

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 27 February, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

President U Thein Sein receives ASEAN economic ministers and ASEAN Secretary-General

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received ASEAN economic ministers—Senior Minister & Minister of Commerce Mr Cham Prasith of Cambodia, Second Minister of Foreign & Trade Phehin Dato Lim Jock Seng of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Trade Mr Gita Irawan Wirjawan of Indonesia, Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr Nam Viyaketh of Laos, Minister of International Trade and Industry Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed of Malaysia, Secretary of Department of Trade and Industry Mr Gregory L Domingo of the Philippines, Minister of Trade and Industry Mr Lim Hng Kiang of Singapore, Minister of Commerce Mr Boonsong Teriyapirom of Thailand, and Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Vu Huy Hoang of Vietnam—and ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 1.30 pm.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein,



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint and departmental heads.

Promotion of economic ties among ASEAN-member countries was discussed at the meeting.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein poses for a documentary photo together with ASEAN economic ministers and the ASEAN Secretary-General.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives the ASEAN economic ministers and the ASEAN Secretary-General at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.
MNA

Information Ministry to assist in printing & publication in Mandalay

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ASEAN Economic Ministers' 18th informal meeting held

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Sittoung River Crossing Bridge (Moppalin) that brings about better transport and smooth commodity flow

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PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 27 February, 2012

Green Tourism

Economic activity can be divided into two categories, goods and services in other words manufacturing industry and service industry. But, there is an industry that economies large or small can go into—tourism or smokeless industry. It is a cash cow industry and has become the core industry of some countries in recent years.

Some tourist destinations for example like Dubai and Singapore use man-made facilities to attract tourists whereas the scenic beauty is major tourist attraction in some countries. Myanmar belongs to the latter.

There are so many disadvantages of being a less-developed country but one of its advantages, maybe the only, is that it can develop ecotourism which industrialized nations find it difficult due to urbanization. From silvery snow-capped mountains in the north to breathtaking natural beaches in the south, from green and lush tea plantations in the east to bluish Rakhine mountain ranges in the west, Myanmar is full of tourist attractions like Bagan, the archaeological showcase in its heart. There is no reason we do not want to use these picturesque sites to improve our economy. And in fact, it is more environmentally and financially beneficial than mining and logging in the long run.

Ecotourism is second to none to enjoy the nature. It not only generates income but also contributes to ecological sustainability. It is also a smart move to initiate green economy. Recent political reforms have put Myanmar on the radar screen, which is expected to bring a large number of tourists into the country. The influx of tourists is economically good but at the same time, we should be aware of its adverse environmental and social impact on the region.

It would be very grateful to international government and non-government actors if they would assist Myanmar in introducing environmental tourism. It is not only helping us but also saving our own planet.

Public relations course and workshop open in Yangon

YANGON, 26 Feb — Under the arrangement of the Yangon Region Government, Myanmar Human Resource Management School and Myanmar Thiha Co opened public relations course and workshop at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township here this morning.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe delivered an opening speech. Next, leader of the political advisory group to the President U Ko Ko Hlaing made a speech and Principal of the school U Aye Kyaw explained facts about the course.

During the course and workshop, Retired Rector U Maw Than, Prof Dr Aung Tun Thet, honorary teacher Daw Hla Myint and the principal will give lectures and 81 personnel from various departments of Yangon Region are attending the course. — MNA



Information Ministry to assist in printing & publication in Mandalay



Union Minister for Information and Culture U Kyaw Hsan inspects the functions of Yuwady Paper and Off-set Equipment Trading in Mandalay.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb — Ministry of Information would assist in printing and publishing business in Mandalay as part of efforts for encouraging the booming business, said Union Minister for Information and Culture U Kyaw Hsan on 24 February.

At the meeting with the responsible personnel of Mandalay Region Printing and Publishing Society in Mandalay, the Union Minister expressed his delight for witnessing the booming business which is related to the four dimensions : knowledge of the people, social sector, trading sector and environmental conservation sector and called for using advanced printing press and for encouraging skills of employees and quality of prints.

He also urged the business men to set their sights on producing high-quality paper at home as the country had imported high-quality paper.

He also stressed the need for working hard together with the State, the people and businessmen for booming of the printing and publication industry as the booming could support the development of the country.

Monthly, weekly journals, magazines and other periodicals include in the knowledge sector, invitation cards, notification and other publications include in the

social sector, label papers, advertising and paper containers and boxes include in the trading sector and paper bags are in high demand to substitute the plastic bags as part of efforts for environmental conservation, the Union Minister said.

During the meeting, responsible personnel of the society reported the Union Minister on progress of the society and the business and sales of exercise books across the country at a reasonable price.

They presented a total of 1000 dozens of exercise books to the Union Minister for the education programme in rural areas.

The Union Minister visited Htake-Tan Printing Press Factory and viewed production process of exercise books.

During the tour of Mandalay, the Union Minister visited Yuwady Paper and Off-set Equipment Trading in Chanayethazan Township, Star Empire Digital Film Colour Separation and Vinyl Business, Shweyiwin Visiting Cards, Fans and Paper Trading, Tatnaylin Off-set and Publishing. During the visits, the Union Minister expressed the encouragement of the ministry to help booming of the business.

MNA

Union I & P Minister calls for commitment to achieving ministry's targets



Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi speaking to staff of district and township INRDs in Lashio.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb — Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi called on employees of the ministry to work hard in cooperation with each other for meeting objectives of the ministry which are targeted to

achieve within 6-month period on 23 February.

At the meeting with townships and Lashio District Immigration and National Registration Department on 23 February, the Union Minister urged the employees to commit themselves to works of the ministry including issuing family certificates and citizenship scrutiny cards and to fighting the corruption and bribery in the ministry.

The Union Minister also called for cooperation with other related departments to make preparations for taking the national census in 2014.

MNA

A fire drill was demonstrated at Nilar Yoma Filling Station by Yangon-Mandalay motor road in Minlan village-tract on 15 February as talks on prevention against fire and fire drills were being organized in Pyawbwe Township by Township Fire Brigade.—MYANMA ALIN

US Ambassador says India and China both vital for US

GUWAHATI, 26 Feb—US Ambassador to India Peter Burleigh today said America was maintaining friendly ties with both India and China, which were growing economies and vital for the US. 'Indo-US ties are not at the expense of Indo-China ties. It is not a matter of either-or,' Mr Burleigh told reporters here during the inauguration of an American Corner here. Replying to a poser if India's closer ties with the US were taking it away from China, he

said India had itself made it clear that it would maintain its relations with both countries. For the US, both India and China were equally important, Mr Burleigh added. 'These three (US, China and India) are major economies of the world and all these three are very important,' he said.

The US Ambassador was on a six-day visit to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, which will conclude tomorrow.—Internet



Masked Palestinians throw stones toward Israeli security forces (unseen) during clashes in the West Bank town of Al-Ram, near Jerusalem. INTERNET

Himalayan Sherpas lament climate change devastation

KATHMANDU, 26 Feb—Climate change is altering the face of the Himalayas, devastating farming communities and making Mount Everest increasingly treacherous to climb, some of the world's top mountaineers have warned.

Apa Sherpa, the Nepali climber who has conquered Mount Everest a record 21 times, said he was disturbed by the lack of snow on the world's highest peak, caused by rising temperatures.

"In 1989 when I first climbed Everest there was a lot of snow and ice but now most of it has just become bare rock. That, as a result, is causing more rockfalls which is a danger to the climbers," he told AFP.

"Also, climbing is becoming more difficult because when you are on a mountain you can wear crampons but it's very dangerous and very slippery to walk on bare rock with crampons."

Speaking after completing the first third of a gruelling 1,700-kilometre (1,100-mile) trek across the Himalayas, Apa Sherpa would not rule out the possibility of Everest being unclimbable in the coming years.

"What will happen in the future I cannot say but this much I can say from my own experiences — it has changed a lot," he said in an interview with AFP in the village of Gati, 16 kilometres from Nepal's border with Tibet.

The 51-year-old father-of-three, dubbed "Super Sherpa", began his working life as a farmer but turned to the tourism industry and mountaineering after he lost all his possessions when a glacial lake burst in 1985.

He is on a 120-day walk dubbed the Climate Smart Celebrity Trek with another of the world's top climbers, Nepali Dawa Steven Sherpa, with the pair expected to reach the finish on 13 May.

Internet



A Tibetan farmer watches over about 100 sheep on the banks of Yamdrok-So lake surrounded by the high peaks of the Himalayas in 2007.—INTERNET

Britain "temporarily withdraws" civilian personnel from Kabul

LONDON, 26 Feb—Following deadly shooting of two American NATO officers in Afghan interior ministry on Saturday, Britain has taken precautionary measures to protect its personnel in Kabul.

"Britain has temporarily withdrawn civilian members and advisers from institutions within Kabul. We will keep the situation under review," a spokeswoman from British Foreign and Commonwealth Office told Xinhua.

The foreign office declined to say when they would go back to work.—Xinhua

US drone crashes in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 26 Feb—A US drone crashed in northwest Pakistan's tribal district near the Afghan border late Saturday, officials said.

The unmanned reconnaissance aircraft came down in the mountainous Machikhel area about 30 kilometres (20 miles) east of Miranshah,

the main town in North Waziristan region, which is frequently targeted by drone strikes against Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants, military and security officials said.

"A US drone crashed, apparently due to some technical fault," a military official in the northwestern city of Peshawar told AFP.

Security officials in the region confirmed the crash saying it fell in the mountains.

The crash site has been surrounded by militants, one security official said, refusing to confirm claims by some Taliban that the drone was shot down by militants. Militants had taken away parts of the wreckage, a security official said.—Internet



US Predator unmanned drone. A US drone crashed in northwest Pakistan's tribal district near the Afghan border late Saturday, officials said.—INTERNET

A strike on Iran would pose tough test for Israelis

TEL AVIV, 26 Feb—An Israeli pre-emptive strike on Iran's nuclear sites would amount to a roll of the dice against elusive targets, drawing in the United States if the gamble fell short, analysts and former US military officers say.

Iran's air defences and ageing fighters would be no match for Israel's high-tech aircraft and cyber warfare, but the outcome of a raid would largely hinge on intelligence and whether Teheran is able to hide key elements of its uranium enrichment network.

Israel's military has earned a reputation for lightning assaults that blindside their enemies, but the Iranian nuclear programme presents a much more complicated task for Israel compared to previous raids that took out reactors in Iraq and Syria.

In 1981, Israeli fighters destroyed an Iraqi atomic reactor in Osirak without losing a plane and in 2007 the Israelis are widely believed to have knocked out a clandestine reactor in Syria.

But flying fighter jets 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) all the way to Iran would stretch Israel's limited supply of aerial refueling



An Israeli F-16 warplane takes off from Tel Aviv in 2005.—INTERNET

aircraft, while Teheran's dispersed, hidden nuclear sites — including a facility dug into the side of a mountain — present a daunting challenge. "This is not a pinpoint, single target, one strike and it's over," said William Fallon, a retired navy admiral who led US Central Command in 2007-8.

An assault designed to delay Iran's nuclear work would be "very difficult" partly because the Iranians have "been pretty clever about distributing stuff," Fallon told an audience Thursday at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).—Internet

Indian police seize guns from Italian ship

NEW DELHI, 26 Feb—Indian police on Sunday seized machine guns alleged to have been used by soldiers on an Italian oil tanker to shoot two fishermen who were mistaken for pirates. The guns were removed from the Italian-flagged oil tanker *Enrica Lexie*, which has been docked in Cochin port in southern India since the fatal shootings on February 15.

Two Italian soldiers, deployed on the vessel to guard against the growing threat from armed pirates across the Indian Ocean, have been arrested on murder charges and are being held in custody. Diplomatic tensions have been high since the deaths, with Italian authorities saying the shootings occurred in international waters and the soldiers have immunity from Indian law.

Indian police, witnessed by 10 Italian government



Italian oil tanker *Enrica Lexie* is anchored in India's Cochin port on 26 Feb.—INTERNET

officers, began a 14-hour search of the oil tanker on Saturday and took the arms off early on Sunday. "We have seized four boxes from the ship. They contain two Italian-made light machine guns and other weapons," a senior Indian police officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.—Internet

Gene might be a culprit in sudden infant death for boys

HANNOVER, 26 Feb— Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) may sometimes have a genetic component, a team of German researchers reports.

