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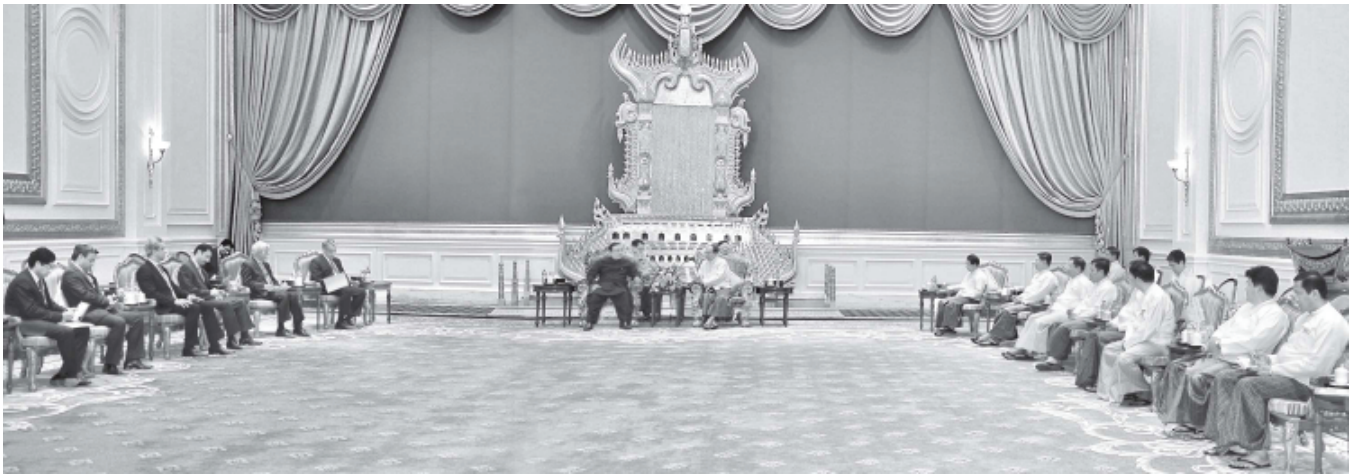
Wednesday, 25 January, 2012

True patriotism

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

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

President U Thein Sein receives Pakistani President Mr Asif Ali Zardari and party



President U Thein Sein receives Pakistani President Mr Asif Ali Zardari at the Credentials Hall of the President Residence in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr Asif Ali Zardari at the Credentials Hall of the President Residence here at 6 pm today.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein

Sein were Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Union Minister for

Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and departmental officials.

The Pakistani delegation led by President Mr Asif Ali Zardari was accompanied by Pakistani Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Qazi M Khalilullah.—MNA

President U Thein Sein hosts dinner to Pakistani President Mr Asif Ali Zardari and party

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting delegation led by President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr Asif Ali Zardari at the President Residence here this evening.

Also present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were union ministers, deputy ministers and heads of departments, and the delegation led by Pakistani President Mr Asif Ali Zardari was accompanied by Pakistani Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Qazi M Khalilullah and high-ranking officials.

After the dinner, President U Thein Sein presented the album on trip to Myanmar to visiting Pakistani President Mr Asif Ali Zardari.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein hosts a dinner to Pakistani President Mr Asif Ali Zardari and party at the President Residence.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 25 January, 2012

Have a sense of gratitude

There is no one who does not owe a debt of gratitude. We owe others a debt of gratitude in a direct or indirect way. Gratitude can be categorized into two aspects – paying gratitude and receiving gratitude.

Gratitude always prevails between parents and children, between teachers and pupils, between employers and employees. Yet, gratitude between parents and children is enormous and so is between teacher and students.

In the world, there are few people who know gratitude. What's more, there are those who hardly repay any gratitude. However, those valuing gratitude can gain benefits from both the mundane and supra-mundane worlds.

In Bagan history of Myanmar, well-known Prince Kyansittha was deservedly crowned King of Bagan as he had always remained loyal to his gratitude owed to King Anawrahta.

There were also some events in which ungrateful people with no sense of gratitude got into trouble. Consequently, they had to live a difficult life and end up in hell after their death.

Those who have a sense of gratitude can get not only benefits but also help from others, thereby contributing to their wellbeing.

May we enjoy benefits by showing and paying our gratitude!

Stars appear at hotels

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Following recent developments, Myanmar has attracted more tourists this year. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is shaping sustainable tourism by preserving cultural heritages and traditional customs of national brethrens, and conserving ecosystem.

With a view to developing hotels and rooms to host tourists, improve services of the hotels, hotel grading teams are now in operation. The ministry is decorating hotels which satisfy demanded standards with accredited stars.

So far, 33 hotels in Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan-NyaungU and Taunggyi-Inlay hotel zones have got stars, which will later upgraded or degraded in the light of continuous monitoring. The grading will continue in hotel zones of Yangon, Mandalay and other cities. Local and foreign travelers can now enjoy guaranteed services at accredited hotels.—MNA

Progress of Mobile phone installation in Mdy inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun inspected the progress of GSM Mobile phone extension services in PyinOoLwin City in Mandalay Region on 21 January and progress of GSM Mobile phone services in Kyaukse, Kuma, Meiktila, Mahlaing, Yonzingyi in Taungtha, Myingyan and NyaungU Towns on 22 January.

On his inspection tour, Deputy General Manager U Kyaw Zwa Thwin and responsible persons of the project explained about the progress of installation services of Mobile phone which will go into commercial operation in February at reasonable price to the Union Minister.

In meeting with staff from Kyaukse, Kuma, Meiktila, Mahlaing, Yonzingyi in Taungtha, Myingyan and NyaungU Towns, the Union Minister left the necessary instructions.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Pakistani President arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr Asif Ali Zardari led a delegation which arrived here by special flight at 4.30 pm today.

Union Ministers Dr Pe Thet Khin and Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Myo Myint, officials, Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Qazi M Khalilullah and embassy officials welcomed the delegation at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

MNA



Dy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives US Assistant Secretary of State



NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received US Assistant Secretary of State for Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation Mr Thomas Countryman and party at Hluttaw Building here this morning.

The deputy speaker was accompanied by chairmen and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw committees and officials from Hluttaw office.

They frankly discussed improving bilateral relations and cooperation between two Hluttaws.—MNA

ICRC Rep calls on Union Minister at President Office



Cash for X-ray television system donated to Myaungmya hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Cash donation ceremony for purchasing X-ray television system for Myaungmya People's Hospital was held at the hospital on 22 January.

The township administrator addressed the ceremony and, on behalf of donor Chairman of ACE Construction Company U Phyo Ko Ko Tint Hsan, donated K 10 million through District Health Officer Dr U Aung Ngwe San of

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Representative of ICRC Office Mr Georges Paclisanu paid a call on Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung at the latter's office here this noon and discussed further cooperation between Myanmar and the ICRC on artificial limbs, water and sewage and continued cooperation in matters of mutual concern.

Also present at the call were Deputy Director-General of the President Office U Zaw Win and officials.—MNA

Myaungmya People's Hospital.

The system will start operation at the hospital soon.

MNA

EU eases sanctions on Myanmar after reforms

BRUSSELS, 24 Jan—The European Union will suspend travel bans on the president of Myanmar and other senior officials, following reforms that have included the release of hundreds of political prisoners.

And EU foreign ministers held out the prospect of a further easing of sanctions in April if a "remarkable programme of political reform" and a commitment to economic and social development continued. In the steps agreed on Monday, the EU said it would suspend visa bans on Myanmar's President U Thein Sein, the country's vice-presidents, cabinet members and parliamentary speakers.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé said he saw real willingness by the government to liberalise and democratise.

"If this process of democratization goes further, we shall go further in lifting sanctions," he told a news conference.

The EU will promote reform through aid, training and greater dialogue with the government, it said. Ministers also called for "progressive engagement" by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Myanmar's strategic location at a crossroads in Asia and its resources have increasingly made the country of interest to both Western nations and its neighbours, particularly China. EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said "quite extraordinary changes" had taken place in Myanmar in the last weeks and months and British Foreign Secretary William Hague said it was important to recognise the progress made. The reforms in Myanmar have followed a 2010 election. They have included loosening media restrictions and other repressive laws, peace talks with ethnic militants and the freeing of hundreds of political prisoners.—MNA/Reuters

Pakistan: US airstrike wasn't self-defence

ISLAMABAD, 24 Jan—Pakistan's army on Monday formally rejected a US claim that American airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani troops last year were justified as self-defence, a stance that could complicate efforts to repair the troubled but vital relationship between the two countries. In a detailed report, the army said that Pakistani troops did not trigger the 26 Nov incident at two posts along the Afghan border by firing at American and Afghan forces, as the US has alleged. Pakistan's army said its troops shot at suspected militants who were nowhere near coalition troops.

"Trying to affix partial responsibility of the incident on Pakistan is, therefore, unjustified and unacceptable," said the report, which was issued in response to the US investigation that concluded at the end of December. The US expressed condolences for the deaths of the Pakistani soldiers but said American troops acted "with

appropriate force" in self-defence because they thought they were being attacked by Taleban militants. Pakistan responded quickly by closing its border crossings to supplies for NATO troops in Afghanistan. The borders have remained closed, and Pakistan also kicked the US out of a base that was used to service American drones.

The differing accounts of what happened could make it difficult for the two sides to move forward, despite their interests. The US needs Pakistan's help in targeting Islamist militants within the country and negotiating peace with the Taleban in Afghanistan. Islamabad is heavily reliant on billions of dollars in aid from Washington. Pakistan said the fundamental cause of the deadly airstrikes was the decision by coalition forces not to tell Pakistan that American and Afghan troops were conducting an operation near the border inside Afghanistan before dawn on 26 November.—Internet

The 2011 quake caused massive destruction on Japan's north-eastern coastline.—INTERNET

Big Tokyo earthquake likely 'within the next few years'



TOKYO, 24 Jan — The chance of a big earthquake hitting the Japanese capital in the next few years is much greater than official predictions suggest, researchers

say. The team, from the University of Tokyo, said there was a 75% probability that a magnitude seven quake would strike the region in the next four years. The

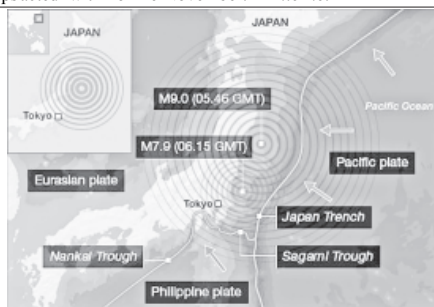
government says the chances of such an event are 70% in the next 30 years.

The warning comes less than a year after a massive earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan's north-eastern coast. The last time Tokyo was hit by a big earthquake was in 1923, when a 7.9 magnitude quake killed more than 100,000 people, many of them in fires. Researchers at the University of Tokyo's earthquake research institute based their figures on data from the growing number of tremors

in the capital since the 11 March 2011 quake.

They say that compared with normal years, there has been a five-fold increase in the number of quakes in the Tokyo metropolitan area since the March disaster. They based their calculations on data from Japan's Meteorological Agency. They said their results show that seismic activity had increased in the area around the capital, which in turn leads to a higher probability of a major quake.

The researchers say that



while it is "hard to predict" the casualty impact of a major quake on Tokyo, the government and individuals should be prepared for it. Correspondents say that while the university

calculations take account of greater seismic activity since March, government calculations may use different or less up-to-date data and different modelling techniques.—Internet

Afghanistan trips by celebrities cost over £400,000 in 2011

LONDON, 24 Jan—The government spent more than £400,000 on sending celebrities to visit soldiers in Afghanistan last year, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has said. The MoD arranged a series of trips to the front line in an attempt to keep British troops' spirits high. Pop star Cheryl Cole was among those to visit last year. Defence Secretary Philip Hammond told MPs the total cost, "including an element for UK travel and mobilisation", was £437,637.

