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True patriotism

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

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

President U Thein Sein receives French Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs



President U Thein Sein receives French Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Mr Alain Juppe at the Credentials Hall of President Residence.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by French Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Mr Alain Juppe at the Credentials Hall of the President Residence here at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call together with President U

Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and departmental heads.

The French Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs was accompanied by French Ambassador to

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Thierry Mathou.

They had a cordial discussion on political development in Myanmar, cooperation with the international community and cooperation between the two countries on a mutually beneficial basis.

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin participate in Naga New Year Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attended the Naga Traditional New Year Festival in Leshi of Naga Self-Administered Zone in Sagaing Region yesterday.

Union Ministers, Sagaing Region Chief Minister and wife, the commander of North-West Command, deputy ministers, region ministers, representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region Hluttaw of Sagaing Region, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, departmental officials, traditional cultural reps and traditional dance troupes of Naga Region, locals, and

tourists participated in the festival as well.

Naga national damsels and chieftains extended warm welcome to the Vice-President and his wife on their arrival at the festival ground. The New Year festival was opened at 9 am with salute to the State Flag.

(See page 8)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo presents cash assistance for Naga New Year Festival 2012 and fund for annual celebration of Naga New Year Festival.—MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 17 January, 2012

Smokeless industry

Myanmar stood third place in choosing the best tourist destinations of the world for 2012, CNN broadcast on 28 December last year. Myanmar Tourism Association has also estimated that the year 2012 will see some 500,000 tourists as the number is likely to increase by 20 percent compared with the previous year.

Tourism is such a lucrative business for a country that it is known as smokeless industry. Unlike in the previous eras, today's Myanmar has seen more progress in the tourism industry due to its significant political changes, State peace and stability, places of interest, the hospitality, culture and customs of the people.

For the emergence of a good smokeless industry in Myanmar, the government is taking all necessary measures for the convenience of tourists such as entry, transport, hotel standard, interest point, mobile phone services, taxi, border pass, package tour and tourism agency.

To attract more tourists, however, we have to do more for continued development of the nation's tourism. We need to take measures to prevent the historic sites and buildings from being spoilt, address tourism-related problems and consider any points to take lesson.

As a guest will come to us only when we show him our hospitality, we need to try our best in our respective fields to provide tourists good services. Surely, tourists will come en masse to Myanmar as they have seen remarkable changes and developments in the country.

Although about 500,000 tourists are estimated to visit Myanmar this year, the number is nothing compared with the neighbours - 14 million in Thailand, 4 million in Vietnam and 2 million each in Cambodia and Laos.

Anyhow, Myanmar will become a country of smokeless industry that appeals to more tourists than its neighbours as the international community has paid more attention to our country due to marked changes and development.

GSM extension project taking shape in Mon State

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—As part of 30-million GSM mobile phones extension project, mobile communication infrastructure has been built in Mon State. Assistant General Manager U Moe Hsaung of Work and Inspection Department under Myanma Posts and Telecommunications inspected the work in progress in Mudon, Theinbyuzayat and Mawlamyine townships on 14 and 15 January.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker receives French Minister



Appointment of ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Zin Yaw, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint received French Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Mr Alain Juppe and party at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, Amyotha Hluttaw committee chairmen, officials of the Hluttaw Office and French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry Mathou.

Both sides discussed promotion of friendly ties between the two countries, parliamentary affairs, millennium development goals of the UN, ASEAN's main targets, and reforms in Myanmar.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives French Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Mr Alain Juppe.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker meets former Japanese PM



Former Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzou Abe holding discussion with Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Former Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzou Abe called on Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Amyotha Hluttaw committee chairmen, officials of the Hluttaw Office and Japanese ambassador to Myanmar were also present on the occasion.

They held discussion on strengthening of relationship

between the two countries and mutual cooperation. The speaker explained parliamentary affairs.

After the call, they took documentary group photo.

MNA

Child and human rights educative measures workshop held

YANGON, 16 Jan—The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission with the sponsorship of UNICEF conducted a workshop on child and human rights educative measures at the Traders Hotel here today, attended by commission Chairman U Win Mya.

It is expected that officials of nine ministries, INGOs, NGO and social organizations, scholars and collaborators will read 10 resource papers till 18 January.

Publications and do-cumentary photos published by the ministries, INGOs, NGOs and social organizations were put on display.

The workshop is expected to adopt plans to effectively carry out child and human rights educative measures and collect information.

MNA



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Win Mya speaks at the opening of workshop on child and human rights educative measures.—MNA

Fourteen still missing from Italian ship disaster

GIGLIO, 16 Jan—Rescue workers searched the half submerged hulk of a capsized Italian cruise ship for 14 people still missing Monday, more than 48 hours after the huge vessel capsized, killing at least six and injuring more than 60.

Three people, a South Korean honeymoon couple and a member of the ship's crew, were rescued Sunday and police divers also recovered the bodies of two elderly men, still wearing emergency life jackets.

A sixth body, that of an adult male passenger, was found just before dawn Monday, according to Italian television.

Nine passengers, one of them a young child according to Italian media, and five crew members were still unaccounted for from the disaster off Italy's west coast.

The captain of the 114,500 tone Costa Concordia was arrested Saturday, accused of manslaughter and abandoning his ship before all of the more than 4,200 passengers and crew had been evacuated.

Francesco Schettino's employers, Costa Crociere, said in a statement Sunday that he appeared to have made "serious errors of judgment" and had brought the ship too close to



A coast guard boat patrols near the Costa Concordia on 15 January after the cruise ship ran aground and keeled over off the Isola del Giglio in Italy. British Foreign Secretary William Hague has said that all Britons aboard the luxury cruise ship had been accounted for.—INTERNET

shore, where it struck a rock that tore a large hole in the hull.

The disaster occurred when the ship struck a rock as dinner was being served Friday night, triggering scenes of panic that witnesses said were like the film "Titanic" with passengers jostling to get on lifeboats and some leaping into the icy sea.

Reuters

Two NATO service members die in Afghanistan

KABUL, 16 Jan—Two service members with the NATO-led force died Sunday in southern Afghanistan.

"Two International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service members died as a result of a non-battle related injury in southern Afghanistan today," ISAF said in a Press release.

The brief release did not provide details and the nationalities of the victims, saying "it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities."

Troops mainly from the US, Britain and Australia have stationed in the southern region to fight Taliban militants.

The latest casualties brings the number of foreign soldiers killed in Afghanistan to 15 this year.

A total of 566 NATO soldiers, with majority of them Americans, were killed in Afghanistan in 2011.

Xinhua



Ahmed Abdullah, 38, wounded in a bomb blast is treated at a hospital in Basra, 340 miles (550 kilometres) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 Jan, 2012. A bomb attack on Shiite pilgrims on Saturday near the southern port City of Basra killed and wounded scores of people, police said.—INTERNET

Iran OPEC government warns Arab oil producers

TEHERAN, 16 Jan—Iran's Gulf Arab neighbours should not raise their production to replace Iranian oil if the European Union goes ahead with a ban on Iranian crude imports, Iran's OPEC governor said on Sunday.

The EU has agreed in principle to ban imports of Iranian oil, while the United States has pressured Asian buyers to reduce imports to starve Teheran of revenue for its disputed nuclear programme.

Asian leaders from some of Iran's biggest oil sales markets are already touring the Middle East to secure supplies, as tension over Iran's nuclear plans builds, while European buyers may rely more heavily on Arab oil

producers should an EU ban come into effect.

Iran OPEC Governor Mohammad Ali Khatibi said Teheran would see any move to fill in for Iranian crude as Gulf Arab oil producers siding with Iran's western opponents.

"If the oil producing Gulf states give the green light to replacing Iran's oil these countries would be the main culprits for whatever happens in the region — including the Strait of Hormuz," Khatibi told the *Sharq* daily newspaper.

"Our Arab neighbour countries should not cooperate with these adventurers... These measures will not be perceived as friendly." EU

countries have proposed "grace periods" on existing contracts of one to 12 months to allow companies to find alternative suppliers before implementing an embargo.

Khatibi, a key part of Iran's OPEC negotiating team, said there was a good chance that the EU would not go through with its threat to ban Iranian crude imports if Gulf Arab producers refused to back it.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said on Saturday the world's biggest oil exporter was ready and able to meet any increase in demand, without making any reference to sanctions on OPEC rival Iran.

Reuters

Pakistan frees detained Iranian border guards

TEHERAN, 16 Jan—A Pakistani court has released three Iranian border guards detained earlier this month for inadvertently crossing into southwestern Pakistan while chasing drug traffickers, Iranian satellite Press TV reported Sunday.

The three Iranian guards were freed on Saturday after a Pakistani judge in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan Province ordered their release, said the report.

According to the report, the released guards shot dead Pakistani national Saed Ahmed Rigi and injured his brother Salam Rigi in an exchange of fire on 31 Dec, 2011 in the Mazan Sar Mashkail area of the Washuk District, situated 3 km inside Pakistan.

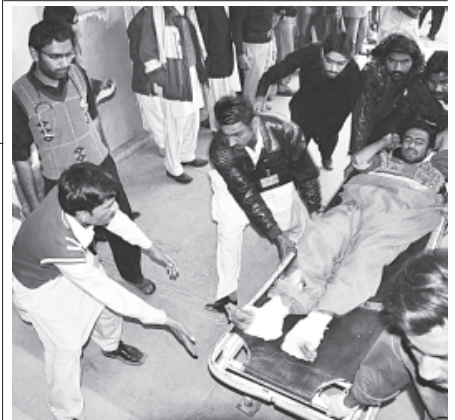
They were charged with murder after the father of the

slain Pakistani man filed a case against them.

The parents of the victim pardoned the three guards on Saturday on condition of blood money. The court further imposed a penalty of 9,000 rupees (about 99.67 US dollars) on each of the three Iranians for illegal entry into the Pakistani territory.

Iranian Border Police Commander Brigadier General Hossein Zolfaqari said on 3 Jan that three Iranian border guards had been detained by Pakistani forces after mistakenly crossing into the Pakistani territory when chasing smugglers at night, according to Press TV.

Iran is located at the crossroad of international drug smuggling from its eastern neighbours, especially Afghanistan, to Europe.—Xinhua



People transfer an injured man from the blast site in eastern Pakistan's Khanpur on 15 Jan, 2012. At least 18 people were killed and over 30 injured when a bomb blast hit a religious procession in eastern Pakistani Province of Punjab on Sunday, reported local Urdu TV ARY.

XINHUA

Malaria kills 98 Cambodians, down 35 percent in 2011

PHNOM PENH, 16 Jan—Malaria had killed 98 Cambodians in 2011, a decline of 35 percent from 151 deaths in a year earlier, said a senior health official on Monday.

Last year, some 62,690 cases of malaria had been reported, said Char Meng Chuor, the director of the National Centre for Malaria.