DNA analysis from a small group of infants who succumbed to SIDS revealed that many of the male children carried a particular enzyme mutation that may have impaired their ability to breathe properly. This was not the case for female SIDS patients.

Study author Dr Michael Klintschar, director of the Institute for Legal Medicine at Medical University Hannover in Germany, said his team tried to build upon previous research suggesting that "abnormalities in the brain stem, the part of the brain that regulates breathing and other basic functions, lead to SIDS."

"The reasons for these abnormalities are unclear," he noted, "but some scientists believe that the genes inherited by the parents might be one of several factors."

Klintschar and his colleagues found indications that SIDS risk might be higher among male infants who carry a mutation of an enzyme — called MAOA — that appears to impede key neurotransmitter function.

"Babies that have this variant inherited might have an impaired breathing regulation," he said.

"But the risk conveyed by this gene variant is relatively small compared to other factors, like sleeping position [or exposure to] smoking."

Moreover, the findings have to be replicated in another population sample." The study appears online and in the March issue of Pediatrics.

Internet



File photo shows GlaxoSmithKline's alli, the first over-the-counter diet pill approved by the Food and Drug Administration, in New York.

INTERNET

Miracle diet pill? A safe drug is elusive

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb— The battle of the bulge has been a big, fat failure for US drugmakers. But that hasn't stopped them from trying. For nearly a century, scientists have struggled to make a diet pill that helps people lose weight without side effects that range from embarrassing digestive issues to dangerous heart problems.

Earlier this week, a government panel recommended the FDA approve the latest diet drug Qnexa. The recommendation raises hopes that the US could approve the first anti-obesity drug in more than a decade. It also highlights how challenging it is to create a pill that fights fat in a variety of people without negative side effects. Even Qnexa was previously rejected over concerns that it can cause heart palpitations and birth defects if taken by pregnant women.

"Having a drug for obesity would be like telling me you had a drug for the fever," said Dr Mitchell Roslin, chief of bariatric surgery at Northern Westchester Hospital in New York. "There can be millions of different reasons why someone is obese; it's really a symptom of various underlying mechanisms."

An effective and safe diet pill would be an easy sale in the US: With more than 75 million obese adults, the nation's obesity rate is nearing 35 percent. But the biggest problem in creating a weight-loss drug is that there appears to be no safe way to turn off one of the human body's most fundamental functions. For millions of years, humans have been programmed to consume calories and store them as energy, or fat. —Internet

Brain calls the shots on which hand holds cellphone

DETROIT, 26 Feb— About 70 percent of people hold their cellphone to the ear on the same side as their dominant hand, a new study finds. Left-brain thinkers are more likely to use their right hand for writing and other everyday tasks. They're also more likely to hold their cellphone to their right ear, even though there's no difference in hearing between their right and left ears.

The reverse is true for people who are left-handed and right-brain dominant, according to the study by researchers at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Their online survey of more than 700 people found that 68 percent of right-handed people said they held their cellphone to their right ear, while 25 percent used the left ear, and 7 percent used both ears. Among left-handed people, 72 percent said they held their cellphone to their left ear, 23 percent used their right ear, and 5 percent used both

ears. The study is scheduled to be presented on 26 February at a meeting of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology in San Diego. "Our findings have several implications, especially for mapping the language center of the brain," Dr Michael Seidman, director of the division of otologic and neurotologic surgery in the department of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, said in a Henry Ford Health System news release. The findings also suggest that there's no link between cellphone use and brain, and head and neck tumors, according to Seidman.

If there were a connection, far more people would be diagnosed on the right side of their brain, head and neck because most people are right-handed and hold their cellphones to their right ear, he said. —Internet

EU says eurozone economy to shrink in 2012

BRUSSELS, 26 Feb— The European Commission has predicted that the eurozone economy will contract by 0.3% in 2012. In its previous forecast in November, it said that the economy would grow by 0.5%. "The unexpected stalling of the recovery in late 2011 is set to extend into the first two quarters of 2012," the Commission said. But it added that the 17-nation bloc would only have a "mild" recession and that it saw signs of stabilisation.

The Commission predicted that the economy of the wider 27-nation EU would be unchanged in 2012. The biggest drag on the eurozone economy is expected to be Greece, which is now expected to see a 4.4% decline in output in the current year. Greece

and Portugal were the only economies the Commission expected to contract in their previous forecast in November. Belgium, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, the Netherlands and Slovenia have now been added to that list.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to look at the eurozone as a synchronised economic entity and this revised forecast trumpets the overall contradiction of a two-speed Europe," said Norval Loftus at Allegra Asset Management. "It's a reasonable expectation that even a buoyant north — led by Germany — probably won't be enough to preserve a positive 2012 growth figure in light of the Greece and the other southern periphery countries."

Internet



Olli Rehn said economic sentiment is still at low levels.

INTERNET

Business

Scotiabank says not "systemically important" to Canada

MEXICO CITY, 26 Feb— The head of Bank of Nova Scotia suggested on Friday that Canada's third largest bank should be exempt from tougher global regulations that will eventually be imposed on banks considered "systemically important" domestically.

Chief Executive Rick Waugh cited his company's heavy reliance on operations outside Canada as a feature that set it apart in the handful of banks that dominate in Canada, and could make it exempt from extra regulatory scrutiny. Leaders from the Group of 20 advanced and emerging countries have already agreed to impose a capital surcharge on the world's biggest banks, as part of a broader regulatory push aimed at preventing global financial crises and taxpayer-funded bailouts.

Now they are turning their sights to so-called domestic SIFIs, or systemically important



A woman walks past the Scotiabank on Spring Garden road in Halifax, Nova Scotia. —INTERNET

financial institutions, banks deemed big enough to cause harm to their country's financial system should they run into trouble. The Financial Stability Board, the G20's regulatory task force, has said it would complete work on this framework by the end of this year. Although no criteria have been set for deciding which banks would be targeted, Waugh said Canada's big banks should not all be treated the same. —Internet

Battle lines forming between MF Global customers, hedge funds

NEW YORK, 26 Feb— The MF Global saga could soon become a legal battle between hedge funds and the futures brokerage's shortchanged customers, with more than a billion dollars at stake. As the investigation into the collapse of the Jon Corzine-led brokerage moves into more of a regulatory whodunnit than a criminal case, the guessing game centers on who the two court-appointed trustees overseeing MF Global's liquidation will sue to recoup money owed to customers of MF's broker-dealer unit and creditors of its parent.

Those decisions are not easy ones, legal experts say, and they could end up pitting hedge funds like

David Tepper's Appaloosa Management and Paul Singer's Elliott Management—who own MF Global bonds—against brokerage customers trying to recover an estimated \$1.6 billion shortfall in their accounts. It's likely that James Giddens, the trustee in charge of recovering customer funds, and Louis Freeh, the trustee in charge of recovering money for parent creditors, will dispute the ownership of certain assets, said attorney Chris Ward, vice chair of Polsinelli Shughart's bankruptcy practice, who is not involved in the case.

Internet



The sign marking the MF Global Holdings Ltd. offices at 52nd Street in midtown Manhattan is seen in New York last year.

INTERNET

Shark fin soup comes with side of toxins

MIAMI, 26 Feb — The destruction of sharks for shark fin soup has helped put many wild species of the fish on the road to extinction. Now, new research suggests this costly meal may harm humans, too. An analysis of shark fins from Florida waters found high concentrations of α -N-methylamino-L-alanine, or BMAA, a neurotoxin that has been linked to Alzheimer's and

Lou Gehrig's disease. The fin raises concerns that consuming shark meat and cartilage may put consumers at risk.

"The concentrations of BMAA in the samples are a cause for concern, not only in shark fin soup, but also in dietary supplements and other forms ingested by humans," study co-author Deborah Mash, who directs the University of Miami Brain

Endowment Bank, said in a statement. The researchers tested seven species of shark for the study: blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, bull, great hammerhead, lemon and nurse sharks. The scientists clipped tiny fin samples off of living animals so as not to harm their subjects.

Reporting in the journal *Marine Drugs*, the authors found BMAA concentrations ranging from 144 to 1,838 nanograms per milligram. According to Mash, those levels are similar to the levels found in the brains of Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's disease patients. Earlier research has linked the eating of BMAA-rich fruit bats in Guam with degenerative brain diseases, suggesting that consuming the toxin could affect human health.

Internet

Fear of losing jobs, affects employee performance

VALENCIA, 26 Feb — Though you probably didn't need scientific research to tell you this, a new study shows that fear of job loss causes workers to feel dissatisfied and less committed to their jobs. The study also shows that blue-collar and white-collar workers react differently to job insecurity.

The research, which polled more than 300 workers in Spain and was conducted by the psychology department at

the University of Valencia, shows that insecurity at work is directly and negatively linked to satisfaction in work and life and also affects performance and commitment. Furthermore, the research reveals that the consequences of this insecurity differ in accordance with the occupational group they work in.

Internet



Mild drought killed off Mayan civilization

UK submarine data de-classified to aid climate science



Environmental data is routinely collected by submarines and other Navy vessels.—INTERNET

LONDON, 26 Feb — The UK Ministry of Defence is to de-classify submarine data to help shed light on climate change in the Arctic. Environmental data are routinely monitored by Navy vessels, but the

measurements are highly sensitive because they could give away positions. A dataset from one submarine mission will be released to give a snapshot of conditions under the ice.

It is hoped that further

data could be released in future, yielding clues to how the Arctic is changing. Water temperature and salt content are among the environmental data monitored by submarines. But only a handful of people have access to such information because they could be used to track where UK submarines go. As part of the Submarine Estimates of Arctic Turbulence Spectra (SEATS) project, the MoD will release measurements to researchers at the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) in Southampton.

Internet

MEXICO CITY, 26 Feb — The collapse of the Mayan civilization was likely due to a relatively mild drought, much like the drier conditions expected in the coming years due to climate change, scientists said on Thursday. Scholars have long believed that a major drought caused severe dry conditions that killed off the ancient culture known for its mastery of language, math and astronomy. But researchers from the Yucatan Centre for Scientific Research in Mexico and the University of Southampton in Britain said their analysis shows the drought only caused reductions of 25 to 40 percent less annual rain. The smaller amounts of rain meant that open water sources in pools and lakes evaporated faster than could be replaced by more precipitation, said the study in the journal *Science*. "The data suggest that the main cause was a decrease in summer storm activity," said co-author Eelco Rohling of the University of Southampton. The study is the first of its kind to attempt to assess exactly how much rainfall decreased between 800 and 950 AD when Mayan civilization went into decline, and bases its modeling data on records of past rainfall changes from stalagmites and shallow lakes.—Internet

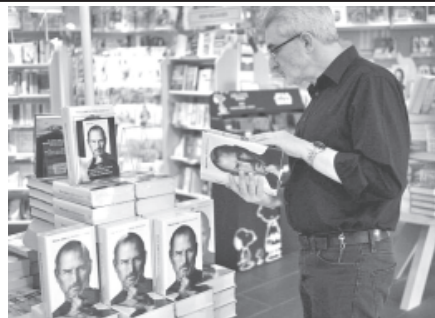
Steve Jobs birthday wishes fly on Twitter

NEW YORK, 26 Feb — Twitter was abuzz on Friday with loving words for Steve Jobs on what would have been the late Apple co-founder's 57th birthday. "Happy birthday Steve Jobs," read a post from Apple-centric blog Cult of the Mac. "The whole world misses you."

Jobs' birthday was among the top five trends at Twitter. Those feeding the torrent of messages tweeted through the day ranged from young folks who cherished their iPods to major corporations or publications paying tribute to how Jobs changed lives around the globe. "Innovation won't be the same without you," read a Jobs birthday message at the official Twitter account of General Electric.

Rolling Stone magazine tweeted a link to a 2003 interview with Jobs focused on Apple's move into digital music. Someone using the name of the Darth Vader character from "Star Wars" jokingly tweeted about trying to convince film-maker George Lucas to add Jobs' ghost to those in the closing scene of the final film in the blockbuster series.

