not verify the voyage, saying they no longer recognize records for youngest sailors to discourage dangerous attempts.



Escaped cobra caught on glue trap

A cobra that had been missing since last month after it escaped from its cage in Brownwood, Texas, was found inside the owner's home, police said.

Police picked up the young sunset monochrome cobra on Wednesday night, the *Brownwood Bulletin* reported.

"Officers arrived to find the cobra with its head attached to a large glue trap. Animal Control arrived and took custody of the cobra and it is currently incarcerated at the Brownwood Police Department," a police statement said. "The cobra appeared to have thrived well outside of its captivity."

After the cobra was reported to be on the loose,

pesticide was sprayed around the home, and some experts believed the snake was dead, *KTAL-TV* reported. But glue traps were also placed in the house, just in case.

The cobra, renamed Baby, has been given to an environmental center. Its owner has been jailed on an unrelated drug charge.

Last year, a cobra got loose in the reptile house at the Bronx Zoo in New York. It was found lying low in the reptile house days later.

News Album

Teen allegedly mistakes tomato for pot

A Florida teenager was arrested after he allegedly stole a tomato plant he mistook for marijuana.

Angela Cartwright, of Holly Hill, said the plant was

stolen on 10 February from her home, *The Daytona Beach News-Journal* reported. She told police she saw the 15-year-old grabbing it through her open kitchen window as

she returned from walking her son to the school bus stop. "See, I have one of your pot plants," the brazen teen allegedly yelled at her as he ran off. "I chased him and I

yelled out, "You stupid little brat, it's a tomato plant!" Cartwright told the newspaper on Thursday. Police made an arrest on Wednesday after Cartwright, walking her son to the school bus, spotted a teen she identified as the thief.



American actress Reese Witherspoon

Witherspoon taken by Middleton meeting

BURBANK, 20 Feb—American actress Reese Witherspoon said she "would like to hang out" with Kate Middleton after meeting the duchess of Cambridge at a fundraiser.

She was so nervous, she couldn't pick out what to wear, *People* magazine reported.

"I must have tried on like

six outfits," Witherspoon, 35, said Friday on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show."

"I'm meeting a princess. You don't understand. You have to be wearing the right outfit and the whole thing. I don't know, maybe we can be friends."

Witherspoon said her husband, Jim Toth, teased her for being so excited.

"Whenever I am super excited about things, my husband calls it the double-barrel. That's when I smile so big I look like a child," she said.

"I would like to hang out," Witherspoon said of Middleton. "I'm not sure she wants to hang out with me. I could see that happening."

Internet

Pattinson feels too old for more

'Twilight' movies

LONDON, 20 Feb—If author Stephenie Meyer was to write any more "Twilight" books, actor Robert Pattinson doubts he can ever be a part of the movie adaptation because he feels he will be too old for it. The 25-year-old Pattinson portrayed vampire Edward Cullen in the movie



Actor Robert Pattinson

adaptations of Meyer's popular books since the first film hit cinemas in 2008.

The fourth and final book in the "Twilight" saga has been split into two film releases, and "Breaking Dawn—Part 2" is due to be released in theatres later this year.

While Meyer has flirted with the idea of revisiting the characters in her vampire fantasy in the future, but should any additional novel get turned into a movie, Pattinson is worried he will look past his prime to star as the ever-youthful Cullen, reports *dailystar.co.uk*.

"I'd be curious what Stephenie would write, but I just think I'd probably be too old. I'm already too old. But yeah, it'd be kind of interesting," he said.—Internet

Prince Charles began painting at age four

LONDON, 20 Feb—Britain's Prince Charles seemed to have an artistic streak when he was a boy, a recently discovered autobiography of painter Margaret Lindsay Williams said.

The unpublished book says Charles was quite interested in Williams' brushes and tubes of paint when he and his kid sister, Princess Anne, visited the artist's London studio for their early official portraits.