"Entertainment of members of the armed forces is, and has for many years, been an important element of the deployment welfare package," he told MPs.

"It helps to maintain morale and thereby the combat-effectiveness of service personnel." "The MoD has a contract with combined services entertainment to provide entertainment to members of the armed forces deployed overseas, including Afghanistan."

It is not known if the celebrities were paid for their visits to Afghanistan. But Mr Hammond said those who visited were transported and accommodated alongside armed forces personnel "at minimal extra cost to the public purse". Mr Hammond was responding to a written Parliamentary question from Conservative MP for East Yorkshire, Greg Knight.

Former X Factor judge Cole flew to Camp Bastion in Helmand province last September, to mark 10 years of British operations in the country. As part of her visit, she met with



Cheryl Cole visited Camp Bastion in Helmand Province.—INTERNET

soldiers, sailors and air force personnel serving in the country, including those who had been wounded in action. Other celebrities who have travelled to Afghanistan include former Manchester United and England footballer David Beckham, classical singer Katherine Jenkins and singer and former soldier James Blunt.—Internet

But a judge at Westminster Magistrates' Court discharged the 44-year-old from a charge of plotting to kill Spanish King Juan Carlos II in Bilbao in 1997. His lawyer says he plans to appeal.

The arrest warrants include a series of charges, such as placing grenade launchers aimed at Madrid

Barajas Airport and a police station in Spain.

The court heard the suspect was alleged to have become a member of Eta in 1996 and then to have become part of a plan to kill the king of Spain, who was due to attend the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao on 18 October 1997.

Internet

Romney scores points in debate with attacks on Gingrich

TAMPA, 24 Jan—Mitt Romney was desperate for a strong debate performance in Florida's Republican debate on Monday night to restore momentum for his campaign, and delivered repeated sharp attacks on rising rival Newt Gingrich. Romney lashed out at Gingrich at the Florida debate for resigning as speaker of the US House of Representatives under an ethical cloud and repeatedly labelled him an "influence peddler."

On Monday, Romney used a question about his tax returns as an opportunity to outline his proposals to change the tax system by cutting capital gains and corporate taxes. He joked that the country needed to get more people back to work so they could begin to pay taxes. Romney has promised to release his 2010 tax return and his estimated 2011 taxes on Tuesday.

To distract from his own financial questions, Romney called on Gingrich before the debate to disclose his contract for the government-sponsored mortgage financing giant Freddie Mac, from which Gingrich made \$1.6 million (1 million pounds). Gingrich's former consulting firm released a contract he signed with the company in 2006, but it shed little light on what Gingrich was hired to do. The document called for a \$300,000 retainer and \$25,000 in fees monthly for the year.

Reuters

Airport attack suspect to be extradited to Spain

LONDON, 24 Jan — An alleged member of Basque separatist group Eta can be extradited to Spain over claims he plotted to target an airport with grenades, a UK judge says. Eneko Gogea-koetxea Arronategui, who was arrested last July while living in Cambridge, faces eight arrest warrants alleging a series of offences in Spain.



Eneko Gogea-koetxea Arrona-tegui is thought to have left Spain in 1997.—INTERNET

Autistics have more psychiatric issues

BOSTON, 24 Jan—The presence of co-occurring psychiatric and neurodevelopmental conditions may result in a change in autism spectrum disorder, US researchers say.

Dr Andrew Zimmerman of Massachusetts General Hospital for Children and colleagues at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public said questions remain as to whether changes in diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder are due to true etiologic differences — risk factors contributing to the cause of a disease — or shifts in diagnostic determination.

The researchers analyzed data from a phone survey in 2007 and

2008 of 92,000 parents of US children across three developmental stages — children ages 3-5 and 6-11, and adolescents ages 12-17. More than 1,300 said their child had a past or current diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder, but in 453 of those cases, children had been diagnosed by a doctor of having a disorder — but parents said the children did not have a disorder anymore.

The results identified co-occurring conditions that distinguish groups currently diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder from groups with past but not current diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder.

Children with learning disability, delayed development, epilepsy and anxiety tended to continue to be classified as having autism spectrum disorder. Children or teens with early hearing problems were less likely than similarly affected older children to be considered autistic. The findings are published in the journal *Pediatrics*.

Internet



The US has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the world, according to a new CDC study.
INTERNET

Many diagnosed with cancer keep smoking

BOSTON, 24 Jan— Quitting smoking is always a good idea, and those diagnosed with colorectal cancer have more reason to quit — but many keep smoking, US researchers found.

Lead researcher Dr Elyse R Park of the Harvard Medical School — who is also director of behavioral sciences for the Massachusetts General Hospital Tobacco Research and Treatment Centre — and colleagues analyzed data from 1,400 smokers newly diagnosed with lung or colorectal cancer. The study, published online in the journal *Cancer* found five months after learning they had cancer, just over one-third of those with lung cancer and two-thirds of those with colorectal cancer were still smoking.

The quit rates in the study are much higher than seen in most studies of quitters — on average, only about 6 percent of people who stop smoking are still off cigarettes six months later.

“Our results underscore just how difficult it can be to quit smoking,” Park told the publication *Harvard Health*.

“A diagnosis of cancer can certainly be a powerful motivator, but it isn’t always enough — people need help to quit.”

Those with cancer who continue to smoke might lessen the effectiveness of cancer treatment and slow recovery, the researchers said.—Internet

Women feel pain more intensely than men

STANFORD, 24 Jan—In almost every disease category, women report more-intense pain than men, researchers at Stanford University School of Medicine in California say.

Using a database from electronic medical records, Stanford scientists examined more than 160,000 pain scores reported for more than 72,000 adult patients. From these, they extracted cases in which disease-associated pain was first reported, and then divided the findings by disease and gender, the researchers said.

Dr Atul Butte and colleagues said the medical literature contains numerous reports indicating that women report more pain than men for one or another particular disease, but this study focused on pain intensity, whereas most previous studies have looked at prevalence.

The search identified 47 separate diagnostic categories for which there were more than 40 pain reports for each gender. The sample included more than 11,000 individual adult patients, of which 56 percent were women and 51 percent of them white. The researchers were able to further analyze these 47 categories by condensing them into 16 disease clusters.

“We saw higher pain scores for female patients practically across the board,” Butte said in a statement. “Those reported differences were not only statistically significant, but also clinically significant.”

The findings are published in the journal *Pain*.

Internet

Auto show a sign of industry resurgence

DETROIT, 24 Jan—Attendance at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit was well above expectations, the event’s chairman said.

The attendance record is more than 800,000, set in 2003, said event chairman Bill Perkins, who also owns several auto dealerships. *The Detroit News* reported Monday that this year it was predicted that 725,000 people would attend during the nine-day run that is open to the public. Instead, 770,932 showed up, Perkins said.

“People want to feel good again about the industry, which is now obviously in a better place than it was a few years ago,” he said.

“A lot of people counted Detroit down and out, but it has been a major year for the auto industry and our show,” Perkins said. Perkins said the show’s economic impact was “huge ... better than the Super Bowl.”

The show, which draws visitors from near and far, has an estimated \$400 million impact on southeastern Michigan, the newspaper said.

Internet



Toyota shows off the new Prius C model at the 2012 North American International Auto Show at the Cobo Centre in Detroit, on 10 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Dollar falls as Greek debt talks approach conclusion

NEW YORK, 24 Jan—The US dollar fell against major currencies in late New York trading on Monday as investors waited the result of Greek debt talks.

Investors expected that private creditors have to accept losses of 65 to 70 percent of Greek debt holdings.

Meanwhile, Germany successfully sold 12-month bonds with an average yield of 0.07 percent, well below the yield of 0.346 percent at the last auction, suggesting that demand for German bonds has recovered.

The uncertainties in euro zone have temporarily

eliminated and investors began cautiously betting on the euro.

The shared currency climbed against the dollar on Monday and stayed above 1.30 in late trading session.

With no major US economic data due out on Monday, the dollar index retreated back to below 80 as the euro recovered.

In late Monday trading, the dollar bought 77.00 Japanese yen, comparing with 76.98 from late Friday. The euro rose to 1.3015 dollars from 1.2923.

The British pound also rose to 1.5559 dollars from 1.5542. The dollar fell from

0.9351 Swiss francs to 0.9276, and also fell to 1.0082 Canadian dollars from 1.0138.

Xinhua



People eat in the cafeteria at the Google campus near Venice Beach, in Los Angeles, on 13 Jan, 2012.
INTERNET

US and Canada extend softwood agreement

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan—US and Canada trade ambassadors Monday signed a two-year extension to a softwood trade agreement, the Office of the US Trade Representative said. Trade Representative Ron Kirk and Canadian International Trade Minister Ed Fast signed the agreement in Washington, extending it through 12 Oct, 2015, two years past its previous end date.

“The Softwood Lumber Agreement is very important for US producers, particularly when both sides of the border are facing weak demand,” Kirk said. “Trade agreements are about

providing a predictable and fair environment for conducting international trade.”

The agreement, which took effect in 2006, ended years of dispute over duties imposed on Canadian lumber with the United States contending the industry in Canada was unfairly subsidized. In the trade agreement, the United States stops imposing extra duties on Canadian softwood in exchange for Canada applying export restrictions when the price of lumber falls below a certain level.—Internet

TECHNOLOGY

Underwater photographer fights off 12-foot shark with camera



NASSAU, 24 Jan— Diving just off Cat Island in the Bahamas, Russell Easton and his partner were taking snapshots of ocean life when Easton was approached by a 12-foot tiger shark. Easton began taking pictures of the shark with his camera that was packed inside waterproof housing, but quickly drew unwanted attention from the shark. According to Easton, he was looking through the viewfinder to take another shot when the teeth of the shark snapped down on the housing. In an interview with the *Daily Mail*, Easton stated "In that moment, I managed to get one shot of the inside of its mouth. Thankfully, sharks are attracted to cameras and bit that instead, giving me vital seconds to swim away."

In the meantime, Easton's partner was taking photographs of the encounter and captured the terrifying event in a few frames. Easton believes that the shark was only attempting to understand what Easton was and used a quick bite to figure that out. The camera captured one shot of the tiger shark when it was clamped down on the waterproof rig. Known as a conservationist, this incident hasn't frightened Easton off from capturing photographs while underwater. He plans to return to Cat Island to pursue underwater photograph as well as taking more pictures of sharks.

During early 2010, photographer and surfer Dale Kobetich was floating off the Newport Beach pier in California when he was approached by a Mako shark. Kobetich wasn't wearing any scuba gear, but rather floating in the water with his underwater camera housing.—*Internet*

New approach could spur green technologies

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan—A new approach to chemical reactions between water and metal oxides, the most abundant minerals on our planet, could prompt faster development of "green" technologies. It could not only lead to a better understanding of corrosion and how toxic minerals leach from rocks and soil, but also help create new types of batteries or cutting edge catalysts for hydrogen cell.

"This is a global change in how people should view these processes," said William Casey, professor of chemistry at the University of California, Davis.

Casey co-authored the study with James Rustad, former geology professor at the same university, who now works as a scientist at Corning Inc in New York.

Previously, when studying the interactions of water with clusters of metal oxides, researchers tried to pick and study individual atoms to assess their reactivity. But "none of it really made sense," Rustad said, the journal *Nature Materials* reports. Using computer simulations developed by Rustad, and comparing the resulting animations with lab experiments by Casey, the two found that the behaviour of an atom on the surface of the cluster can be affected by an atom some distance away, according to a California statement.