Popular tweets included famous Jobs' quotes including "The ones who are crazy enough to think they



A man reads a biography of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs in 2011. Twitter was abuzz with loving words for Steve Jobs on what would have been the late Apple co-founder's 57th birthday.—INTERNET

can change the world are the ones who do," Jean-Luc Palumbo tweeted that he hoped Jobs was enjoying "iHeaven." The Apple co-founder and mind behind the wildly popular iPod, iPad and iPhone devices died in October after battling pancreatic cancer.

Internet

Study: Facebook gaming declines in 2011, social gaming seeking new growth

NEW YORK, 26 Feb — While Facebook casual gaming has helped to triple the number of gamers in the US in the past three years, new research is saying that the social gaming boom is beginning to calm down, and perhaps seeking to mature. Market research firm IHS iSuppli states that "the honeymoon's over," chiefly due to rising barriers to entry, increasing competition and the fact that gaming has fallen in priority for social media users.

The IHS iSuppli report points out that 2011 marked a sharp drop in Facebook gaming, compared to the manic growth in the previous years. In 2010, 50 percent of Facebook's monthly active users were gamers; gunning down virtual capos, and spamming friends' feeds with brown cows. 2011 halved that number, with Facebook gamers dropping down to 25 percent. Meanwhile, Facebook user growth has continued to climb. The social media giant reached 800 million active users last month, and is projected to hit the 1 billion mark by late summer of 2012.

The study uses the social gaming leader to illustrate the point. Facebook's gaming poster child Zynga, which makes up 12 percent of the networking site's revenue, declined in monthly active users during the fourth quarter of 2011 during its IPO push. Despite remaining somewhat steady all through 2011, the company dropped to 225 million users in the fourth quarter—down from 266 million in September 2011.—Internet

Watch a helicopter get destroyed by physics without even leaving the ground

NEW YORK, 26 Feb — It was the most stunning helicopter accident Para, Brazil has ever seen. And it all happened without the helicopter even leaving the ground. The shocking destruction of the plane was caused by a phenomenon called ground resonance. Like an out-of-balance washing machine, the plane starts shaking more and more violently until the force tears it in half. Though the destruction was pretty epic, no one was hurt in the accident. They're probably going to need to buy a new helicopter, though.

Internet



Apple Germany disables push email service

BERLIN, 26 Feb — Apple says it has disabled the push email function for its mobile devices in Germany in an ongoing patent dispute with rival Motorola. Apple Inc said on Friday the disabling of the push service, which sends messages automatically to the devices as soon as they're received rather than waiting

for the device to refresh its email, will affect customers using MobileMe and iCloud email.

Apple says those customers can still receive email using other settings. A Mannheim court ruled earlier this month that Apple had infringed upon a Motorola patent on push email

technology. Apple says it believes its patent is valid and is appealing the decision.

"Facebook rocketed to prominence as gaming platform in 2009 and 2010," said IHS senior game analyst, Steve Bailey. However, with equal speed, the market then settled into a state of maturity in 2011, with conditions

becoming markedly more challenging for game operators. While Facebook remains a worthwhile opportunity for companies able to meet these challenges, the tone of the market in 2012 will be somewhat muted compared to the optimistic outlook of the past few years."

Internet

Fire at Brazil's Antarctic base kills two navy personnel

RIODE JANEIRO, 26 Feb—A fire killed two Brazilian navy personnel and injured a third one at the country's Antarctic research base on Saturday, the navy said.

Fire first broke out in a room housing energy generators and spread to other areas of the Comandante Ferraz base near the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, causing a string of explosions, the navy said.

Some 120 million US dollars' worth of research equipment was destroyed in the fire, and the whole base was almost totally burned.

About 30 scientists, one alpinist and a Brazilian environment official and 12 Brazilian navy personnel were stationed at the base when the tragedy occurred.

The Argentine air force



In this photo released by Armada de Chile, fire and smoke rise from Brazil's Comandante Ferraz station in Almirantazgo Bay, in the South Shetland Islands of Antarctica, on 25 Feb, 2012. In an emailed statement, the Brazilian navy said the fire broke out Saturday morning in the machine room that houses the energy generators of the station where one man suffered non-life threatening injuries, and at least two people were reported missing.—INTERNET

airlifted the survivors to a Chilean city, and a Brazilian air force plane further flew them back to Brazil.

The Brazilian base, established in 1984, focuses on biological and marine researches.—Xinhua

Russian Army to get Boomerang armoured carriers

MOSCOW, 26 Feb—The Russian Army will get its first Boomerang armoured personnel carriers in 2013, a top military official has said.

Ground Forces chief Col Gen Alexander Postnikov said large-scale deliveries will start in 2015, eventually replacing the

BTR-82A and BTR-80 armoured personnel carriers currently in service.

Postnikov did not provide any details about the new model but media reports said it will be an amphibious vehicle. Dmitry Galkin, general director of the Voenno-Promy-

shlennaya Kompaniya—a military-industrial company—said: "We call it 'a combat wheeled vehicle' because it will be used as a platform for an armoured personnel carrier, infantry fighting vehicle, tank, or self-propelled gun."

Internet

6.0 magnitude earthquake jolts Taipei's Pingtung

BEIJING, 26 Feb—A 6.0 magnitude earthquake hit Taipei's Pingtung at 10:34 Beijing Time (02:34 GMT) on Sunday, said the China earthquake network centre (CENC).

The epicentre was monitored at 22.8 degrees north latitude and 120.8

degrees east longitude with a depth of 20 kilometres, according to the CENC.

Taipei's meteorological authorities said the epicentre of the quake, measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale, was 30.4 km northeast of Pingtung County.

The quake was

followed by two tremors, measuring 4.0 magnitude and 4.2 magnitude respectively, in a few minutes, according to the meteorological authorities.

The quakes could be felt in Taipei. No casualties have been reported so far.

Xinhua

Confidential British drone secrets lifted from Paris train station

LONDON, 26 Feb—Top secret documents, which contained classified information related to British drones, were stolen by two men at the Gare du Nord station in Paris.

A high-level executive working for French company Dassault Aviation was on his way to London on the Euro star train on 2nd February when the theft happened.

According to Paris Judicial Police, the unnamed man briefly left his case unattended after his female colleague was harassed by a stranger, *The Telegraph* reports.

The documents in the case were marked 'Defence - Confidential' and contained details of a 'joint Franco-British drone', a legal source close to the case revealed.

The source said that the theft happened at around 5pm, when the station was packed with cross-Channel

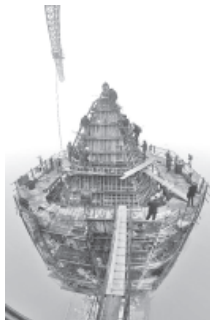
travellers.

The source further revealed that when the Dassault executive returned to a self-service ticket machine after helping his colleague his briefcase had disappeared.

"His attention had been purposefully diverted. It was not a random theft. We have

to determine whether the thieves were targeting confidential documents on the drone project or other valuables in the briefcase," the source said. The person who hassled the woman disappeared almost immediately, and has not been seen since.

Internet



Workers pour concrete on the top of the 170-meter-high main tower of the Jiashao-Shaoxing (Jiashao) Bridge on the Hangzhou Bay, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 22 Feb, 2012. As the second cross-sea bridge spanning across the Hangzhou Bay, the Jiashao Bridge is expected to enter operation by the end of 2012. It will halve the travel time down to 1.5 hours between Shaoxing in Zhejiang AND east China's Shanghai.

XINHUA

California town to ban smoking even in one's backyard

LONDON, 26 Feb —A California town in the US has proposed to ban smoking outside, even for residents lighting up on their own property.

Smoking is already banned indoors in public places in most of the country, and in California it is illegal to smoke in parks and playgrounds too.

The town of Rocklin, near California's capital city of Sacramento, could take the

regulations further by extending them to private property as well, the *Daily Mail* reported.

The legislation was prompted by a local family annoyed with their neighbour smoking outside and causing smoke to waft near their house.

The family claimed their children's health had been jeopardised by second-hand smoke.

Internet



Bees gather nectar on cole flowers in Luoping County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 23 Feb, 2012.

XINHUA

Eating citrus fruit may lower stroke risk

WASHINGTON, 26 Feb—A compound in citrus fruits may reduce women's stroke risk, a study has said.

The study examines how consuming flavonoid sub-classes affects the risk of

stroke, *Xinhua* reported.

Flavonoids are a class of compounds present in fruits, vegetables, dark chocolate and red wine. "Studies have shown higher fruit, vegetable and specifically vitamin C

intake is associated with reduced stroke risk," said Aedin Cassidy, lead author and professor of nutrition at the University of East Anglia in Britain.

"Flavonoids are thought to provide some of that protection through several mechanisms, including improved blood vessel function and an anti-inflammatory effect."

The study was published on Thursday in *Stroke: Journal of the American Heart Association*.

Cassidy and colleagues used 14 years of follow-up data from the Nurse's Health Study, which included 69,622 women who reported their food intake, including details on fruit and vegetable

consumption every four years.

Researchers examined the relationship of the six main subclasses of flavonoids commonly consumed in the US diet — flavanones, anthocyanins, flavan-3-ols, flavonoid polymers, flavonols and flavones — with risk of ischemic, hemorrhagic and total stroke.

As expected, the researchers didn't find a beneficial association between total flavonoid consumption and stroke risk, as the biological activity of the sub-classes differ.

However, they found that women who ate high amounts of flavanones in citrus had a 19 percent lower risk of blood clot-related (ischemic) stroke than women who consumed the least amounts.—Internet



Britain's PM David Cameron (2ndL) and Spanish PM Mariano Rajoy (2ndR) tour one of the many construction sites for the cross-London Crossrail scheme.

INTERNET

Five killed, one injured in C Philippines hacking

KALIBO, 25 Feb—At least five elderly people were killed while another one is critically injured when a tricycle driver hacked them to death in the central Philippine province of Aklan on Saturday morning, police said.

Police said the incident happens around 5:30 am Saturday at Bulwang village in Numancia town. Suspect Errol Roldan, 25, immediately surrendered to police authorities after he saw them coming.

He was currently in the Numancia detention cell. Based on police investigation, the suspect, who was observed to have mental illness, had bolo and axe in his two hands. The suspect used bolo in hacking the victims, aged from 52 to 98 years old.

Police authorities considered the case closed.—Xinhua

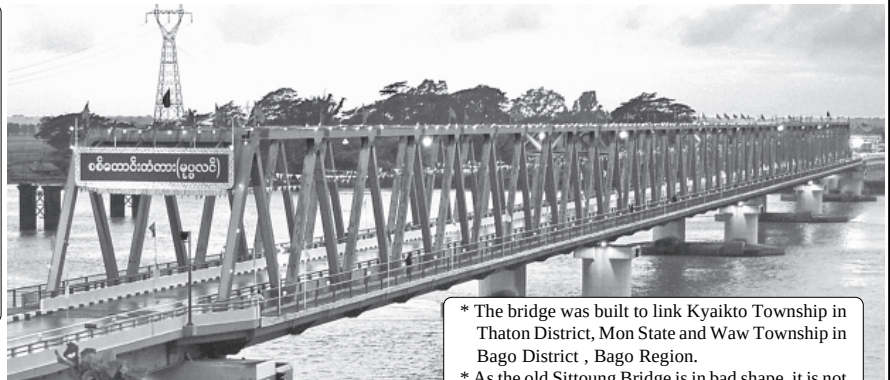
Sittoung River Crossing Bridge (Moppalin) that brings about better transport and smooth commodity flow

Salient points of the bridge

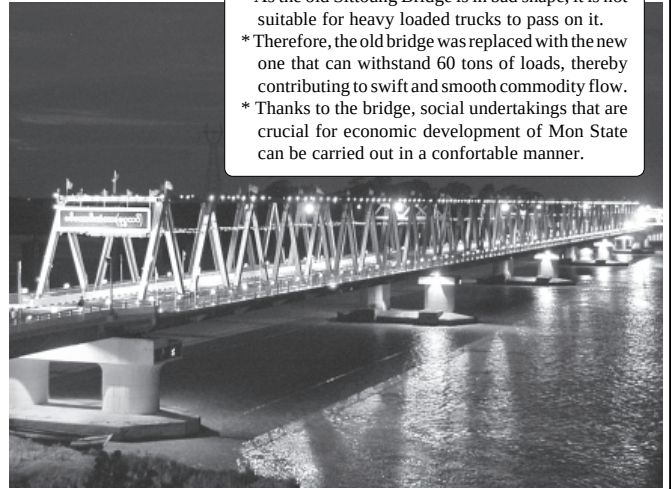
1. The main bridge is 1365 feet long with the 244.1 feet long approach structure on Kyaikto side and the 783.6 feet long approach structure on Waw side. The total length of the bridge is 2392.7 feet.
2. The main bridge is of steel truss type while the approach structures are of reinforced concrete type.
3. It is facilitated with 20 feet wide motorroad flanked by two six feet wide pedestrian lanes on either side.
4. It can withstand 60 tons of loads.
5. The construction of the bridge started on 26-1-2005 and it was opened on 12-7-2008.