"We see our remarkable success in fighting malaria in the past year—despite the rise in malaria cases, the death toll has declined up to 35 percent," he told *Xinhua* over telephone. "This is thanks to people's awareness about the symptoms of the disease and they have timely sought medical treatment."

He said that with this good result, the country would definitely be able to completely eradicate the death of malaria by 2015.

"To achieve this target, we need the budget of 20 million US dollars a year in the next four years," he said.

Malaria is a mosquito-borne infectious disease. In Cambodia, the disease is often found in rainy season and mostly happens in border provinces, forest and mountainous provinces such as Pursat, Rattanakiri, Monduliri, Kampong Cham, and Preah Vihear.

Xinhua

Girl killed in Beirut building collapse

BEIRUT, 16 Jan—A 15-year-old girl was killed and at least seven people were injured on Sunday when an old six-storey apartment block collapsed in the Lebanese Capital, the national ANI news agency reported.

It said the girl was gravely hurt when the building in the eastern Ashrafieh district came down, and that she died later in hospital. The known injured were her grand-mother, three Lebanese including a man of 73, two Sudanese and a Filipina.

The news agency said an unknown number of people were buried under the rubble, and emergency services were scrambling to find survivors.

Neighbours said dozens of people had lived in the building. "It was like an earthquake" when the block collapsed, one witness told the local MTV channel.

ANI said the building had been in a state of disrepair made worse by recent torrential downpours.

Internet



Lebanese people and Red Cross members search through the rubble of a six-storey building that collapsed in Beirut's Ashrafieh neighbourhood.

INTERNET

Australia experts call for energy drink warnings



This file photo shows cans of various energy drinks, displayed at a store in the US.—INTERNET

PERTH, 16 Jan—Researchers in Australia called for health warnings on caffeine-loaded energy drinks following a spike in the number of people reporting medical problems after drinking them. Health professionals from the University of Sydney's Medical School and the New South Wales Poisons Information Centre said reports of adverse reactions to drinks like Red Bull and V jumped from just 12 in 2004 to 65 in 2010.

Over the seven years to 2010, 297 calls for assistance were recorded with at least 128 people hospitalised with symptoms including heart palpitations, agitation and stomach upsets. Of these, 20 people had more serious issues, such as seizures and hallucinations.

The study, published

in the *Medical Journal of Australia* on Monday, said the average person affected was 17 years old and that they often mixed energy drinks with alcohol. "Our study demonstrates the extent of the growing problem in Australia with energy drink consumption and toxicity, particularly among adolescents," the study's authors wrote.

"Given the clear evidence of toxicity and the growing number of hospitalisations associated with consumption of energy drinks... health authorities should increase



awareness of the problem, improve package labelling and regulate caffeine content."

They recommended that "labelling and any marketing of these products should include appropriate health warnings and the national poisons hotline number". A

can of energy drink may contain up to 300 milligrams of caffeine — compared to an average 65-120mg for a cup of drip coffee — and Poisons Centre medical director Naren Gunja called for more thorough regulation.

Internet

Costs of removing faulty breast implants to be covered in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Jan—The Brazilian government said Friday that public and private healthcare systems will cover the costs of removal or replacement of faulty PIP and Rofil breast implants.

Health Minister Alexandre Padilha told reporters that there is no need for all patients who received PIP and Rofil breast implants to undergo the replacement surgery. Only those with ruptured implants will need to have them replaced.

"Women should head to the healthcare services to

make an evaluation and find out if they need to undergo surgery," he said.

Next week, Health Ministry will announce the full instructions which the patients who received PIP or Rofil implants need to follow to get checked by a doctor, but patients can already set up evaluations, via public or private healthcare systems.

Meanwhile, National Health Surveillance Agency has established procedures to determine how to punish the importers of PIP and Rofil implants.—Xinhua



Women affected by faulty implants are getting together to seek redress.—INTERNET

Too much or too little iron bad for brain



WASHINGTON, 16 Jan—Iron plays a vital role in the development of the brain — too little can result in cognitive problems, too much promotes degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Iron deficiency is the most common nutritional deficiency worldwide, causing poor cognitive achievement in school-aged children. Now it has been found to affect the brain's physical structure as well.

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology at the University of California Los Angeles, and colleagues measured levels of transferrin, a protein that transports iron throughout the body and brain, in adolescents.

Since both a deficiency and an excess of iron can negatively impact brain function, the body's regulation of iron transport to the brain is crucial, the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* reports. When iron levels are low, the liver produces more transferrin for increased iron transport. The researchers wanted to know whether brain structure in healthy adults was also dependent on transferrin levels, according to a California statement.

"We found that healthy brain wiring in adults depended on having good iron levels in your teenage years," said Thompson, member of California's Lab of Neuro Imaging. "This connection was a lot stronger than we expected, especially as we were looking at people who were young and healthy - none of them would be considered iron-deficient."

"We also found a connection with a gene that explains why this is so. The gene itself seems to affect brain wiring, which was a big surprise," he said.

Internet

S Korea shipbuilder wins \$2.26 bln deal for gas plant



This file illustration photo shows a part of an offshore natural gas platform. South Korean shipbuilder Samsung Heavy Industries said it had won a 2.6 trillion won (\$2.26 billion) deal to build a gas processing plant in Australia for Japanese oil and gas producer Inpex.—INTERNET

SEOUL, 16 Jan—South Korean shipbuilder Samsung Heavy Industries said it had won a 2.6 trillion won (\$2.26 billion) deal to build a gas processing plant in Australia for Japanese oil and gas producer Inpex.

Work on the 100,000-tonne plant will begin in 2013, the shipbuilder said in a statement on Monday, adding a full agreement with Inpex will be signed next month.

It said the structure, to

be 110 metres (361 feet) both in height and width when delivered by the end of 2015, will be listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the world's largest offshore plant. Inpex is seeking to explore the Ichthys gasfield 200 kilometres (120 miles) off the northwest coast of Australia in a joint venture with French energy firm Total.—Internet



Shares fall as euro zone downgrades rekindle fears

TOKYO, 16 Jan—Asian shares fell on Monday on fears that mass sovereign debt rating cuts by Standard & Poor's would further aggravate euro zone funding difficulties, threatening to derail progress in resolving the debt crisis.

Worries that European financial troubles would drag down global growth and sap appetite for commodities weighed on industrial metals such as copper, while a shift to perceived safe haven assets boosted Japanese government bonds.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan fell 1.3 percent to its lowest in about one week, after reaching a one-month high on Friday. Japan's Nikkei average shed 1.4 percent to a one-month low.

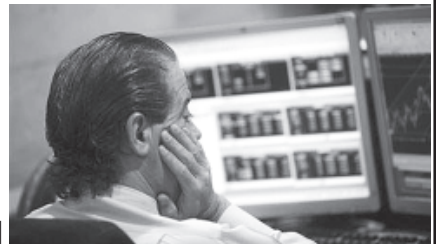
US markets are closed on Monday for the Martin Luther King holiday, but S&P 500 futures traded in Asia fell 0.5 percent.

Tracking the Asian trend, European shares were set for a decline, with financial spreadbetters forecasting Britain's FTSE 100, Germany's DAX and France's CAC-40 would open down around 0.4-0.5 percent.

Reuters



A customer is seen in a supermarket in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 12 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA



A trader looks at computer screens at Madrid's bourse on 1 Nov, 2011.—INTERNET

China's CPI to rise around 4 percent in 2012

BEIJING, 16 Jan—The overall price level in 2012 may see a downward trend, however, the consumer price index (CPI) is predicted to rise around 4 percent in China, according to the nation's lead economists. Zhuang Jian, a senior economist with Asian Development Bank, anticipated that the overall CPI growth will stay around 4 percent, besides a certain degree of fluctuation in monthly figures.

As a result of diminishing carryover effects and the government's prudent monetary policy direction,

CPI in China has been declining over the past five months, but price control remains a dominant topic right now.

China's CPI was up 5.4 percent in 2011 from the previous year, according to a statement issued by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Although the figure is well above the government's full-year control target of 4 percent, inflation has been slowing down in the second half of 2011 thanks to a series of government measures.

Xinhua

Russia's Mars probe crashes into Pacific



The Zenit-2SB rocket, carrying the Phobos-Grunt probe, is seen before its launch at the cosmodrome in Baikonur on 9 Nov, 2011.—XINHUA

MOSCOW, 16 Jan—Russia's failed Mars probe *Phobos-Grunt* has fallen into the Pacific Ocean, local media reported Sunday. The crash site of the spacecraft debris was 1,250 kilometres west of the Wellington Island of Chile, said Russian Aerospace Defence Forces spokesman Col Alexei Zolotukhin.

He told *Itar-Tass* news agency that Russia's space control network was monitoring the process of the falling which happened at 9:45 pm Moscow time (1745 GMT). Earlier, experts said the 14-ton spacecraft carrying 11 tons of toxic rocket fuel might land somewhere in the southern Atlantic.

Most of the debris was expected to burn up in the atmosphere, but 20 to 30 chunks of charred debris, weighing about 200 kg, could make it to the surface, while the toxic fuel would burn in the atmosphere at a height of about 100 km, said Russia's Federal Space Agency Roscosmos earlier in a projection for the crash.

Phobos-Grunt, Russia's most ambitious planetary mission in decades, was launched on 9 Nov with the aim of exploring one of Mars' two moons, but it became stuck in Earth orbit due to a propulsion failure and radio contact was lost.—Xinhua



Saturn-like ringed planet found eclipsing sun-like star

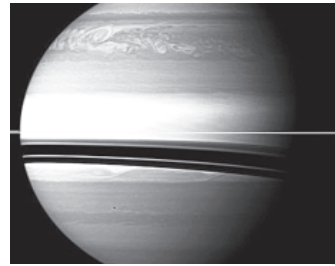
WASHINGTON, 16 Jan—A Saturn-like ringed planet in the constellation Centaurus has been discovered orbiting a sun-like star.

The scientists, led by Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy Eric Mamajek of Rochester and the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory, used data from the international SuperWASP (Wide Angle Search for Planets) and All Sky Automated Survey (ASAS) project to study the light curves of young Sun-like stars in the Scorpius-Centaurus association—the nearest region of recent massive star formation to the Sun.

A light curve is a graph of light intensity over time, and one star in particular showed dramatic changes during a 54 day period in early 2007.

University of Rochester graduate student Mark Pecaut and Mamajek discovered the unusual eclipse in December 2010.

"When I first saw the light curve, I knew we had found a very weird and unique object. After we ruled out the eclipse being due to a spherical star or a circumstellar disk passing in front of the star, I realized that the only plausible explanation was some sort of dust ring system orbiting a smaller companion—basically a 'Saturn on steroids,'" said Mamajek. If a spherical object merely passed in front of the star, the



A Saturn-like ringed planet in the constellation Centaurus has been discovered orbiting a sun-like star. INTERNET

intensity of the light would gradually dim and reach a low point before gradually increasing. That was not the case with the star identified as 1SWASP J140747.93-394542.6.