Instead of moving through a sequence of transitional forms, as had been assumed, metal oxides interacting with water fall into a variety of "metastable states" — short-lived intermediates, the researchers found. For example, in one of Rustad's animations, a water molecule approaches an oxygen atom on the surface of a cluster. The oxygen suddenly pulls away from another atom binding it into the middle of the cluster and leaps to the water molecule.

Then the structure collapses back into place, ejecting a spare oxygen atom and incorporating the new one. The US Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation sponsored the research.—*Internet*

Genetics plays role in new rice varieties

NORWICH, (England) 24 Jan—Less than a year after a tsunami inundated fields in Japan with salty water, scientists say they are close to introducing locally adapted, salt-tolerant rice.

Collaborating British and Japanese researchers have developed a new method for genetic marker-assisted breeding that will reduce the time necessary to isolate new traits such as salt tolerance, a release from the Norwich BioScience Institutes in Britain said Sunday.

Scientists and breeders worldwide will be able to use the method, dubbed MutMap, to dramatically accelerate crop breeding,

the release said.

"The beauty of the new method is its simplicity," study co-author Sophien Kamoun at the Norwich Research Park said.

"By working with cultivars favoured by farmers and already adapted to local conditions, the MutMap method will enable plant scientists and breeders to develop new crop varieties in nearer a year rather than five to 10 years." The new technique takes advantage of the speed at which gene sequencing can now be done.

"Until now, plant breeding has not been able to take advantage of the genomics revolution," lead author Ryohei Terauchi of

science



Japan's Iwate Biotechnology Research Centre said.

researchers said.

Important traits such as drought and salt tolerance, plant height and yield are often controlled by many genes, each having a subtle effect difficult to identify,

"MutMap overcomes one of the greatest limitations, which has been the time it takes to identify genetic markers for desirable traits," Terauchi said.—*Internet*

Strong solar storm on its way toward Earth



A composite ultraviolet image from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory depicting today's outburst from the upper right quadrant of the sun.

INTERNET

BOULDER, 24 Jan—A solar storm of energetic radiation and charged plasma could disrupt GPS signals and the electrical grid, US space weather experts said.

Scientists at the Space Weather Prediction Centre, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, Colo, have issued a geomagnetic storm watch. The agency said it is the strongest solar radiation storm since May 2005.

"With the radiation storm in progress now, satellite operators could be experiencing trouble, and there are probably impacts as well to high frequency [radio] communications in polar regions," Doug Biesecker, a physicist at the center, told *The Washington Post*.

Such radio blackouts can force airlines to reroute flights at high latitudes between North America and Europe or Asia.

NASA scientists said the storm should peak about 9 am EST Tuesday, although uncertainty in the prediction means the storm could peak up to seven hours earlier or later.

"It's not going to be a catastrophe, but there could be noticeable geomagnetic

current induced on the electrical grid," said Michael Hesse of NASA's Space Weather Laboratory at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Md.

The storm began Sunday night with a burst of X-rays shooting out of a sunspot followed by a huge explosion of plasma, known as a coronal mass ejection.

The bulk of the plasma cloud is speeding toward Earth at around 4.5 million mph, Hesse said.

"We're going to be monitoring this," he said. "The models we use to predict these events are not correct all the time. But at the moment, it looks like it will be pretty interesting."

Internet

Coral reefs and fish depend on each other

TOWNSVILLE, (Australia), 24 Jan—The complex relationship between fish and corals is a major factor in shielding reef species from extinction, Australian researchers say. Those relationships developed relatively recently in geological terms, scientists at the ARC Centre of Excellence in Coral Reef Studies said. Early coral reefs, 300 million to 400 million years ago, were much simpler than today's colorful and complex systems, researcher Peter Cowman said, as fish had not yet become specialized to live on or among corals.

"By 200 million years ago we are starting to see fish with jaws capable of feeding on corals, but the real explosion in reef diversity doesn't occur till about 50 million years ago when we see fishes very like today's specialist coral feeders emerging," he said. The ever-increasing complexity of the relationship between corals and fishes over the last 20 million or 30 million years means each has become more critical to the survival of the other as their lives have become more interwoven, he said.

"The study of the past tells us that reefs are all about relationships and, like a family, for them to survive those relationships need to remain strong," Cowman said. "In coming years it is probable reefs will be subject to relentless pressures that may cause them to change fundamentally."



Those with the best long-term prospects of survival will be the ones where the relationships between fish and corals are healthiest.

Internet

Aquatic power generator takes to the sea

LONDON, 24 Jan—An aquatic system likened to a bicycle pump is set to take to the seas and turn wave power into clean electricity, a British company says.

The system's inventor says the Searaser system, unlike other wave power technologies, does not generate the electricity in the hostile environment of the ocean but rather pumps saltwater to an onshore generator.

"If you put any device in

the sea, it will get engulfed in storms, so it all has to be totally sealed," Alvin Smith told *The Guardian newspaper*. "Water and electricity don't mix — and sea water is particularly corrosive — so most other devices are very expensive to manufacture and maintain."

The Searaser system, acquired by green energy company Ecotricity, has been tested in prototype form, the company said.

It uses the rise and fall of a large float to pressurize water, and then sends pressurized sea water onshore to drive an electrical generator.

Ecotricity says "it is not over-ambitious" to expect 200 Searaser devices to be installed at depths of 60 to 100 feet around Britain within five years — generating enough renewable electricity to power 236,000 homes.

Internet

Ex-CIA agent John Kiriakou charged over leaks

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — An ex-CIA agent leaked the names of other covert operatives to the media, the US justice department said. John Kiriakou is accused of disclosing the names of



John Kiriakou replied 'Heavens no' when asked if he had given a New York Times reporter an agent's name.—INTERNET

legal brief including details not provided by the government.

Mr Kiriakou, 47, will appear in court in Alexandria, Virginia, on Monday. He is suspected of leaking classified information to reporters, who in turn provided information to the defence teams of the suspected terrorists.

During a recent interview with the FBI, Mr Kiriakou denied releasing

agents who interrogated a suspected al-Qaeda financier, who was allegedly waterboarded 83 times. Prosecutors say the probe started after lawyers for suspected terrorists filed a

the identity of classified agents, according to a sworn affidavit.

In particular, Mr Kiriakou was asked whether he released to the *New York Times* in 2008 the name of an officer who helped interrogation of the suspected al-Qaeda financier, Abu Zubaydah.

Mr Kiriakou responded: "Heavens no," according to the affidavit.

Internet

Nigerian police find unexploded car bombs in Kano

KANO, 24 Jan — Authorities have found 10 unexploded car bombs in the northern Nigeria City where an attack by a radical Islamist sect on Friday killed more than 150 people, a police spokesman said.

Kano State police spokesman Magaji Musa Majiya said that officers found one near a police station in the state capital of Kano, which was attacked by the sect known as Boko Haram.

Majiya said officers have disarmed the explosive.

Majiya also said officers have found other locally made explosives.

The unexploded devices were found as police also said the death toll from last Friday's attacks in which two Boko Haram suicide bombers detonated explosive-laden cars had risen to 185.

The attacks hit police stations, immigration offices and the local headquarters of Nigeria's secret police, leaving corpses in the streets across the city.

Internet



Felicity Aston takes a picture of herself at Union Glacier in November, days before she travelled to her starting point on the Ross Ice Shelf for a solo trek across Antarctica.—INTERNET

BUENOS AIRES, 24 Jan — British adventurer Felicity Aston completed her crossing of Antarctica on Monday,

becoming the first woman to ski across the icy continent alone. Aston also set another record: the first human to ski

Teenage Mexican moms claim they were duped into giving up their children

ZAPOPAN, 24 Jan — Life seemed to give Karla Zepeda a break when a woman came to her dusty neighbourhood of cinderblock homes and dirt roads looking for babies to photograph in an anti-abortion ad campaign.

The woman allegedly asked to use the 15-year-old's baby girl in a two-week photo shoot for \$755 (10,000 pesos), a small fortune for a teen mother who earns \$180 a month at a sandwich stand and shares a cramped, one-story house with her disabled mother, stepfather, and three brothers.

But 9-month-old Camila wasn't just posing for photographs when she was taken away. Jalisco state investigators say the child was

left for weeks at a time in the care of an Irish couple who had come to Ajijic, a town of cobblestone streets and gated communities 37 miles away, thinking they were adopting her.

Prosecutors say the baby was apparently part of an illegal adoption ring that ensnared destitute young Mexican women trying to earn more for their children and childless Irish couples desperate to become parents.

Camila and nine other children have been turned over to state officials who suspect they were being groomed for illegal adoptions.

And authorities hint that far more children could be involved: Lead in-



Karla Zepeda, left, and Gabriela Velazquez, pictured at Karla's mother house, claim that they agreed to lend their babies for a two-week photo shoot for \$755 for an anti-abortion ad campaign.

INTERNET

investigator Blanca Barron told reporters the ring may have been operating for 20 years, though she gave no details. Prosecutors also say four of

the children show signs of sexual abuse, though they gave no details on how or by whom.

Internet

British mother, 45, dies suddenly on chairlift next to her teenage daughter while on ski holiday in the Alps



Sudden death: Cheryl Fairbrother, pictured right, with her daughter Jade. The pair had been skiing together in Serre Chevalier in the Alps when Miss Fairbrother collapsed and died.

INTERNET

SERRE CHEVALIER, 24 Jan — A British woman on holiday in the French Alps died next to her teenage daughter after collapsing in a ski lift.

Attempts to resuscitate Cheryl Fairbrother at the summit failed and she died before reaching hospital. She was making the ascent up Monetier's L'Yret at Serre Chevalier, the resort in south-east France where her daughter Jade Ramsden, 19, was

working. Machinist Cheryl, of Mytholmroyd, West Yorkshire, had flown out for a week's skiing with her partner of more than 25 years, Stephen Ramsden, 49. A more advanced skier, he had been using another slope when the tragedy occurred. Their other child, son Matt, 18, who was not with the party, is in England. Stephen's parents Roland and Ann Ramsden, of Crag

Vale, West Yorkshire, have spoken of their shock.

Roland, 81, said: "We are not aware of any health problems. She was fit, did a lot of walking and running and ate healthily."

"Jade and Cheryl were taking a chair lift up the mountain and on the way up Cheryl went dizzy and collapsed and the altitude wouldn't have helped. 'It had to carry on higher and

higher."

From a distressing phone call from Jade it appeared first aid was given to her mother. Family friend Rob Crossley said a skiing accident would have been a shock, but more acceptable than the sudden death of a fit person. "It's like being in a bad dream. A lovely family who got on so well together," he said.

Internet



A chairlift heading up the mountain on Le Monetier les Bains in the Serre Chevalier skiing region. Miss Fairbrother collapsed and died on a Monetier chairlift.—INTERNET

Severe storms in US kill two, injure dozens

CLAY, 24 Jan — Violent weather including possible tornadoes roared across the state on Monday, injuring dozens of people and killing at least two, including a man who lived in an area devastated by a deadly twister outbreak in the spring.

The storms flattened homes and peeled off roofs in the middle of the night in the rural community of Oak Grove near Birmingham.

As dawn broke, residents surveyed the damage and began cleaning up across parts of central Alabama, an area that has a

history of tornadoes going back decades.

In a sign that Alabama has become all too familiar with severe weather, officials had to reschedule a meeting Monday to receive a report on their response to the spring twisters.

Alabama's governor declared a state of emergency for the entire state. Oak Grove was hit hard in April when tornadoes killed about 240 people statewide, though officials said none of the same neighbourhoods was struck again.