Translation: TLA

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye



- * The bridge was built to link Kyaikto Township in Thaton District, Mon State and Waw Township in Bago District, Bago Region.
- * As the old Sittoung Bridge is in bad shape, it is not suitable for heavy loaded trucks to pass on it.
- * Therefore, the old bridge was replaced with the new one that can withstand 60 tons of loads, thereby contributing to swift and smooth commodity flow.
- * Thanks to the bridge, social undertakings that are crucial for economic development of Mon State can be carried out in a comfortable manner.



Dy Cooperatives Minister calls for doing more cooperative tasks in Kyauktaw, Minbya

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun on 22 February morning made an inspection tour of Rakhine State.

During his tour, he observed process of disbursing loans to members of Kyauktaw Myoma Market Cooperative Association Limited and left necessary instructions before he looked around the shops inside.

And, the deputy minister met with

members of agricultural production cooperative association limited at the primary school in Daungtao Yo Village.

He, then, held a meeting with township administrators, township level officials concerned, staff officers of township cooperative department, staff and members of cooperative association at the township general administrator's office in Minbya.

MNA

Winter storms stretch across Canada

OTTAWA, 26 Feb—A snow storm in eastern Canada caused major traffic problems in Ontario and Quebec, where police reported hundreds of collisions. A second storm prompted Environment Canada to issue warnings in western and central Canada, CBC News reported Friday. No serious injuries were reported in any of the collisions, police said.

A number of flights at airports in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal were either delayed or canceled, airport officials said. The storm hit Montreal Friday afternoon and was expected

drop 6-7 inches of snow, while eastern Quebec could see up to a foot of snow before the storm moves further east.

Blizzard conditions were forecast into Saturday in parts of New Brunswick, CBC News said. Environment Canada issued a watch for most of southern Saskatchewan as a second storm moved east and could drop 6-7 inches of snow through the day Saturday.

Parts of British Columbia were under an avalanche warning through Monday, CBC News said.

Internet

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker visits Temple of Heaven Park

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—The visiting goodwill Myanmar delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, accompanied by Deputy General Secretary of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Cao Wei Zhou visited Temple of Heaven Park in Beijing on 23 February.

They viewed Chinese temple, historical buildings and systematic conservation of pine trees in advanced age. The Myanmar delegation then together with Mr Cao Wei Zhou posed for documentary photo in front of the temple. The delegation then proceeded to Myanmar Embassy to meet Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Oo and wife, Military Attaché Col Tint Wai and wife, staff and their families of the embassy and the military attaché's office and overseas Myanmar students.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said Myanmar and China were close neighbours sharing the long borders and the bilateral relations had entered into strategic partnership.

He said that they came there to focus on matters of mutual concern despite the fact that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was now in session in Myanmar. He urged them to accomplish their duties in unison, saying that the nation had certain

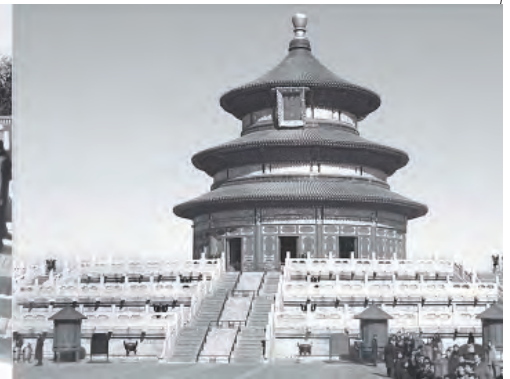


improvement in international relations, economy and internal peace following the political stability.

Next, the ambassador and wife hosted luncheon to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and delegation members. After the luncheon, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker cordially greeted

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Myanmar delegation members look round Temple of Heaven Park in Beijing.

MNA



embassy staff and overseas students. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker enquired after the overseas students and urged them to study hard to apply what they were learning in practical field in the interests of the nation and its people. He also presented cash assistance to them.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker holds talks with PRC National People's Congress Vice-Chairman

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and party holding discussion with Vice-Chairman Mr Lu Kongxiang of the China National People's Congress and party.—MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann held discussion with Vice-Chairman Mr Lu Kongxiang of the PRC National People's Congress at the National People's Congress Convention Centre in Beijing on 24 February noon.

Those from Myanmar side at the meeting were chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw committees U Thein Zaw, U Hla Myint Oo, Thura U Aung Ko, U Maung Maung Swe and U Kyi Min, Region Hluttaw speakers U Sein Tin Win and U Hsan Hsint, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Oo and from Chinese side were Deputy Secretary General of the National People's Congress Mr Cao Wei Zhou, members of National Races Affairs Committee Mr Luo Sang Ling and Mr Zhi Duo Jie, member of Legal Affairs Committee Mr Fan Fang Ping, member of Finance and Taxation Mr He Xiao Wei and member of Education, Science and Culture Committee Mr Wu Zhong Ze.

The NPC Vice-Chairman extended warm welcome to the Myanmar delegation and said that the Myanmar delegation comprises high-ranking officials which reflect Myanmar's consideration for China and it is also greatly beneficial to the two nations. China and Myanmar have established deep amicable relationship from time immemorial and it needs to maintain that relationship based on five principles of peaceful co-existence. Peace, development, and cooperation etc are main factors in every global nation. It is pleased to see Myanmar going on right track and it is a welcoming move also. Peace and stability is fundamental factor in building a nation. It needs a certain system to ensure peace and stability and public development. The NPC makes the final decisions for matters of serious concern in China. In recent years, the two nations

have witnessed growing sector-wise cooperation. It is assumed that increased bilateral cooperation promotes the comprehensive strategic partnership of the two countries. It needs to cooperate further in legislation and other sectors between the two parliaments. It is believed that Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker would play a leading role in writing better and more comprehensive constitution for Myanmar.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then expressed his special thanks to them for the warm welcome and said amidst the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session which is of great importance to Myanmar, they came there to promote China-Myanmar bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership with much consideration to the invitation of the congress chairman. It is believed that sharing of operational experiences and ideas by the NPC would be greatly beneficial to the Hluttaws. It is pleased to China's consideration for territorial integrity and sovereignty of Myanmar. Myanmar would continue supporting One China Policy. Myanmar is always pleased to see the healthy development of China. That seeking the decision from the National People's Congress on signing foreign investment contract in China is a point to learn and copy. It is undeniable that the rapid growth of China is thanks to the contribution of the congress in such important fields as management, legislation and monitoring. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then expressed his strong wish to promote bilateral cooperation between the two parliaments. After the meeting, the vice chairman of the National People's Congress hosted luncheon to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and delegation members at Qin Yuan Hall of the convention centre.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker arrives back from China

YANGON, 26 Feb—Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann arrived here at 1.35 pm today after wrapping up the goodwill visit in China at the invitation of Chinese National People's Congress Chairman Mr Wu Bangguo.

They were welcomed back a Yangon International Airport by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts

Committee U Thurein Zaw, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Aung, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua and officials.

A total of 18 members accompanied the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.—MNA

Delegation led by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann being welcomed back by officials at Yangon International Airport.—MNA



Arrangements are necessary...

(from page 16)

member of Political Committee of Central Committee of Communist Party this morning.

The PRC has been able to keep its economic development and peace and stability though its area is every large and its population is over 1300 million with 56 national races. This is largely attributable to the effective and subtle leadership of the Communist Party, and this being the case, a long discussion was held to learn those experiences, he added.

He went to say that Myanmar thanked China as the latter had stood by the former, saying that owing to the fact Myanmar has emerged as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. And he was happy with the support of China to Myanmar's marching to path chosen by the people.

He said he took pride in China's respect on Myanmar's territorial integrity. Myanmar had constantly supported the One China Policy. Myanmar held the same standpoint like China in Tibet, Taiwan and Xinjiang regions affairs. He then repeated the Myanmar's support for peaceful development plan of China.

He said he believed that the development of China would benefit Myanmar for its advancement. He added that he assumed that it was needed to set up detailed plans to promote comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Myanmar. He then invited the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker to share his ideas and suggestions for fostering the bilateral relations.

Next, Mr Wu Bangguo in his speech said that the visit of Myanmar delegation and exchange of views with Chinese contributed to mutual trust. The relations between the two countries dated back over 2000 years and Chinese people already had affection for Myanmar people. He said he paid a visit to Myanmar in 1997 during which he could feel the friendliness of Myanmar people. He then expressed his pleasure of seeing Myanmar enjoying development in a few years.

The move towards comprehensive strategic partnership between the two nations was indeed turning a new chapter. The relationship between China and Myanmar was built on mutual trust. The two neighbours were cooperating not only in economic and trade but in regional and international arena.

Moreover, the leaders of the two countries wished deepened relationship. For this, the first and foremost requirement was exchange of visits between high-ranking officials of the two countries. It was good being able to hold talks on bilateral relations and matter of common interests at a time like this

when conditions were changing at terrific speed. He said he would also like to invite Myanmar leaders to visit China.

He said that it is learnt that Myanmar President U Thein Sein would pay a goodwill visit to Nanning of China during the last six-month period of this year. He said he would like to invite Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo to visit China at opportune time. It is needed to draw detailed plans for cooperative programmes to deepen the bilateral relations. Only then, the bilateral relations would be more meaningful and could go strength from strength.

Moreover, it was required to parliamentary cooperation between the two countries. The bilateral ties could be further strengthened by promoting cooperation between the Union Solidarity and Development Party from Myanmar and Communist Party of China including signing of MoU on going partnership in important sectors. Mutual exchange and studies could be done between the parties. The communication between the parliaments and parties of the two countries was an important element for comprehensive strategic partnership.

Furthermore, it is needed to promote economic and commercial ties further between the two countries, said he adding that in his capacity as the Vice Premier, he took the helm of economic affairs and visited Myanmar in 1997 to observe potentials for economic cooperation between the two countries. Myanmar held a geographically important position and was rich in natural resources. However, the western powers had imposed sanctions against Myanmar since 1988. Nevertheless, the economic cooperation and trade activities between China and Myanmar maintained steady increase. Now, China was the biggest trade partner of Myanmar and the two nations had been expanding the area of trade activities. Economic cooperation could strengthen the bilateral relations.

He said he assumed that the suspension of Myitsone Dam was due to internal and external situations, expressing his belief to reach a settlement through negotiations. China had also constructed mega dams like Three Georges which had greatly benefited the nation.

He said that western countries were disrupting some industries showing concern over environmental conservation and climate change. It had been over 30 years that China had been practicing open-door economic policy also with invitation of FDI and importation of technologies from the western countries. It was

learnt that Myanmar was intimating special economic zone projects, which was believed to attract foreign investments.

The economic cooperation between the two nations would deepen the amity and the economic cooperation between China and Myanmar is mutually beneficial movement. Some of the China's mega businesses in Myanmar were infrastructural development projects, deep sea ports, petrol and natural gas pipeline, and construction of railroads and motor roads, which had created many a number of jobs. In addition, those businesses also assisted in social works. China would assist in industrialization process of Myanmar through bilateral cooperation.

In the area of people to people cooperation, the sacred Buddha tooth relic of the PRC was conveyed to Myanmar and the Myanmar people earnestly paid obeisance to the tooth relic. A Chinese disabled sport team visited Myanmar and another Beijing acrobatic team will also pay a visit soon. And these moves are requirements for long-lasting cooperation and amity between the two peoples.