The Rochester team discovered a long, deep, and complex eclipse event with significant on-and-off dimming. At the deepest parts of the eclipse, at least 95 percent of the light from the star was being blocked by dust.

The shape of the light curve was very similar to that of a well-researched star (EE Cephei), suggesting similar traits in the companion objects.

Internet

Even birds can't resist a good yawn



Not just humans but birds also find yawns irresistible, say a researcher. INTERNET

LONDON, 16 Jan—Not just humans but birds also

find yawns irresistible, say a researcher. Andrew Gallup at Binghamton University in New York found that budgies, the highly social birds, also make contagious yawn, New Scientist reported.

Many animals yawn, but only humans and a few other primates are known to trigger cascades of yawns around a

group. For his finding Gallup watched 21 budgies over 15 days and counted their yawns—a wide-open beak and slightly closed eyes, followed by a brief stretch of the neck.

He found each bird yawned one to three times an hour, but was more likely to do so if their neighbour had just yawned. Gallup says it's the

first good evidence for contagious yawning in a non-primate.

His unpublished work also revealed that their yawns are more contagious after a sudden loud noise, suggesting yawning might help coordinate group alertness in the face of a threat.—Internet

Microsoft, Motorola most tweeted about brands during CES

LAS VEGAS, 16 Jan—Posts about Microsoft and Motorola's announcements and products have dominated International Consumer Electronics Show (CES)-related buzz on microblogging site Twitter.

Tweets about Microsoft and Motorola accounted for a total of 10 percent (5 percent each) of all tweets that included the #CES hashtag from January 10 to 13, said social media tracking company Simply Measured.

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer gave the opening keynote at CES (which was also Microsoft's last) on 9 January, prompting a chorus of Microsoft-related tweets. Tweets about Microsoft hit a high of 12 percent on the



eve of CES before falling to 4 percent the day after as additional companies took to the stage and stole the spotlight with ultra-thin laptops, powerful tablets, razor-thin phones and innovative new gadgets.

Tweets mentioning Motorola accounted for 2, 4, 5 and 9 percent respectively on

Microsoft's Alice Steinglass demos Windows 8 at CES on 10 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

days 0 through 3 of the Consumer Electronics Show. However, the increase of #CES tweets over the three days was largely attributed to a contest run by media company @NextIssue, which was giving away a Motorola Xoom in exchange for tweets and followers.

Internet

Censoring social media curbs free speech, netizens says

NEW DELHI, 16 Jan—The Indian government's decision to prosecute social networking sites like Google and Facebook has triggered public anger, with netizens saying the move is tantamount to clamping down on constitutional rights of free speech and individual liberty.

"This censorship is totally useless, the government is trying to curb freedom of speech and expression, which is everyone's right," Kartik Dayanand, a social media consultant and blogger, told.

The government Friday gave the green signal to proceed against 21 social networking sites for hosting "objectionable content" promoting enmity between groups and harming national interest.

But most people view this



ensorship as an excuse to curb freedom of expression.

Anirudh Salve, a content writer, said: "Social media provides ultimate freedom space for people who want to express themselves. By snatching this freedom, the government is trying to spoil the basic tenets of democracy, which is not acceptable."

"Inflammatory content on internet cannot be accepted. It hurts some people's sentiments, but this is no way to rectify that problem. Putting curbs on these websites will hamper our sense of liberty," said Jatin Panchi, an engineering student from Indraprastha University. Freelance writer Pooja Kapur told IANS: "Censoring content on social media sites is totally unjustified. How different would we be from China or Afghanistan then?"

Others felt that there should be some control over the internet, but only to a certain extent. Vedika Nandan, a model, said: "I think censoring of the internet is good, but to a certain extent."—Internet

Baidu says to open new office in South China

SHANGHAI, 16 Jan—Baidu Inc said on Monday it broke ground on a new building in the southern city of Shenzhen that would hold its mobile Internet research and development offices and south China and international headquarters.

"Mobile Internet and internationalization are the future important expansion drives for Baidu," Robin Li, Baidu's chief executive, said in a statement.

Last year, Baidu launched its "Yi" mobile operating platform and partnered with Dell to offer a smartphone based on the system. The building will be completed by 2015.



An employee walks past the Baidu company signage outside its headquarters in Beijing, on 26 July, 2011. INTERNET



Drought threatens south of Mozambique

MAPUTO, 16 Jan—High temperatures and drought are threatening the agricultural production in two regions of Mozambique, according to the state radio on Sunday.

Massangena, which is in Gaza Province in the south of the country, has been rainless for months.

Crops are being killed, and the maize has started to dry. In the area of Homoine, things are going in the same way.

Authorities in the regions said the situation will be even worse if there will be no rain within a week.

Massangena is of the regions which have been seriously attacked by famine in Gaza since last year.

According to Radio Mozambique, farmers are in a disarray now since the drought has accelerated the hardship. On the contrary, the northern and central parts of the country are suffering the rains which are threatening to submerge the crops.—Xinhua



Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, pictured in Bangkok, last December, during his 84th birthday's celebrations. Thailand's frail king, the world's longest reigning monarch, has been treated with antibiotics for a digestive ailment, the palace said on Monday.—INTERNET

Thai king treated for digestive ailment

BANGKOK, 16 Jan—Thailand's frail king, the world's longest reigning monarch, has been treated with antibiotics for a digestive ailment, the palace said. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 84, who is widely revered, was diagnosed with diverticulitis, a condition that is relatively common among the elderly and can cause stomach pain.

His blood pressure, temperature and breathing were normal, the Royal Household Bureau said in a statement

released late Sunday.

The king was admitted to hospital in September 2009 for treatment of a respiratory condition and has rarely left since then, aside from a few public appearances including a public speech in early December on his birthday.

Any discussion of the royal family is extremely sensitive in politically turbulent Thailand, where the palace has been silent over the organization of the eventual succession.

Internet

Sudanese President meets with senior CPC official



Sudanese President and Chairman of the National Congress Party Omar al-Bashir (1st R) meets with Li Yuanchao (1st L), a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, secretary of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Organizational Department of the CPC Central Committee, in Khartoum, on 15 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

KHARTOUM, 16 Jan—Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir met with Li Yuanchao, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC), on Sunday to discuss ways to promote relations between the two countries. Li, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee,

said China is willing to strengthen dialogue and exchanges with Sudan, deepen political relations, expand pragmatic cooperation, achieve mutual benefits and win-win outcomes, boost the traditional friendship, enhance coordination and preserve the peace and stability.

Sudan is one of China's

best friends in Africa, Li said, adding that cooperation between the two countries will not change no matter how the situation changes.

The CPC attaches great importance to the friendly cooperative relations with Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and is willing to develop the

exchanges and cooperation between the two parties and boost the ties between the two countries, he added. Al-Bashir, also chairman of Sudan's ruling NCP, said the friendly cooperation between Sudan and China has achieved fruitful outcomes and Sudan is satisfied with the ties with China.

The Sudanese President further expressed appreciation for China's support for promoting the economic and social developments in Sudan, saying the relations between Sudan and China are a model for the south-south cooperation.

Sudan highly appreciates the outcomes of the economic cooperation with China and is willing to enhance exchanges and cooperation to achieve the interests of the two peoples, al-Bashir added. He reiterated willingness of the ruling NCP to consolidate and develop the friendship with the CPC and learn from the successful experiences of the CPC.

Xinhua

Britain education secretary determined to push forward school reforms

LONDON, 16 Jan—Britain's education secretary said on Sunday for British students to move up their rankings in the international community, the exams must be tougher and schools must work harder, though the ambition could take a decade to achieve.

Speaking to the BBC Sunday Politics show, Education Secretary Michael Gove said he is prepared to see a fall in the number of A-level passes as the price for making the exams tougher. Grade inflation "discredits the integrity of our education system" and the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)'s A-levels and degrees must get "tougher", Gove said.

"What I hope we will see is our exams are once again trusted across the globe and our children are among the best in the world," he added. The British government is eager to improve the country's position in the

international education league tables, which in 2011 put Britain 17th for reading, 24th for mathematics in the world. The education secretary, meanwhile, said a 10-year period would be needed for Britain's position in international education league tables to improve.

"We do need to climb up that league table, but I think it will take about 10 years before we can begin to see the fruits of all the reforms we're making, which will lead to a turnaround in the league tables," he said. Gove also mentioned he would use a number of short-term measures to judge the success of his education policies.

These includes more students taking "rigorous subjects," more headteachers taking advantage of academy powers, and more independent schools choosing to join the state sector.—Xinhua

Kazakh ruling party wins 80.74 percent in vote: early result

ASTANA, 16 Jan—The ruling party of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev won 80.74 percent of the vote in snap elections, retaining its dominant grip on parliament, early results showed on

anti-government party—the All-National Social Democratic Party (OSDP)—won just 1.59 percent of the vote, Kazakh election chief Kuandyk Turgankulov told reporters.

"This is our shared



Traditionally dressed women cast their ballots at a polling station during parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan on 15 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Monday. Nur Otan will be joined in parliament by the pro-business Ak Zhol (Bright Path) party, which polled 7.46 percent, and the Communist People's Party of Kazakhstan, which collected 7.2 percent, the central election commission said. None of the other four parties contesting Sunday's poll in the resource-rich Central Asian state broke through the seven-percent threshold, meaning they will remain shut out of parliament. The only vehemently

victory," Nazarbayev told his supporters moments after the results were announced. "This means that the people of Kazakhstan will continue supporting our course of stability and unity."

The snap polls had been called early to breathe new life into a system under which Nazarbayev, 71, put economic prosperity before political freedoms and in which his Nur Otan party has until now controlled all the seats in parliament.—Internet

Cambodia probes bodies in Frenchman's car

PHNOM PENH, 16 Jan—Cambodian police were on Sunday investigating the deaths of five people — presumed to be a missing Frenchman and his four children — whose skeletal remains were found in a submerged car. The white 4x4 vehicle owned by widower Laurent Vallier, 42, was retrieved from a pond behind his house in southern

visited the site saw at least four human skulls laid out on a white sheet next to the muddied vehicle, as well as an open suitcase.

Police officials and the French embassy in Phnom Penh told AFP that it was impossible to immediately identify the victims because of the badly decomposed state of their bodies.

But Chhay Sinarith, director of the interior ministry's internal security department, said they were presumed to be Vallier and his children, aged two to 11, since four of the skulls appeared to be relatively small. "We are still waiting for the results from the experts," he said.