Internet

Adventurer skis solo across Antarctica

solo across Antarctica using only her own muscle power.

She did it in 59 days, pulling two sledges for 1,084 miles from her starting point on the Leverett Glacier back in November. She tweeted that she has made it to Hercules Inlet on the Ronne Ice Shelf, completing her journey. She was still alone in a tent, waiting in bad weather for a small plane to pick her up and take her to a base camp.

"!!!Congratulations to the 1st female to traverse Antarctica SOLO.V proud," her Twitter message said. A support team was waiting for weather to clear to go greet her.

"Just in case I was in danger of feeling sentimental, a violent wind has appeared from nowhere and is beating the tent like the bad old days," she tweeted.

Internet

Statement at the Conclusion of the 2011 Article IV Mission to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—The International Monetary Fund issued a press release dated 25 January 2012, and the full text of the press release is as follows:-

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission led by Ms. Meral Karasulu visited Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon during January 9-25, 2012 for the 2011 Article IV Consultation. The team met with the authorities and other key counterparts to discuss recent economic developments and the outlook for Myanmar. At the conclusion of the mission, Ms. Karasulu issued the following statement today in Nay Pyi Taw:

"We would like to thank the authorities and other counterparts for their close cooperation, open engagement and warm hospitality.

"The new government is facing a historic opportunity to jump-start the development process and lift living standards. Myanmar has a high growth potential and could become the next economic frontier in Asia, if it can turn its rich natural resources, young labour force, and proximity to some of the most dynamic economies in the world, into its advantage.

"Delivering on these expectations with inclusive and sustainable growth should start with establishing macroeconomic stability. This process has already begun with plans underway to unify the exchange rate and lift exchange restrictions on current international payments and transfers. As this essential process continues, channeling the reform momentum to improving monetary and fiscal management and to structural reforms would allow taking full advantage of the positive effects of exchange rate unification.

"Modernizing Myanmar's economy will be a process of removing impediments to growth by enhancing business and investment climate, modernizing the financial sector, and further liberalizing trade and foreign direct investment. The government's recent efforts go in the right direction and would benefit from broader consultation with stakeholders and using the best international practices distilled from other countries' experiences.

"Myanmar's real GDP growth is expected to increase to 5 1/2 percent in FY 2011/12 and to 6 percent in FY 2012/13, driven by commodity exports and higher investment supported by robust credit growth and improved business confidence. Inflation, projected at 4.2 percent for FY 2011/12, is expected to pick up to 5.8 percent in FY 2012/13 as the recent decline in food prices phases out. The parallel market exchange rate of the kyat has appreciated by about 32 percent in nominal effective terms since end-FY 2009/10. The appreciation pressures are primarily due to large foreign inflows into the economy, which cannot find an outlet due to exchange restrictions on current international payments and transfers.

"Risks to this outlook are broadly balanced. On the downside, a drop in regional demand could negatively affect exports, although Myanmar, as in 2008, remains largely insulated from the developments in advance markets. If sustained, exchange rate appreciation could undermine Myanmar's already limited external competitiveness. On the upside, the recent easing of foreign direct investment restrictions, increase in private sector credit, and continued progress toward lifting exchange restrictions and unifying the exchange rate could bolster growth.

"Reforming the complex exchange rate system is a priority

to eliminate constraints on economic growth. The technical work by the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) is already underway to establish the necessary market structure for this important process. Ultimately, the unification of the exchange rate would require moving away from the 'export first' policy. In light of the appreciation pressures, certain exchange restrictions can be removed immediately, for example, by allowing the use of all foreign currency bank account balances for imports, easing import licensing requirements and access to the newly-established foreign exchange retail counters.

"A successful exchange rate unification would require improvements in all areas of macroeconomic management. This will have to start with establishing a monetary policy framework to focus on price stability. The authorities' plan to grant operational autonomy and accountability to CBM is a welcome first institutional step towards this goal. While the recent reduction in interest rates is welcome, we do not see room for further interest rate cuts in the near term in light of the buoyant growth expectations and the inflation outlook. Within the current regulatory constraints on financial intermediation and impediments to productive investment, lower real interest rates would risk channeling savings to potentially speculative outlets, such as real estate. The onus of stimulating productive investment is now on structural policies to reduce barriers to private sector development and improve financial intermediation.

"Further reducing inflation would require stopping the financing of the fiscal budget deficits through money creation. The authorities made some progress by revising the fixed interest rate structure to provide financial incentives for bond purchases. Efforts should now be geared towards establishing treasury bond auctions to fully bond finance the deficit at market-determined interest rates. Expanding the retail sales of treasury bonds would be also useful, by allowing private banks to sell treasury bonds to their retail customers and by lifting restrictions on state banks' holdings of treasury securities.

"The discussion of the 2012/13 budget in the new parliament provides a historic opportunity to redefine national spending priorities and bring fiscal transparency. We welcome the authorities' plans to reorient spending to health and education, while targeting a moderate fiscal deficit, which we project to be about 4.6 percent of GDP, about 1 percent lower than the last year's deficit. A prudent fiscal policy is essential to maintain macroeconomic stability, especially during the exchange rate unification process.

"The exchange rate unification is expected to improve fiscal revenues. However, a market-determined exchange rate will also transparently reveal the losses of state economic enterprises (SEEs), especially those that rely on imported goods. Overall, the fiscal balance is expected to improve in the medium term, but mainly due to new gas exports from Shwe and Zawtika projects once they come on line. These additional revenues should be used to build human capital and infrastructure. These are key priorities to alleviate poverty and reduce bottlenecks to industrialization.

"The sizable development needs of Myanmar would require additional fiscal revenues, primarily from non-resource based sources, to safeguard fiscal sustainability and prevent boom-and-bust cycles associated with fluctuations in

commodity prices. There is room to increase revenues by improved tax policies that should emphasize direct taxation over indirect taxes to protect the poor. In this regard, recent efforts to simplify the structure of several taxes are welcome and should go further, while reforms to tax administration remain essential to broaden tax bases and reduce tax avoidance.

"The adoption of a market-determined exchange rate in SEEs' operations would allow better assessment of their performance, and provide an opportunity to accelerate SEE reforms. These efforts should focus on containing their losses by gradually reducing regressive subsidies, which benefit higher income groups, to protect the most vulnerable poor. Further privatization and allowing SEEs to operate on a commercial basis are also needed to foster private sector-led growth.

"Modernization of the financial system should be expedited to facilitate broad-based growth. Improvements to financial intermediation should begin by phasing out the deposit-to-capital ratio and expanding the list of collateral, including to all crops. Expansion of bank networks, especially in rural areas, is essential to increase access to finance. Nurturing a stronger commercial banking culture requires price competition. Interest rate liberalization started with some freedom in setting deposit rates, and should be extended to loan products. A level playing field between state and private banks, including in the areas of regulation and supervision, is critical to promote competition. The move towards a market-determined exchange rate calls for enhanced regulation and supervision of banks. Allowing joint ventures with foreign banks would expedite the transfer technology and prepare the sector for ASEAN financial integration in 2015.

"The agriculture sector needs more credit to increase productivity and improve rural livelihoods. Besides increasing lending facilities of Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank and micro finance, private banks should also be encouraged to lend to agriculture. The planned land reform provides a unique opportunity, and should ensure that land titles of farmers can be used as collateral. However, credit alone will not suffice to increase rural growth, which is essential to alleviate poverty. Investment in rural infrastructure, including through community-driven development initiatives, and spending on health and education, are also essential.

"Recent steps to improve competition in key sectors, such as gasoline and palm oil imports, have been successful to reduce informal market activity and reduce prices. These positive examples can easily be multiplied by eliminating nontransparent licensing practices. Replicating the success of FDI in the energy sector in other sectors would contribute significantly to private sector development, help diversify the economy, and open up new export opportunities. Elimination of exchange restrictions on current international payments and transfers is essential to facilitate FDI. The planned development of special economic zones would address infrastructure bottlenecks and attract FDI. However, promoting private sector development would require stronger efforts to improve the business climate. Reducing the cost of doing business would aid the emergence of viable small and medium size enterprises.

World class wooden sculpture contest and sale beckoning to visitors

Byline & Photo: Koyin Thagi

The information about world class wooden sculpture contest and sale made me come and visit Sayasan Plaza at the junction of New University Avenue Road and Sayasan Road in Bahan Township. Much to my surprise, as soon as I enter the plaza, I found myself trembling with fears as if I was coming into the deep jungle, home to wild animals. How could I take out my fear to see life-sized sculptures before my sight? Every visitor was taken aback by the sculpture of King Kong growling just like the hero of world hit

King Kong film. Various kinds and sizes of sculptures occupy just about every space of ground floor, first floor and outside of the plaza. So, it is no wonder that the fair was named world class sculpture contest and sale.

The fair poses to seek new markets for new art products and earn foreign currency by producing art sculptures and furniture.

Secretary U Htay Aung Kyi of Information Subcommittee of the fair said that over 300 sculptors with tens of thousands of sculptures show their arts in the fair. The sculptures and furniture are

being sold by cash down or bond.

The fair was categorized as contest and sale. For every contest, first, second and third prizes and five condolence prizes will be presented. First prize is K two million, second prize K 1.5 million, third prize K one million and condolence prize K 500,000.

Such fair was exhibited under the title of "Myanmar arts and sculpture beyond Nargis" in 2009 and "Myanmar arts and sculpture exhibition" in 2010. This time, the arts and sculpture contest and sale was jointly organized by Central



Cooperative Ltd and Kaung Myanmar, thrown open to public from 9 am to 9 pm

daily from 26 January to 4 February.

Translation: ZZS

Sculpture of bewitching damsels.



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets officials, departmental staff and townelders of Taninthayi Region at Dawei Town Hall.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo facilitates all-sector ...

(from page 16)
The acting chief minister explained providing electricity in the region, communication, clearing Dawei River course and plans to bring about better road transportation.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein explained the region's favourable geographical landscape and rich natural resources to establish mining and water-related industries, commercial production of oil-palm, rubber and pepper, and chances to utilize existing border gates and jetties for regional development.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun discussed banking, monetary policies and micro-finance industry. Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fishery U Ohn Myint discussed measures taken by the ministry for successful implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation tasks and prospect of livestock breeding in the region. Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun discussed realizing sustainable

development in harmony with the environment; Union Minister for Electric Power No (2) U Khin Maung Soe, providing more electricity, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, prospects of tourism in the region and plans for hosting XXVII SEA Games in 2013; and Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Kyi Min of Dawei Constituency, matters related to the Hluttaw.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo explained measures to be taken for upgrading of schools as required by the local people, providing electricity to Dawei SEZ and Dawei, Anyarphya Hydropower Project and future plans, and construction of Yebyu-Dawei River-spanning Bridge.

Then, he discussed coordination made the previous day while inspecting Dawei SEZ for participation of local entrepreneurs and regional plans in five-year communication project.

He then assessed the regional reports of the township administrator and deputy commissioners. In his remarks, he said that 0.3 million acres have so far been grown out of the targeted 0.5 million acres of oil-palm

plantation in Taninthayi Region and called for continued cultivation of the remaining acres, food sufficiency of Taninthayi Region and extended cultivation of rubber.

He continued that upon completion of Dawei Special Economic Zone Project, Dawei will develop by leaps and bounds. With jobs opportunities created by the project, Myanmar workers working abroad will see increased chances of working back at motherland.

He went on that there had been unemployment due

domestic industries. Owing to rare job opportunities at home, job seekers had targeted foreign countries. During the job-seeking process, they became the victims of human traffickers.