Moreover, there is cooperation in the framework of ASEAN+3 cooperation. Myanmar is due to take ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014. China wishes to see more improved Sino-Myanmar relations within the ASEAN framework. When it comes to the mutual interest, Myanmar and China have supported each other. China values the support of Myanmar in the Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang issues. Thus, the bilateral ties will be improved more and it is hoped that the current visit will promote bilateral cooperation between the two congresses, said Mr Wu Bangguo.

In response, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said he expressed his thanks for detailed explanation. Arrangements are necessary for the leaders of the two countries so as to further strengthen the bilateral ties. It is also required to promote cooperation between the Union Solidarity and Development Party of Myanmar and China Communist Party and between the two congresses. In addition, exchange visits between the MPs of the two congresses are needed.

The Speaker stressed the need to promote technical cooperation as well as cooperation between economy and trade. Myanmar would like to receive China's assistance to improve science and technology. In the social and cultural field, Myanmar expressed its deepest thanks to China for conveying the Buddha tooth relic to the country for public obeisance. Myanmar wishes to see more exchange visits in the cultural sector and values China's active cooperation in ASEAN+3 framework.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shaking hands with Chairman of National People's Congress of China Mr Wu Bangguo.—MNA

continued that in the bilateral economic cooperation Myanmar and China need to act taking lesson from the Myitson issue. The ongoing projects such as oil and gas pipelines, Kyaukpyu deep seaport and motor roads and railroads will greatly benefit the two countries. So, it is necessary to continue the projects till their success.

The future Sino-Myanmar relations are important for both countries. Particularly, special care is needed in security, stability and defence matters. Coordination is always necessary between the leaders of the two countries and between the two parties.

The Speaker added that although Myanmar has a lot of political parties which have different aims, the Union Solidarity and Development Party will continue to try to build up a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with the main aim of serving the interests of the nation and the people. Recently, Western countries have made many visits to Myanmar. Among them, he also received the guests from those countries, said the Speaker. In receiving US State Secretary Hilary Clinton, the Myanmar side said that the country wanted to normalize the relations with the US but did not accept any policy, plan and move from any nation or organization that are designed to harm the interests of the Myanmar people.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann went on to say that he expressed his thanks to China for demanding the lifting of economic sanctions against Myanmar. No matter how the Western countries tried to approach Myanmar, any action harming the cooperation with China would not be acceptable. Myanmar will continue to highlight the multilateral strategic cooperation

between the two countries.

Then, the Speaker said he wished to invite the Chairman to visit Myanmar at an opportune time. And the visit will further cement the bilateral ties, he concluded.

Mr Wu Bangguo said that he agreed on the promoting of bilateral cooperation between the two congresses. China respects Myanmar's path to development and supports its choice of policy suitable to the prevailing objective conditions. As far as China is concerned, the Western countries have taken greater interest in Myanmar. But, he said he is delighted by the fact that Myanmar will try not to harm the cooperation with China in normalizing the relations with those Western countries. Good international relations and open economy of Myanmar are indeed essential requirements for economic development, noted Mr Wu Bangguo. China has enjoyed fruits of economic development due to the creation of sound international environment. With economic development, rights and privileges of own countries can be protected. Western countries know that China will not accept any act harming its own interest in dealing with them. Integrity and sovereignty must be respected in the arena of international relations, concluded Mr Wu Bangguo.

Then, Mr Wu Bangguo hosted a dinner of the Myanmar delegation at the West Hall of the People's Hall. During the dinner, Chinese artists performed dances and songs.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and the National People's Congress Chairman exchanged mementos. Later, the Speaker greeted and presented souvenirs to the artists.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann arrives in Beijing, PRC, on goodwill visit



NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb —A Myanmar delegation comprising 11 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives led by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann left Yangon by air at 2.15pm on 23 February to pay a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of National People's Congress Chairman Mr Wu Bangguo and arrived at Kunming International Airport in Yunnan Province at 6pm local time.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed there by Director General of Foreign Affairs Department of Yunnan Province Ms Zhou Hong, Head of Political

**Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker
Thura U Shwe Mann meets
Deputy Secretary General of
National People's Congress of
China Mr Cao Wei Zhuo at
special anteroom in Beijing
Airport.—MNA**

Affairs Department of Yunnan Province People's Congress Mr Yang Run Xin and Counsel General U Zaw Phyo Win of Myanmar Counsel General's Office.

The Myanmar delegation headed by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and Director General Ms Zhou Hong met at the special lounge of the airport and they discussed matters related to the formations, duties and work programmes of the Myanmar Hluttaw and Yunnan People's Congress.

Next, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and delegation members left by air and arrived at Beijing International Capital Airport at 10.45 pm. The delegation was welcomed there by Deputy Secretary General of National People's Congress Mr Cao Wei Zhou and Myanmar Ambassador to PRC U Tin Oo and officials.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and the deputy director general greeted each other at the special lounge of the airport.

Then, the Speaker and delegation members went in a motorcade to Grand Hotel Beijing where they would stay.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb —ASEAN Economic Ministers held a 18th informal meeting at Amara Hotel here today.

It was participated by economic ministers from ASEAN nations, economic experts and delegations from ASEAN countries led by ASEAN Secretary-General, representatives from embassies of ASEAN nations in Myanmar and officials of the ASEAN Secretariat.

Cambodian Commerce Minister Mr Cham Prasidh chaired the meeting and the participants cordially discussed challenges and weaknesses for forming a ASEAN economic community by 2015 and exchanged views on tasks which would be completed by 2012.

During the meeting, they also discussed matters related to cooperation between ASEAN nations to become a ASEAN economic community and timely completion of trade, services, investment and private sectors and more cooperation between the countries, promoting cooperation between ASEAN and its dialogue partners and matters related to implementation of the ASEAN framework for economic cooperation in the region.

ASEAN's economic officials also held a preliminary meeting on 24 Feb and yesterday here. During the meeting, the exchanged views on cooperation between the ASEAN countries and progress of the cooperation between ASEAN and its dialogue partners.

MNA

ASEAN Economic Ministers' 18th informal meeting held



ASEAN Economic Ministers and Secretary-General pose for documentary photo at 18th informal meeting.—MNA

Union-level peace-making group...

(from page 16)

The agreement is as follow:-

- Ceasefire by both sides.
 - Formation of Union-level peace-making group and delegation for dialogue officially and negotiation of date, time and venue for talk.
 - Opening of communication office (with no arm) at an appropriate site agreed by both sides.
 - Negotiation will be made for holding arms beyond the areas agreed by both sides.
 - Settlement at the sites agreed by both sides.
- The Union-level peace-making group and NMSP peace-making group signed four-fact Union-level peace agreement. The agreement is as follow:—

- To start political dialogue far and wide the nation, especially to end up armed conflicts causing in areas of national races.
- To start political dialogue within at most 45 days of ceasefire.

Allowing participation of contributors as observers,

- To start political dialogue between representatives of armed national races organizations and representatives of the government after ceasefire of all armed national

aces organizations. In case ceasefire is not secured with all the organizations till December 2012, to start the political dialogue between representatives of the ceasefire organizations and representatives of the government.

- To continue talks on national reconciliation, based on political compromises with participation of representatives of domestic national political parties and democratic forces.
- To initiate procedures for prompt implementation of agreement reached in the abovementioned dialogue.
- To work for stability and development of education, health and social sectors of the region in coordination with respective national races armed organizations and the government as the ceasefire comes into effect.
- General clauses:** In periods of ceasefire and political dialogue,
 - To have the right to communicate with the public and help each others.
 - To have the right to communicate with domestic political parties.
 - To have the right to communicate with news agencies and media. To inform the public of outcomes of political dialogue as required.
 - To conduct negotiation in advance in

communicating with the foreign diplomats.

- To not extend military strength in Mon State and related areas in period of ceasefire.
- To release all political prisoners remaining in the prisons and to free comrades of New Mon State Party in prisons with sympathy as well.
- To avoid forced labour by both sides, apart from volunteers. To seek solution for cases of people's lands through coordination.

(Remark: If there is any other fact in addition to 10 abovementioned clauses, they will be put forward.)

Col Htay Myint Aung and U Nai Talanyi exchanged state-level initial peace agreement. Union Minister U Aung Min and U Nai Rawsa exchanged four-fact Union-level peace agreement. They posed for documentary photos.

MNA

Union minister visits swine farm in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint visited advanced swine breeding farm in Nahpa village in Lashio of Shan State (North) yesterday morning.

He called for setting sight on producing piglets rather than pork and for selling these piglets to farmers on credit. He also urged Breeding and Veterinary Department to monitor health, progress and medication of pigs.—MNA

City Golf Resort of YCDC organizes 17th annual golf tournament

YANGON, 26 Feb—A ceremony to kick off the 17th Annual Golf Tourney of City Golf Resort members of Yangon City Development Committee was held at Ngwe Thawda Golf Course of City Golf Resort on Thiri Mingala Road in Insein Township at 6.30 am on 19 February.

The opening ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

At first, Yangon Mayor Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint and Patron of the City Golf Resort U Ko Lay teed off

the tracer balls to open the golf tournament.

After that, members of the City Golf Resort participated in the golf tourney at Ngwe Thawda Golf Course and Myakantha Golf Course.

The prize presentation ceremony was held in front of the Club House of Ngwe Thawda Golf Course.

Mayor U Hla Myint, Secretary of YCDC U Kyaw Soe, Joint Secretary U Tin Tun and YCDC members awarded first, second and third winners in the guests' event, diplomats' event,

foreigners' event, ordinary (open), ordinary (special), company members and staff events, winners of longest drive, nearest pin, most par, most birdie, first, second and third prize winners in women's event, winners of most par and most birdie in the tourney.

Next, General Manager U Saw Lin of the golf resort expressed thanks for contributors's participation to successfully hold the golf tournament on a grand scale.

A total of 319 members took part in the golf tournament.—MNA

Myanmar snooker team leave for Thailand to take part in snooker cup



President of Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation U Tin Maung Win and party see off Myanmar snooker team at Yangon International Airport.—MBSF

YANGON, 26 Feb—The Myanmar snooker team comprising selected snooker player Win Khaing Min Aye and executive of Myanmar Billiards and Snooker

Federation U Zarni Aung Than as manager and coach left here by air on 20 February to take part in the Sang Som Suphan Buri Cup to be held in Suphan Buri Province of

Thailand from 21 to 26 February.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by President of MBSF U Tin Maung Win and executives.

Selected snooker Win Khaing Min Aye secured one bronze medal each in the double event and the singles event in the XXVI South-East Asian Games held in the Republic of Indonesia. As a result, he was invited to take part in the Thai invitational snooker cup.

The first prize winner will bag 100,000 baht and the second 50,000 baht. All players in the semifinals will be awarded 30,000 baht each. Cash awards will be given to winners up to the 48th position.

Moreover, the cup will present 15,000 baht as highest break prize to the winner.—MNA

Winners awarded in international and traditional chess tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—Mon State Chess Subcommittee and Mawlamyine Chess Club jointly organized the second International and Myanmar Traditional Chess Tournament at MCA Hall of the Chess Club on Strand Road in Mawlamyine on 12 February.

The tournament lasted four days from 9 to 12 February. The tournament was categorized as men's open (international), junior U-18 event and women's Myanmar traditional chess open events.

On behalf of the Chairman of Mon State

Chess Subcommittee, Chairman of the Club U Aung Myaing, Vice-Chairman Dr Than Lwin, Secretary U Min Lwin and executive awarded Ma Nyein July Moe who stood first in the international chess junior event, Maung Aung Min Khant who secured the first position in the Myanmar traditional chess contest and other winners.

It was learnt that the chess club will hold one more chess contest in honour of the 67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March.—Myanma Alin

Best opportunity for golf enthusiasts to attend training course on 27 February

YANGON, 26 Feb—HAN Golf Masters Academy will open the basic golf training course on 27 February at Myanmar Golf Training Range on Kyaukyedwin Road in Mayangon Township.

Experienced coaches U

Chan Han and U Ko Ko Lay and assistant coaches from HAN Golf Masters Academy will provide systematic lecture and training to the trainees.

The training course will last 10 days.

Those enthusiasts

wishing to attend the golf training course may enlist at the training range, not later than 26 February.

For further information, golf enthusiasts may dial 01-651797, 651374 and 09-2037671 of the training range.—Kyemon

LOCAL SPORTS

YANGON, 26 Feb—The Brunei King's Cup Football Tournament

2012 will be organized by Brunei Football Federation from 24 February to 9 March.