"Now we are appealing for witnesses who may recognise the clothes and the shoes we found in the car. It's most likely the remains belong to the missing French family," Chhay Sinarith initially said the bones of two children were found inside a suitcase, but a police officer close to the investigation told AFP that the case was broken and the bones might have drifted in there over time, as the car is thought to have lain submerged for weeks.—Internet



Cambodian police officials clean mud off a vehicle owned by Laurent Vallier at his house in Kampong Speu Province, some 45 kilometres west of Phnom Penh. INTERNET

Kampong Speu Province on Saturday. The family was last seen in September. "We're still investigating the case. We can't confirm the cause of death," said provincial police chief Keo Pisey. An AFP reporter who

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives French Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation headed by French Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Mr Alain Juppe at Zabuthiri Meeting Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 2 pm today. At the call, they cordially discussed strengthening of friendship between the two

countries, political developments and cooperation between international organizations and the Hluttaws.

Also present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairmen and officials.

MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives French Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Mr Alain Juppe.—MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Japanese Former Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a goodwill delegation led by Former Prime Minister of Japan Mr Shinzou Abe at Zabuthiri Meeting Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 9 am

today. They had a cordial discussion on further cementing friendly ties already in place between the two countries, mutual cooperation between the two parliaments and investment opportunities.

Also present on the occasion together with the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw were chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw committees and officials.

MNA



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shaking hands with Former Prime Minister of Japan Mr Shinzou Abe.

MNA

MNA

Union A&I Minister inspects mechanized paddy farms, calls for boosting of quality paddy production

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited 100-acre Palethwe hybrid strain farm of Green Asia Co in Mechanized Farming Special Agriculture Zone No. 2 in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township in Yangon Region yesterday where he inspected agricultural implements.

The Union minister then proceeded to Ngamoeyik sluice gate construction project site in Dagon Myothit (East) Township where he gave necessary instruction after hearing reports.

Afterwards, he went to 500-acre mechanized farm of Dagon International Co situated in 10000-acre mechanized farm. The Union minister viewed thriving paddy fields.

At the briefing hall of the company, the Union minister briefed UMFCCI President U Win Aung and officials on making concerted efforts for long-lasting advanced mechanized farming system of the State.

The Union minister also inspected paddy growing process at 300-acre seeding farm jointly established by International Sun Moon Star Co and Agriculture Hitech seeding company of the Philippines.

At Myint Zeya Kyaw Family Co, the Union minister called on the UMFCCI president, entrepreneurs and agriculturists of Philippine Agriculture Hitech Co to strive for production of quality paddy so as to penetrate global paddy market.

MNA

Nine companies handed over socio-economic development plans



Agreement-signing ceremony between South-East Asia Crude Oil Pipeline Co Ltd (SEAOP) and nine companies in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 16 Jan—Under the programme of socio-economic development, South-East Asia Crude Oil Pipeline Co Ltd (SEAOP) signed agreements on handover of responsibility to nine construction companies to build schools and clinics in Rakhine State and

Magway Region for 2011-2012 financial year at Park Royal Hotel here on 14 January.

SEAOP will donate US\$ 1 million yearly during the project period. For 2011-2012 fiscal year, it donated US\$ 77,580,000 for constructing 18 schools, 2

nurseries and 2 rural healthcare centres in Rakhine State and US\$ 22,420,000 for constructing five schools. The company will also donate US\$ 1 million for Mandalay Region and Shan State (North) for 2011-2012 fiscal year.—MNA

French Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs wraps up visit

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—A delegation led by French Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Mr Alain Juppe left here by air at 4 pm today.

They were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International

Airport by Director-General of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Aye Thaw, French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry Mathou and officials.

Prior to departure from

the airport, the French minister met with local and foreign correspondents to clarify about his trip to Myanmar and replied to queries raised by the correspondents.

MNA



French Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Mr Alain Juppe gives an interview to local and foreign correspondents at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo...

(from page 1)

Speaking on the occasion, chairman of the ceremony Naga national U Ba Cho gave an account of the festival that Naga Traditional New Year Festival dates back to the time of their forefathers, which was celebrated after the harvest in December and January in villages of respective tribes separately. Since 1992, it has been celebrated at the gathering and it has reached its 20th Anniversary this year.

He expressed his thanks to the former Tatmadaw government and incumbent government for all of their endeavours for sector-wise development of Naga Region which was once lagged behind in all aspects. According to the constitution ratified by the people on 10 May, 2008, Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun townships in Sagaing Region were constituted to form Naga Self-Administered Zone. In addition, the government has formed township-level administrative organs for Panhsaung, Donhee, Htanpakwe and Mopai sub-townships to enable them effectively make development endeavours.

He then gave an account of government's efforts for development of Naga Region, noting that a total of 212 miles long road such as Hkamti (Sinthay)-Lahe road, Lahe-Yankyone road, Lahe-Kyuyan road, Lahe-Sawlaw-Ponenyo road and so on has been constructed along with 98 miles and one furlong long Lahe-Nanyun motor road which was opened during Naga Festival 2011. The government spent K 13189.31 million in 2011-2012 fiscal year for smooth transportation in the region.

The government has built a large number of suspension bridges and Nansalein motor road-cum-suspension bridge across Hkamti (Sinthay)-Lahe road was inaugurated during Naga Festival 2009. Smooth transportation was once aspired by the entire Naga nationals who are now witnessing the efforts for smooth transportation in the time of incumbent government.



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets local nationals at Naga New Year bonfire festival.—MNA

locals have matriculated, stepping forward to higher education.

Educated Naga nationals have emerged in large numbers who are now serving the nation both in military and civil fields. Naga nationals are benefitting from the government's efforts for promotion of education standard in accord with the motto "Higher education standard, better socio-economic status." There are six re-transmission stations in the region, enabling the locals to keep in touch with the world and the other parts of the country. Mobile communication has been launched in Nanyun Township and Panhsaung Sub-township will soon have access to it

Under the aegis of the region chief minister and ministers, eight-point rural development and poverty alleviation scheme has come into operation in Naga Self-Administered Zone. In conclusion, he urged Naga nationals

to march towards new democratic nation hand in hand with other national brethren upholding the national policy which is Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty and sticking to the policies of the Union government and region government.

In his greetings, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye said once Naga New Year Festival was celebrated separately in villages and now it is celebrated collaboratively in towns of Naga Region in rotation.

Naga Self-Administered Zone was established with Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun townships in Sagaing Region, providing the never-before-chances for smoothing the path to effective regional administration and development following the formation of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body.

In order to effectively implement regional development tasks in remote areas and establish regular administrative mechanism, the government has been setting up sub-townships and it has opened offices in Donhee, Htanpakwe and Moepai sub-townships, aiding the development of education, health, social and other sectors.

The government has carried out upgrading schemes for ensuring smooth transportation, the primary need for regional development year by year and locals now can witness better transportation within Naga region.

Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Central Committee, Region/State subcommittees and district and township subcommittees have been working on the ground to bring down the poverty rate of rural people and improve their living standard.

Previously, the region had only about 20000 acres of farmland and has now increased by over 27000 acres. Such high yield paddy strains as Shweyinaye, Sin Eiakri (3) could be distributed to farmers and such strains are expected to yield over 70 to 80 baskets of rice per acre.

(See Page 9)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin receiving warm welcome from Naga national race leaders at Naga New Year festival.

MNA



As for health care services, three 25-bedded township hospitals, four 16-bedded sub-township hospitals, three operation theatres, three labs, two X-ray rooms, two station hospitals, 11 rural healthcare centres, and 44 rural healthcare centres (branch) have increased compared to 1988. Public healthcare services have been more effective thanks to government's provision of necessary medicines and medical funds.

Before 1988, there were only one Basic Education High School, four Basic Education Middle Schools and 127 Basic Education Primary Schools in Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun townships but the government's articulation of "Access to education for all school-age children" and "Literacy for All" is taking shape in the region as well apart from increase in number of monastic schools, youths development schools and women's domestic science training schools. Under the management of the region government, schools were upgraded and K 52.24 million was provided for face-lift of old schools in addition to K 2.5 million funded by Zeya Padetha Foundation for education sector of the region. More and more



Traditional dance troupes of different tribes entertain with their traditional dances at Naga New Year Festival.—MNA

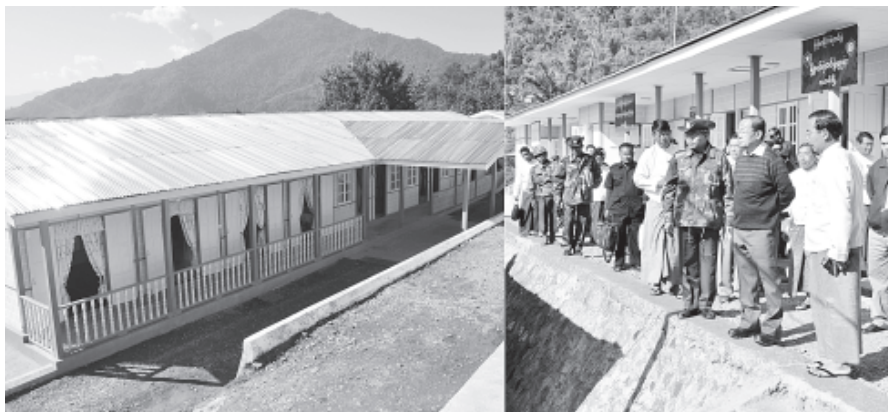
Government's implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation tasks...

(from page 16)

Chairman U Ru San Kyu of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body presented a report on inspection of boundary posts in the zone, plans to ensure local food security, prospects for earning about 3 million kyats from growing cardamom on a one-acre farmland, measures for smooth transport, reclamation of terrain farmland and healthcare services.

Afterwards, Lahe Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Hsa Mu reported on the needs for Lahe township development. Then, Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye reported on plans for speeding up agricultural and livestock breeding tasks to help develop the economy of the township and Wetlet Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Thura U Aye Myint on emergence of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Region/State Hluttaw in accord with the constitution and Hluttaw affairs.

The Union Ministers and deputy ministers who accompanied the tour of the Vice-President presented reports on the tasks of their respective ministries. Then, after making coordination with the departments concerned, the Vice-President fulfilled the requirements such as upgrading of self-relief schools, upgrading of Yankyone middle school, enabling the matriculated students to join Teacher Training College, construction of staff quarters for the township



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects guesthouse and office buildings of Naga Self-Administered Zone in Lahe.—MNA

hospital, reclamation of terrain farmlands and smooth and secure transport.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said he and his entourage came to Lahe to study condition of the township development and fulfill the requirements in coordination with townsenders and officials. The region lacked development due to climate condition and poor transport. But today, Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body is taking close supervisory measures for regional development. The government on its

part is providing assistance for development of road transport, important for regional development.