He continued that the government in cooperation with the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Labour Ministry and foreign embassy concerned handle such issue after coordinating with foreign countries concerned.

The budget, he went on that, has been increased to extend education and health works of the State and fixed

He added that Taninthayi Region has seen prospects for development and Taninthayi Region government is there to closely steer the regionally development. Thus, it needs to strive for regional development while focusing on good governance and clean government which the President has articulated as doctrine of incumbent government. He called locals to endeavour for emergence of a civilized society and to cooperate with the regional government.

Next, Shwe Than Lwin

and party were welcomed by Region Education Officer U Tun Yi, personnel, headmistress Daw Lwin Lwin Oo and teachers.

The Vice-President then looked round language lab, learning centre, computer room, and chemistry and physics labs of the school. At the assembly hall of the school, the Vice-President met region/district/township education officers, principals of basic education schools and called for human resources development and high matriculation examination pass rate of the



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo at Dawei Technological University.—MNA

to economic sanctions which resulted in closure of

investments are divided among regions and states. It needs to establish education and health circles for effective implementation of education and health works.

Today, in accordance with the constitution, legislative, executive and judicial pillars have been in force as interrelated ones, mentioned the Vice-President.

Co donated 3-in-1 MPT satellite terminals (internet, TV and multimedia) to Dawei Technological University, Dawei University of Computer Studies and Dawei Education College. The Vice-President, after the meeting, cordially greeted those present.

On arrival at Dawei No. 1 Basic Education High School, the Vice-President

region. The Vice-President then cordially greeted those present.

The Vice-President and party then went to Dawei Technological University. He asked about academic and administrative matters of the university, fulfilled the academic requirements and stressed the need for effective use of teaching aids.—MNA



Shwe Than Lwin Co donates 3-in-1 MPT satellite terminals (internet, TV and multimedia) to Dawei Technological University, Dawei University of Computer Studies and Dawei Education College.—MNA

Upgraded BEMS opened in Sakamya Village

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—A ceremony to open Sakamya Village Basic Education Middle School upgraded from BEMS (branch) one was held at the school in Myaungmya Village on 21 January. Myaungmya District Deputy

Commissioner U Min Htoo Kyaw, Township Administrator U Ko Ko Latt and Township Education Officer Daw Myit Myit Htay formally opened the school. The school was upgraded to affiliated BEMS in 1975 and then to the

branch in 1999. Thanks to the upgrading of school, students in and around Sakamya Village do not need to go to basic education high schools in the town and can learn BEHS subjects at the school.

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental officials...

(from page 16)

He then coordinated with Union ministers concerned for provision of a fire engine, construction of bridges, upgrading of hospital and fulfillment of requirements of the fish wholesale market for Taninthayi Township, Palaw Township, Kyunsu Township and Palauk Sub-township.

Giving instructions, the Vice-President said for Taninthayi Region, it is necessary to exceed the target production of rice as the region has not enjoyed self-sufficiency in rice. Then, he called for ensuring the proportionate ratio of Myeik District primary assistance teachers and students and maintaining the good pass rate of matriculation as before.

He also called for the region's efforts for more development of the fishery sector. The Vice-President went on to say that in order to ensure State peace and stability, talks and negotiations have been held with national race armed groups after forming peace-making groups. As a result, ceasefire agreement has been reached and the nation has reached a certain degree of unification. Continued efforts are



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets Region, District and Township education officers, and headmasters, headmistresses and teachers of basic education schools at No (1) Basic Education High School in Dawei. (News on page 16)—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets Region, District and Township departmental personnel and townselders at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik.
MNA



being made for ensuring lasting peace.

Today, under the President's leadership, 8-point rural development and poverty alleviation plan is being implemented. As the government is working hard to reduce poverty rate to 16 percent in 2015, public cooperation is necessary.

Moreover, necessary measures such as amending laws and relaxing taxes and procedures in order to facilitate business and investment cooperation with the international community.

The government is also providing student grants and scholarships in order to enable every citizen to have access to free primary education and every school-age child to go to school and pursue constant learning. In this context, cooperation between teachers, parents and students is needed to promote national education, added the Vice-President. In conclusion, the Vice-President said all executive bodies and the people are to cooperate and coordinate in the government's endeavours for State peace and stability,

national development and rural development and poverty alleviation programme.

Afterwards, Hi Fi entrepreneur U Soe Win presented MPT satellite terminals donated by Shwe Than Lwin Co to Myeik Technological University Principal Dr Tint Hsan.

After the meeting, the Vice-President cordially greeted those present. Then, the Vice-President and party spent the night in Myeik.

MNA

Dy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets ICRC delegation



Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Mr Georges Paclisanu of ICRC and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa received delegation led by Mr Georges Paclisanu of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at the Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Also present at the call were Chairman of International

Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Member of Studying, Examining and Reviewing Commission on Legal Affairs U Than Tun and officials at Hluttaw office.

They discussed matters related to ICRC's current mission in Myanmar, future plans and reviews.—MNA

UEC gives green light to Mro National Party

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—The Union Election Commission permitted Mro National Party registered by a nineteen-member group including U Anu to set up political party today as the party is in line with rules and laws.

MNA

Union I & P Minister receives UNODC Resident Representative

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi received Resident Representative Mr Gary Lewis of East Asia and Pacific Region United Nations Office of Drug and Crime at his office here this morning.

They discussed matters related to establishment of East Asia and Pacific regional coordination and assessment unit between the UNODC and the Immigration and Population Ministry, exchange of information about human-trafficking of immigrants, increased conducting of courses on fake documents inspection at border check-points.

Also present at the call were Director-General of Immigration and National Registration Department U Maung Maung Than, Director-General of Population Department U Myint Kyaing, Head of Office U Than Naing Tun and personnel.—MNA

Donate blood

Meeting on successful holding of Myanmar Motion Picture Outstanding Award ceremony takes place

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—A coordination meeting on successful holding of Myanmar Motion Picture Outstanding Award ceremony for 2010 took place at the Ministry of Information here this morning with an address by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, departmental heads, Myanmar Motion Picture Association chairman and officials.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union Minister said systematic arrangements will be made to hold a grander ceremony of Myanmar Motion Picture Outstanding



Award this year. In doing so, it is necessary to have fun and joy on one hand and to ensure discipline on the other. Systematic measures must be taken in order not to affect others' fun due to one's weakening discipline, added the Union Minister. He continued that admission tickets

will be distributed in advance not only for those from the film world but for departmental personnel in Nay Pyi Taw, regional authorities, NGOs and movie fans. So, departments concerned are to take responsibility to distribute the tickets systematically. As such a ceremony

appeals to the public audience from across the country, cooperation is needed to ensure a systematic, beautiful occasion as well as security. This year, the ceremony will be held as a novelty programme with the use advanced information technology, said the Union Minister.

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan delivering an address at coordination meeting on successful holding of Myanmar Motion Picture Outstanding Award ceremony.

MNA



ter. Then, he called for discussion and suggestions to expose strengths and weaknesses.

Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint reported on preparations for the ceremony; Forever Co Ltd Chairman U Win Maw

on the use of IT at the ceremony; MPF Chief Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun on security matters and officials on their respective sectors.

In response to the reports, the Union Minister coordinated and fulfilled the requirements. —MNA

Union Energy Minister, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister oversee regional development tasks in Myanaung Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—A ceremony to hand over fire engine to Township Fire Brigade in Myanaung of Ayeyawady Region was held at Aungzeya Hall of the town on 22 January.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe, Region Planning and Economy Minister U Hla Khaing, Region Development Affairs Minister U Kyaw Win Naing, donors and local people.

The Union minister and the chief minister discussed regional development matters. Director of Asia World Company handed over documents related to the fire engine to the

commander of Township Fire Brigade.

The Union minister, the Region chief minister and party also attended ceremony to hand over new school building of Basic Education Primary School in Aikalaw village constructed under the socio-economic development programme of Thai PTTEPI which has established joint venture with Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise.

PTTEPI resident general manager Mr Kanok handed over documents related to the school building to Deputy Minister U Ba Shwe. The four-room building has the width of 30 feet and the length of 125 feet. The building including furnishings is worth above K 60 million.

They attended opening ceremonies of concrete en-

trance roads of Basic Education Middle School in Ngapiseik village, BEPSs in Kyaukseikgon and Yindaikgon villages in Myanaung Township. They met local people there and presented cash donations for construction of post and telecommunication office in Ngapiseik village and repair of floor of BEPS and construction of library in Yindaikgon village. They then attended opening ceremony of Shwekyin village self-reliant station hospital.

The hospital implementation committee handed over documents related to the hospital and donor UNOG Company general manager Daw Thazin Aung, documents related to X-ray room to the Ministry of Health.

The Union minister, the Region chief minister and party attended opening ceremonies of Yeni creek-crossing bridge in Right village and exam centre at Basic Education High School (branch) in Zalotma village. They met local people at BEMS (branch) of Thakutkwin village and donated solar lamps for village monasteries.—MNA

Fourth session on Myanmar-Philippines Policy Consultation held



Fourth Myanmar-Philippines Policy Consultation Session in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Fourth session on Myanmar-Philippines Policy Consultation Meeting was

held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here yesterday morning. The meeting was attended by Deputy

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Philippine Foreign Affairs Undersecretary

Mdy blood bank honours blood donors

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—National Blood Bank of Mandalay General Hospital praised blood donors for 35th time at Myanmar Medical Association (Mandalay) in Chanayethazan Township on 21 January, with an address by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.

Medical Superintendent of

Mandalay General Hospital Dr U Win explained processes for donating blood. In-charge of the blood bank pathologist Dr Daw Khin Sein Win and the Shwehtihsaung Sayadaw expressed thanks.

Honorary medals and certificates were conferred on blood donor monks, nuns and laypersons.

The ceremony was also attended by Region Finance and Revenue Minister U Aung Maung and Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Hlaing.

Kidney, liver and heart can be successfully transplanted in today's advancing medical world. For such surgical operations, the blood, which could not be invented, is a deciding factor.

MNA

Ms Erlinda F Basilio, Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Hellen B De La Vega and departmental heads. The deputy ministers exchanged views on developments of Myanmar, bilateral ties, trade and investment, mutual cooperation in agriculture, forestry, culture, tourism, aviation, and human resources development and regional issues.—MNA

US targets Iran's third largest bank

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan—The United States on Monday added Bank Tejarat, Iran's third largest bank, on its blacklist for sanctions, citing its links to the Islamic republic's nuclear bomb efforts.

The Department of Treasury alleged that the bank provides financial services to several Iranian banks and firms already put under international sanctions for their involvement in Iran's

weapons of mass destruction proliferation activities. The move brings 23 Iranian-linked financial institutions, including all of the country's largest state-owned banks, under US sanctions for their involvement in the republic's "illicit activities," the Treasury said in a statement.

"At a time when banks around the world are cutting off Iran and its currency is depreciating rapidly, today's action against Bank Tejarat strikes at one of Iran's few

remaining access points to the international financial system," said Under Secretary of Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen.

"Today's sanction against Bank Tejarat will deepen Iran's financial isolation, make its access to hard currency even more tenuous, and further impair Iran's ability to finance its illicit nuclear programme," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Disney parks relax staff beard ban



Disney staffers are to be allowed to grow beards and other facial hair.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Workers at Disney's theme

parks are to be allowed to grow beards and goatees for the first time. A Disney spokeswoman said the new policy will apply to workers in Florida and California, starting next month.

Disney had prohibited all facial hair on its theme park workers since Disneyland opened in California in the mid-1950s. The company revised its policy in 2000 to allow moustaches, provided they

were grown on holiday, not at work. Starting on February 3, beards and moustaches will be allowed.

