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Wednesday, 15 February, 2012

President U Thein Sein felicitates Serbian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Boris Tadic, President of the Republic of Serbia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Serbia, which falls on 15 February 2012.—MNA

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 Special Adviser to UNSG and Under-Secretary-General and party

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Under-Secretary-General Mr Vijay Nambiar and party at the Credentials Hall of the President Residence, here, at 11 am today.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi and departmental heads.

At the call, they cordially discussed actual progress of Myanmar, and cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations. MNA

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Under-Secretary-General Mr Vijay Nambiar and party.—MNA



President U Thein Sein receives Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Under-Secretary-General Mr Vijay Nambiar and party.—MNA



Venues set for in-patient metric exam sitters

YANGON, 14 Feb—In-patient students will have to sit for this year's matriculation exam to be held from 12 to 22 March at three hospital exam centres.

Under coordination of Health Department and Myanmar Examination Board, Yangon People's Hospital, Central Women's Hospital and Waibergi Specialist Hospital are designated as exam centres where eligible students may contact medical public relations officers for help.—MNA

Ayeyawady River-crossing Bala Min Htin Bridge, a crowning pride of Kachin State

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UEC, political parties hold coord meeting

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PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 15 February, 2012

Wear authentic beauty

Every human being should wear beauty regardless of whether or not they are well-to-do and at great position. In this juncture, it is needed to know the difference between showy beauty and timeless beauty.

Skin beauty, showy beauty, lapses into silence one day with the passage of time. Nevertheless, mental beauty, timeless beauty, will go along with you forever. Mental beauty is our own property we should invest in our whole life. Leading a life of virtue, we should rejoice at others' success or prosperity brushing off jealousy.

Nowadays, many people are clothed in greed, anger and ignorance dresses with the changing world. They hardly show sympathy, kindheartedness and humanity toward each other.

Above all, each and every people embracing the four cardinal virtues, in other word mental beauty, are necessary to do their bit to make the society better.

Horticultural show and contest launched

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—A horticultural show and contest was launched at Mandalay Kandawgyi Public Recreation Garden in Mandalay this morning.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife attended the 10th Mayor Cup horticultural show-2012.

At the event, soon after Mandalay Mayor U Phone Zaw Han and Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than had formally opened the ceremony, the region chief minister and his entourage observed the displays inside; at the booths of the agriculture and livestock Breeding section of Mandalay City Development Committee, of the ministry and companies.

They paid a look at works of horticulturists nationwide, put on show for the contest. After that, the Mandalay Mayor and officials concerned awarded first, second and third prize winners from the topic categories of the contest, and best prize winner U Hla Tun Aung (Khartawhmi Nursery).

There were 23 topic types and a total of 630 participants, and it would last till 18 February, 2012.—MNA

Dy Minister on inspection tour of Biluchaung Hydropower Project

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Myint Zaw on 11 February morning inspected Upper Biluchaung Hydropower Project, 14.4 miles southwest of Nyaungshwe, Shan State (South).

He looked around construction of the project being jointly implemented by Hydropower Implementation Department and New Power Oasis Development Company through B O T system.

He gave necessary instructions to the workers.

It was known that upon completion, the project will have with two hydropower stations. No. 1 hydropower station can generate 90.1 million kilowatt hours and No. 2 hydropower station, 44.3 million kwh.—MNA

Four school buildings handed over

YANGON, 14 Feb—A ceremony to hand over four school buildings in Hsatgale, Goegwa and Hteinhnabin villages donated by GGA, was held at Hsatgale Village in Htantabin Township of Yangon Region on 30 January.

Township Administrator U Ngwe Doe, Mr Lothar Kinzelmann of GGA and Assistant Township Education Officer U Ye Htut Aung formally opened the buildings.

Mr Lothar Kinzelmann handed over documents related to the building to officials of the Ministry of Education.

Myanma Alin

Myanmar, Malawi establish diplomatic relations

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Malawi, desirous of establishing friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and norms of international law, agreed to establish diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level with effect from 30 January 2012.

The Joint Communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations was signed by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the High Commissioner of the Republic of Malawi in New Delhi on 30 January 2012.

Myanmar has been making efforts to expand diplomatic relations with countries all over the world and the Republic of Malawi has become the 105th country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations.

MNA

Diplomatic relations established between Myanmar, Bhutan

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Bhutan, desirous of establishing friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and norms of international law, agreed to establish diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level with effect from 1 February 2012.

The Joint Communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations was signed by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Nations in New York on 1 February 2012.

Myanmar has been making efforts to expand diplomatic relations with countries all over the world and the Kingdom of Bhutan has become the 106th country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations.—MNA

UNSG Special Adviser calls on Union Foreign Affairs Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the

United Nations and Under-Secretary-General Mr Vijay Nambiar and party current in

Myanmar paid a courtesy call on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin

at his office here today.

During the meeting, they discussed development issues in Myanmar and exchanged views on future cooperation between Myanmar and the UN.—MNA

Union Health Minister discusses healthcare services with foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received Vice President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Mr Kiyoshi Kodera and party, Australian Ambassador Ms Bronte Moules and AusAID, and Former Member of the House of Councilors of Japan & Senior Advisor of the Parliamentary League for the Friendship between Myanmar and Japan Mr Hideo Watanabe at the ministry here today separately.

In meeting with JICA, they exchanged views on rural health, maternal and child healthcare, improving of health infrastructures, health movements with JICA and INGOs and development of health insurance system.

In meeting with AusAID, discussions on health activities funded by AusAID, experiences of cooperation with INGOs, supervision for tasks run by supports of international community, and short- and long-term plans to



Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin receives Former Member of the House of Councilors of Japan & Senior Advisor of the Parliamentary League for the Friendship between Myanmar and Japan Mr Hideo Watanabe.—MNA

implement healthcare services were held.

The discussion with Japanese guest covered healthcare measures, medicines and medical equipment, technology

exchange, scholars and upgrading of healthcare services.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and Dr Win Myint,

Director-General Dr Tun Naing Oo of Health Department, Director-General Dr Than Zaw Myint of Medical Science Department and officials. MNA



FIRE PREVENTIVE MEASURES INSPECTED:

Responsible persons of Fire Prevention Supervisory Committee of Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay inspected fire preventive measures and keeping of fire extinguishers in East Thirihema Ward on 22 January.

NLM



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping (central) meets with several former senior US officials in Washington, capital of the United States, on 13 Feb, 2012. Among the former officials are former US secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and Madeleine Albright, former US treasury secretary Henry Paulson, former US national security advisers Zbigniew Brzezinski, Brent Scowcroft and Sandy Berger, and former US secretary of labour Elaine Chao. —XINHUA

American carrying bullets detained at Pakistan's airport

ISLAMABAD, 14 Feb—Police in Pakistan's northwest Tuesday detained an American national at airport for carrying bullets and charger of a pistol, local media reported.

The man was boarding a flight to Islamabad from Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

Express TV reported the man is identified as William Charles and believed to be working at the US consulate in Peshawar.

Airport Police said that nearly two dozen rounds were discovered in his luggage during routine search.

The US man was later shifted to the area police station and senior police arrived at the airport to question him as to why he was carrying the bullets despite a ban.

There was no word from the American embassy over the arrest.

Xinhua

EU should respond rapidly to Myanmar reforms: EU Commissioner

YANGON, 14 Feb—The European Union should respond fast to changes under way in Myanmar driven by a former military leader and "key reformer" committed to democracy and boosting the country's economy, a top EU official said on Monday.

European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs said President U Thein Sein gave clear confirmation reforms would continue in Myanmar and an 11-month-old civilian government appeared to have changed its tack from the days of military rule.

The EU is keen to ease sanctions it placed on Myanmar, but needs more than just assurances of reforms in order to convince all 27 member states to lift the embargoes, he said.

"The President is a key reformer, he is part of the changes ... I got clear confirmation the President is fully committed to the reforms," Piebalgs, the most senior EU official to meet Myanmar's civilian rulers,

told Reuters in an interview after his landmark visit to the capital Nay Pyi Taw. "Evolution is possible," he said.

"There's a possibility that people turning their thinking, they become more open, they see the challenges the country faces and they would like to lead the real change ... so it's important to notice that this is not the same country."

Piebalgs came to Myanmar for a three-day visit to announce a new 150 million euro (198 million US dollars) development package that would support health and education.

A further easing of EU sanctions would allow Myanmar tariff-free access to European markets under its "Everything But Arms" initiative, which could create jobs and be a major boost to the economy, he said. "I will try to convince (member states) of this positive change and the need to act rapidly," he said.