"Charles was less interested in the toys than I had expected him to be," Williams wrote. "He has a practical turn of mind like his father, and it was my activities with the brushes and paints that most attracted him."

The prince has carried his interest in painting on into adulthood and is known as a fairly accomplished water



Britain's Prince Charles walks with a bouquet of flowers as he visits Common Good City Farm in Washington, DC on 3 May, 2011.

INTERNET

colourist. Charles and Anne were sent to Williams' studio in the early 1950s when he

was 4 and Anne was just 2. Charles began showing up with his own paint set and book after only a few visits.

The Daily Telegraph said on Saturday that Charles was an enthusiastic artist, although Williams, who died in 1960, was diplomatic about her young subject's final product.

"The bold lines and strokes and no less lively use of colour were certainly imaginative and suggested the very modern school," she wrote.

"When his first picture was finished — and I must say that it was produced with great deliberation — I asked what it represented," Williams wrote. "Without hesitating for a moment the young prince replied: 'Oh, it's a forest.'"

Internet

Russell Brand dating Mexican painter

LONDON, 20 Feb—English comedian Russell Brand is said to be dating a Mexican painter whose work explores sensuality and sex.

Oriela Medellin Amieiro, 25, was seen slipping back into her apartment after staying overnight at comedian Russell's pad earlier this week, reports *thesun.co.uk*.

It is believed Russell, who in December filed for divorce from Katy Perry, began dating Oriela after they met at yoga classes.

When asked whether she and 36-year-old Russell are together, she said: "I am not comfortable talking about this."

Oriela's portfolio



English comedian Russell Brand

features nude paintings and her creations sell for up to 4,500 pound each.

Internet

Rihanna records song with ex-boyfriend

Chris Brown

LONDON, 20 Feb—Rihanna has teamed up ex-beau Chris Brown, who assaulted her three years ago, to record a remix of her song "Birthday Cake".

"The feature on the remix is gonna shock the world," *thesun.co.uk* quoted the song's co-producers, Da Internz as saying.

Chris, who won a

Grammy last week, has recorded both a singing verse and a rap verse.

Their coming together adds more fuel to the fire that the pair are in the process of rekindling their romance.

This week Brown even attended Rihanna's early birthday celebration in Beverly Hills.

Internet



Rihanna



Socialite Paris Hilton

Hilton wins \$30,000 on birthday trip

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb—Socialite Paris Hilton's birthday trip to Las Vegas turned out to be a jackpot for her as she ended up winning \$30,000 in a game of blackjack.

Hilton went to the Sin City with her family to mark her 31st birthday on Friday. She turned lucky when they went to Wynn casino for the evening, reports *contactmusic.com*.

"Just won 30k playing blackjack at Wynn Las Vegas! Yes! Birthday girl's luck! I love gambling," Hilton posted on her Twitter page.—Internet

Haas sinks monster putt to win play-off at Riviera



Bill Haas of the US tees off on the twelfth hole during the final round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles on 19 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

PACIFIC PALISADES, 20 Feb—Bill Haas clinched his fourth PGA Tour title by beating fellow Americans Phil Mickelson and Keegan Bradley in a gripping sudden-death playoff at the Northern Trust Open on Sunday.

The 29-year-old Haas sank a curling 43-foot birdie putt at the second extra hole, the driveable par-four 10th, to

seal victory in breezy afternoon sunshine at Riviera Country Club. "I never expected to make a 40-footer, and especially in that situation," a beaming Haas told reporters after clinching the winner's cheque for nearly \$1.2 million. "That was a little bit of luck involved, but I felt like I put a good roll on it. It was meant to be, I guess."