Disney periodically reassesses its grooming requirements. The Disney spokeswoman said officials decided now was a good time to revise its facial hair policy. The policy change also allows workers in areas without visitor contact to have dress-down on Fridays.—Internet

UK manhunt after prison escape in ambush

LONDON, 24 Jan—British authorities have launched an international manhunt for a murder suspect who escaped from a prison van in a "well-orchestrated armed ambush," including masked men, sledgehammers and a silver Mercedes. West Mercia police said John Anslow, 31, escaped about 8:30 am Monday while being transferred from Hewell prison in Redditch in central England to Stafford Crown Court.

Detective Inspector Jon Marsden said three men wearing balaclava masks used a silver Volkswagen Scirocco to block the van. They then smashed the windscreen and windows with sledgehammers and punched the driver.

The men were able to grab Anslow and all took off in a silver Mercedes, with the partial registration KR11. Two other prisoners in the van were left behind. "This was a serious criminal incident involving a well-orchestrated armed ambush," Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke told the *Worcester News*. "The first priority is to ensure that this man is quickly found and arrested." Anslow, 31, was one of five men recently charged with fatally shooting a man in 2010.

Internet

Mexico officials say most wanted drug dealer's aide killed in gunfight

MEXICO CITY, 24 Jan—Mexican officials say members of an army special forces unit fatally shot a high-ranking aide to the country's most-wanted drug dealer in a gunfight in the northern state of Durango. Army spokesman Gen.

Ricardo Trevilla said Monday Luis Alberto Cabrera Sarabia was responsible for the operations of Guzman's Sinaloa Cartel in Durango and part of the neighbouring state of Chihuahua.

The army says Sarabia is known as "The Architect," and was named to the role after the December arrest of his brother Felipe Cabrera Sarabia, or "The Engineer." Sinaloa gunmen traded fire with troops during the operation to arrest Luis Cabrera Sarabia on Friday. One of the gunmen was slain and 11 others were captured. Four soldiers were hurt in the gunfight.

Internet

Swedish police looking into bird egg theft

SUNDSVALL, 24 Jan—Police in Sweden are investigating allegations a man stole rare bird eggs and nests to sell to collectors worldwide. Police in the northern Swedish community of Sundsvall recently received a tip-off from Interpol in the United Kingdom about the man's alleged illegal activities. *The Local* reported on Monday.

"The suspect lives in southern Sweden," said Stefan Sundberg of the Sundsvall police. The suspect, who has not been identified, is in violation of Sweden's protected species laws, the Interpol report alleges, and has allegedly collected a large amount of rare eggs already.

The bird eggs thefts took place across Sweden between

Arson attack destroy 12 police cars in east Germany

BERLIN, 24 Jan—Twelve new cars ordered by local police in the eastern German city of Magdeburg were burnt down by unidentified arsonists in an arson attack early Monday morning.

The 12 cars were parked in a depot of a car dealer. They were supposed to be handed over to the police on Tuesday.

Another private car in

the depot was also set on fire on the site. Witnesses said the fire started at around 4 a.m. Monday morning.

Authorities have estimated that damage of the fire could amount to up to 500,000 euros (about 652,000 U.S. dollars), a police spokesman said.

Police are currently investigating the arson attack.

MNA/Xinhua

London's Big Ben is leaning, sinking

LONDON, 24 Jan — The landmark clock tower containing Big Ben at Britain's Palace of Westminster, is tilting, while media reports on Monday said the mother of all parliaments was slipping into the River Thames, raising fears over its future.

The House of Commons commission, which is responsible for the upkeep of the 19th century neo-Gothic parliamentary estate popular with tourist photographs, was due to meet on Monday. Media reports said it would discuss a surveyor's report which could recommend lawmakers move out for repairs costing up to £1bn, while the *Daily Telegraph* said another proposal might be to sell to Russian or Chinese developers for about £500m.

But a commission spokesperson said there was no surveyor's report, and members were only meeting to discuss setting up a group to look at general long-term renovation of the grade I-listed building designed by Charles Barry and Augustus Welby Pugin.

Internet

Oscar nominations due to be announced

LOS ANGELES, 24 Jan — The nominations for this year's Oscars are announced later, with George Clooney and Meryl Streep likely to lead the charge in the best actor and best actress categories. Silent film *The Artist* and family drama *The Descendants* are expected among the frontrunners for best picture. The 84th Academy Awards take place on Sunday 26 February at the Kodak Theatre, Hollywood.

This year's host is comic actor Billy Crystal. Clooney and Streep are among the acting favourites for their respective roles in *The Descendants* and Margaret Thatcher biopic *The Iron Lady*. French film *The Artist*—about Hollywood's transition from silent movies to "talkies"—has taken the lion's share of top prizes throughout awards season, most recently at Saturday's Producers Guild of America ceremony.

It took home a trio of honours from the Golden Globes last week, and leads this year's Baftas with 12 nominations, including best

film and best director. Other films predicted to appear in the best film category are Hugo, Martin Scorsese's love letter to the early days of cinema, civil rights drama *The Help* and Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*. Owing to a change in Oscar voting system, the best picture category could consist of between five and 10 nominees. Oscars organisers have also announced a crackdown on social events aimed at wooing voters ahead of the big night. New rules ban members from attending parties organized by film companies after the nominations are announced.

Internet



George Clooney and Meryl Streep are tipped to get acting nominations.—INTERNET

Thailand estimates 2.3 mln passengers during Chinese New Year

BANGKOK, 24 Jan—The Airports of Thailand (AOT) forecast that 2.3 million visitors will arrive at its airports during the Chinese New Year as additional flights continue to fly in from China, the *National News Bureau of Thailand* reported on Sunday.

AOT President Flying Officer Anirut Thanom-kulbutra disclosed that airports under the supervision of the AOT expected to be receiving 23 percent more passengers than the previous year during the current Chinese New Year holiday from 19 to 31 January. The total number of local and foreign passengers is speculated at around 2.3 million.

It was also revealed that 332 additional flights have requested landing at AOT airports, 92 percent of which accounts for international flights while 8 percent are domestic flights. Most additional flights are from China, according to AOT president.

Additionally, the AOT President stated that security measures at all airports have been stepped up, including the number and frequency of security officials on patrol, security checkpoints within airport compounds, random search of luggage prior to boarding and 24-hour police surveillance.

Xinhua



Artists from France take part in an international carnival parade in Beijing, capital of China, on 23 Jan, 2012. Some one hundred artists from nine countries and regions presented folk art performances on the first day of Chinese lunar Year of Dragon. XINHUA

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AN BINH VOY NO (01/12)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN BINH VOY NO (01/12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2012 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: G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (473)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (473) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.1.2012 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 ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (011)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (011) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 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: NYK LINE

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERRY TRANS VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERRY TRANS VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: CITIC SHIP MANAGEMENT
LTD CHINA**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HOANG ANH VOY NO (02/12)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG ANH VOY NO (02/12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.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: G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ENY VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ENY VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S SEA NET SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Arctic Ocean freshwater bulge detected

LONDON, 24 Jan — UK scientists have detected a huge dome of fresh water that is developing in the western Arctic Ocean. The bulge is some 8,000 cubic km in size and has risen by about 15cm since 2002.

The team thinks it may be the result of strong winds

whipping up a great clockwise current in the northern polar region called the Beaufort Gyre. This would force the water together, raising sea surface height, the group tells the journal *Nature Geoscience*. "In the western Arctic, the Beaufort Gyre is driven by a permanent anti-

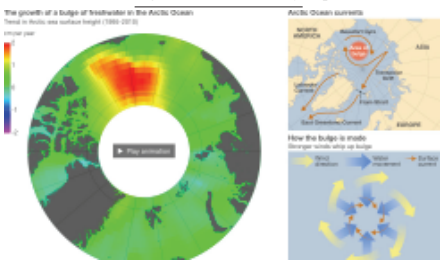
cyclonic wind circulation. It drives the water, forcing it to pile up in the centre of gyre, and this domes the sea surface," explained lead author Dr Katharine Giles from the Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling (CPOM) at University College London. "In our data, we see the trend being biggest in the centre of the gyre and less around the edges," she told *BBC News*.

Dr Giles and colleagues made their discovery using radar satellites belonging to the European Space Agency (Esa). These spacecraft can measure sea-surface height even when there is widespread ice cover because they are adept at picking out the cracks,



Cryosat-2: Esa's newest radar satellite is dedicated to studying the polar regions. — INTERNET

or leads, that frequently appear in the frozen floes. The data (1995-2010) indicates a significant swelling of water in the Beaufort Gyre, particularly since the early part of the 2000s. The rising trend has been running at 2cm per year. — *Internet*



Hong Kong lit up by Year of the Dragon night parade

HONG KONG, 24 Jan — Carrying the theme "World City, World Party", the Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Night Parade drew thousands of spectators as it wound its way through the popular Hong Kong tourist district of Tsim Sha Tsui. The two-hour procession, which comprised of 35 floats and performing troupes from 12 countries and regions, greeted visitors and residents along the parade route. This year's international performing units include the Saga Karatsu Kunchi Sea Bream Float from Japan, which has a history of more than 160 years and the world-acclaimed Guangzhou Acrobatic Troupe of China. Hong Kong enjoys a reputation for its vibrant Chinese New Year celebrations and had been ranked by *Forbes* magazine as one of the world's 10 best events. — *Internet*

Snakes survive carjacking

RIDLEY PARK, 24 Jan — Police said a carjacker shot and wounded a Philadelphia-area snake breeder in a parking lot where the victim planned to sell 20 young ball pythons and an adult. The thief crashed the car nearby and fled on foot, the *Delaware County Daily Times* reported. The snakes, in two boxes in the back of the vehicle, were unharmed.

Lt Scott Willoughby of the Ridley Park Police said the breeder, identified only as a 36-year-old man from Doylestown, had arranged to meet a buyer Sunday night in a parking lot near Interstate 95. The buyer, who said he was from New York and was driving

to Georgia, had agreed to pay \$12,600 for the snakes.

Just after the dealer got a text message saying the man he was meeting would be late, someone approached the driver's side of his sport utility vehicle with a gun, Willoughby said. "He tells him to throw down the keys and get out of car and points a revolver at him," Willoughby said.

The dealer complied but was shot in the chest. He remained in critical condition Monday. Investigators were unsure if the offer to buy the snakes was a cover for the carjacking. — *Internet*

Maltese villager hits UK bookie for •682,000 in 19 fixture accumulator bet

LONDON, 24 Jan — A Maltese villager who landed an amazing 683,783/1 punt on the football was the bane of the UK's biggest bookmaker as William Hill bemoaned a nightmare November for betting margins.

Accumulator betting on large numbers of football fixtures — where all the selections need to win to land the cash — is usually a mug's game as at least one match fails to follow the form book. But the 41-year-old waiter placed a successful one-euro bet on 19 fixtures landing •682,300 after Glen Johnson's

late winner for Liverpool against Chelsea on 20 November secured the final leg.

Hills blamed the result for a fall in win margins from 19 percent to 17 percent over the fourth quarter as a host of favourites across, including Arsenal, West Ham and Charlton, all won.

The losses added up one of the worst months for the firm in more than a decade although it clawed some cash back in a run of shock results over Christmas, including relegation struggler Blackburn's away win over champions Manchester United.

Ralph Topping, chief executive, said: "November was certainly a very good month for our football clients betting on small-stake, high-return multiple bets." Despite the blow, the firm expects operating profits for 2011 to be in line with forecasts at about £274m.

This is slightly down on 2010, when the bookmaker was boosted by a World Cup gambling frenzy.