"If the process is moving in the right direction, you

should not lose momentum when you can make the most positive influence to the country.

If you don't respond, you lose opportunities that you would like to take to support democracy, human rights and prosperity."

Piebalgs said he expected European businesses would not race to get into Myanmar because of its long-standing stigma and reputation for political risks and once sanctions were removed, it was up to the government and member states to encourage investors and win their confidence.

"They will not come by themselves because they'll say 'how stable is this change?'," he said. "I believe this country has big enough opportunities and has a lot of wealth potential, but at the same time, companies will be extremely conservative and that's where I'm a bit afraid we will lose time. Investments could make a difference."

MNA/Reuters

Terror expert: NYC is likely target

NEW YORK, 14 Feb—Bomb attacks on Israeli embassy staff in India and Georgia raise concerns about New York City being similarly targeted, a city police expert warned.

Writing in the Tuesday edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, Mitchell Silber, director of intelligence analysis for the New York Police Department, said New York could become an attractive target because of its large Jewish population.

The attacks on Israeli embassy vehicles in New Delhi and Tbilisi occurred Monday. Israel blamed Iran and the militant group Hezbollah but Iran strongly

denied the charge.

The Georgia attack was aborted as the explosive device was found by the driver, but the New Delhi bomb stuck to an embassy vehicle exploded, wounding four, including the wife of an Israeli defence attaché.

"Iran's next target could well be on American soil," Silber wrote in the *Journal*. "In Senate testimony last month, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper stated that Iranian officials 'are now more willing to conduct an attack in the United States in response to real or perceived US actions that threaten the regime.'"

Internet



Bystanders tend to an Israeli diplomat (partially obscured, on ground) following a car explosion near the Israeli embassy in New Delhi on 13 Feb, 2012.

INTERNET



Jia Qinglin (R, Front), chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, meets with Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni (L, Front) in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 Feb, 2012.

XINHUA

Helicopter crashes in S Afghanistan killing four

QALAT, 14 Feb—Four people were killed Sunday when a contractor helicopter for NATO-led forces crashed in the Afghanistan's southern province of Zabul, deputy provincial governor said.

"A contractor helicopter, which was transporting goods for international forces, was crashed Sunday morning in Shinkay District of Zabul Province," Mohammad Jan Rasoulyar told Xinhua.

Citing initial reports, the deputy provincial governor, Rasoulyar, said that all four crew were killed in the incident, adding "All the victims were foreign nationals," possibly from Tajikistan.

The official said the chopper crashed near a foreign military base in the province with Qalat as its capital 340 south of capital city of Kabul.

He said that a technical failure could be the reason for the crash since the weather was poor in the area when the incident happened.

Xinhua

Blast kills one, wounds six people in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 14 Feb—Iraqi officials say a bomb targeting a police patrol has killed one bystander and wounded six people in Baghdad.

A police officer says two policemen were among the wounded in the Tuesday morning attack in the eastern Baghdad neighbourhood of Mashal.

A doctor at a nearby hospital confirmed the casualties. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media.

Violence has dropped considerably since the height of Iraq's militancy just a few years ago, but attacks continue almost daily in Baghdad.

Internet



An Afghan police official inspects the scene where a truck was hit by a road side bomb on the outskirts of Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province south of Kabul, Afghanistan recently, killing four Afghan civilians, the Ministry of Interior said.—INTERNET

Healing the heart

- * This is the second group of doctors to report using cells taken from a heart to heal a heart.
- * In November 2011, another safety trial showed the cells could be used to heal the hearts of heart failure patients who were having heart bypass surgery.
- * The heart is not the only source for these stem cells and other fields are much further ahead.
- * The largest ever trial of stem cell therapy in heart attack patients is about to get under way in Europe.
- * The BAM1 trial will inject 3,000 heart attack patients with stem cells taken from their bone marrow within five days of the heart attack.—*Internet*

Stem cells used to 'heal' heart attack scars

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb— Damage caused by a heart attack has been healed using stem cells gathered from the patient's own heart, according to doctors in the US. The amount of scar tissue was halved in the small safety trial reported in the *Lancet* medical journal. The authors said there was also an "unprecedented" increase in new heart muscle. The British Heart Foundation said it was

"early days", but could "be great news for heart attack patients". A heart attack happens when the organ is starved of oxygen, such as a clot blocking the flow of blood to the heart. As the heart heals, the dead muscle is replaced with scar tissue, but because this does not beat like heart muscle the ability to pump blood around the body is reduced. Doctors around the world are looking at ways of "regenerating" the heart to

Turkey's first face transplant patient sees his new face

ANTALYA, 14 Feb— Turkey's first face transplant patient Ugur Acar on Monday saw himself in the mirror for the first time after a successful surgery three weeks ago, the country's semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported. On 21 Jan, a surgery team headed by Dr Omer Ozkan



Turkey's first face transplant patient Ugur Acar on Monday saw himself in the mirror for the first time.—XINHUA

carried out Turkey's first-ever face transplant surgery in the southern province of Antalya on Acar, 19, whose face was almost completely seared by a burning blanket when he was only 40 days old. "I thank all Turkish doctors. This cannot be better. 2012 is a lucky year for me," Acar said when looking at himself for the first time after hesitating for several seconds with a

mirror in his hands.

Ozkan said that they were planning to discharge Acar from the hospital 45 days later, according to the report. Ozkan's surgery team also performed Turkey's first double arm transplant in September 2010 and the world's first womb transplant from a cadaveric donor in August 2011.

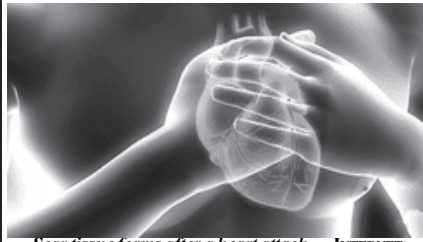
Xinhua

Exercise a defence against dementia

NEW YORK, 14 Feb— Here's another reason to get into shape: Physical activity may reduce the risk of dementia-related death, according to a new study. Researchers assessed the health of more than 45,000 men and nearly 15,000 women, ages 20 to 88 years, in the United States and grouped them into one of three fitness categories — low, middle or high.

After an average follow-up of 17 years, about 4,050 participants died. Of those deaths, 164 were attributed to dementia (72 vascular dementia and 92 Alzheimer's disease). Of those 164 deaths, 123 of the people were in the low-fitness group, 23 were in the middle-fitness group, and 18 were in the high-fitness group.

People in the high- and medium-fitness groups had less than half the risk of dying as those in the low-fitness group, the researchers concluded.—*Internet*



Scar tissue forms after a heart attack.—INTERNET

replace the scar tissue with beating muscle. Stem cells, which can transform into any other type of specialised cell, figure prominently in their plans.

This trial, at the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute, was designed to test the safety of using stem cells taken from a heart attack patient's own heart.—*Internet*

UNICEF says about 20 percent Russian teens susceptible to serious depression

MOSCOW, 14 Feb— About 20 percent of Russian teenagers are susceptible to serious depression, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Monday. According to UNICEF's report presented at a Press conference here, the percentage of depressed teenagers in Russia is much higher than the level in the

western European countries, where 5 percent of young people suffer from depression.

UNICEF mentioned growth of mental illness and mortality among Russian teens, saying this figure is three to five times higher than in the majority of the European countries. Alcohol and drug addiction are both symptoms

and causes of Russian teenagers' mental problems, the UNICEF report said.

It added the teen suicide ratio in Russia stands at 30.5 cases per 100,000 people a year, far exceeding the global average of 10 cases per 100,000. In the last two weeks, several Russian children in their school age committed suicides.—*Internet*

EU leaders in China for debt crisis talks

BEIJING, 14 Feb— Leaders from China and the European Union are meeting for a summit set to focus on Europe's debt crisis. Premier Wen Jiabao is set to meet EU President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso in Beijing. Syria and Iran may also be discussed plus the refusal by Chinese airlines to pay an EU tax.

But the top topic is expected to be the financial crisis in Europe and how China might be able to help. "The debt issue is at a critical juncture," foreign ministry spokesman Liu Weimin said on Monday. "We believe that as China's largest trading partner and the largest economy in the world (collectively), it is important for the European Union to resolve this issue." The two EU leaders will also meet President Hu Jintao on Wednesday.