Mickelson, seeking a second consecutive PGA Tour win, missed his birdie chance from the back right bunker while Bradley's attempt, a 15-foot putt from the fringe, slipped past the right edge of the cup. Bradley, winner of last year's PGA Championship, had set up his birdie opportunity by splashing out of the front right greenside bunker, a shot he described as his best all week.—*Internet*

Raonic routs Istomin to defend ATP San Jose title

SAN JOSE, 20 Feb—Third seeded Milos Raonic successfully defended his San Jose Open crown by routing Denis Istomin 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 for his third career title. The 21-year-old Canadian dominated unseeded Istomin with his serve, hammering seven aces and winning 90 percent of his first serve points in the 79 minute match.

"I feel amazing," Raonic said. "It is great to come back here. There was a little more pressure than last year but I

am really happy with the tennis I played this week." Raonic, who had a bye in the first round, didn't drop a set in the \$531,000 indoor tournament, winning four-straight matches at the HP Pavilion arena which also serves as the home of the NHL San Jose Sharks.

The world No 32 is also a perfect eight-for-eight in tiebreakers at the event over two years. "This is special to me because it is a hockey arena," said Raonic. "I am not

Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (C) vies for the ball with Valencia's Argentinian midfielder Tino Costa (R) and midfielder David Albelda (L) during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Valencia, at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona.

INTERNET



Majestic Messi hits four as Barca rout Valencia

BARCELONA, 20 Feb—Lionel Messi hit four goals to inspire Barcelona to a 5-1 victory over Valencia, but the champions still remain 10 points behind leaders Real Madrid. Messi, playing his 200th game for the club, took his league goals tally to 27 for the season and 42 in all competitions although third-placed Valencia had stunned the Spanish and European champions by taking a shock early lead.

"The most important thing was that the team played like we did against Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League in midweek when we won 3-1," said Messi after his Camp Nou masterclass. "There are lots of crucial challenges ahead and it's necessary to keep going like this." Barca coach Pep Guardiola saluted his team and insisted that they do not deserve to be so far off the pace in the title chase.

"With the football we have played we don't deserve to be so far behind but our challenge now is to keep the title race open and that is down to us," he said.

"We need to compete for the next three months just like we have done in this match. We are lucky to have such a generation of players. It's a privilege to work with such fantastic lads. They are a credit to the sport."

INTERNET



Canada's Milos Raonic successfully defended his San Jose Open title on Sunday by routing unseeded Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2, at HP Pavilion arena.—INTERNET

the biggest hockey fan but it definitely makes me feel like I am at home."

INTERNET

Schalke, Hannover seal win at German Bundesliga

BERLIN, 20 Feb—Thanks to Dutchmen striker Klaas Jan Huntelaar's double, Schalke 04 staged a faultless performance on Sunday in a stunning 4-0 win over Wolfsburg, while Hannover defeated Stuttgart 4-2 with goals from three comers at the 22nd round of German Bundesliga.

In an exciting but one-sided affair, Schalke astonished the "Wolves" with two fast goals as veteran Spanish star Raul Gonzalez Blanco opened the scoring on just ten minutes, utilizing a prolonged corner at the last post, and only five minutes later, Huntelaar slotted home a cross to double the lead.

With the victory, Schalke stays on the 4th position with 44 points, one point away from record champion Bayern. Wolfsburg remains on 8th position with 27 points, seven points away from international competitions. "Today we played with passion and team spirit," commented Schalke coach Huub Stevens.

Xinhua

Woods gets Spaniard in 1st round

MARANA, 20 Feb—Defending champion Luke Donald faces Ernie Els in the first round of the Match Play Championship. Tiger Woods is to play Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano. The seeding for the first World Golf Championship of the year is based on the world ranking released on Sunday night.

Donald, Rory McIlroy, Lee Westwood and Martin Kaymer are the top four seeds. Woods, a three-time winner of the Match Play is the No 19 seed, the first time he has played this event without being among the top three seeds.