Internet



The number of fines for illegal dumping in New York City increased by 46 percent in 2011.

NYC Illegal-dumping fines up 46 percent

New York City records revealed the number of fines for illegally dumping residential trash in street bins increased by 46 percent in 2011.

The city Sanitation Department said the number of \$100 fines increased from 2,512 in 2010 to 3,681 in 2011 partly due to an increase in complaints from residents and elected officials, the *New York Daily News* reported Monday.

City Councilman Peter Vallone Jr of Queens said someone crammed a plastic garbage bag into the narrow opening of a street bin near his office last week. He said he wants to see the city increase the fine from \$100 to \$200 to discourage potential offenders.

"Clearly, more can be done when it comes to the abuses of our city garbage cans," Vallone said.

Magnetic soap could help in oil spill clean-ups

An international team of scientists has demonstrated the first soap that responds to magnets. This means the soap and the materials that it dissolves can be removed easily by applying a magnetic field. Experts say that with further development, it could find applications in cleaning up oil spills and waste water.

Details of the new soap, which contains iron atoms, are reported in the chemistry journal *Angewandte Chemie*. It is similar to ordinary soap, but the atoms of iron help

form tiny particles that are easily removed magnetically. "If you'd have said about 10 years ago to a chemist: 'Let's have some soap that responds to magnets', they'd have looked at you with a very blank face," said co-author Julian Eastoe of the University of Bristol. He told *BBC News*: "We were interested to see, if you went back to the chemical drawing board with the tool-kit of modern synthetic chemistry, if you could...design one."



The soap could make for a far easier means of gathering oil from spills.

Soap is made of long molecules with ends that behave differently: One end of the molecule is attracted to water and the other is repelled by it.

Bronze cast of Stalin's death mask goes for auction



News Album

Stalin died in 1953.

A rare cast of the death mask of the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin will be auctioned in Shropshire later. The cast was taken in bronze from the original plaster death mask by an art dealer who was visiting Moscow in 1990.

Richard Westwood-Brookes, from the Church Stretton based auction house Mullock's, said: "There are we believe the only two of these in the West." The auction also includes casts of Stalin's right hand and his withered left hand. Mr Westwood-Brookes said that in official portraits the Soviet dictator always hid this physical deformity. He said: "The casts that we have here show that his hand was a little withered thing, so you are seeing Stalin as he really was." The guide price for the death mask is between £3,000 and £5,000.— *Internet*

Robbie Williams plans art show



Singer Robbie Williams

and is now planning to showcase his best paintings.

"His stuff has been getting better. I don't know if he plans to sell them, but I am sure they would fetch a good price. It would be something to talk about when people ask who'd done the painting on your lounge wall," contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying.

Williams, who is married to actress Ayda Field, previously revealed he had taken up painting during preparations for Take That's "Progress Live" tour last year. *Internet*

LONDON, 24 Jan—Singer Robbie Williams is reportedly planning an exhibition of his artwork.

The 37-year-old has turned the garage of his Los Angeles home into a studio

Julia Roberts to star in 'The Normal Heart'

LONDON, 24 Jan—Hollywood actress Julia Roberts has been roped in to star in Ryan Murphy's new film "The Normal Heart".

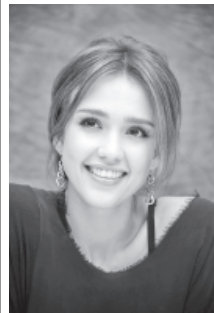
The Oscar-winning actress is being joined by Alec Baldwin, Matt Bomer and Jim Parsons in the movie, which chronicles the rise of the HIV/AIDS crisis in New York in the 1980s. In the film, Roberts will play the role of wheel-chair bound doctor Emma Brookner, reports contactmusic.com.

Larry Kramer has written the script for the movie, which is being adapted from the theatre show of the same name. Mark Ruffalo has already been signed up for the role of Ned Weeks in the movie. Alec Baldwin will portray Mark's



Hollywood actress Julia Roberts

brother, a lawyer who is struggling to deal with his sibling's sexuality. It will be the second time Ryan and Julia have worked together following the success of "Eat Pray Love".— *Internet*



Actress Jessica Alba

Jessica Alba urges Beyonce to sell baby snaps

LONDON, 24 Jan — Actress Jessica Alba has advised singer Beyonce Knowles to sell pictures of her daughter to the Press.

The 30-year-old Alba previously struck a deal with a magazine to publish pictures of her daughter Honor after her birth in 2008 to prevent a surge in attention from the paparazzi.

She has now urged Beyonce to follow her lead so that she can "control" the rush for the first snaps of her child. Beyonce, 30, gave birth to Blue Ivy Carter 12 Jan.

"For our family, we just wanted to control the experience. We put the money that the picture made into a bank account for Honor to do whatever she wants to do with," contactmusic.com quoted Alba as saying. *Internet*

George Lucas: 'I'm retiring'

MARIN, 24 Jan—George Lucas, snubbed by some film executives said in Marin, Calif, he's "retiring" as producer of blockbusters to make more personal films.

For Lucas, 67, the snubbing by some distributors of his most recent release, "Red Tails," a biopic about the Tuskegee Army featuring an all-black cast, was a hit to the solar plexus.

Lucas said executives from one Hollywood studio even declined to attend the screening of "Red Tails" which he financed, produced and distributed himself.

"Isn't their job at least to see movies? It's not like some Sundance kid coming in there and saying, 'I've got this little movie—would you see it?' If Steven [Spielberg] or I or Jim Cameron or Bob Zemeckis

comes in there, and they say, 'We don't even want to bother to see it...'," Lucas said his Skywalker Ranch.

20th Century Fox agreed to domestic distribution but declined to pay any of the costs, *The New York Times* reported this week.

Except for one final "Indiana Jones" movie he's contractually obligated to make, Lucas said he's finished making big Hollywood productions and will concentrate on movies smaller in scale and esoteric in subject matter.

"I'm retiring," Lucas said. "I'm moving away from the business, from the company, from all this kind of stuff."

"Once this is finished, he's done everything he's ever wanted to do," said colleague, producer Rick



George Lucas arrives on the red carpet before the screening of the film "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps" during the 63rd annual Cannes International Film Festival in Cannes, France on 14 May, 2010.— *INTERNET*

McCallum. "He will have completed his task as a man and a filmmaker."— *Internet*

Gina Carano tipped to be new Wonder Woman

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Gina Carano is said to be in the running for the lead in director Nicolas Winding Refn's rumoured 'Wonder Woman' movie.

The mixed martial arts star-turned-actress plays a badass character in Steven Soderbergh's 'Haywire', which wowed Blake Lively, Debra Winger, Debbie Harry, Calvin Klein and Grace Coddington at a Cinema Society screening, the *New York Post* reported.

'Haywire' also stars Channing Tatum, Michael Fassbender, Ewan McGregor, Michael Angarano, Antonio Banderas, Michael Douglas,



Gina Carano

and Bill Paxton. Talking about the Wonder Woman

role in an interview, Carano had said that she would be interested in such a project. 'I would definitely be into working with [Refn],' she told *Vulture*.

'One of my favourite superhero movies is Hancock—did you see it? If they could do a superhero movie in a more realistic fashion where you could actually believe in it, I would be up for that. It could still be playful, but that's what I'm representing—the fighting would be real. More than anything, I would want Wonder Woman to be believable, you know?' she said.— *Internet*

Sneijder rules out Premier League move

MANCHESTER, 24 Jan— Wesley Sneijder has ruled out a move to the Premier League during the January transfer window. The Dutchman has been



Aguero: Michael Owen was my hero as a kid

LONDON, 24 Jan—Manchester City's Sergio Aguero is relishing this week's Carling Cup semi-final clash with Liverpool at Anfield—and has revealed he worshipped Michael Owen during his heyday with the Reds. City's 17-goal top scorer claims Owen's success with Liverpool a decade ago made him believe he could succeed as a footballer as they are of a similar stature.

"I'm not so much a fan of Liverpool, but one of the players who was my idol when I was a boy was Michael Owen," he said. "He was quite small and had an eye for goal, just like me. When Liverpool were winning trophies, I was looking out for them because Owen was doing well. "It's ever since he scored for England against Argentina in '98, although I wasn't too happy at the time. I cursed him pretty badly for scoring that. But getting that goal didn't stop me from admiring him." City trail 1-0 at half-time in the tie after defeat at Eastlands. "It'd be nice to play in a final at Wembley with City," added Aguero. "We'll be going there and giving everything we've got because we know it's an important game for this club."—*Internet*

linked with both Manchester City and Manchester United in recent months, with the Old Trafford club particularly keen to land him as they seek a long-term replacement for Paul Scholes.

But Sneijder has made it clear he intends to stay at Inter Milan.

"I am in good shape and I feel well," Sneijder said to Gazzetta dello Sport. "The future? I stay at Inter, I feel good here.

"How much is left until the end of this transfer window? A week, no? I'm staying here."—*Internet*

QPR thwarted in bid to sign Brazilian striker Henrique

LONDON, 24 Jan—QPR have failed in their bid to sign Brazilian striker Henrique after a work permit application was turned down. Henrique had spoken to new QPR manager Mark Hughes about joining from Sao Paulo on a reported 18-month loan deal, with a permanent transfer option.

The 20-year-old, the player of the tournament at the Under-20 World Cup last summer, claimed the move was "a fantastic opportunity". However, the BBC understands that the club will not appeal at the decision. A QPR spokesman said: "He didn't get a work permit for various reasons."

It was determined at a hearing on Monday that Henrique did not satisfy the required criteria for a permit. Reasons for the refusal would have included his limited experience in



Henrique helped Brazil win the Under-20 World Cup last year.—*INTERNET*

club football, and the absence of senior international caps. Henrique had told the Sun: "I know a lot of clubs are interested in me but, when I spoke to Mark Hughes and QPR, they made me feel very excited about their plans."—*Internet*

Mario Balotelli charged with violent conduct by FA

LONDON, 24 Jan — Manchester City's Mario Balotelli has been charged with violent conduct by the Football Association after appearing to stamp on Scott Parker. The incident occurred in City's 3-2 win over Tottenham, with Balotelli scoring a late penalty to win



Balotelli had already been cautioned when he tangled with Parker.

INTERNET

Sunday's match. Following a dismissal earlier this season Balotelli, 21, faces a four-match ban, but any unsuccessful appeal could result in a longer suspension. Joleon Lescott will not be punished after a clash with

Younes Kaboul.

Manchester City defender Lescott caught Kaboul in the face with his forearm in a separate incident at Etihad Stadium. Italy striker Balotelli, who has until 1800 GMT on Wednesday to respond to the charge, came on as a 65th-minute substitute against Spurs. He was booked for a foul on Benoit Assou-Ekotto but, after escaping punishment from referee Howard Webb following his clash with Parker, the striker was fouled by Ledley King in the final minute of added time and converted the resulting

penalty. If he pleads guilty, Balotelli will miss Wednesday's Carling Cup semi-final second leg against Liverpool at Anfield. However, should the Italian international decide to appeal he will be available for that tie, with a hearing likely to take place later this week.

The normal punishment for violent conduct is a three-match suspension but Balotelli was sent-off in the league match at Liverpool in November so would incur an additional one-game ban.

INTERNET

Zlatan Ibrahimovic wins Serie A player of 2011

MILAN, 24 Jan—AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been voted the Serie A player of 2011 by his fellow players, and the Rossoneri won another award with Massimiliano Allegri winning best coach. The trophies were handed out Monday at a ceremony and were voted on by more than 5,000 people, made up of footballers, coaches, referees and journalists.