They want Beijing to invest in a bail-out fund to help nations crippled by debt — something China has indicated



China has indicated it is considering helping with an EU bail-out fund.—INTERNET

it is considering. China's foreign exchange reserves are the largest in the world. But Mr Liu said the EU needed to continue to make structural reforms to "give a clearer signal" to the international community. "Heavily indebted countries should, according to their national condition, adopt appropriate fiscal policies. The international community should continue to pro-actively support the EU's efforts to deal with the crisis." *Internet*

Moody's rating agency places UK on negative outlook

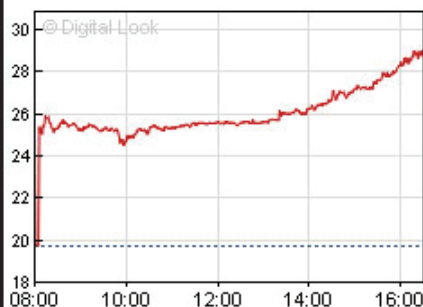
WASHINGTON, 14 Feb — US credit ratings agency Moody's has put the UK on negative outlook, meaning it thinks there is more chance the economy may lose its triple A status. France and Austria, who also share a top triple A rating, have been similarly graded. Italy, Spain and Portugal's ratings have been lowered. Moody's blamed the eurozone crisis for the adjustments.

The Chancellor remains committed to his policy of austerity whilst the opposition warns this could backfire. The negative outlook for the UK means Moody's think there is a 30% chance of a downgrade within 18 months. BBC economics editor Stephanie Flanders said there was no suggestion that the agency would prefer the UK government to change its economic policy of austerity.

In a statement, Moody's said that it had "adjusted the sovereign debt ratings of selected EU countries to reflect their susceptibility to the growing financial and macroeconomic risks emanating from the euro area crisis." Responding to the ratings decision by Moody's the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said: "This is proof that, in the current global situation, Britain cannot waiver from dealing with its debts." — *Internet*



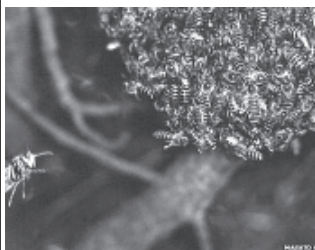
Cable & Wireless shares jump as Vodafone considers bid



LONDON, 14 Feb — Share in telecoms company Cable & Wireless Worldwide (CWW) leapt 29% on Monday after Vodafone said it was considering bidding for the firm. In a statement, Vodafone said it was "in the very early stages" of looking at an offer for CWW. CWW, whose shares rose to 25.5 pence, was spun off from parent Cable & Wireless Communications in 2010.

According to market rules Vodafone must make a bid by 13 March or withhold bidding for a further six months. CWW declined to comment on any possible bid but is due to make a trading update to the market on Thursday when it may provide further details. CWW specialises in networking and broadband for corporate clients, including Tesco and the UK police service.— *Internet*

Honeybees tell hornet predators to buzz off



The closer the hornet flies to the colony, the more intensely the guard bees shake.

INTERNET

LONDON, 14 Feb — Asian honeybees signal to their enemies — bee-eating hornets—to let them know they have been spotted. An international team of scientists watched the bees as they guarded the entrance to their hive.

The researchers described how the bees shook their abdomens when a hornet approached, a signal that triggered the hornet to retreat. They published their

findings in the journal *Animal behaviour*.

Researchers already knew of this “characteristic shaking signal”, in which all the guards bees simultaneously vibrate their abdomens from side-to-side for a few seconds when a hornet approaches the colony.

In the wild, this produces a spectacular “Mexican wave” of vibrating bees. This study, carried out on a small bee hive, revealed the hornets (*Vespa velutina*) responded directly to the bees’ shaking signal.

Warned wasps would retreat from the colony and try to catch bees in flight instead. To find this out, the researchers tethered live hornets to lengths of wire and held them at a variety of distances from the hive entrance. The closer the tethered hornet was held to the hive, the more intensely the bee guards shook their bodies.

To confirm that the bees were specifically “talking to” the hornets with this signal, the team carried out the same tethering experiment with a harmless butterfly species (*Papilio xuthus*).

This insect is slightly larger than the hornet and has very similar yellow and black markings. Despite the similarity, the bees did not respond to the butterflies, no matter how close they came to the hive.

Internet



Photographer Markus Reugels uses high-speed photography to capture these images of falling droplets.—INTERNET

Photographer captures worlds in a drop of water

NEW YORK, 14 Feb — Markus Reugels can capture the world in a drop of water, not to mention Venus, Mars and the moon. Reugels is a floor installer and hobbyist photographer in Marktsteinach, Germany, but “hobby” doesn’t begin to convey the beauty and precision of his photographs of images reflected in tiny, perfect globes of water. LiveScience caught up with Reugels via email to find out how he creates his photographs and why he likes working with liquids.—Internet

Science behind ponytail revealed

LONDON, 14 Feb — Physicists have come up with an equation that explains and predicts the shape of a ponytail. The report in *Physical Review Letters* journal could help scientists better understand natural materials, such as wool and fur. The new equation takes into account the stiffness of hairs, the effects of gravity and the presence of random curliness or waviness. The work was carried out by a British team of researchers.

“It’s a remarkably simple equation,” explained Prof Raymond Goldstein, who is the Schlumberger Professor of Complex Physical Systems at Cambridge University. He added that the findings showed how physics could be used to “solve a problem that has puzzled scientists and artists ever since Leonardo da Vinci remarked on the fluid-like



The equation reduces a complex structure to a simple mathematical form.—INTERNET

streamlines of hair in his notebooks 500 years ago”.

Prof Goldstein worked on the equation with Professor Robin Ball from the University of Warwick and Patrick Warren, from Unilever’s Research and Development Centre.

The Ponytail Shape Equation represents the first scientific understanding of the distribution of hairs in a ponytail, say the researchers.—Internet



Google Motorola bid approved in EU and US

NEW YORK, 14 Feb — US regulators have approved Google’s \$12.5bn (£7.9bn) bid for phone maker Motorola Mobility, hours after it won clearance from European authorities. The European Commission ruled the deal would not raise competition issues in the market for operating systems for devices like mobile phones or tablets.

Regulators in the US agreed, although both authorities vowed to monitor the company and rivals’ use of patents. Approval from China, Taipei and Israel is needed before the deal is



Google aims to strengthen its patent portfolio with the Motorola takeover.—INTERNET

completed. Motorola split in two last year, prompting Google to bid for the section that makes phones and tablet computers in a bid to gain

access to more than 17,000 of Motorola Mobility’s patents.

EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said in a statement that

regulators did not think the deal would diminish competition. But he added: “The commission will continue to keep a close eye on the behaviour of all market players in the sector, particularly the increasingly strategic use of patents.”

Last month, European regulators launched an investigation into whether Samsung was using some of its key patents to hinder competitors. Google vice-president Don Harrison said in a blog post the EU approval was an “important milestone” which moved the company closer to closing the deal.

Internet

Users take tablets on a honeymoon, and into the bathroom

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb — On Monday, researchers from the marketing firm Rosetta released study findings in which nearly 900 tablet owners were asked about their experiences with the mobile devices, and a question that has been haunting each and every tablet user since the devices first went mainstream almost two years ago has finally been answered, namely: How many of us take our tablets into the bathroom? The answer, surprisingly or not, is quite a few.

The study found that almost 25 percent of tablet

owners regularly use the devices while... otherwise preoccupied... and a full majority of users — 68 percent — also take the devices to the bedroom with them.

According to Jay Lichtenstein, a Partner in Rosetta’s Consulting Practice, “We expected usage in the living room, kitchen, etc, but didn’t expect such high percentages in the bedroom, bathroom and even outside the home (for example, on the patio).

This data about device usage in different locations, combined with our device preference data, reinforced that tablets are not necessarily the primary devices for a lot

of things; instead, it is an ad-on device so you can keep accessing info anywhere.”

While bedroom use is perhaps less surprising, given a tablet’s multipurpose role as e-reader and Web browser, the researchers did discover what they referred to as a “honeymoon” period with new tablet ownership.

During this time, which can last from one to six months, owners tend to travel with their tablets more often, and use their devices for many varied tasks, exploring the tablets full potential — perhaps at the expense of their significant others.

So if you were planning on giving a tablet as a gift to

a special someone this Valentine’s Day — don’t say you haven’t been warned.

“Like in any relationship,” says Lichtenstein, “the pressure is on to keep consumers engaged and happy with their tablets beyond that initial infatuation period,” referring to the so-called honeymoon.