The Myanmar selected youth football team is under training at the camp beginning 21 February. Despite starting training term on 17 January,

the Myanmar youth team took exercise once a week due to playing the Myanmar National League matches. As preparations for the cup, Myanmar youth team played tune-up matches with Ulsan University team. After coming out one win and one draw results, the final 18 caps were selected for Myanmar selected youth team. At present, the team is under training of Korean Chief Coach.

In the cup, Myanmar is included in the group together with Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippine and Laos. The group (B) comprises Vietnam, Malaysia, Timor, Cambodia and host Brunei. Myanmar will play against the Philippines in the debut on 24 February.

The Myanmar youth team is constituted

Myanmar youth team under training to compete in Brunei King's Cup



with Manager U Soe Moe, Chief Coach Pak Seong Hua, Assistant Coaches U Tin Myint Aung, U Aung Aung Tun and Mr Mahay John, Goal Coach U Myo Chit, goalkeeper Pyae Phyo Aung (Southern), Myo Min Latt (Zeya Shwemyay), defenders Yan Aung Win (Yangon), Ye Zaw Htet Aung (Yadanabon), Nyi Nyi Aung (Hanthawady), Zaw Min Tun, Nanda Kyaw (Magway), midfielders Thein Than Win, Kyaw Zeya Win (Kanbawza), Naing Lin Oo (Ayeayawady), Zaw Lin, Pyae Phyo Oo (Nay Pyi Taw), Kyi Lin, David Dun (Yangon), forwards Kyaw Ko Ko (Zeya Shwemyay), Mai Aik Naing (Kanbawza), Thet Naing (Yadanabon) and Kaung Sithu (Yangon).

Po Thaw Zin

Tennis Course for Basic and Intermediate Level wraps up

YANGON, 26 Feb—The Tennis Course for Basic and Intermediate Level concluded at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 17 February.

On behalf of the President of Myanmar Tennis Federation, General Secretary U Lay Naing spoke on the occasion, saying that the coaches must have

capability to train the new generation tennis players to understand basic tennis techniques, and the trainers must be keen to study the tennis techniques.

He continued to say that if the trainee has lack of basic technique in tennis event, the player will not achieve success in the competition and will not be chosen as selected player.

Those who take perfect exercises with basic technique and skills will bring honour to the State, he said.

That is why he said that the tennis coaches who completed in the training course are to turn out new generation tennis players who will bring victory to the State.

Next, Chief Coach of Myanmar Tennis Federation Mr Robert David also spoke on the occasion and explained facts about techniques of tennis event.

Later, U Maung Maung Lay (JTI Coordinator) and executive U Tin Htoo from Myanmar Tennis Federation presented completion certificates to the trainees individually.

MNA



The concluding ceremony of Tennis Course for Basic and Intermediate Level in progress.

Htamane Making Contest held

PATHEIN, 23 Feb—At the Buddha Pujaniya of Aung Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in Yekyi of Pathein District, wellwishers U Zaw Win-Daw San San Aye and family held the Myanmar traditional Htamane processing contest on 7 February.

Contestants from 15 village-tracts actively participated in the contest.

After serving Htamane to the people, prizes were presented to respective winners in the contest.

Min Zaw Oo (Pyay)



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World's first quadruple limb transplant operation over in Turkey

ANKARA, 26 Feb—The world's first quadruple limb transplant operation came to an end on Saturday at Hacettepe University in Turkey's capital Ankara, the country's semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. The operation, which began on Friday morning, transplanted two arms and two legs of a deceased donor to a patient, Dr Murat Tuncer was quoted as saying.

"The quadruple limb transplant is over and the patient is given a blood and plasma transfusion to help him overcome the next 24 hours," Dr Murat Tuncer said, adding that the quadruple limb transplant at the Ankara hospital follows other such

major transplants in Turkey, with a successful full face transplant at the Mediterranean University Hospital last month.

Also in January this year, the world's first triple limb transplant trial with two arms and a leg failed at the Mediterranean University Hospital in Turkey as the doctors had to remove the leg due to tissue incompatibility, said the report.—Xinhua



Zaandam, a luxury cruise ship owned by Holland America, arrives at the Tianjin International Cruise Home Port in Tianjin, north China, on 25 Feb, 2012. A total of 1,100 passengers and 646 ship crew boarding Zaandam arrived in Tianjin from Hong Kong on Saturday morning.—XINHUA

Romney backers warned of long fight



Mitt Romney

LANSING, 26 Feb—Mitt Romney campaigned hard Saturday in Michigan, focusing on both President Obama and his leading Republican challenger, Rick Santorum.

Tuesday's Michigan primary is an important one for Romney, who was born in the state. But his staff warned financial contributors that even if Romney wins Michigan on Tuesday, the fight for the

nomination may continue for weeks, *The New York Times* reported.

Speaking to Ingham County Republicans at a Lincoln Day breakfast in Lansing, Romney barely mentioned Santorum, *The Detroit News* reported. Instead, the former Massachusetts governor promised to be a tax-cutter.

"I'm going to do it by getting us more good jobs, by getting us less debt and by getting government a heck of a lot smaller and freeing the American people to pursue their dreams," Romney said.

It was a different story in Troy, where both Santorum and Romney

addressed Americans for Prosperity. Santorum attacked Romney, and Romney returned the favor a couple of hours later, calling the former Pennsylvania senator a Washington insider, the *Times* said.

Romney went after Santorum's support of former US Sen. Arlen Specter, a moderate Republican who later switched to the Democratic Party.

"This taking one for the team, that's business as usual in Washington," Romney said. "We have to have principled, conservative leadership, and I have demonstrated that through my life."

Internet

Pirate attack foiled by Iranian Navy

TEHERAN, 26 Feb—Iranian naval forces foiled a pirate attack on an oil tanker Saturday near the Gulf of Aden, officials say. Six Somali pirate speedboats attacked the oil tanker 35 miles north of the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. A swift retaliation by naval forces caused pirates to flee the scene, Iran's *Fars News Agency* reported. Since November 2008, the Iranian navy has conducted patrols in the Gulf of Aden on the lookout for pirates, after the cargo ship *MV Delight* was hijacked off the coast of Yemen.—Internet



Cold front to sweep south China

BEIJING, 26 Feb—A cold front will hit China's southern regions over the coming three days, dragging down temperatures, meteorological authorities said on Sunday.

The cold front will drop temperatures by three to six degrees Celsius in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River and regions south of the river from 26 to 28 February, according to the National Meteorological Centre.

Meanwhile, cloudy and rainy weather will continue to affect regions along the Yangtze and Huai rivers during the period, the center said.

Parts of Guizhou Province in southwest China will see icy rains, it added.

The centre also forecast light and moderate snow in parts of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, eastern parts of northwest China, central and northern parts of northeast China, as well as northern parts of north China during the same period.

Heavy snow will sweep eastern parts of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau during the period, the centre noted.—Xinhua

Nelson Mandela likely to leave hospital by Monday



The media gathers near one of the hospital in Pretoria where South Africa's former president Nelson Mandela is said to be hospitalized. INTERNET

BEIJING, 26 Feb—Former South African President Nelson Mandela is in stable condition and comfortable at a hospital after undergoing a "diagnostic procedure" for abdominal pain on Saturday. He is expected to be discharged by Monday.

A family member of Mandela's says he is doing fine after hernia surgery. Mandela was admitted to hospital for treatment for a "long-standing abdominal complaint".

Known to be in frail condition, Mandela spent several days at Johannesburg's Milpark Hospital just over a year ago with respiratory problems. He became South Africa's first black president in 1994, after spending 27 years in prison for his fight against the nation's racist apartheid rule. Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.—Xinhua

Indian Air Force officials collect samples near the wreckage of a Mirage fighter near Bhind, around 502 kms away from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India, on 24 Feb, 2012. An Indian Air Force Mirage fighter crashed on Friday in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, but its pilot ejected to safety, said local TV channel Times Now.—XINHUA

Woman on trial for \$2 pumpkin theft

The sister of a New Mexico woman charged with the theft of a \$2 pumpkin said the incident was accidental.

Annette Atencio said her sister, Lauren Medina, 23, is headed to trial for the October 2011 incident at McCall's Pumpkin Patch in Moriarty, KOAT-TV, Albuquerque, reported on Monday.

"I'm in disbelief — the more I talk about it, the angrier I get," Atencio said.

Atencio said Medina spent \$75 on food at the pumpkin patch and was approached by police when she picked up a small pumpkin, worth \$2, on her way out of the patch.

"(Medina) said, 'Oh my god, I'm so sorry. Can I pay for them?' (They said), 'Nope,' and she was handcuffed immediately — end of story, no ifs or buts," Atencio said. Medina refused to plead guilty to the theft charge.

"(Medina) is a college student, and she's never been in trouble and never been arrested," Atencio said.

Olney wins annual pancake competition

Kaela Krueger led a field of 15 runners for the Liberal, Kan, leg of the 63rd annual pancake race marking Shrove, organizers said.

Krueger, 19, ran the 415-yard course in 68.6 seconds, taking a full 10 seconds longer

than the winning runner in Olney, England, against whom Liberal has been competing for decades. *The Northampton Chronicle & Echo* reported Devon Byrne, 18, set a record pace, covering the distance in Olney in 58.5

seconds and besting 22 competitors to win the international title.

"It's crazy here today," JoAnn Combs, one of the Liberal race's organizers, told UPI.

Patty Rutledge came in



Chandra Bahadur Dangi, a Nepali who claims to be the world's shortest man holds his citizenship card in Dang district in Nepal's Kathmandu. Dangi is preparing on Sunday to be measured by Guinness World Records experts investigating his claim to be the shortest man ever recorded.

NewsAlbum

second and Leslie Spikes, third. Though they didn't twin, members of Amanda Schwab's family set a record of their own. Schwab and her four daughters competed, the first time five members of a single family have taken part.

Whitney Houston's grave site 'protected by armed guards'

NEW YORK, 26 Feb — Whitney Houston's burial site is now reportedly being protected by armed guards amidst fears that grave robbers would be after her jewellery and gold-lined coffin.

The singer, who died in her LA hotel on 11 February, was draped in a purple gown wearing a diamond brooch and earrings and a pair of glittering gold slippers.

The gold casket and jewels have set off alarms that grave robbers may want to steal the booty.

"There is a very genuine fear that her coffin will be targeted by grave robbers," the *New York Post* quoted a source as telling Britain's *Daily Star*. "It would be hard for them to actually dig her



Whitney Houston

casket up, but that won't stop psychotic fans or people who think it could make them money," the source added.

Houston was buried on Sunday in a private ceremony at the Fairview Cemetery in Westfield, New Jersey. —*Internet*

Brad Pitt - Angelina Jolie's reception hall in French home sparks wedding rumours

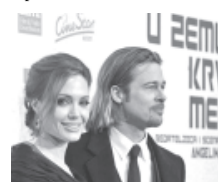
LONDON, 26 Feb — Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are reportedly building a huge reception hall behind the chapel on their French estate, igniting rumours that the pair are ready to marry.

They had made a pact that they would not get hitched until gay marriage was legalized in the United States.

But Pitt, 48, has since admitted that his children are begging him to buy their mother an engagement ring.

Now it seems the 'Moneyball' star may have given in, and the pair could be

set to finally tie the knot later this year. Aerial images of the construction site show a large white building being erected next to the quaint chapel, which is part of their Provence chateau, the *Daily Mail* reported.



Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

According to reports, builders are working hard to have the venue ready for September.

The couple are also believed to have visited the site to check on progress over the weekend.

They were already in France to attend the Paris premiere of Jolie's directorial debut 'In the Land of Blood and Honey' on 16 February.

The pair purchased the Miraval property but are yet to move in as the sprawling estate has undergone a series of renovations. —*Internet*



Lady Gaga

Lady Gaga 'scolded' by dad for flipping middle finger at photographers

WASHINGTON, 26 Feb — Lady Gaga has revealed that her father, Joseph Germanotta, scolded her for making a rude gesture at a baseball match after she stuck her middle finger up at photographers. The 25-year-old singer was watching the New York Mets in 2010 when the incident took place. "It was the first time in nearly two years that I was scolded by my father — partly for misbehaving in public and partly for attending a Mets game," Contactmusic quoted her as writing in a sports-themed issue of *V* magazine.