The Vice-President continued to say that the government's implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation tasks will facilitate the progress of the whole Naga region. The food sufficiency for the whole region is a priority and the goal will be achieved through (See page 10)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo...

(from page 8)

Sagaing Region government, to implement rural development and poverty alleviation scheme in effectiveness, has founded Zeya Padetha Foundation which provided capitals for different industries—K 128.8 million for agricultural development and K 94.1 million for livestock farming development, encouraging establishment of livestock farming zones, K 183.4 million for microfinance

the natural resources of home region.

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Thura U Aye Myint representing Wetlet Township of Sagaing Region extended greetings and local Daw Phai Naw Thay explained history of Naga Traditional New Year Festival.

U Hla Pe, Naga national chieftain, presented New Year gift to Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo. Daw Pyone Pyone, wife of the chairman of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body, presented wife of the Vice-President Daw Khin Saw Hnin with New Year gift.

Chairman of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body presented New Year gifts to Union Ministers, the

The Vice-President then provided cash assistance for observing Naga New Year festival and raised a fund for annual celebration of Naga New Year festival. Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and resettlement U Phone Swe presented cash assistance and utensils donated by the Border Affairs Ministry to Naga New Year Festival 2012 to the members of the leading body of Naga Self-Administered Zone. Next, the Union ministers, the region chief minister, deputy ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Thura U Aye Myint presented clothing, household goods, food-stuffs, farm implements, school uniforms, note books, uniforms for firefighters and Red Cross members, medicines, paddy and vegetable seeds, computers, publications and periodicals, sports gear and solar panels for the region.

For education, health and social works and implementing rural development and poverty alleviation scheme in Naga region, Union Solidarity and Development Party provided K 100 million, Max Myanmar Co, IGE Co, Shwe Thanlwin Co, Kanbawza Bank Ltd, Eden Co, Asia World Co, Shwetaung Co, A 1 Co, IBTC Co presented K 400 million through the leading body chairman.

Next, the leading body chairman awarded outstanding students, followed by lucky-draw programme in which 10 wards and villages won DTH Sky Net receivers, TV, portable generators and solar panels and 14 wards and villages won clothing. In addition, a lucky-draw programme for free study trip to Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay was organized for Naga nationals.

After the ceremony, the Vice-President and wife cordially greeted foreign tourists, traditional cultural reps, and local Naga nationals present at the event.

The Vice-President, wife and party enjoyed the campfire festivity in the evening. Chairman of the leading body opened the festivity during which different tribes entertained with their traditional music and dances. The Vice-President, wife and party presented awards to the dance troupes. They then cordially greeted the performers.—MNA



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and party pose for documentary photo together with cultural dance troupe and local nationals at Naga Traditional New Year Festival.—MNA

service development, K 144.4 million for rural light industries development, and K 818.7 million for cooperative works development.

The region chief minister cheered up Naga nationals as honest and simple ones striving for regional development in unison. He urged them to try to enjoy better life utilizing

region chief minister and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar. Patron of Naga Tradition Central Committee U Hla Tun and Chairman U Myat Ko presented New Year gifts to Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Lwin, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Thura U Aye Myint, deputy ministers, region ministers and businessmen.



Naga Traditional New Year Festival-2012 in progress. —MNA



Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay provided exercise books and school uniforms; Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe blankets, clothes and uniforms; Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint solar lanterns; Shwe Thanlwin Co Chairman U Kyaw Win DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and

portable generator; and Max Myanmar Co Ltd Chairman U Zaw Zaw and IGE Co Chairman U Nay Aung cash for the funds of Lahe Township Hospital and Htanpagway Station Hospital.

The Vice-President then inspected the shops and stores in Lahe and greeted the local nationals. The Vice-President and party visited

Sasana Pala Dhamma Beikman where they paid homage and presented offertories to Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotika Sara and the members of the Sangha. IGE Co Chairman U Nay Aung made cash donations for religious affairs in the township. Then, the Indian ambassador made cash donations for the monastery.

Later, the Vice-President and party left Lahe by helicopter and arrived in Leshi of Naga Self-Administered Zone where they were welcomed by departmental officials, members of social organizations, townsenders and locals.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo comforts patients at Lahe People's Hospital.

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets local nationals of Leshi.

MNA

Government's implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation tasks...

(from page 9)

cultivation of quality paddy strains with necessary inputs such as natural fertilizers and per-acre high yield of paddy. At this point, correct agricultural data are necessary, the Vice-President noted.

He then called for systematic breeding of mythuns and goats, cultivation of cardamom with correct methods, seeking market and making coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to get a deserving price, supervision for construction of small-scale

power stations as the region is blessed with resources for generating electricity on a manageable scale. The Vice-President promised annual plans for upgrading Hsinthay-Lahe road, Lahe-Leshi road and Nanyun-Panhsaung road to be all-weather ones. A fund will be set up by forming a foundation for regional health and education development, rural development and poverty alleviation, added the Vice-President.

Then, Union Minister for Border Affairs and Myanma Industrial



Amyotha Hluttaw speaker receives ICRC rep

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint received Mr Georges Paclisanu of ICRC and party at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw committees and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

The ICRC representative explained measures of ICRC and future plans for Myanmar.

MNA

Construction Dy Minister inspects roads and bridges

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint looked into the Yangon-Mandalay Highway on 14 January morning and met the engineers of the project and those from companies engaged in the project at Myochaung briefing hall on Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochaung-Kyungon road.

The superintending engineer (road) reported to the deputy minister on progress of earth works, gravel works and tarring by the companies and the chief

engineer (road) gave a supplementary report. And the deputy minister gave instructions on exerting energetic efforts and meeting the set standard.

Afterwards, the deputy minister inspected the completion of Maubin-Twantay Road and durability of the Khatiya and Maubin Bridges and completion of pandal for opening of the Maubin-Twantay road and construction of archway and preparatory measures.

MNA



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Mr Georges Paclisanu of ICRC at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Building.—MNA

Fifth Inter-ministry Men's Volleyball Tournament 2012 kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—The first round robin matches of the fifth Inter-

ministry Men's Volleyball Tournament 2012 took place at Nay Pyi Taw

Volleyball Ground here today.

Information Ministry team won over Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fishery over Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs. Ministry of Transport beat Ministry of

Culture while Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was defeated by Ministry of Environmental Conservation and forestry. Union Civil Services Board plays against Ministry of Education tomorrow.

MNA

88-Forces of People's Party allowed to register

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—The Union Election Commission issued Notification No. 5/2012 dated 16-1-2012.

The translation of the notification is as follows:

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 5/2012
8th Waning of Pyatho, 1373 ME
16 January, 2012**

The 88-Forces of People's Party, headquartered at No. 78, ZaZa-15 at the corner of Khaing Shwe Wah Street in 46th Street, Htondon Ward in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region was allowed to register in accord with Political Parties Registration Law Section 9 as of 16 January 2012.

The registration number of 88-Forces of People's Party is 48.

Sd/
Win Ko
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Myanma New Society Democratic Party allowed to register

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—The Union Election Commission issued Notification No. 6/2012 dated 16-1-2012.

The translation of the notification is as follows:

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 6/2012
8th Waning of Pyatho, 1373 ME
16 January, 2012**

The Myanma New Society Democratic Party, headquartered at No. 6 on Htanpingon Road, Htanpingon Ward in Thanlyin Township of Yangon Region, was allowed to register in accord with Political Parties Registration Law Section 9 as of 16 January 2012.

The registration number of Myanma New Society Democratic Party is 49.

Sd/
Win Ko
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Union Foreign Affairs Minister meets French counterpart



NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—French Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Minister Mr Alain Juppe paid a call on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Winna Maung Lwin at the latter's office here at 10 am today.

They discussed and exchanged views on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

Khamaungway Village Primary School in Pauktaw Tsp gets new building

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin attended a ceremony to open a new building of Khamaungway Village Primary School in Pauktaw Township on 13 January morning.

The state chief minister, ministers and education officer formally opened the new school building. The building was constructed as one of rehabilitation tasks in post Giri storm.—MNA

Civilian injured in KIA (Kachin) mine blast

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—U Aung Kyaw Myint, 46, from Lebyin Village of Lonekhin Village-tract in Hpakhant Township of Kachin State, lost his left thumb, middle finger and ring finger in the mine blast planted by KIA (Kachin) Group on 11 January.

The local authorities attempted to rush the victim to Moegaung Township Hospital but failed as the KIA Group had blocked the motor road. The victim was then sent to Homalin People's Hospital by waterway on 13 January afternoon.

MNA

Basic diplomatic skills course opened

YANGON, 16 Jan— The Foreign Affairs Ministry held an opening ceremony of the basic diplomatic skills course No. 27/2012 at Winzinmin Yaza Hall of the ministry here this morning, with an address of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint.

The course will deal with current international affairs, holding international

conferences, negotiation, international laws, international business relation, international social ethic, diplomatic and office letter writing, and communication arts work.

The 12-week course is being attended by a total of 181 trainees.

MNA

Bullfighting thriving in Himalayas

KATHMANDU, 16 Jan—A half-tonne bull enters the ring, snorting and rearing, before running at full pelt towards a section of spectators, drawing screams of fear and delight from the frenzied crowd.

It could be a scene from any Spanish arena but this is bullfighting Nepal-style, with thousands trekking deep into the Himalayan foothills to watch a centuries-old spectacle whose popularity is growing even as its appeal wanes in Europe.

Every year thousands of Nepalis come to see the animals fight at a festival marking Maghe Sankranti, the first day of the tenth month in the nation's calendar when villagers celebrate an end to winter and usher in warmer weather.

Unlike its European cousin, there are no matadors — the beasts take on each other — and buffalo are preferred to traditional bulls, which are sacred in the Hindu-majority country. "Bull fights have been happening all around here for a long time. My grandfather used to say they have been going on for more than 200 years," said Janak Raj Dhungana,

who organizes the fiesta in the village of Taruka, 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of the Capital Kathmandu.

"The fights used to happen in different places around Nuwakot District. But six years ago we brought them all together for one big fight here."

Seven pairs of bulls did battle in a ring overlooking the spectacular terraced hillsides, fertile valleys and terracotta tiled roofs of Nuwakot in front of a crowd of 5,000 perched on grass banks and muddy slopes on Sunday.

This was not as lucrative as the Spanish circuit, with winning owners receiving prize money of 1,000 rupees (\$12) from the village authorities and the losers getting half that.

The buffalo are selected when they are calves and trained only to fight at the annual fiesta, being spared the ploughing duties their less tenacious siblings are reared for.

Internet

People watch a bullfight during the Maghe Sankranti festival at Nepal's Taraka village on 15 January.