The study also found that after this initial excitement eventually wore off, users tended to revert back to more traditional methods of computing, with 47 percent preferring a PC to browse the Web, and 39 percent preferring a computer for online shopping.

Internet



BAE provides details of ‘structural battery’ technology

LONDON, 14 Feb — Torches, drones and an electric Le Mans racing car are all test-beds for a new kind of “structural battery”, BAE Systems has said. The batteries use carbon fibre and can form part of the body of a device. By effectively building the power source into the fabric of an object they can save weight. BAE is testing the technology in the Lola-Drayson B12/69EV, which aims to become the world’s fastest electric car.

The firm said it hoped the battery material will eventually be as easy to work with as existing carbon fibre. “It’s only when you shake rattle and roll these things on a real-world platform that you uncover issues,” Stewart Penney of BAE Systems told the BBC. Last year the company revealed that it had constructed a torch and a small unmanned aerial vehicle out of the battery material.

The new devices are, according to BAE, more than just traditional batteries in a different shaped case. Potentially the technology could be a substitute for existing carbon-composite structural materials. “There are number of people that will build a battery shaped like a beam, for example, but fundamentally that is just an odd-shaped battery, it isn’t a structural battery,” Mr Penney said.—Internet



The Lola-Drayson electric car is an opportunity to test the structural batteries which will power some on-board systems. In this image a battery is indicated with yellow arrows.

INTERNET



US President Barack Obama speaks on his FY 2013 Budget to students at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia, on 13 February, 2012.
INTERNET

Singapore and France reaffirm bilateral relations

SINGAPORE, 14 Feb—The Secretary-General of the Union for a Popular Movement Party of France, Mayor of Meaux and co-chairman of the France-Singapore Forum, Mr Jean-Francois Cope, was in Singapore for a two-day visit from 12 to 13 February.

Mr Cope called on Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong on Monday, said Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) on Tuesday. MFA said they reaffirmed the strength of bilateral relations between Singapore and France. They also exchanged views on recent developments in France and Europe.

Mr Cope also met Minister for Transport, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and co-chairman of the France-Singapore Forum, Mr Lui Tuck Yew on Monday.

MFA said the meeting provided an opportunity for the two co-chairmen of the France-Singapore Forum to reconnect after the inaugural forum was held in Paris in October 2009. They had wide-ranging discussions on bilateral relations, as well as regional and international developments.

Mr Cope and members of the Advisory Committee to the France-Singapore Forum were hosted to a dinner by Minister of State for Defence and Education Lawrence Wong on Sunday. MFA said they had a broad exchange of views on global issues of interest. While in Singapore, Mr Cope also gave a luncheon speech at the INSEAD Asia Campus on "Europe's Competitiveness" on Monday.—Internet

China welcomes new US visa application policy

BEIJING, 14 Feb—China welcomes the United States' new policy to simplify its visa application process for Chinese nationals, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Liu Weimin made the remark at a daily Press briefing when asked to comment on the new visa application policy.

Liu said China hopes to negotiate with the US to further simplify the visa application process and make the personnel exchange convenient based on equality and mutual benefit.

The new US visa application policy shortens the application process to three weeks, and Chinese applicants can renew their visas that have expired for less than four years without further interviews.

The US embassy has also added 50 visa officers to its China service as the agency's visa-processing capacity in China could increase up to 40 percent this year, according to the embassy in Beijing.—Xinhua

Learn lessons from forefathers' resilience during WWII

SINGAPORE, 14 Feb—Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts Dr Yaacob Ibrahim has urged Singaporeans to remember and learn valuable lessons from the resilience and strength of spirit that their forefathers demonstrated during the Japanese Occupation.

He said in the midst of this dark chapter in the country's history, they endured tremendous hardship between 1942 and 1945.

He added that even beyond the Japanese Occupation, many struggled to rebuild their dreams, homes and lives.

Dr Yaacob said they adapted and persevered in the face of hardship and challenges.

He said their 'can do' spirit was commendable. This same spirit, he said, continues to hold true and essential for Singaporeans, whether for school, personal life or for the nation.

Dr Yaacob made these

points when he launched the World War Two Trail and Resilience Trails on Tuesday.

They are part of the events lined up to mark the 70th anniversary of the fall of Singapore to the Japanese on 15 February, 1942.

Dr Yaacob said these trails enable participants to experience the richness of Singapore's past and take in the country's developments over the years.

Another 20 World War Two markers, in places such as Keppel Harbour and Seletar



Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts Dr Yaacob Ibrahim.
INTERNET

Airfield, aim to give insights on the significant moments during the war years.

Internet

Indonesia starts testing pilot for drug before flying

JAKARTA, 14 Feb—Indonesian transport ministry has begun introducing drug test on pilot just before flying at the international airport in Bali to prevent them flying a plane under the affect of drug, Deputy Transport Minister Bambang Susantono was quoted by the *Jakarta Post* as saying on Tuesday.

Indonesia tightened test on pilot for drug from once in six months to hours or days before flying as the government considered that the earlier test was not effective because the pilot could make a preparation.

The new policy was made following the appearance of safety concerns after the arrest of three pilots and a co-pilot of budget airline, Lion Air, for allegedly using drug since last year.

"We have taken urine samples from several pilots to find whether or not they take drug," Susantono said on Monday. "Everyone is clean."

He said that a sanction would be imposed should any airline allow pilot consuming drug to fly plane.

The government has aimed to put priority to develop aviation industry as it is an effective transport mean in the vast archipelago country with over 17,500 islands.

Xinhua



The Royal Malaysian Airforce MIG-29 "Smokey Bandits" perform during a flying display of the Singapore Airshow, on 14 Feb, 2012. Singapore Airshow begins its 6-day show on Tuesday, including first 4 days of trade show.—XINHUA

British police launch anti-terrorism campaign in run-up to Olympics

LONDON, 14 Feb—British police on Monday launched an anti-terrorism campaign and called on the public to help find potential terrorists.

The British police, government and armed forces have increased their vigilance for terror attacks since the beginning of 2012, as part of a strategy to protect the London Olympic and Paralympic Games from terrorist attacks.

London's police force, the Metropolitan Police, is the driving force behind the latest campaign, and the coordinating body for Britain's anti-terrorism strategies as well as the police

force responsible for most of the Olympic and Paralympic Games venues.

"The terrorist threat to London, and Britain generally, remains real and serious, so it is vital that everyone continues to be vigilant and aware," said Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner Stuart Osborne, who is also senior national co-ordinator for counter-terrorism.

"We at the Metropolitan Police Service have a key role in countering this threat, whether it is from al-Qaeda inspired groups or individuals, or Irish Dissident Republican Groups."

Osborne called on ordinary members of the public to report anything suspicious, no matter how trivial it might seem, and also called on family members to contact police if they believed something suspicious was going on.

The campaign will run over the next four weeks, with a high profile in local newspapers across London, on the radio, and via leaflets distributed to 1.4 million homes.

The appeal came with just 165 days to go before the London Olympic Games starts on 27 July.

Xinhua

Russian sub had nukes aboard during fire

MURMANSK, 14 Feb—A Russian sub had nuclear-tipped missiles and other weapons aboard when it caught fire in dry dock during December repairs in the arctic, a newspaper reported.

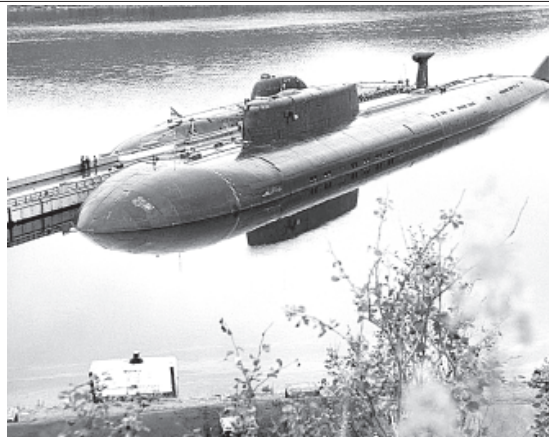
The Russian Defence Ministry had said all weapons had been unloaded before the nuclear submarine *Yekaterinburg* entered the dock at Roslyakovo shipyard outside the northwestern Russian City Murmansk, *RIA Novosti* reported.

But the newspaper *Kommersant Vlast* reported Monday the sub "was in the dock with torpedoes and missiles on board" during the 29 Dec fire.

The *Yekaterinburg*, launched in 1984, can carry 16 intercontinental ballistic missiles, each with four warheads, and 12 torpedoes.