The 64-man field begins Wednesday at Dove Mountain. Phil Mickelson and Paul Casey are not playing. The Donald-Els match is the highest-profile for an opening round since Woods played Nick Faldo in the inaugural event in 1999.—*Internet*



Luke Donald, of England, reacts to his tee shot on the second hole during the second round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles on 17 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET



Roger Federer swept aside Juan Martin del Potro to win the World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam.—INTERNET

ROTTERDAM, 20 Feb—World number three Roger Federer swept aside Juan Martin del Potro in an hour and a half to win the World

Roger Federer beats Juan Martin del Potro in Rotterdam final

Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam. The Swiss repeated last month's Australian Open quarter-final win over Del Potro with a 6-1 6-4 victory. Federer, 30, stormed into a 5-0 lead as he dominated the opening set.

And he got the crucial break in the second when he brought the Argentine to the net before firing a forehand past him to break for 3-2.

Federer's second Rotterdam title, and his 71st on the ATP Tour, takes his head-to-head record against Del Potro to 9-2. It also maintains the 16-time Grand Slam champion's fine indoor form from 2011, which he ended with wins in Basel, Paris and London.

"Even if I had a good indoor season last year, this is a great start," he said. "It's incredible that it took me seven

years to come back and defend my title, I hope the next time is not so long. But if it is, then it means I'll be playing for another seven years." Federer has now assured himself of a 12th consecutive year in which he has won at least one ATP title. Del Potro admitted: "He played much better than me today. I didn't take the break points when I had them."

INTERNET

Wladimir Klitschko says Chisora and Haye should be punished

MUNICH, 20 Feb—Wladimir Klitschko believes the scuffle between Dereck Chisora and David Haye has damaged the reputation of boxing—and is adamant they should be punished. The British pair clashed at Saturday night's post-fight news conference in Munich after Chisora was beaten by Wladimir's brother Vitali. "This behaviour kills the hard work of the people that have been polishing the image of the

sport," said Klitschko.

"There has to be consequences otherwise boxing is going downhill fast." Wladimir Klitschko, the IBF, WBO and WBA champion, has history with both men, having beaten Haye last summer and twice pulled out of bouts with Chisora through injury. "This type of behaviour kills the hard work of former champs," he added. "And it teaches disrespect for the sport and fellow human

beings." "There has to be consequences for these kinds of actions, which must never be tolerated by the boxing organizations, the media, fellow boxers and boxing fans."

Klitschko, the younger brother of Vitali, had water spat at him by Chisora in the ring just before Saturday night's fight. "It is the sport of boxing and we do not need theatre like that," he said. "The spitting of water in the ring is not right. We have to respect



Wladimir Klitschko says Chisora and Haye should be punished.—INTERNET

each other. That is definitely something that these guys are not giving. "It is all about the ring and the fighting in the ring—not outside.—*Internet*

Edwards wins pole for season-opening Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, 20 Feb—Carl Edwards fell bitterly short in last season's bid to win the NASCAR championship. He's starting 2012 out front.

Edwards, who lost the championship last season on a tie-breaker to Tony Stewart, won the pole for the season-opening Daytona 500, beating teammate Greg Biffle for the top starting spot during a windy Sunday qualifying session at Daytona International Speedway.

Edwards turned a lap at 194.738 mph—the fastest pole-winning speed since Jeff Gordon's lap of 195.067 mph in 1999. Biffle was second at 194.087 to give Ford and Roush Fenway Racing a sweep of the front row. "It's so neat to come down here and to be so fast and to really



Carl Edwards gives a thumbs-up in his car after his qualifying run for the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, on 19 Feb, 2012, in Daytona Beach, Fla. Edwards won the pole.

INTERNET

have fun qualifying here," Edwards said. "These are the best race cars we've ever had at Daytona. Coming down here I didn't even consider the pole, so this is huge."

INTERNET

International Sports

Azarenka overcomes injury to top Stosur in Qatar

DOHA, 20 Feb — Top-ranked Victoria Azarenka of Belarus shook off a lingering ankle injury to win the Qatar Open on Sunday, routing Sam Stosur of Australia 6-1, 6-2. Azarenka earned her 17th straight victory and first title since replacing Caroline Wozniacki atop the rankings after winning the Australian Open. It was her third title overall in 2012.