INTERNET

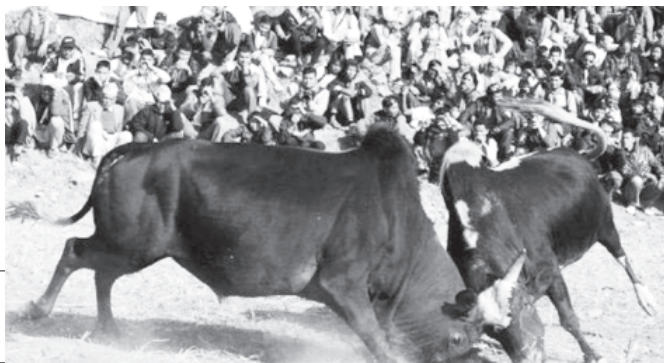
Australia's unemployment rate forecast to rise in 2012

SYDNEY, 16 Jan— Australia is expected to have a higher jobless rate in 2012, the nation's major bank ANZ Bank said on Monday. The total number of job advertisements in Australia on the Internet and in newspapers dropped 0.9 percent in December compared with the previous month, contributing to a 2.6 percent annual fall, ANZ said.

ANZ head of Australian economics Katie Dean said the figures point to modest employment gains for the Australian economy over the coming months.

"Indeed, the current trend rate of employment growth is unlikely to be fast enough to absorb the forecast growth in the labor force in the short term," Dean said.

Xinhua



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (335)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (335) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (619)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (619) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF-171R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF-171R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GENIUS STARX VOY NO (14A)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GENIUS STARX VOY NO (14A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN-CAR LINER S'PORE
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DELIGHT VOY NO (154)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DELIGHT VOY NO (154) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

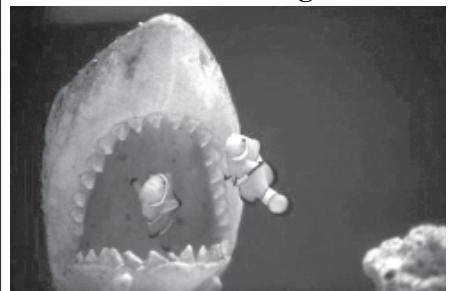
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Carbon dioxide affecting fish brains



MELBOURNE, 16 Jan—Rising human carbon dioxide emissions may be affecting the brains and central nervous systems of sea fish, with serious consequences for their survival, according to new research. Carbon dioxide concentrations predicted to occur in the ocean by the end of this century will interfere with fishes' ability to hear, smell, turn and evade predators, the research found. The Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies said it had been testing the performance of baby coral fish in sea water containing higher levels of dissolved CO2 for several years. "And it is now pretty clear that they sustain significant disruption to their central nervous system, which is likely to impair their chances of survival," said Phillip Munday, a professor who reported the findings.

In a paper published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, Munday and his colleagues also detail what they say is world-first evidence that high CO2 levels in sea water disrupts a key brain receptor in fish.

This causes marked changes in their behaviour and sensory abilities. "We've found that elevated CO2 in the oceans can directly interfere with fish neurotransmitter functions, which poses a direct and previously unknown threat to sea life," said Munday. The team began by studying how baby clown and damselfishes performed alongside their predators in CO2-enriched water.—*Internet*

China basketball star Yao Ming enters politics

SHANGHAI, 16 Jan—Not content with owning a basketball team, studying business and making wine, China's former NBA superstar Yao Ming has now become the youngest — and tallest — legislative advisor in Shanghai.

The 31-year-old was formally accepted as a member of an advisory body to Shanghai's legislature at the weekend — a position that entitles him to make proposals for possible new laws — the official *China Daily* reported.

A photograph printed by the newspaper shows the 2.29-metre (7-foot, 6-inch) Yao



China's former NBA superstar Yao Ming (pictured in 2011) has now become the youngest — and tallest — legislative advisor in Shanghai. The 31-year-old was formally accepted as a member of an advisory body to Shanghai's legislature at the weekend.—INTERNET

towering above other newly selected members of the advisory body — his latest venture since he formally retired from the Houston Rockets in July.

"Raising proposals is very serious business and I do not want to be hasty," Yao was quoted as saying.

Since July, Yao's busy schedule has involved him going back to school for a university degree in business management and helping manage the Shanghai Sharks, a Chinese basketball team.

In November, he also set up a company to sell his own brand of wine using grapes from California's famed Napa Valley, and his new role in politics has sparked concern Yao may be taking on too much. But Zhang Chi, a spokesman for the Shanghai Sharks, dismissed these worries.—*Internet*

ROK, Oman to cooperate to stabilize oil supply to Seoul

SEOUL, 16 Jan—South Korea and Oman have agreed to cooperate to ensure stable oil and gas supply to Seoul while the country seeks a waiver of toughened US sanctions on Iran and weighs up options, including reducing crude imports from Teheran.

South Korea, the world's fifth-largest importer of crude, buys 10 percent of its oil from Iran and 2 percent from Oman. Prime Minister Kim Hwang-sik visited Oman over the weekend before heading to the United Arab Emirates for oil supply talks. "Both sides have agreed to closely cooperate to continue stable energy supply, including liquefied natural gas and crude oil in the face of instability in the international crude oil markets," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement, referring to the meetings between Oman and South Korea.—*MNA/Reuters*

A cargo ship navigates in the Suez Canal past the port authority building of Port Said, 180 kms northeast of Cairo. INTERNET



British man has passport tattooed on back

A British man had his passport tattooed on his back and even used the image as an ID to take money out of the bank, he said.

Richard Ashton, 27, told *The Sun* he had his passport inked on his back while backpacking in Australia in 2006.

"I wanted something to remember my holiday by, but also wanted something

patriotic," he said. "My girlfriend at the time thought I was a bit daft, but eventually she found it hilarious. That seems to be the general reaction."

The London personal trainer said when he ran out of cash on his trip to Australia, he took off his shirt at a bank to use as ID.

"The cashier gave me a strange look. She typed in my

name and details after reading my tattoo and allowed me \$50."

Ashton, who was born in Sydney and holds dual citizenship, said he keeps his tattoo covered up most of the time.

"I don't walk around with my top off."

British officials said Ashton couldn't use the tattoo as ID to go abroad or enter Britain.



Spectacular photos of volcano eruptions in 2011: Bromo in Indonesia by Aman Rahman

Town's patience with wild boars wears out

An Italian resort town overrun with wild boars has granted residents the right to shoot them on sight, local officials said.

Spokesman for the Town of Alassio, Paolo Ripamonti, told the ANSA news agency the boars have worn out their quirky cachet by digging up and ruining gardens, causing traffic accidents and striking fear into children and adults.

The town is in the Liguria Region on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea near the French border and has a strong tourism industry, which the boars were threatening, Ripamonti said. "The population was exasperated," he said.

Culling the boars has a bonus for the hunters — the animals, originally related to pigs, are considered a delicacy in Italy, ANSA said.

French librarians encourage copying

A group of French librarians is urging patrons to make copies of books and DVDs they check out despite the government crackdown on piracy.

The effort is led by a librarian-blogger who argues the new law against illegal downloads does not apply to material found at public libraries.

"What is the first objective of a library? It's to distribute books and works of art," the blogger, identified as Silvae, wrote recently. *The Local* said Silvae has been encouraging library patrons to organize copying parties complete with computers and cameras to record the content of books, CDs and DVDs.

France enacted restrictions in 2009 that allow authorities to cut off Internet service to users who repeatedly download protected material.

Mafia villa to be police barracks

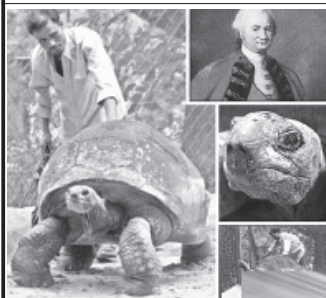
A luxury villa used as a hideout by a boss in the Sicilian Mafia is being converted into a police barracks, Italian officials said.

The conversion is expected to take a year, the *Italian* news agency ANSA reported.

The house in Sicily where Toto Riina, known as "The Beast," lived for more than two decades as a fugitive boasts a swimming pool. He was arrested in 1993.

Teo Luzi, the provincial commander of the Carabinieri, called the police takeover of the building, which began Friday, a "highly symbolic act."

Riina's victims during his criminal career included at least two magistrates.



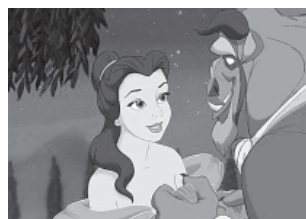
The most longevous tortoise in the world: 255-year-old "Adwaita" from India.

News Album

'Contraband' swipes No 1 spot at box office

LOS ANGELES, 16 Jan—"Contraband" managed to steal the top slot away from competitors at the weekend box office.

The Universal action drama film starring Mark Wahlberg as a reformed smuggler debuted above expectations at No 1 with \$24 million, while Disney's 3-D rerelease of "Beauty and the Beast" waltzed into the No 2 position with \$18.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. Both films helped boost Hollywood's business after a sluggish holiday season.



In this film image released by Disney, Belle and the Beast are shown in a scene from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast 3-D." INTERNET

"It's great to have an uptick in the total box office, and Universal is thrilled that 'Contraband' was the driving force behind that," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for the studio. "I think it's combination of a great marketing campaign, audiences love Mark Wahlberg and (producer) Working Title made a terrific movie, particularly for the cost."—INTERNET

Two Calif children promote indie film

BURBANK, 16 Jan—Two young California girls say they were so inspired by the indie film "The First Grader" they've started a campaign to get it considered for an Oscar.

The movie, based on the true story of an 84-year-old Kenyan man willing to sit in an elementary classroom with 6-year-olds to exercise his right to a free education, was a hit at film festivals but failed to find an audience in its theatrical release, the Burbank (Calif) Leader reported on Saturday.

But when sisters Allie and Olivia Shea, ages 11 and 8, saw the movie, its inspirational message hit home and they asked their father to help them launch the Shea Family Foundation to promote the film.

"I must admit I was not really aware of how important the whole awards season can be," said Darin Shea, an information technology entrepreneur who moved his family from Arkansas to Burbank two years ago to support his children's acting ambitions.—INTERNET



Cast member Meryl Streep arrives for the New York premiere of the film "The Iron Lady" in New York on 13 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 16 Jan—"The Iron Lady," the Weinstein Company's biopic of Margaret Thatcher, entered its first week of wide release as the No 10 movie in America—the only specialty film in the

'Iron Lady' locks up \$5.4 million over weekend

top 10. Last week's No. 9 film, Focus Features' "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," dropped out of the top 10 this week.

"Iron Lady"—like the specialty films "The Artist," "My Week With Marilyn," "The Descendants," "Shame," "We Need to Talk About Kevin" and "Carnage"—could get a boost from Sunday night's Golden Globe Awards.

"Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" received no nominations.