No one was killed in the blaze, which began when wooden scaffolding next to the sub caught fire and flames spread to the sub. Officials said no radiation had leaked from the sub.

Weapons are usually removed from docked nuclear subs but it's often left to commanders to decide whether to remove them, *Kommersant Vlast* said. Unloading, which can take up to two weeks, can delay scheduled maneuvers.—Internet

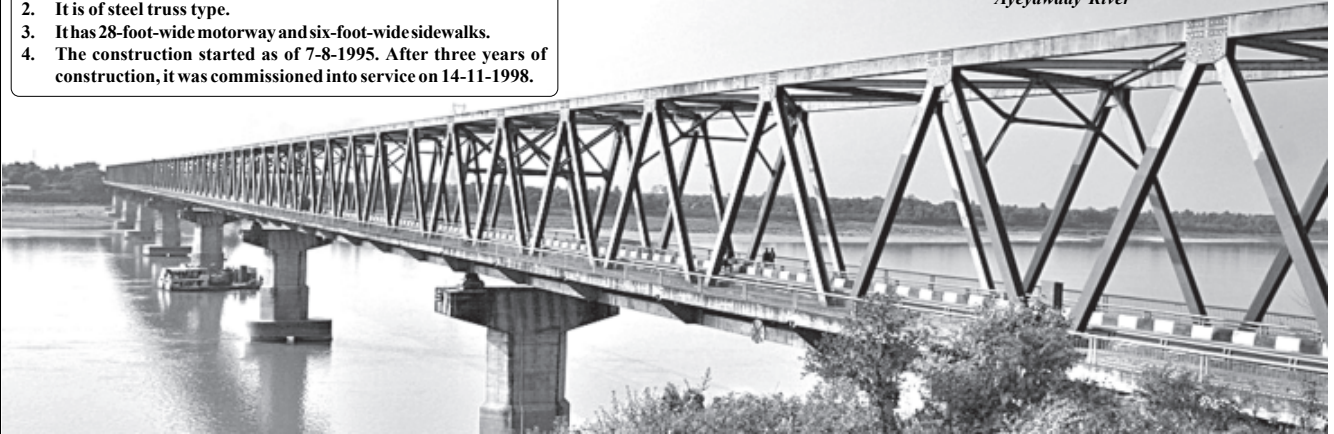


Russia's nuclear-powered submarines on service.—INTERNET

Facts and figures

1. Length of the bridge is 2688 ft.
2. It is of steel truss type.
3. It has 28-foot-wide motorway and six-foot-wide sidewalks.
4. The construction started as of 7-8-1995. After three years of construction, it was commissioned into service on 14-11-1998.

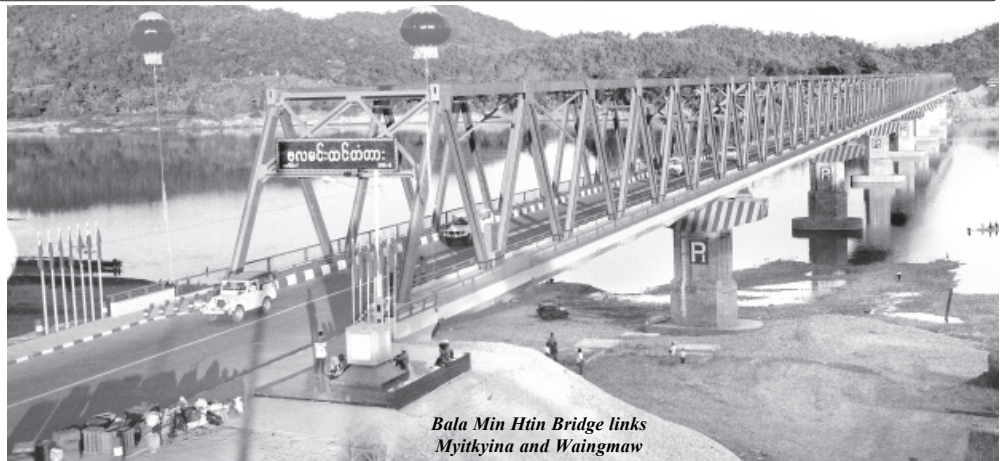
Bala Min Htin Bridge spanning Ayeyawady River



Ayeyawady River-crossing Bala Min Htin Bridge, a crowning pride of Kachin State

- * Bala Min Htin Bridge lies on Bhamo-Momauk-Waingmaw-Myitkyina-Sumprabum road. It links Sitapu up to Myitkyina and Mongna on the other bank of Ayeyawady.
- * The bridge contributes much to commodity flow as it joins up Muse and Bhamo-Momeik-Mandalay road, Bhamo-Namkham-Muse road, and Longchuan County of China through Waingmaw-Momauk-Lwejel road.
- * Kachin State with snow-capped mountains, various sceneries and diversity of ethnic races is a tourist destination. The bridge promotes tourism industry as travellers could enter the country through Lwejel Gate.

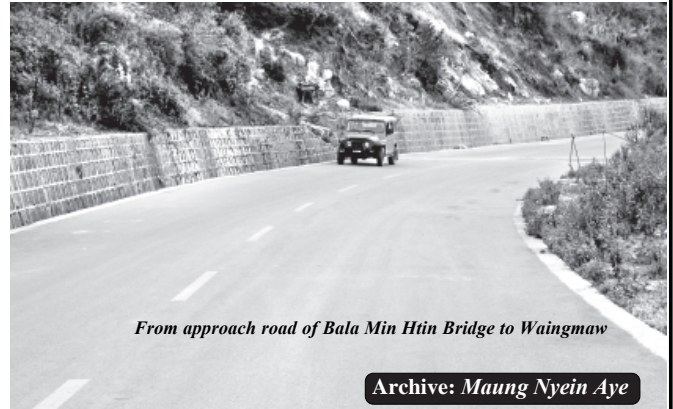
Translation: HKA



Bala Min Htin Bridge links Myitkyina and Waingmaw



Arch of Bala Min Htin Bridge



From approach road of Bala Min Htin Bridge to Waingmaw

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

Total, Chinese Great Wall Motor establish partnership

SHIJIAZHANG, 14 Feb—China's automaker Great Wall Motor (GWM) and Total Lubrificants, a France-based lubricants company, have signed an agreement on international cooperation, GWM said on Tuesday. The agreement was concluded by GWM's vice president Xing Wenlin and Philippe Montanteme, president of Total Lubrificants, on Thursday in the city of Baoding, headquarters of GWM, according to the company's Press release.

Under the three-year term agreement, the two companies established a strategic

partnership with Total Lubrificants designated lubricant provider in GWM's after-sales auto service in the countries of Russia, Chile and Italy. GWM will also receive access to Total Quartz automotive lubricants, as well as the marketing expertise of Total Lubrificants, according to the agreement.

Total Lubrificants, a subsidiary of the Total group, sells products in more than 150 countries. It produces anti-freeze, coolants, base oils and lubricants for the automotive, industrial and marine.

Xinhua

S Korea's Incheon Airport voted world's best

SEOUL, 14 Feb—South Korea's Incheon Inter-national Airport has been voted the best in the world for the seventh consecutive year in 2011, the government said on Tuesday.

Incheon airport, the international gateway to South Korea, ranked first in the annual Airport Service Quality (ASQ) passenger survey carried out by the Airports Council Inter-national (ACI), according to a statement from the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs.

It is the first airport to scoop the world's

best airport title for seven years in a row, the ministry said. "It would have been impossible to set a record by ranking first for seven straight years without the constant efforts by about 35,000 workers at the airport and the government's full support," a ministry official said in the statement.

South Korea's Gimpo International Airport, located in the west of Seoul, also ranked the best among mid-sized airports with annual passengers between 15 million and 25 million, the ministry said.

Xinhua

Union A&I Minister, Vietnamese Ambassador visit Paletwe paddy farms

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Together with Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung and Vietnamese agriculturalists Mr Vuong Thanh Long (BIDV), Mr Trinh Thanh, Mr Tran Van Khoi (Vietranimex) and Mr Nguyen Cong Kien (Symco Song Da Co Ltd) and 11 farmers from Leinpin and Thayetgyi villages of Wetlet Township, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing observed sorting of quality paddy seeds and systematic packaging works of Paletwe paddy strain to be distributed to farmers at 500-acre farmer educative mechanized farm in Nyaungbingyisu of Pobbathiri Township this morning.

They viewed cultivation of Paletwe hybrid paddy

strain on 369 acres of modern farmland in Alyinlo Village of Pyinmana Township.