Alongside Ibrahimovic in the team of the year were: Antonio Di Natale, Edinson

Cavani, Kevin Prince Boateng, Thiago Motta/Claudio Marchisio (joint winners), Marek Hamsik, Pablo Armero, Andrea Ranocchia/Alessandro Nesta (joint winners), Thiago Silva and Christian Maggio.

England coach Fabio Capello received a special award from a jury of respected journalists. Dinesen was voted the club of the year, while Alessandro Del Piero and Fabio Cannavaro received career prizes.

INTERNET



From left, AC Milan players Stephan El Shaarawy, Thiago Silva of Brazil, Kevin Prince Boateng of Ghana, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic of Sweden, pose at the "Gran Gala" del calcio" show, where the best Serie A players are selected, in Milan, Italy, on 23 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET

International Sports



Woods has won twice in the United Arab Emirates, at the Dubai Desert Classic.

INTERNET

Tiger Woods to make debut in Abu Dhabi Championship

LONDON, 24 Jan — Former world number one Tiger Woods has opted to play in Abu Dhabi this week, and he could be back in the world top 10 if he were to win the tournament.

The 14-time major champion dropped out of the top 50 last month but rose to 21st after ending a two-year wait for a title at the Chevron World Challenge.

In his first event since, he will now make his Abu Dhabi Championship debut.

The world's top four, Luke Donald, Lee Westwood, Rory McIlroy

and Martin Kaymer, are also in action this week.

In rankings terms, it is the second best field for a European Tour event outside the four majors and World Championship events since the list began in 1986.

Woods normally chooses to begin his season in America at the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines, near San Diego.

The 36-year-old has won five times at the course, which was also the venue for the last of his 14 majors, the 2008 US Open.

INTERNET



Clijsters beats Wozniacki to move into semifinals

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan—Kim Clijsters is moving on to the Australian Open semifinals, and Caroline Wozniacki is moving out of the top spot.

Two days after saving four match points and spraining her left ankle in a fourth-round win over French Open champion Li Na, Clijsters showed no signs of weakness as she continued her title defence at Melbourne Park with a 6-3, 7-6(4) quarterfinal win over Wozniacki.

The four-time major winner next plays third-seeded Victoria Azarenka, who beat No 8 Agnieszka Radwanska 6-7(0), 6-0, 6-2 earlier Tuesday to move into the semis of a Grand Slam for the second time.



Kim Clijsters of Belgium reacts after winning a point against Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark during their quarterfinal at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, on 24 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET

Wozniacki needed to reach the semifinals to retain the top ranking she has held at the end of the last two seasons. Her place in the rankings has attracted some criticism because the 21-year-old Dane has never won a major.

But even after another major setback, Wozniacki remained confident she'll not only reclaim the top ranking but will get her Grand Slam breakthrough.

INTERNET

DISTRICT NEWS

Shwebo BEMS-1 gets asphalt road



SHWEDO, 24 Jan—Over 600 feet long asphalt road is under construction at Basic Education Middle School No. 1 in Shwebo of Sagaing Region on 18 January.

The road and water purifier worth K 1.8 million was solely donated by an old student U Tha Htay of Original Group Co Ltd. He will continue donation for the water purifier. On completion of the road, teachers and students will enjoy smooth transport facility.—*Kyemon*

Cash donated for construction of highway bus terminal

WAKEMA, 24 Jan—A cash donation for construction of highway bus terminal was held at Manaw Thukha Chairman of Wakema Township Association (Yangon) Lt-Col Arnt Kyaw (Rtd) explained purpose of donation and Township Administrator U Soe Tun, construction of highway bus terminal.

The chairman donated K10 million to Chairman of the Bud Line Control Committee U Than Aung.



Myanma Alin

Anushka Sharma and Chitrangda Singh

MUMBAI, 24 Jan—Another page of my mommy's diary speaks about the new best friends in town. And they are not a boy and girl.



Turns out that it's Anushka Sharma and Chitrangda Singh.

The heroines, both from Delhi, have been extremely

thick buddies and hang around quite a bit, although their repertoire of work is as alike as chalk and cheese. Recently, they caught up back stage for the Colors' Screen Awards ceremony where they chatted like inseparable school girl sahelis. Uncommon for women in Bollywood to do that, but then, sometimes such is life dearies!—*Internet*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-1-12 09:30 am ~ 26-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Overseas Transmission

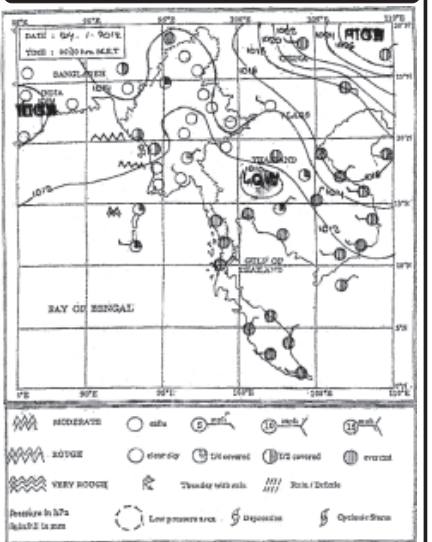
- * News
- * Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names (Part-1)
- * News
- * Exceptional Paintings in Trish Gallery
- * News
- * Youth and Language "YUFL (Part-2)"
- * News
- * Record Album
- * 2nd Anniversary of Charity Event (Save the Aged)
- * News
- * Precious Spirulina from Amazing Lake
- * News
- * Let's move forward with added momentum
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * 16th Mayor Cup Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Exhibition & Competition
- * Fossilized Wood Picture
- * Bagan, The Rhapsody of Myanmar Culture
- * Myanmar Movies "An Ugly Fate"

MYANMAR TV

(25-1-2012) (Wednesday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:40 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:50 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:25 am
- 4. Documentary
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial Song
- 4:35 pm
- 2. Dance of National Races
- 4:40 pm
- 3. Teleplay (Agri)
- 5:10 pm
- 4. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:50 pm
- 5. "ASEAN" Programmes
- 6:20 pm
- 6. Traditional Boxing
- 7:40 pm
- 7. Myanmar Culture
- 8:00 pm
- 8. News
- 9. Korea NG Award
- 10. TV Drama Series
- 11. TV Quiz

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather for 25th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	26/79	08/46	Generally fair weather	
2	Kayah	28/82	05/41	Partly cloudy	
3	Kaym	36/97	15/59	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
4	Chin	19/66	-01/30	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	26/79	10/50	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	32/90	19/66	Partly cloudy	
7	Tamihayi	35/95	21/70	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	32/90	16/61	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	33/91	12/54	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	31/88	14/57	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	36/97	18/64	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	(60%)
12	Yangon	35/95	17/63	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	28/82	13/55	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	25/77	05/41	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	26/79	04/39	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	27/81	07/45	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	32/90	16/61	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	33/91	12/54	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	17/63	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	31/88	14/57	Generally fair weather	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon and Tamihayi Regions, Rakhine State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (°C) to (°C) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Magway and Bago Regions, Southern Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kaym States, (°C) below January average temperatures in Kayah State and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Nansan and Pinlang (-1°C) each, Loloien and Haka (7°C) each, Hoho (1°C)

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

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Northern Myanmar Areas.

Nadal beats Berdych at Australian Open, sets up Semifinal clash with Federer



World No.2 Rafael Nadal

MELBORNE, 24 Jan—World No.2 Rafael Nadal defeated Czech Tomas Berdych in four grueling sets to set up a much anticipated clash with arch rival Roger Federer in the semifinal of the 2012 Australian Open.

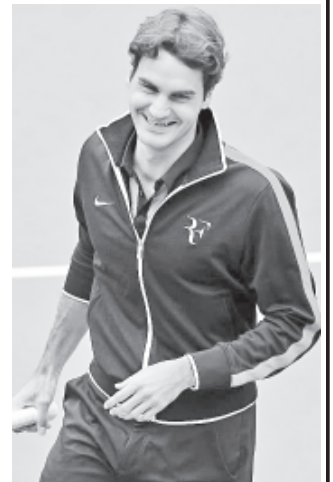
2009 champion Rafael Nadal posted a come-from-behind victory over Czech Tomas Berdych and advanced to the semifinals

of the 2012 Australian Open, season's first Grand Slam being played here in Melbourne, Australia.

Nadal opened the match on a "not-so-perfect" note and struggled to hold all his service games before the set went into a tie-break, favouring Tomas Berdych. As the match did not get off to a great start for the Spaniard, he decided to take things into his own hands this time and clinched an early break of serve. The break was soon traded by Berdych and as a result, the second set also went into a tie-break, luckily favouring the persistent Nadal.

The third set kick started for Berdych who grabbed hold of a break, only to lose the lead and eventually the set as well, giving Nadal a formidable two sets lead. The fourth set turned out to be an easy affair for the Spaniard who broke Berdych's serve repeatedly to seal the 6-7(5), 7-6(6), 6-4, 6-3 win in four hours and 16 minutes of play.

Nadal hit 57 winners to a surprising 66 winners and 17 aces from Berdych but also capitalised on the 56 unforced errors committed by the Czech in sealing the deal. Nadal now faces arch rival and third seed Roger Federer in the semifinal. Earlier today, Federer scored a comprehensive 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 win over Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro to advance to the last four of the event.—*Internet*



Four time champion Roger Federer

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo facilitates all-sector development of Taninthayi Region

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Arriving in Dawei of Taninthayi Region, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo met officials, departmental staff and townselders of the Region at Town Hall yesterday morning. He was accompanied by Union ministers, Acting Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko, the Region Hluttaw speaker, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win from Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

Dawei Township Administrator U Chan Nyein Aung and Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Swe reported land utilization, rainfall, targeted yield and production of 10 major crops, net production and service till the end of December of 2011-2012 fiscal year, per capita income, education, healthcare, implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation tasks and requirements of the Region.

Local entrepreneurs U Khin Maung Aye, U Kyaw Thung and U Kyaw Kyaw Oo discussed matters related to participation in Dawei Special Economic Zone and Deep Sea Port project, opening of Dawei River course, construction of Dawei River-crossing Bridge in Yebyu Township, and providing assistances for education, communication and electricity.

(See page 8)

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo views the learning of students at Language Lab of BEHS-1 in Dawei.—MNA



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental officials and townselders of Myeik



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets those present at the meeting held at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, accompanied by Union ministers, Acting Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of Commander-in-Chief's Office (Army), Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay, deputy ministers and departmental heads visited Myeik

yesterday. On arrival at Myeik Airport from Dawei, the Vice-President and party were welcomed by Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Trade Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Investment and Industrial Development Committee U Htay Myint and personnel.

The Vice-President met region,

district and township departmental personnel and townselders at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik.

Myeik Township Administrator U Thein Win and deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo reported to the Vice-President on education, health, social affairs, economy, agriculture and livestock farming, production and exportation of marine products, net production and

service till the end of December of 2011-2012 fiscal year, per capita income, progress in implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation scheme and requirements of the region.

Next, two locals reported on requirements of new Myeik town and fish wholesale market of Myeik and needs for further development of fish production industry.

Acting Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko explained measures for sector-wise development of the region and follow-up plans.

Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe explained measures for increased power supply to the region, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan grounds for development of smoke-loss industry and production of national athletes for the region, Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Tint Lwin measures for further development of communication sector of the region and the country, Deputy Construction Minister U Soe Tint current transport facilities of the region and follow-up tasks and Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Trade Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein Pyithu Hluttaw affairs.

The Vice-President said that he was there today to learn about the current conditions of Taninthayi Region and fulfill its requirements, on behalf of the President. He made discussion regarding the request for upgrading of schools and power supply made by Myeik District.

(See page 9)