Meryl Streep was nominated for her portrayal of the former prime minister of

Britain in "The Iron Lady," which took \$5.4 million in 802 locations in 141 markets this weekend. "It did really well in a lot of commercial theaters," Erik Lomis, the Weinstein Company's distribution president, told *TheWrap* on Sunday morning. "It did really well in art theaters, as well."

This is "Iron Lady's" third week in release, but last week, it was in only five locations.

With the wider release, its per-location average dropped from an unsustainably high \$34,420 to a very strong \$6,716.

INTERNET

Michelle Williams, Madonna among early winners at Golden Globes

LOS ANGELES, 16 Jan—Michelle Williams, who starred in "My Week With Marilyn," and Madonna are the early winners at the 69th Golden Globe Awards held on Sunday evening at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles.

Williams won the Best Actress award in a Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy) category for her portrayal of Marilyn Monroe in "My Week with Marilyn." She dedicated her award to Matilda Ledger, her six-year-old daughter.

"I consider myself a mother first, and an actress second. The person I most want to thank is my daughter, my little girl, whose bravery and exuberance is the example that I take with me in my work and in my life," Williams said during her acceptance speech.

Kate Winslet won Best Performance by an Actress in a TV miniseries/movie for her role in HBO's "Mildred Pierce." The actress, who is also an Emmy Award winner, also got a Golden Globe nod for "Carnage," Roman



Madonna attends the ceremony of the 69th Golden Globe Awards.—INTERNET

Polanski's latest production.

Madonna won the Golden Globe award for Best Original Song in a motion picture for WE's "Masterpiece."

"This is a surprise," she said during her acceptance speech. The evening's first award, the Best Supporting Actor in a feature film, went to Christopher Plummer for "Beginners."—Xinhua



A poster of "The Adventure of Tintin."—INTERNET

'Artist,' 'Descendants' take top Globes

LOS ANGELES, 16 Jan—"The Descendants" and "The Artist" won the top film prizes at the Golden Globe Awards ceremony in Los Angeles on Sunday night.

The Hawaii-set family drama "The Descendants" won the Best Drama title, while its star, George Clooney, was named Best Actor in a Drama.

"We had an extraordinary ensemble cast of younger and older actors, veterans and newcomers, but our quarterback was George Clooney. Aside from a career best performance in my mind, he was a generous actor who helped everyone do their very best. Thanks, George."

"Descendants" producer Jim Taylor said as he accepted the Golden Globe for Best Drama. "If this movie becomes a timeless movie, which it feels like it will be to me, it's all because of our filmmaker and friend, Alexander Payne. "The Adventures of Tintin" was named Best Animated Movie and Iran's "A Separation" Best Foreign Language Film.

INTERNET

Azarenka escapes mid-day sun with easy win over Watson

MELBOURNE, 16 Jan—World number three Victoria Azarenka wasted little time in escaping the late-morning Melbourne heat to open her Australian Open campaign with a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Britain's Heather Watson on Monday.

The 22-year-old from Belarus was only really tested in the first two games of the opening set when Watson held serve then had a break point in the second game. But the young Briton was never really in the match despite some promising rallies on Rod Laver Arena. Azarenka, who completed her preparations for the opening grand slam of the

World number three Victoria Azarenka.



year with a 6-2, 1-6, 6-3 victory over China's Li Na in the Sydney International, ran out the winner in 67 minutes as the temperature flirted with 30 Celsius by mid-day. The Belarusian will face a second round clash against Australian wildcard Casey Dellacqua, who beat Serbia's Bojana Jovanovski 6-3, 6-2 on Margaret Court Arena just minutes after Azarenka sealed her win.

Internet



Kim Clijsters opens title defence in style, joins Na Li in Australian Open 2nd round

MELBOURNE, 16 Jan—Belgian superstar Kim Clijsters made an impactful start to her title defence at the 2012 Australian Open with a win over Portuguese qualifier Maria Joao Koehler and joined 2011 finalist Na Li in the second round.

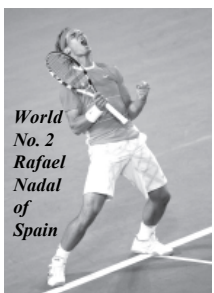
Defending champion Kim Clijsters defeated

Portugal's Maria Joao Koehler in two impressive sets to advance to the second round of the 2012 Australian Open, season's first Grand Slam event being played here in Melbourne, Australia.

Clijsters made a tough start to the match as her opponent, Maria Joao Koehler hit more winners (8 to Clijsters 6) than the Belgian to square things off till 5-5, only to lose focus in the 12th game to give away the serve and with it, the set, 5-7.

The second set turned out to be a lopsided affair as Clijsters quickly raced to a 3-0 lead and soon finished the 7-5, 6-1 victory in 68 minutes of play.—Internet

teenager Bernard Tomic came back from a two sets deficit to beat former World No. 8 Fernando Verdasco in five gruelling sets with a 4-6 6(3)-7 6-4 -2 7-5 scoreline. In the second-round, Tomic will take on American Sam Querrey, who mustered an easy victory over Kenny Deschepper of France in straight sets with a 6-3-26-2 scoreline.—Internet



World No. 2 Rafael Nadal of Spain

Nadal joins Tomic in the 2012 Australian Open 2nd round

MELBOURNE, 16 Jan—World No. 2 Rafael Nadal of Spain started off his 2012 Australian Open campaign in style by earning a comprehensive 6-4 6-1 6-1 victory over American qualifier Alex Kuznetsov and reached the second-round of this prestigious tournament. Nadal is joined by the Australian Bernard Tomic in the second-round.

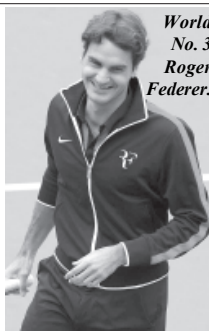
Ten Grand Slam titles winner Rafael Nadal began his campaign for the 2012 Australian Open on Monday by earning a straight sets 6-4 6-1 6-1 victory over American qualifier Alex Kuznetsov.

In the second-round, Nadal will take on German Tommy Hass, who rallied past the American Denis Kudla with a 7-63-66-07-5 scoreline. Earlier in the day, Australian



Belgian superstar Kim Clijsters.

Other winners in the draw so far are No.3 Victoria Azarenka, No.10 Francesca Schiavone, No.8 Agnieszka Radwanska and Australian Casey Dellacqua, who all scored comprehensive victories to move to the next round of the year's first major event.



World No. 3 Roger Federer.

Berdych, David Nalbandian, Marcos Baghdatis and Bernard Tomic, who toppled 2009 semifinalist Fernando Verdasco in five gruelling sets.

Roger Federer storms into Australian Open 2nd round, Del Potro wins too

MELBOURNE, 16 Jan—Where four time champion Roger Federer opened his quest for a record fifth Australian Open crown with a comfortable win over Alexandre Kudryavtsev, Juan Martin Del Potro was made to struggle in his Melbourne opener.

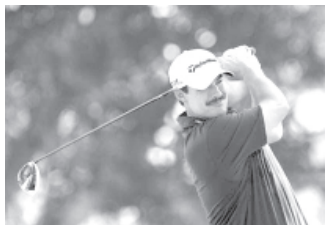
World No.3 Roger Federer made a superb start to the Australian Open title campaign with a straight sets win over Russian Alexandre Kudryavtsev in the first round match being played here at the Melbourne Park, venue to the year's first major in Melbourne, Australia. Federer hit a whopping 14 aces and 43 winners in the entire match to 21 from Kudryavtsev and capitalised on the 42 unforced errors committed by the Russian.—Internet

Other notable winners of the day were Stanislas Wawrinka, Tomas

American Wagner wins Sony Open by two shots

HAWAII, 16 Jan—American Johnson Wagner, ice-cool until the very last hole, won his third PGA Tour title by two shots after shaking off a tightly bunched pack of pursuers at the Sony Open in Hawaii Sunday.

Two strokes off the pace going into the final round at a breezy Waiialae Country Club, Wagner played error-free golf over the back nine to close with a three-under-par 67. The 31-year-old Texan recorded two birdies after the turn to post a 13-under total of 267 in the PGA Tour's first full-field event of the season. His only moment of concern came at the par-five



Johnson Wagner of the US drives off the first tee during the final round of the Sony Open golf tournament at the Waiialae Country Club in Honolulu, Hawaii on 15 January, 2012.—INTERNET

last where he hit his third shot from a greenside bunker to 10 feet, lagged his approach putt 18 inches short and then wobbled his par putt into the cup via the right edge. "It was a little shaky," a smiling Wagner said greenside. "Leaving that birdie putt short was pretty pathetic really, but knowing that I had four from there sure made it easier.—Reuters

International Sports



Janet Evans swims in the women's 800-metre freestyle preliminary race at the Austin Grand Prix swimming meet on 15 Jan, 2012, in Austin, Texas.—INTERNET

Janet Evans qualifies for 800m Olympic swim trials

AUSTIN, 16 Jan—Janet Evans qualified for the Olympic trials in the 800-metre freestyle on Sunday, her second qualifying time in two days since coming out of retirement.

The 40-year-old Evans finished in 8 minutes, 49.05 seconds at the Austin Grand Prix. Evans, who still owns the American record set in 1989, won the race by more than 14 seconds. "This is my first big event with fast kids since 1996," she said. "I felt really good starting off, especially in the first 400 (metres)." The mother of two also posted an Olympic-trial qualifying time in the 400 freestyle on Friday. Evans was 17 when she set the world record in the 400, one of three gold medals she won at the 1988 Seoul Games. She later set world marks in 800 and 1,500 freestyle and retired after the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. "It was always my best event," she said of the 800.—Internet

Henry and Hughes make losing returns

LONDON, 16 Jan—Swansea City turned on the style to beat Arsenal 3-2 and deny Thierry Henry a magical return to the Premier League and Mark Hughes made a losing start as manager of struggling Queens Park Rangers on Sunday. Arsenal stayed fifth in the table, four points behind Chelsea and 12 adrift of leaders Manchester City who have a game in hand and play at Wigan Athletic on Monday. Swansea moved up to 10th.

The league's top scorer Robin van Persie put the Gunners ahead in the fifth minute but the Londoners' hopes of closing the gap between them and the Champions League places suffered a setback when Scott Sinclair equalised from the penalty spot 11 minutes later. Nathan Dyer fired the Welsh side in front on 57 minutes at a chilly Liberty Stadium, Theo Walcott came good with an equaliser in the 69th but Danny Graham hit back straight from the re-start.



Thierry Henry (R) of Arsenal dribbles the ball past Angel Rangel of Swansea City during their English Premier League soccer match at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, South Wales, on 15 January, 2012.—INTERNET

Henry, Arsenal's all-time top scorer who made a fairy tale return last Monday with the winning goal in an FA Cup third-round tie against Leeds United, came on as a substitute in the 63rd minute but was unable to conjure up more of his magic.