At 288-acre modern farm in Aungchantha Village of Zabuthiri Township, they looked into land preparations for cultivation of Paletwe paddy strain through mechanized farming system. They also viewed thriving Paletwe paddy plantation on 40 acres of farmland near Chaing Village of Dekkhinathiri Township and cultivation of similar paddy strain on 100-acre farmland in Tegvigon Village of Zabuthiri Township.

The Union Minister and the Vietnamese Ambassador presented Paletwe hybrid paddy seeds to farmers of the excursion group.—MNA

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects regional development works

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin inspected providing health care to more than 1300 local people by specialists at People's Hospital in Ponnagyun Township on 5 February, and encouraged them.

After that, he attended educative health talk organized by State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, at Township People's Hospital. In meeting with teachers, parents and students at Basic Education High School in Ponnagyun, he

urged them to make cooperation between them for high pass rate of matriculation exam and promoting education standards.

In the afternoon, Patron of State Women Affairs Organization Daw Nu Nu Zan and Chairperson of State MCWSC Daw

Mya Nu, who accompanied the State Chief Minister, attended the ceremony to pay respect to the aged, at Township General Administration Department. The State Chief Minister and party inspected repair work of Kinchaung bridge in the evening.

MNA



Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo receives Permanent Secretary Mr Dirk Achten for Foreign Affairs, External Trade and European Affairs of Belgium and party. (News reported)—MNA

Dy Construction Minister on inspection tour in Yangon South District

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint, accompanied by the chief engineer (bridge) of Public Works, the superintendent engineer of Yangon South District and officials, visited work sites in Yangon South District on 12 February morning.

He inspected Kawhmu-Htanmanaing-Wabalauk-Thaminchan-Thayettaw road and instructed the officials to complete works in open season using machinery and to

upgrade roads and bridges systematically.

He met local people in Basic Education High School of Thaminchan village and explained road works and measures taken in education and health sector and social services for regional development. He attended to the needs.

He also met local people at Htantabin village and Htanmanaing village and attended to the needs.—MNA



TRADITIONAL DANCES AND SONGS PRESENTED: Union Day delegates cultural troupes and artistes who attended the ceremony to mark 65th Anniversary Union Day 2012 presenting traditional cultural dances and traditional songs at open air theatre of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall on 13 February evening.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Serbian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Serbia, which falls on 15 February, 2012.—MNA

Union Minister for Construction inspects maintenance of Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Myothit-Kanpya (Magway) road

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint on 11 February looked into maintenance of Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Myothit-Kanpya (Magway) motor road via Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and the conditions of Ngalak Creek Bridge at mile post Nos 9/4 and 9/5.

And then he also inspected earthen work for expanding of the road on box culvert across Htantapin Creek at the mile post Nos 11/4 and 11/5 and the conditions of road extension between mile post No 11/7 and 11/8. The Union Minister met responsible persons of companies taking a charge of Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Myothit-Kanpya (Magway) motor road construction at mile post No 27/0 and viewed repaving of the road and maintenance of road sections.—MNA

Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 14 Feb—A delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jean Asselborn arrived at Yangon International Airport here this morning. They were welcomed at the Airport by Deputy Director-General U Maung Maung of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials.

MNA



Deputy Director-General U Maung Maung and party welcome Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Jean Asselborn and party at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

UEC, political parties hold coord meeting

Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye delivers an address at coordination meeting between UEC and political parties.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—The political parties are to abide by the prescribed law, rules and directives in canvassing for votes in the by-election; and the political parties and voter peoples are to join hands with the Union Election Commission in its tasks for holding the free and fair election, said Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye at the coordination meeting between the UEC and political parties at the meeting hall of the commission, here, at 10 am today.



Member of the commission U Nyunt Tin discussed collection of

eligible voters list and provisions on casting advance votes, Secretary U Win Ko, submission and scrutiny for Hluttaw

candidates, objection, withdrawal, printing and distribution of ballots, copying of voters lost, and financial matters, and

Commission member U Myint Naing casting votes, counting of ballots, provisions on electoral crimes and notes to object

election. Chairmen and secretaries of political parties discussed electoral process.

After replying to the questions and discussions, Chairman of the commission U Tin Aye gave concluding remarks.—MNA



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing received Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung at the ministry on 13 February. (News reported) —MNA

Union Energy Minister holds talks with guests

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay held talks with a delegation led by Mr Masataka Sase, Executive Director of Japan Cooperation Center Petroleum-JCCP, today over promoting the cooperation between Ministry of Energy and JCCP.

During the meeting at the ministry, the two sides also agreed to promote conducting courses on technology for energy sector.

The Union Minister also met with a delegation led by Director-General Mr Kunio Senga of Asia Development Bank and discussed reforms in the energy sector in Myanmar.

Afterwards, the Union Minister held talks with a delegation led by Mrs Katja Christina Nordgaard, Ambassador of Norway to Myanmar based in Thailand, and Mr Paul R Moen, Vice President of Statoil Company based in Norway. During the meeting, the two sides discussed win-win cooperation in off-shore oil and natural gas exploration.

The director-general of the Energy Planning Department and managing directors of the enterprises under the ministry.—MNA

First Day Third Regular Session of First Yangon Region Hluttaw commences

YANGON, 14 Feb—First Day Third Regular Session of First Yangon Region Hluttaw took place at Yangon Region Hluttaw at 10 am here today, attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and 119 Hluttaw representatives. At the

meeting, the Region Chief Minister delivered an address and Region Hluttaw put the address on record.

After that, respective Region ministers explained Regional Planning Bill for 2011-2012 financial year, Additional Budget and Draft Budget for 2011-2012

financial year, the 2012 Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill, Budget Bill for 2012-2013 financial year, Receipt and Payment Bill for 2012 financial year, Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill for 2012 and the 2012 Budget Bill.

Additional Budget and Draft Budget for 2011-2012

financial year, Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill for 2012, Budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and Budget Bill for 2012 fiscal year and three proposals were submitted by the Ministers.

The meeting came to an end at 2:35 pm.

MNA

Deputy Sports Minister meets officials of sports federations

YANGON, 14 Feb—Secretary of Myanmar National Sports Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu met officials of Myanmar Track & Field Federation and Myanmar Football Federation at the hall of the Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) and those of Myanmar Boxing Federation at its office (Thuwunna), here, on 9 February morning.

The deputy minister discussed picking out of new generation athletes in respective sports events, providing training to them, tactics and techniques and plans for securing victory in the XXVII SEA Games.

He met officials of Myanmar Karatedo and Taekwondo federations at Aung San Gymnasium separately. MNA

Defence Ministry to meet with Home Affairs Ministry in women's volleyball final

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—The semifinals of the 5th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Volleyball Tournament took place at the volleyball ground in Zabuthiri Sports Zone, here, this afternoon.

Ministry of Defence trounced Sports Ministry 3-0 while Ministry of Home Affairs beat Industry Ministry 3-0.

On 16 February, the third place match between

Sports Ministry and Industry Ministry will be held. Defence Ministry will meet Home Affairs Ministry in the final match on 17 February.—MNA

India interested in building Med-Red Sea railway in Israel

NEW DELHI, 14 Feb—India has expressed deep interest in participating in building a railway between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea coasts in Israel, reported local media on Tuesday.

Indian Urban Development Minister Kamal Nath told Israeli officials in Jerusalem that “once this project is formed and the road map is clear, Indian companies will evaluate their participation”, according to *Press Trust of India*.

Xinhua

Nyaungdon Township Administrator U Khin Min reads message sent by President U Thein Sein at ceremony to mark 65th Anniversary Union Day at sports ground of Nyaungdon BEHS No. 1 on 12 February. MYANMA ALIN





A Nigerian naval ship, one of three ships taking part in a joint counter-piracy patrol by the Nigerian and Benin navies, patrols the sea off the coast of Cotonou on September 2011.—INTERNET

Pirates kill captain, engineer in attack off Nigeria

LAGOS, 14 Feb—Pirates fired on a cargo vessel off the coast of Nigeria on Monday killing the captain and chief engineer, a maritime watchdog body said as it warned shipping to stay clear of the area.

“Armed pirates chased and fired upon a drifting bulk carrier. Vessel raised alarm and headed towards Lagos. All crew except the bridge team took shelter in the citadel,” the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre said in a statement.

Cyrus Mody, a manager at the IMB, said the vessel’s captain and chief engineer “were killed in the shooting.”