"But that's the beauty of baseball, isn't it? I was able to drown myself in so much whisky, beer and Italian sausage that after two years of touring the world I: (A) completely forgot that I was famous, (B) was completely wasted indeed, wearing my costume from the Telephone video and (C) am still confused how the paparazzi spotted me. What a lady," she added. —*Internet*

Meryl Streep wants Viola Davis to win Oscar

LONDON, 26 Feb — Actress Meryl Streep, who has been nominated in the best actress category for the Oscars, says she wants her friend Viola Davis to win the prestigious trophy.

"Yes, oh yes. I love her and think she's amazing. She deserves and should be at the forefront of our business. She's a friend and we've

worked together and I'm really fond of her. So we want the best for our friends. Honestly," thesun.co.uk quoted her as saying. While Streep is nominated for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady", Davis has been nominated for her role in "The Help". Streep and Davis have previously appeared together in 2008 film "Doubt". —*Internet*



Actress Meryl Streep

Michelle Williams named 'honourary Irishwoman'

WASHINGTON, 26 Feb — Michelle Williams has become the first "honourary Irishwoman" to win an Oscar Wilde award for her role in 'My Week With Marilyn'.

The ceremony



Michelle Williams

celebrates Irish cinema talent but one doesn't necessarily have to hail from the country to receive an award.

Not being born in Ireland is no barrier to accepting an award as, in previous years, the organization has honoured stars such as Paul Rudd and James L. Brooks who have no Irish connections.

'Hugo' screenwriter John Logan presented Williams with her award and acknowledged that while she was not Irish, she had the qualities that made a person Irish.

"An incandescent twinkle in the eye, the love of mad poetry and, more than anything, a generosity of spirit," Contactmusic quoted Logan as telling Moviecitynews.

Williams said she was "honoured" to receive the prize. "I consider it from a land and from a people who are known for poetry, for literature and lore, for myth and legend and in a business that's ultimately about storytelling, I'm honoured to be acknowledged by the original storytellers," Williams said.

Internet

Oprah Winfrey lists NYC pad for \$7.9m

WASHINGTON, 26 Feb — After having given up her talk show last year, Oprah Winfrey is apparently unloading some prime real estate as well. According to Zillow, the 58-year-old TV personality is parting with the posh Manhattan penthouse apartment she purchased in 2008 for 7.1 million dollars, which is now in the market for 7.9 million dollars.

Winfrey's BFF Gayle King once reportedly lived in the 2,530-square-foot property, at Midtown Manhattan's Place 57, which features three bedrooms, three-and-a-half bathrooms and is surrounded by floor-to-ceiling glass windows, *Us* magazine reported.

The pad also has a wrap-around terrace with breathtaking city views.

The 36th floor spread has 12-foot high ceilings and a "triangle-shaped" living room, a "state-of-the-art" kitchen and a high-end dining area. The master suite features three walk-in closets and a spa-style tub. —*Internet*



Oprah Winfrey

Giggs salvages United win as Arsenal thump Spurs



Manchester United's Ryan Giggs (C) celebrates after scoring during their English Premier League soccer match against Norwich City at Carrow Road in Norwich, England, 26 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

LONDON, 26 Feb—Ryan Giggs enjoyed a dream 900th appearance by scoring a late winner in Manchester United's 2-1 win at Norwich City while Arsenal came from behind to thump Tottenham Hotspur 5-2 in the Premier League on Sunday.

United went ahead with a seventh minute header from Paul Scholes but Grant Holt levelled seven minutes from time before Giggs had the last laugh to keep the champions two points behind leaders Manchester City, who beat Blackburn Rovers on Saturday.

Spurs are third on 53 points but endured a miserable day in the North London derby after taking a 2-0 lead at their arch-rivals with a fourth minute goal from Louis Saha and a 34th minute penalty from ex-Arsenal striker Emmanuel Adebayor.

Arsenal were level by halftime thanks to goals from Bacary Sagna and Robin van Persie before adding three more in the second half with Theo Walcott scoring twice and Tomas Rosicky grabbing the other.

Arsenal - whose comeback came before Scott Parker's late red card for Spurs - ended the day in fourth place on 46 points, above Chelsea having scored more goals.

Internet

Hoarau rescues PSG in eight-goal thriller

LYON, 26 Feb—A 94th-minute equaliser by Guillaume Hoarau saw Paris Saint-Germain claim a stunning 4-4 draw against Lyon after an incredible match at Stade Gerland on Saturday night. After falling behind in the first half, Lyon rallied to lead 3-1 and then 4-2, only for Carlo Ancelotti's side to roar back and prevent themselves sliding to a fourth defeat of the season.

PSG nonetheless slipped to second place in Ligue 1, after Montpellier went top with victory over Bordeaux earlier in the day. "We've got mixed feelings, because we can't afford to concede goals like that," Hoarau told Orange Sport. "It's a good point, but we have to do much better. We had a cushion (in the standings), and now we

don't."

"It was nice to score. But now we'll see who the men are. We can't give anything up. The road is still long." Hoarau's last-gasp goal was a sucker-punch for Remi Garde's Lyon, who now lie five points behind third-

placed Lille—having played a game more—in the battle for Champions League qualification. Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas directed his ire at referee Fredy Fautrel, accusing him of "incompetence".

Internet



Paris' French forward Guillaume Hoarau (Top R) is congratulated by teammates after scoring during the French L1 football match Olympique Lyonnais vs Paris Saint-Germain at the Gerland stadium in Lyon, southeastern France.—INTERNET



Levante's Uruguayan goalkeeper Gustavo Adolfo Munua Vera celebrates his team's victory over Espanyol at the Cornella-El Prat stadium in Cornella.

INTERNET

Levante beat Espanyol in crucial Euro boost

CORNELLA, 26 Feb — Marco Ruben grabbed a last-minute winner to earn Levante a 2-1 win at Espanyol on Saturday to boost their hopes of a place in the Champions League. The win puts the team from Valencia back into fourth position on 35 points. Former Espanyol player Valdo was the quickest to react to a loose ball to finish well on 24 minutes and give Levante the lead.

In the second-half, Espanyol pressed for the leveller with Slovakian winger Vladimir Weiss, on loan from Manchester City, looking particularly dangerous. However it was Arouna Kone who nearly doubled the lead for Levante on 68 minutes only to be denied by a fine save by Francisco Casilla. Six minutes later substitute Kalu

Uche leapt highest to head in a Joan Verdu floated free-kick, after Weiss had been fouled on the right wing, to level the game. At 1-1, Espanyol looked the likely winner and Uche shot just wide with six minutes remaining.

However, Ruben struck a last minute free-kick that took a slight deflection to take the three points for Levante. It was the first win in nine league games for a Levante side who started the campaign brightly and briefly challenged Real Madrid and Barcelona at the top of the table. Malaga came from behind to beat bottom club Real Zaragoza 5-1, for whom Carlos Aranda grabbed an early lead, to move into fifth place, one point behind Levante.

Internet

Errani breezes into Monterrey semifinals

MONTERREY, 26 Feb — Sara Errani breezed into the semifinals of the Monterrey Open with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Luxembourg's Mandy Minella on Friday.

The second-seeded Italian has lost only 12 games across three matches at the tournament, and progressed to a semifinal against Hungary's Tímea Babos. Babos beat Austria's Patricia Mayr-Achleitner 6-4, 6-2.

Another Hungarian, Greta Arn, also moved into the semifinals with a 6-1, 7-6(6) win over Russia's Nina Bratchikova. The sixth-seeded Arn will next face Romanian Alexandra Cadantu, who routed Spain's Lourdes Dominguez-Lino 6-2, 6-0.—Internet

International Sports

Nathan Cleverly holds on to world crown against Tommy Karpency

CARDIFF, 26 Feb — Wales' Nathan Cleverly retained his WBO light-heavyweight title against difficult American opponent Tommy Karpency in Cardiff. Karpency took Cleverly the distance, but the judges' decision was unanimous. "He was tough," said Cleverly, who remains Britain's only world champion following recent defeats suffered by David Haye, Amir Khan and Carl Froch. "Out of every fighter I've fought, he's punched the hardest so far. And I've fought some big punchers."

Cleverly, who achieved



Wales' Nathan Cleverly retained his WBO light-heavyweight title against difficult American opponent Tommy Karpency in Cardiff.—INTERNET

his aim of joining the Triple Crown-winning Welsh rugby team in securing success on the international stage, added: "It was a nice performance and there's plenty more to

come from me. I started off not too careless or reckless, and I thought he was wilting. But he relaxed on the back foot and didn't waste energy. The most important thing

was returning home as world champion. My last 11 fights have been on the road. It was an electric atmosphere and I absolutely loved it. I hope the fans enjoyed it." Cleverly wanted to put Welsh boxing back on the map in his third defence—his first fight on home turf in almost four years. It was also the first world title bout in Wales since Joe Calzaghe beat Mikkel Kessler in 2007. Karpency, 26, achieved his early aim at the Motorpoint Arena by largely silencing Cleverly's fans, beginning with a venom that belied his pre-fight status as underdog.—Internet

McIlroy, Westwood to face off in Match Play

MARANA, 26 Feb — Rory McIlroy was walking down the stairs toward the driving range when he passed Lee Westwood and gave him the same message he had delivered earlier Saturday in the Match Play Championship. "See you in the morning," McIlroy said with a big smile. "Just like I told you." In 14 years of this fickle tournament, there has never been a semifinal match so compelling.

McIlroy had another surge on the back nine to put



Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy tees off on the 14th hole while playing South Korea's Bae Sang-moon during the Match Play Championship golf tournament, on 25 Feb, 2012, in Marana, Ariz.

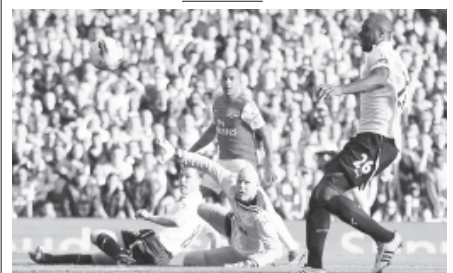
INTERNET

away Bae Sang-moon, 3 and 2. Moments later, Westwood finished off Martin Laird by the same margin, setting up a Sunday showdown with more at stake than just a spot in the championship match. If either McIlroy or Westwood goes on to win the Match Play Championship, they would go to No 1 in the world.

"I think with both of us being up there in the world, and both of us with the possibility of going to No 1, it gives the match definitely an extra little bit of spice," McIlroy said. The duel was not lacking spice in the first place. They were stablemates at International Sports Management until some testy exchanges last year. Shortly after McIlroy shot 80 in the final round of the Masters to blow a four-shot lead, Westwood got under his skin by saying the 22-year-old from Northern Ireland "has a pull hook in his bag under pressure."—Internet

Arsenal stun Tottenham in seven-goal derby

LONDON, 26 Feb—Theo Walcott struck twice as Arsenal staged a remarkable comeback to beat north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur 5-2 and reclaim a place in the top four while delivering a huge blow to their near neighbours' fast fading title hopes. Trailing to an early Louis Saha goal and an Emmanuel Adebayor penalty, Arsenal appeared to be heading for a third successive defeat. But the home side responded superbly, drawing back level thanks to goals from Bacary Sagna and Robin van Persie immediately before the break before Tomas Rosicky and Walcott secured victory in the second half. The victory provided a welcome boost to Arsenal and their under-fire manager Arsene Wenger following the FA Cup exit at the hands of Sunderland and the humiliating 4-0 Champions League defeat to AC Milan.—Internet



Arsenal's Theo Walcott (centre) scores his first goal during an English Premier League football match against Tottenham Hotspur at the Emirates Stadium in London.—INTERNET

Cardiff pay penalty as Liverpool end trophy wait

LONDON, 26 Feb—Liverpool ended their six-year trophy drought Sunday after winning a penalty shoot-out victory over Championship side Cardiff in the League Cup final at Wembley.

The Merseysiders just about held their nerve in an error-strewn penalty decider, prevailing 3-2 after the two sides had finished locked at 2-2 after a thrilling period of extra-time.

The Premier League club's shoot-out victory was clinched when Cardiff substitute Anthony Gerrard — cousin of Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard — shot wide with Cardiff's fifth and final spot-kick.