Reuters

Inter down Milan to reignite Serie A title race

MILAN, 16 Jan—Inter Milan coach Claudio Ranieri refused to discuss the Serie A



AC Milan's Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic (L) fights for the ball with Inter Milan's Argentine defender Javier Zanetti.

title after his side earned a crucial 1-0 win away to champions AC Milan to squeeze the top of the table. Inter's win, coupled with Juventus's 1-1 draw at home to Cagliari, means the top five are now separated by just six points.

Ranieri freely admitted that his side were back in the mix but refused to discuss the title. "I've said it since day one, I won't talk about (the title) due to modesty and superstition," he said.—The

first thing for us was that it was important to get into the Europa League zone and we've done that. "Next up is the Champions League zone. We have it in our blood and in our DNA to fight for the top positions. But we'll keep going slowly because we're doing well but we still need to improve." Inter are the form team in the league and as well as ending Milan's 12-match unbeaten run, they won for the eighth time in nine matches.—Internet

Barcelona battle to cut Real lead to five points

BARCELONE, 16 Jan—Barcelona squandered a two-goal lead before seeing off 10-man Real Betis 4-2 to cut Real Madrid's lead at the top of La Liga back to five points on Sunday. Two goals from Lionel Messi and a goal apiece from Xavi and Alexis Sanchez fired them to the victory after Ruben Castro and Roque Santa Cruz had levelled. Betis had Mario Vazquez sent off with the score at 2-2 with 20 minutes remaining and Barca never looked back.

Now the focus is turned to the Spanish Cup on Wednesday when the two giants face each other in the first leg of a quarter-final tie. Real Madrid had come from behind on Saturday to win 2-1 at Mallorca with late goals from Gonzalo Higuain and Jose Callejon. "The cup is a different competition so we have to change our mentality. What we do know is we will go all out to get through the tie," said Xavi.

"We have no doubts about our play, although we know we can play better or worse than tonight. Our philosophy is always the same, we go out to attack. We were eight points behind Madrid and Betis made it difficult for us because they wanted the ball."

Barca coach Pep Guardiola added of Wednesday's game: "It's always good to go into a game on the back of a win, but we know who we are up against and we'll try to play the best game we can." Betis started the better team in the Camp Nou and tested Victor Valdes twice in the opening minutes.

This only served to wake up the home team when Xavi, playing his 400th league game for the club, gave them the lead on 10 minutes, following up after a Cesc Fabregas shot had hit the post. Two minutes later and Barca were two goals ahead when Messi steered the ball home after good work on the left from Sanchez.—*Internet*



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (R) celebrates after scoring a goal during a Spanish Cup football match against Real Betis at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona. Barcelona squandered a two-goal lead before seeing off 10-man Real Betis 4-2 to cut Real Madrid's lead at the top of La Liga back to five points on Sunday.—INTERNET

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(17-1-12 09:30 am ~ 18-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

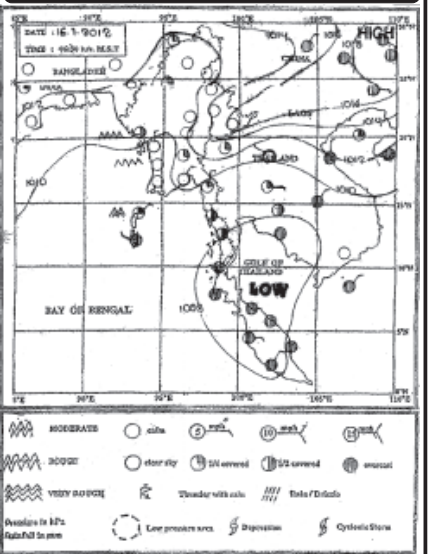
- * News
- * Emerging Evidence of Itron Age
- * News
- * "Secret Places for Yummy Food" (Episode-3) Rakhine Noodle
- * News
- * Festive Mood & Festival Food
- * News
- * Let's Talk About VCD Album
- * Straw Embossed Painting
- * News
- * A Shining Music Star
- * News
- * Fad and Fashion of Myanmar Cotton Ware
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * National Literary Award Presenting Ceremony
- * News
- * Sightseeing Around Taunggyi, Inaly (Part - I)
- * Myanmar Movies "Master of Flowers"

MYANMAR TV

(17-1-2012) (Tuesday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:40 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:50 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:00 am
- 4. Songs of Yester Years
- 8:25 am
- 5. Teleyplay (Traffic)
- 8:40 am
- 6. International News
- 4:00 pm
- 7. Martial Song
- 4:35 pm
- 8. One Village & One Product
- 5:10 pm
- 9. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 5:30 pm
- 10. Documentary
- 5:45 pm
- 11. Sweet Melody
- 7:00 pm
- 12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. Bakery World
- 15. TV Drama Series
- 16. India Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 17th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	24/75	10/50	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	26/79	06/41	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayah	32/90	14/57	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	18/64	-02/28	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	25/77	11/52	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	27/81	10/50	Generally fair weather	
7	Tamthay	34/93	20/68	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	31/88	12/54	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	29/84	13/55	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	27/81	14/57	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	33/91	14/51	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	31/88	12/54	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	26/79	14/57	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	22/72	04/33	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	24/57	01/34	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	25/77	05/41	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	30/86	15/59	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	32/90	11/52	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	31/88	12/54	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	27/81	14/57	Generally fair weather	

During the past (24) hours, light rain have been isolated in Tamthay Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair weather in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (°C) above January averages temperatures in Tamthay Region, (°F) to (4°C) below. January average temperatures in Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States and (5°C) below. January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States and above January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Hakha (-2°C), Loleim (-1°C), Namam and Patalang (0°C) each, Heho (1°C), Putao and Lashio (2°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.44 inch).

Bay Reference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

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

Tide/Link for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar Areas.

Li Na, Sun Yang win China's CCTV Sports Personality of Year 2011

BEIJING, 16 Jan—Though both absent from the 2011 CCTV (China Central Television) Sports Personality Awarding Ceremony, China's leading women tennis ace Li Na and swimming world champion Sun Yang dominated the Best Athlete Awards at the National Stadium here on Sunday.



Li Na and Sun Yang

Li, 29, made history as the first Asian and Chinese tennis player to enter a Grand Slam singles final in 2011 Australian Open. Later in June, Li was crowned as the first-ever Grand Slam title for China and Asia in the French Open final, downing defending champion Francesca Schiavone of Italy 6-4, 7-6(0).

Li was voted the Best Female Athlete, beating the other four candidates, including diving world champion Wu Minxia, table tennis world champion Ding Ning, swimming worlds gold medalist Jiao Liuyang and world discus winner Li Yanfeng.

"I'm now in Melbourne, preparing for the Australia Open to be open here on 16 Jan. I'm happy that I'm almost 30, but I'm still hungry for winning and still focusing on tennis," Li Na said through a VCR showed on the ceremony. The 20-year-old Sun snatched the Best Male Athlete as he swept the men's 800 and 1,500 metres freestyle gold medals at the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai in July. Sun clocked 14 minutes 34.14 seconds in 1,500m to break the world record of 14:34.56 set by Australian Grant Hackett 10 years ago. Sun, who is training in Gold Coast in Australia, said through telephone: "I'm honoured to have this award because the other four candidates performed very well as well. Though I'm in Australia, my parents take the award for me at the ceremony. The award will boost my confidence and winning desire in 2012. To be honest, my new year wish is to win at the London Olympic Games."—*Xinhua*

DISTRICT NEWS

Basic tailoring course opened

DAIKU, 16 Jan—KanU Basic Education High School's Education Foundation of DaikU opened the basic tailoring course No. 2 at the school in DaikU on 8 January.

Altogether 40 trainees from wards and villages are attending the one-month course. Daw Yi Yi Hla and family of Yangon and other well-wishers donated 10 sewing machines to the tailoring course.—*Kyemon*



Cash and kind donated to Parahita School



MANDALAY, 16 Jan—To mark the 6th anniversary celebration, Seikta Thukha Parahita Youth Association donated cash and kind to Nyaunggaing Youth Development Parahita School in Meiktila on 4 January.

Over 30 members of the association donated 51 bags of rice, two bags of meal, K 100,000, stationery, K 1000 each and snack to 126 students.

The school, located near Uyin Village of Meiktila Township, admits 125 students from KG to university level students.—*Kyemon*

Government's implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation tasks will facilitate progress of whole Naga region



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets local nationals in Lahe.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, accompanied by Union Ministers, the Sagaing Region Chief Minister, the Commander of North-West Command, deputy ministers, the Indian Ambassador, the chairman of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body and responsible people, left Hkamti for Lahe of Naga Self-Administered Zone by helicopter on 14 January morning.

They were welcomed there by departmental officials, members of social organizations, townselders, students and local nationals.

Next, the Vice-President went to Lahe People's Hospital where he met the acting medical superintendent, doctors and nurses and inquired about condition of medical treatment. He then gave an instruction on choosing of a site for upgrading the hospital into a 50-bed one and making coordination with the region chief minister and officials in providing effective health care. After comforting the patients, the Vice-President looked round the operation theatre and medical store and the site for upgrading the hospital.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint presented medical equipment to the acting medical superintendent.

The Vice-President then proceeded to the office of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body, inspected the guesthouse and office buildings and left necessary instructions.

Then, the Vice-President and party attended a meeting with township level departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders at the township hall. Lahe Township administrator reported on data of the township, management, education, health, economic and social matters, implementation of rural development tasks and requirements.

(See page 9)

Work coord meeting on holding Hluttaw Third Regular Session held

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan— The work coordination meeting of the Central Committee for holding the Third Regular Session of Hluttaw was held at the meeting hall of Hluttaw Office, here, at 8 am today with an address by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker in his address said that it is necessary for those responsible to make preparations so that the third regular session is held successfully in time, and also stressed the need to make arrangements to be able to come up with national

planning, budgets and bills at the Hluttaw regular session in real time. And he called on the attendees to actively take part in discussion for Hluttaw representatives to be able to deal with the respective tasks smoothly.

Afterwards, the union ministers and deputy ministers held a general round of discussions on security, information,



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann speaks at the work coordination meeting.—MNA

transport, communications, decoration, meals, health, and accommodation.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

Also present at the ceremony were Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy



Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun, the deputy ministers, heads of departments and responsible persons from Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Significant night temperature (16-1-2012)

Haka	(-2° C)
Loilem	(-1° C)
Namsang	(0° C)
Pinlaung	(0° C)
Heho	(1° C)

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker receives French Minister



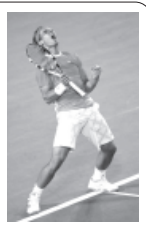
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Union Foreign Affairs Minister meets French counterpart



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Nadal joins Tomic in the 2012 Australian Open 2nd round



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