The attack, which took place 110 nautical miles off the coast, is one of three to have occurred in the area since Thursday, the IMB said.

The attackers are believed to be “Nigerian pirates”, according to Noel Choong, head of the IMB’s Kuala Lumpur-based piracy reporting centre.

He said the centre had alerted Nigerian authorities, who launched an operation

to intercept the pirates and rescue the ship. He could not provide any information on the origins of the ship or its crew.

Nigeria’s navy spokesman Kabir Aliyu confirmed the attack.

“MV FORCES was attacked by pirates at about 110 nautical miles south of Lagos Fairway Bouy. Two crew members seriously injured and later reported dead. Others sustained various degrees of injuries,” he said in a statement to AFP.

Internet

Police identify wrong man as fugitive

PHILADELPHIA, 14 Feb—Philadelphia police said they released the wrong information for a man who escaped from their custody outside Pennsylvania Hospital. “Through further investigation, it has been determined that the... information regarding an escaped prisoner was released in error,” said a release issued Saturday. “The male identified... is not wanted. The correct identity of the escaped prisoner is not available at this time.”

The person initially named — Randall Stiles, 22 — said he found out on Friday that he was a wanted man, the *Philadelphia Daily News* reported. Stiles went to the 18th Police District Friday to clear his name. “I told them, ‘That’s not me,’” he said. The mix-up occurred after the man police arrested Thursday gave them Stiles’ name and address instead of his own identity, police said. “He obviously gave us the wrong name,” said police spokesman Lt Ray Evers.

Evers said the man has an “H” tattooed on his forehead, while Stiles does not. A police source said police believe the actual fugitive is Stiles’ brother, Rafik Stiles, 18. Randall Stiles, however, denied this, saying it wasn’t his brother.

Internet



Afghan people receive winter assistance provided by German government in Kabul, Afghanistan on 14 Feb, 2012. According to Afghan officials, around 90,000 internally displaced families have been living in the militancy-plagued Afghanistan with 7,000 of them dwelling in the capital city. More than 40 people have lost their lives in avalanche and snowfall over the past couple of weeks across Afghanistan.

XINHUA

NZ airport flu scare said overblown

AUCKLAND, 14 Feb—New Zealand health authorities admitted they overreacted to a flu scare at Auckland Airport Monday, but said it was better to err on the side of caution.

Health officials quarantined 73 passengers on a flight from Tokyo for 2 hours after Japanese students on board were suspected of carrying an unknown strain of influenza, *ONE News* reported. Passengers said the whole ordeal was chaotic and uncoordinated.

They “just sort of shepherding us to different places,” said passenger David Turner of Wellington. The Auckland Regional Public Health Service said it took time to deal with the alert. “It does take time and I know that can be frustrating. But it’s important to get it right,” said Dr Julia Peters of the Auckland Regional Public Health Service.

The health service said 40 of the students were found to have a mild viral infection — a little more serious than a common cold — and did not require hospitalization. “In hindsight we overreacted to this. But that’s much better than underreacting,” said Dr Richard Hoskins of the Auckland Regional Public Health Service.

Internet

Animals from petting zoo sold for meat

VANCOUVER, 14 Feb— Dwarf and pygmy goats promised good private homes after the closing of a Canadian petting zoo ended up being sold for meat, an official said.

Constance Barnes, chairwoman of the Vancouver Park Board in British Columbia said in a statement the board has ordered a full investigation after hearing reports of goats and sheep from the Stanley Park Children’s Farmyard being sold at auction instead of

being given homes for life as contracted with the board.

“I was very distressed to learn of the alleged mistreatment of several goats and sheep adopted out to a local farm,” Barnes said. “At our request on Friday, the SPCA confirmed the well-being of remaining animals on the involved property and today I have directed staff to immediately request the surrender of any animals that were former residents of the Stanley Park Farm.”

Barnes said the board intends to take “aggressive” legal action against one Fraser Valley hobby farmer who contracted to adopt 17 goats and four sheep and began getting rid of some of them within weeks of taking ownership, *The Globe and Mail of Toronto* reported Monday. “There is quite a large demand for goat meat,” said Chris Bodnar, co-owner of Glen Valley Organic Farm Co-operative in Abbotsford.

Internet

Air force team investigates the wreckage at the site of a jet crash in Dummalasuriya, northwest Sri Lanka, on 13 Feb, 2012. A Sri Lankan air force MIG-27 jet was completely destroyed when it crashed in north western Sri Lanka on Monday, the air force said. The pilot ejected in mid-air just before the aircraft came down in Dummalasuriya, near Puttalam.—XINHUA



Justice Breyer, wife robbed on vacation

CHARLESTOWN, 14 Feb— US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and his wife were robbed by a man with a machete at their West Indies vacation home, a court spokeswoman said Monday.

The court said in a

statement the 73-year-old justice, his wife Joanna and their guests were robbed last Thursday night on the island of Nevis, SCOTUSblog.com reported. The armed intruder made off with about \$1,000 in cash. *The Washington Post*

reported the masked man didn’t harm the Breyers or the two friends who were visiting them. The newspaper said the St Kitts-Nevis Observer reported the FBI was investigating the robbery.

Internet



Chinese scientists and researchers attend a convention for presenting the 2011 State Top Science and Technology Award in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 Feb, 2012.

XINHUA

Mexico has 190 mn tourists in 2011

MEXICO CITY, 14 Feb— Mexico registered “nearly 190 million tourists”, of whom 22.67 million were foreigners, in 2011, eclipsing 185.7 million tourists registered in 2008, the Tourism Secretariat said.

The figures, which were obtained from the Bank of Mexico, show that the number of visitors from Brazil rose 66 percent, while arrivals from Russia, up 55 percent, Peru, up 33 percent, and China, up 30 percent, also soared, the secretariat said.

The number of visitors from Colombia rose 23.2 percent, while arrivals from

Argentina were up 18 percent and the number of visitors from Italy, up 13 percent, Australia, up 13 percent, and Britain, up 11.6 percent, also rose markedly.

Average spending by foreign tourists rose to \$157.70 per visitor, up 7 percent from 2010, which had been the highest level registered.

Arrivals of foreign tourists totaled 22.67 million, up 2 percent from 2010 and 0.20 percent relative to 2008, the year when the previous record had been set.

Domestic tourists, meanwhile, totaled 167.3

million, up 4 percent from 2010 and 2.6 percent relative to 2008.

Several foreign airlines that serve Mexico reported large increases in passenger counts, including 71 percent at British Airways, 42 percent at United Airlines and 29 percent at Delta Airlines.

Among Mexican carriers, Interjet posted the best numbers, with its passenger count up 58 percent, while Aeromexico reported a 43 percent increase and Viva Aerobus saw its numbers rise about 36 percent, with all the figures being relative to 2010, the secretariat said.—Internet

Child saved from Kosovo avalanche

PRISTINA, 14 Feb — A young girl has been pulled alive from a house hours after it was hit by an avalanche which killed at least nine people in southern Kosovo. She was found buried under

10 metres (33 ft) of snow after officers heard her voice and a mobile phone ringing, an official said. Rescuers are still looking for one person after the avalanche hit a remote mountain village on the

border with Albania and Macedonia on Saturday.

Several homes were destroyed. Only two were said to be occupied at the time. The rescued girl, named as Amerta Reka and thought to be between five and seven years old, was recovering in hospital in the nearby town of Prizren. Doctors said her life was not in danger, AP news agency reported. NATO peacekeepers deployed in Kosovo had been called in to help rescue operations, but were unable to land a helicopter in the blizzard, the agency said.

Those who were found



Rescuers cheered as the girl was brought out.—INTERNET

Costa Concordia fuel removal operation begins

ROME, 14 Feb—Pumping to remove more than 2,300 tonnes of fuel from the grounded Costa Concordia cruise ship has started, Italian officials have said. It began on Sunday afternoon, nearly a month after the ship hit a reef and capsized off the island of Giglio. The process had been delayed by both the search and rescue operation and bad weather, prompting fears of a leak into the protected waters off the island.

Seventeen people died when the ship capsized and 15 more are presumed dead. Its captain has been accused in Italy of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning ship before all those aboard were evacuated. Prosecutors in France have also launched an investigation, given that four French nationals died and two others

are among the missing. The captain, Francesco Schettino, denies wrongdoing.

Dutch salvage company Smit is conducting the operation to pump out the fuel, which is expected to take about four weeks to complete. It will concentrate on the first of 15 tanks that are believed to hold around 84% of the fuel on board, the AP news agency

quoted Italy's civil protection department as saying.