The Cardiff player's miss came after Liverpool had seen Steven Gerrard's opening spot-kick saved and Charlie Adam's second blazed over the bar. But Cardiff misses from Kenny Miller, Rudy Gesteira and finally Gerrard proved decisive for the brave Welsh club from the second tier of English football.

The win was Liverpool's first trophy since their FA Cup triumph in 2006, and the first since Kop legend Kenny



Steven Gerrard of Liverpool lifts the trophy in victory after the Carling Cup Final match between Liverpool and Cardiff City at Wembley Stadium on February 26, 2012 in London, England. Liverpool won 3-2 on penalties.—INTERNET

Dalglis returned as manager last year.

The match had gone to penalties after a dramatic period of extra-time which saw Cardiff snatch a 2-2 draw with a leveller from centre-half Ben Turner with just two minutes remaining.—Internet

Goal that never was could decide Serie A title

MILAN, 26 Feb — This season's Serie A title race could ultimately be decided by the goal that never was during Saturday's top-of-the-table clash between AC Milan and Juventus. AC Milan's Sulley Muntari was already celebrating after heading the ball over the line, oblivious to the fact that officials had waved play on even though replays showed the ball was a good metre inside the goal. Had the goal counted, AC Milan would have gone 2-0 ahead at a point where they were dominating the game and there might well have been no way back for a ragged Juventus.

Instead, Juve regrouped to force a 1-1 draw and in doing so provided another boost for the case in favour of goal-line technology, currently being tested by soccer's governing body FIFA. Juventus stayed one point behind Serie A leaders Milan with a game in hand, whereas a defeat would have left them four points adrift with the psychological blow of having lost their unbeaten record this season. AC Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri was typically philosophical about the incident.

"The best thing would be not to talk and to stay quiet, divine justice can punish everyone for what they say," he said. "If it had been 2-0, the game would have been well under control especially as we were on top. "Maybe they painted the goal line took thick," he added. Players from both sides agreed that the ball was in, including Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon. "I wasn't aware at the time of my position or of Muntari's shot. Afterwards, I saw in the pictures that the ball had gone in," he said.

"But I must be frank and say that if I had realised, I would not have helped the referee." Juventus also pointed out that they had a goal harshly disallowed just before their equaliser. "There were refereeing mistakes today, one for their goal when the ball went in, and then when we had a goal disallowed for offside," said coach Antonio Conte.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-2-12 09:30 am ~

28-2-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

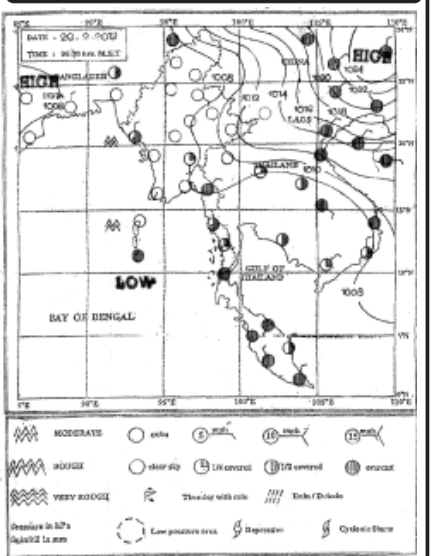
- * News
- * Business Briefing & Meeting Between Myanmar and Thailand
- * News
- * Song On Screen "The Mystery of Snow"
- * News
- * Myanmar - Thai Business Forum
- * News
- * Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Kayin)
- * News
- * Memorable from Trip of Delegates from GMS Tourism Meeting in Bagan (Part-I)
- * News
- * Beautiful Sunrise in Mrauk U
- * News
- * Young Champions of this Generation
- * News
- * The Heart Love Influenced (U Hla Tun Cancer Foundation)
- * Myanmar Movies "Dancer and Drummer"

MYANMAR TV

(27-2-2012) (Monday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:50 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
- 4. Health Programme
- 8:15 am
- 5. Song Of National Races
- 8:45 am
- 6. Musical Programme
- 3:15 pm
- 7. BEC- Tero Sasana & Yangon United Club (Myanmar National League) (Live)
- 5:20 pm
- 8. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 5:30 pm
- 9. 2012 University Entrance Examination (History)
- 6:20 pm
- 10. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:55 pm
- 11. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 12. News
- 13. World's Star
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 15. India Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 27th February, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		Forecast	
		Maximum	Minimum		Percent
1	Kachin	32/90	15/59	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60(%)
2	Kayah	34/93	13/55	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	39/102	17/63	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	24/75	12/54	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	33/91	15/59	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	39/102	17/63	Generally fair weather	
7	Tanintharyi	36/97	21/70	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60(%)
8	Bago	38/100	20/68	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	39/102	17/63	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	38/100	16/61	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	38/100	20/68	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	38/100	20/68	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	36/97	17/63	Generally fair weather	
14	Southern Shan	31/88	13/55	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	33/91	07/45	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	34/93	12/54	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	38/100	21/70	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	39/102	18/64	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	38/100	20/68	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	38/100	16/61	Generally fair weather	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Tanintharyi Region, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (5°C) below February average temperatures in Kayin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Kachin, Chin and Mon States and about February average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Nantshan (4°C), Heho (5°C), Lashio and Pansong (6°C) each.

Bay

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

State of the Sea

Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days

Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

AIG profit boosted by tax benefit

NEW YORK, 26 Feb — Insurance giant AIG has reported a big increase in fourth-quarter profit, due to a \$17.7bn (£11.2bn) tax benefit. Net profit for the quarter rose to \$19.8bn from \$11.2bn a year earlier. An accounting determination that the firm is likely to post future profits allowed it to

release a "deferred income tax valuation allowance". In effect it means it will not pay tax on billions of dollars of future income thanks to benefits stemming from losses during the financial crisis. AIG needed a government bailout in 2008 and is still majority-owned by the US government.



AIG's chief executive said the company began to prosper again in 2011.—INTERNET

AIG's aircraft leasing division returned to profit in the fourth quarter, while the value of its stake in Asian insurer AIA increased. Its global insurance arm Chartis also swung to a profit despite catastrophe losses related to the Thailand floods last year. Shares in AIG rose more than 6% in after-market trading in New York.

"Two years ago, sceptics — and even some supporters — thought it inconceivable that we would be in a position to post our second consecutive annual profit," said Robert Benmosche, AIG president and chief executive. "In 2011, we began to prosper once again.

Internet

Ronaldo's magical backheel gives Real victory

MADRID, 26 Feb—Cristiano Ronaldo scored a wonderful, backheeled goal to give Real Madrid a 1-0 win over neighbours Rayo Vallecano on Sunday to extend their lead to 13 points over Barcelona at the top of La Liga. The second half was eight minutes old when the Rayo defence failed to clear a corner at the first attempt.

Portuguese superstar Ronaldo, facing away from the goal, then backheeled the ball so powerfully from 15 yards out that it evaded at least four Rayo defenders on its way into the left hand corner of the net.

It was his 29th league goal of the season. Barcelona can cut Real's lead back to 10 points later Sunday when they travel to Atletico Madrid.

Madrid coach Jose Mourinho admitted his team were fortunate to escape with victory.

"They had three good chances and



Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (L) vies for the ball with Rayo Vallecano's defender Tito (R) during the Spanish league football match Rayo Vallecano against Real Madrid at the Vallecans stadium in Madrid.

INTERNET

deserved to get something from the game," he said "I think that is our most difficult win so far this season. We adapted to a difficult pitch, my players gave everything and I'm very happy with result. Rayo did not deserve to lose and I hope they have a great end to the season."—Internet

Arrangements are necessary for the leaders of the two countries so as to further strengthen the bilateral ties

Thura U Shwe Mann

The move towards comprehensive strategic partnership between the two nations was indeed turning a new chapter

Mr Wu Bangguo

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thura U Shwe Mann called on Chairman of National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Wu Bangguo at the Xin Jiang room of the People's Hall in Beijing at 5 pm on 24 February.

Also present on the occasion together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs and Internal Peace Making Committee U Thein Zaw, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Social Development Committee U Maung Maung Swe, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Water Transport Committee U Kyi Min, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw U Hsan Hsint, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Reform and Development Scrutiny Committee Dr Maung Maung Wint, member of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Affairs Management Committee Col Htay Naing, Myanmar Ambassador to the PRC U Tin Oo and officials of Pyithu Hluttaw.

The NPC Chairman was accompanied by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Zhang Zhijun, Secretary of Central Committee of

Communist Party of China Mr Deng Sheng Ming, Deputy Secretary-General of NPC Mr Cao Wei Zhou, Director-General of NPC Foreign Relations Department Mr Hu Xiaoli, Director-General of Asia Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Luo Zhao Hui and high-ranking officials.

At the meeting, Mr Wu Bangguo said it is believed that Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann has many good friends as the latter had made frequent visit to PRC, that it is lean that His Excellency met with Chairman of Chinese Political Consultative Conference Mr Jia Qinglin and Chief of Staff General Chen Bingde of People's Liberation Army of China yesterday, and member of Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Mr Li Yuanchao and Vice Chairman of NPC Mr Lu Yongxiang this morning.

Mr Wu Bangguo praised Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann for his brilliant efforts for development of Myanmar-China relations and expressed his belief that the current trip would bring about more mutual understanding as well as would serve as an impetus for cooperation between the two parliaments of Myanmar and China.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker for his part expressed his pleasure to have met with the NPC Chairman, saying that



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Chairman of National People's Congress of PRC Mr Wu Bangguo.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is now in session in Myanmar in which matters on future economic plans, division of budgets are being discussed. Attaching great importance to the invitation of the NPC Chairman, he was in PRC for strengthening friendly ties between the two parliaments although the Hluttaw session in Myanmar is an crucial one.

He expressed his thanks for being extended a warm welcome by officials on arrival at Kuming, saying that he held a cordial discussion with Mr Jia Qinglin on cooperation matters, and also held a frank discussion with the commander-in-chief of the People's Liberation Army. He said that he discussed about party affairs with
(See page 9)

Union-level peace-making group and NMSP ink initial peace deal

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Feb—As the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar offered the olive branch and New Mon State Party (NMSP) requested to engage in dialogue, Union-level Peace-making Group comprised of Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Electric Power No (1) U Zaw Min, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun and Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint arrived at Strand Hotel of Mawlamyine in Mon State on 24 February to sign

an initial peace agreement and firstly negotiated with NMSP peace-making group led by U Nai Rawsa.

Mon State Economic Development Meeting held at Strand Hotel in Mawlamyine was attended by the Union ministers, the Mon State chief minister, NMSP peace-making group led by U Nai Rawsa, departmental personnel, entrepreneurs and scholars. The chief minister and the Union ministers discussed development of the state and answered queries by the entrepreneurs.

A dinner was hosted to the NMSP delegation for eternal

peace where Mon State cultural troupe performed Mon, Kayin and PaO traditional dances. Union Ministers U Soe Thein and U Aung Min, on behalf of the President, presented 20 Sky Net receivers, gifted by the President as a gift for eternal peace, to Vice-Chairman U Nai Rawsa of NMSP peace-making group. The chief minister presented 10 Sky Net receivers and flower bouquet to CEC member of NMSP U Nai Talanyi and K 20 million to the fund of the party through the NMSP vice-chairman.

A ceremony to sign initial peace agreement held at the same venue yesterday was attended by Union-level Peace-making Group comprised of Union Minister U Aung Min, Union Minister U Soe Thein, Union Minister U Zaw Min, Union Minister U Win Tun and State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Mon State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Htay Myint Aung, the general staff officer (Grade I) from Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the general staff officer (Grade I) (militia) of South-East Command, Mon State advocate-general and officials, NMSP peace-making group led by Vice-Chairman U Nai Rawsa and peace negotiators of both sides.

The five-fact state-level initial peace agreement reached by five-member State-level peace-making group led by Col Htay Myint Aung and five-member NMSP peace-making group led by NMSP CEC member U Nai Talanyi on 1 February was approved and signed in the presence of Union Ministers U Aung Min, U Soe Thein, U Zaw Min and U Win Tun and State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint from Union-level peace-making group.

(See page 10)



Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min from Union-level peace-making group and U Nai Rawsa from NMSP peace-making group exchange four-point agreement.—MNA