Azarenka showed no ill

effects after twisting her left ankle in the semifinal against Agnieszka Radwanska on Saturday.

She broke the fifth-ranked Stosur twice to lead 4-1 in the first set, making a brief trip to the net to clinch it with a backhand volley. Azarenka cruised to victory after winning the first three games of the second set.

"It's amazing. I can't believe I could play that kind of tennis today," Azarenka

said. "I knew I wouldn't be 100 percent, so I had to change and adjust. I was just surprised today that everything was going in." Fearful of further aggravating her ankle injury, Azarenka said she tried to keep the rallies short and took advantage of the windy conditions.

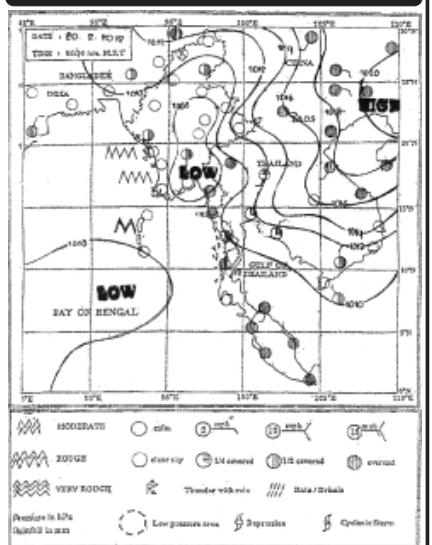
The ankle was wrapped during the match and Azarenka said it should be fine after a few days of rest.

Internet



Belarus' Victoria Azarenka holds up the trophy after her victory against Australia's Samantha Stosur in the Qatar WTA tennis open final match in Doha, on 19 Feb, 2012. — INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 21st February, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		Forecast	Percent
		Maximum	Minimum		
1	Kachin	31/88	15/59	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
2	Kayah	32/90	13/55	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	39/102	22/72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
4	Chin	25/77	07/45	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	32/90	15/59	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	37/99	17/63	Generally fair weather	
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	22/72	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
8	Bago	35/95	20/68	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	37/99	17/63	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	35/95	18/64	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	36/97	25/77	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
12	Yangon	37/99	20/68	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	33/91	19/66	Generally fair weather	
14	Southern Shan	29/84	15/59	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	32/90	16/61	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	15/59	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyarwady	36/97	19/66	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	37/99	19/66	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	37/99	20/68	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	18/64	Partly cloudy	

During the past (24) hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Tanintharyi Region and Kachin State and weather have been partly cloudy in Bago Region, Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (4°C) below February average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Eastern and Southern Shan and Mon States and about February average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Patheingyi (3°C), Lashio (5°C) and Hahka (6°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthoung (0.47) inch.

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

State of the Sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the extreme in the Southern Myanmar areas.

PSG stay top despite Montpellier scare



Montpellier's Garry Bocaly (L) looks at teammate, Younes Belhanda (R) celebrating after he scored a goal during the French L1 football match PSG vs Montpellier at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. — INTERNET

PARIS, 20 Feb — Montpellier proved their Ligue 1 title credentials by holding league leaders Paris Saint-Germain to a 2-2 draw in the top-of-the-table clash at Parc des Princes on Sunday. John Utaka's header gave Montpellier a 2-1 lead with eight minutes to play but a tap-in from substitute Guillaume Hoarau two minutes from time preserved PSG's one-point lead over Rene Girard's side at the summit.

"It was a good result because it was a difficult, well-balanced match," said PSG coach Carlo Ancelotti. "The result was fair. We had problems building up play from the back and winning the ball back but the players worked hard and their reaction after Montpellier's second goal was good. "We didn't want to lose the match and their reaction was fantastic." Hoarau's goal prevented Ancelotti from tasting defeat for the first time as PSG coach, but Montpellier's surprise title challenge remains firmly on course with 14 games of the season remaining. — Internet

Hoy leaves crowd dreaming of Olympic cycling gold

LONDON, 20 Feb — Chris Hoy and Britain's cycling team rounded off the Track World Cup at London's new Olympic Velodrome on Sunday, leaving the cheering home crowd more confident than ever of gold at this year's Summer Games.

Hoy, a four-time Olympic champion, followed his victory in Saturday's klierin with a 2-0 win over Maximilian Levy in the men's sprint, overpowering the German on the home straight in the first race and keeping his line under severe pressure on the back straight in the second. Hoy's win and a silver medal for Britain's men's team pursuit outfit helped the host nation finish atop the points table at the four-day meet — which doubled as an Olympic test event at the new 6,000-seat arena.

"I've had a tough day out there and felt it in my legs," the 35-year-old Scot said. "More than the actual result, I'm more pleased about the way I rode. It's a really important step towards the Olympics. "I've really fed off the energy of the crowd. Hopefully we can do the same at the Olympics." — Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(21-2-12 09:30 am ~ 22-2-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

- * News
- * AIM Bazaar 2012
- * News
- * Kid's Talent (No.1 Pre School Bahan)
- * News
- * Kanyin Dam, a booster for agricultural Productivity
- * News
- * Beautiful Choreographic of Maid of Honour Dance and Female Spirit Dance
- * News
- * Topic on Journal "Trip to Mrauk U Insights and Leisure"
- * Ywama Floating Market: A Place of Matchlessness
- * News
- * Flowing along e-commerce with iBiz
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies Impact "Come on Love"
- * Smokeless Industry
- * News
- * Youth and Fashion (Yawai Aung, Sandi Myint Lwin)
- * Myanmar Movies "Implicated Attachment"

MYANMAR TV

(21-2-2012) (Tuesday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
- 4. Song of Yester Years
- 8:25 am
- 5. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm
- 6. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performings Arts Competitions
- 4:30 pm
- 7. 2012 University Entrance Examination (Mathematics)
- 5:00 pm
- 8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:25 pm
- 9. The Mirror Images Of The Musical Oldies
- 6:20 pm
- 10. Sing A Song
- 6:50 pm
- 11. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 12. News
- 13. Bakery World
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 15. India Drama Series

DISTRICT NEWS

Reserve paddy purchased

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 20 Feb — To purchase reserve rice for the State, Mawlamyinegyun Township Reserve Paddy Purchase Committee opened No. 1 Paddy Purchase Centre at Bamahti Zarni Rice Mill in Ward 8 in Mawlamyinegyun on 7 February.

On the opening day, the centre bought 2060 baskets of paddy from farmers at K 330,000 per 100 baskets.

In the township, seven paddy purchase centres were opened to buy paddy beginning 7 February.

Myanma Alin

Fire drill exercises in Thanlyin

YANGON, 20 Feb — Thanlyin Township Fire prevention Supervisory Committee organized the fire drill at Myoma Market in Thanlyin on 16 February.

Members of Fire Brigade participated in the fire drill.

The township committee inspects implementation of fire preventive measures in the township.

Myanma Alin



Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for sixth day

Seven questions answered, one new proposal submitted, one bill approved, one important proposal submitted, additional members assigned to a commission

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — The sixth day session of Pyithu Hluttaw was held at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Building here today, attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 358 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

During today's session, seven questions were raised and answered, one new proposal was submitted, one bill was approved and one important proposal was submitted and additional members were assigned to a commission of Pyithu Hluttaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw received the **Election Commission Bill** on 17 February approved by Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw has invited those representatives who want to discuss the bill to enlist their names not later than 25 February as the bill committee of Pyithu Hluttaw will scrutinize and introduce the bill to Pyithu Hluttaw.

During the question and answer session, U G Phone Sar of Nagmon Constituency asked **whether local people in the Khakaborazi National Park would be allowed to search and trade herbal plants and roots in the park for their livelihood.**

Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun replied that the Khakaborazi National Park occupies an area of 1,472 square miles (942080 acres) and located in Nagmon Township, Putao District, Kachin State. It was established as a natural reserve in 1996. According to the Subsection (b) of the

Section 7 and the Subsection (a) of the Section 8 of the Protection of Wildlife and Conservation of Natural Areas Law enacted in 1994, the Ministry of Forestry announced the Notification No 78/98 on 10 November, 1998, and established the Khakaborazi National Park, he said.

He continued to say that Khakaborazi National Park which was well-known as the Myanmar's northern-most forests linking with the eastern area of the Himalaya Mountain Range was included in the lists for conservation for its rich biodiversities. The new species were found in the park recently and the finding had helped research works and the park had attracted researchers and scientists, he added.

The Subsection (e) of the Section 29 and the Subsection (a) and (c) of the Section 30 of the 1994 Protection of Wildlife and Conservation of Natural Areas Law had prohibited the digging, plucking, collecting and doing something related to the plants in natural areas. Therefore, the searching and trading herbal plants and roots in the national park had been prohibited legally.

According to the protection of wildlife and conservation of natural areas bylaws, searching and exploitation of herbal plants and roots had been allowed within a limit at the border of the park and in the area established between the border and in the park, he added.

In an attempt to improve socio-



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann attends sixth day session of Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA

economic life of the local people in Nagmon area, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and INGOs had been making efforts for creating jobs based

on agriculture and other jobs for them in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State, he said.

(See page 8)

Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues for sixth day

Eight queries replied by respective Union Ministers, one proposal submitted, three proposals tabled, one proposal discussed to be proved



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint attends sixth day session of Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—The sixth day session of third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw was held at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of the Hluttaw Building here at

10 am today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 198 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan

Tun Aung replied to questions of four Hluttaw representatives on transport sector.

U Aung Nyein of Magway Region Constituency No. 2 asked about **conservation of course of the Ayeyawady River.** In response, the Union Minister said that erosion occurs in 13 villages of Watlut, Yoneseik and Watmasut Village-tracts on west bank of the Ayeyawady River due to close flow of water to the bank and lack of hard soil along the bank. There occurs sandbank in Yenangyoung due to silt from Pin Creek upstream of the river.

Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems carried out erosion prevention works in Kyikon Village-tract, Aunglan and Zalun in Hsinbyukyun Station of Salin Township, and water course conservation works in Bhamo, Latsaungyu water course conservation work and water clearance under Magway Bridge.

For stable water course of Ayeyawady River and Chindwin River, Royal Haskoning consult group of the Netherlands formulated a master plan for river water course conservation in 1986 with the assistance of World Bank. According to annual fund allotment, conservation works were carried out. Now, present water course is different from the plan. Reports on erosion prevention and water course conservation works will be presented to higher organizations making field trips.

Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye of Kayin State

Constituency No. 6 asked **whether there is a plan to construct retaining wall in Kamamaung Sub-township and resettlements for the homeless.** In response, the Union Minister said that Kamamaung Sub-township in Phapon District of Kayin State is located on west bank of the Thanlwin River. Islets and sandbanks occur on east and in the middle of the river. Although no erosion occurs in the summer, there are deep water course on Kamamaung and erosion along the bank side in the rainy season.

Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems under the Ministry of Transport carried out works on construction of a retaining wall to prevent erosion in Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) in Kayin State, improvement of water course of the Thanlwin River, construction of retaining wall for improvement of Hpa-an-Hnitcha water course and retaining wall construction to prevent Thauingyin River erosion in Myawady.

Prevention of erosion in Kamamaung Sub-township in Kayin State will be made. With respect to letter which was addressed to General Administration Department sent by 54 persons from (h) region, Ward No. 2 of Kamamaung Sub-township, Papun District General Administration Department formed a group comprising Kamamaung Township administrator (chairman) to probe into the report. According to feedback of the group,

(See page 9)