Valves will be fixed to the tanks, allowing oil to be pumped through a hose on to a crane barge alongside the vessel. From there the oil will be transferred to a waiting oil tanker. As oil is removed, water will be forced in via a second hose to fill the vacuum.

Internet



There have been fears of a fuel leak from the stricken liner.—INTERNET

Two in five in Singapore not mentally ready for babies

SINGAPORE, 14 Feb — About two in five people aged between 21 and 39 in Singapore said they were not mentally ready for babies, a latest survey has found.

The survey by voluntary welfare organization 1 Love Children showed that mental readiness was the second most cited reasons for not having more babies, while money tops the list, local daily *Straits Times* reported on Monday. In a similar survey conducted in 2010, about three in 20 said they were not mentally ready

for more babies. The survey conducted last year covered 600 people, with the majority married for more than two years but childless. The rest were single, soon-to-wed, newlywed, married with a child or married with two children. Other reasons cited were time, career being a priority, and the lack of quality or affordable child care support.

Singapore's fertility rate has been way below the replacement rate of 2.1 children per woman on average. It dipped to a record

low of 1.15 in 2010 and rebounded slightly to 1.2 last year. However, political leaders and observers have said that the trend is still not for it to rebound to anywhere near 2.1 in the foreseeable future. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong called on people in the city state to have more babies and said that more would be done to reduce the burden of parenthood with measures like the baby bonus scheme and efforts to create a supportive social climate and attitudes. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's Changi Airport retail sales grew 17 pct in 2011

SINGAPORE, 14 Feb—Sales at retail and food outlets at Singapore's Changi Airport in 2011 totaled 1.5 billion Singapore dollars (1.19 billion US dollars), up 17 percent year on year, local media reported on Monday. It puts Changi Airport in the list of the world's

top four airports in terms of retail sales.

The airport said the growth was attributable to a record number of 46.5 million passenger traffic last year and the expansion of retail spaces at the terminals. The company also held a million dollar lucky

draw since 2010 and the winner this year is Jessica Down of Australia. The Chinese were the biggest spending group of visitors, contributing about 20 percent of the sales while they account for only 8 percent of the visitor arrivals.

Xinhua



dead in the village of Restelica after Saturday's avalanche were two brothers and their families, a local official said. "No bigger tragedy has ever struck this region," Behar

Ramadani was quoted as saying. The cold snap which started in Europe in late January has left dozens dead in the Balkans, AFP said.

Internet

SWISS launches Beijing-Zurich flight

BEIJING, 14 Feb—Swiss International Airlines (SWISS) on Sunday launched a direct flight route between Beijing and Zurich, which is expected to further promote business and travel ties between China and Switzerland. It was the company's third non-stop flight route with China after Hong Kong-Zurich and Shanghai-Zurich routes. "The route marks a new milestone in the development of our company and our network," said Harry Hohmeister, chief executive of SWISS.

The route's first flight, operated with the Airbus A340-300 aircraft, departed from the Beijing Capital International Airport at 6:45 am on Sunday. The flight between the two countries takes around 10 hours, and will be available daily starting 31 May. "These non-stop services should be attractive to both business and leisure travellers from the two countries," Hohmeister said. Switzerland has become a popular destination among Chinese travelers. China has replaced Japan as Switzerland's largest tourist market in Asia, with 680,000 tourist overnight stays in 2011. Urs Eberhard, executive vice president of Markets & Meetings at Switzerland Tourism, said the route will help increase overnight stays of Chinese tourists by 7 percent to 10 percent.—Xinhua

Internet

Actors perform the drama *The First Valentine's Day of the World in 9 Theatre in Beijing, capital of China, on 12 Feb, 2012. This drama tells an impressive love story in ancient Rome 2,000 years ago.*—XINHUA



India, France sign pact on defence industry cooperation

NEW DELHI, 14 Feb—India's Reliance Industries and France's Dassault Aviation have signed a pact for partnering in defence and home security sector, two weeks after Dassault won a 15 billion US dollar fighter contract from New Delhi, reported local daily *The Times*

of India on Monday.

Quoting a spokesman for Reliance as making announcement in Mumbai on Sunday, the newspaper said that no further details have been provided on the agreement.

Dassault has won a contract from India to build

126 Rafale multi-role combat aircraft for India in the next 10 years, in what is the biggest arms deal offered by India. Reliance is India's most valued company. It is looking for other sectors as its core oil and gas business is slowing down.




Xinhua

LICENSE AGREEMENT CAUTION

TECHNOPIA SDN. BHD. ("Licensor"), a company organized under the laws of **MALAYSIA** and having its principal office at Level 18, Menara Boustead Penang, 39, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, 10050 Penang, Malaysia

and




POWERHOUSE COMPANY LIMITED ("Licensee") a company organized under the laws of **MYANMAR** and having its principal office at No.210, 39th Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar have agreed to license the following Trademarks in Myanmar under the registration number 4/9920/2011 of Declaration of License Agreement.

	Trademark	Registration No.
1.		4/4280/2009
2.		4/2955/2010
3.		4/2641/1996 & 4/7232/2005

The License Agreement is to be effective from 1st May 2011 for a period of 5 years expiring on 30th April 2016.

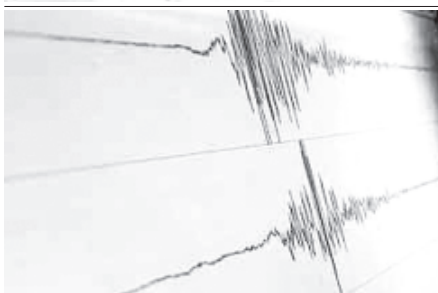
Both parties agree to the use of the said Trademarks according to the terms and conditions in the License Agreement.

The said trademarks are to be used in respect of:-

	Trademark	Registration No.	Specification of Goods
1.		4/4280/2009	Mosquito coils; Mosquito mats; Aerosol insecticide; Vaporising liquid insecticide and Other insecticide.
2.		4/2955/2010	Insecticide aerosol; Mosquito coils; Mosquito mats for electric vaporisers; Mosquito repellent liquid for electric vaporiser; Disinfectants; Preparations and Substances for destroying vermin; Fungicides; Insecticides; Insect catching papers and mats; insecticide liquid; Repellent lotions and Insecticide baits.
3.		4/2641/1996 & 4/7232/2005	Mosquito coils; Mosquito mats; Aerosol insecticide; Vaporising liquid insecticide and Other insecticide.

Any unauthorised use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above Trademarks will be dealt with according to law.

Tin Ohnmar Tun & The Law Chambers
Ph: 09 73 150 632, Email : law_chambers@seasiren.com.mm
(For.Texchem Group, Malaysia) Dated 15 February, 2012.



Moderate quake rattles California

LOS ANGELES, 14 Feb—An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.6 struck northern California on Monday, US seismologists said, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The epicentre of the quake was located six miles (10kilometres) from the town

TRADE MARK CAUTION

TORAY KABUSHIKI KAISHA (trading as **Toray Industries, Inc.**) a Corporation organised and existing under the laws of Japan, of No.2-1, 2-chome, Nihonbashi-Muromachi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

TORAYLON

Reg. No. 1112/1964

in respect of "Staple, fibers; yarns and threads, piece goods, (knitted, netted, woven and non-woven), articles of clothing."

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **TORAY KABUSHIKI KAISHA**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm
Dated: 15 February 2012

Swiss musicians perform at a concert during the 27th Fajr International Music Festival in Teheran, Iran, on 13 Feb, 2012
The seven-days festival is hosting groups and musicians in Teheran and five other cities.
XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKAJA VOY NO (73)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKAJA VOY NO (73) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921



Frost in Russia kills 215

Moscow, 14 Feb—Strong frost has claimed 215 lives and injured over 5,500 in Russia so far this year, the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development said Monday.

A total of 3,382 people, including 52 children, were admitted to hospitals for cold-related injuries.

The total amount of injured children was 154, according to a statement from the ministry. Abnormal cold has struck 60 Russian regions in recent weeks. Heaviest damage has been reported in the southernmost part of the country, where people were used to warm winters but now suffered the lowest temperatures on record of minus 20 degrees Celsius.

In the Moscow region, Monday morning was the coldest in a decade with the temperature dropping to minus 35 degrees. The freezing temperature has also killed people in some other European countries, including Italy, Poland and Ukraine.—Xinhua



The Cedar Covered Bridge is covered with snow in Winterset, Iowa, the United States, on 13 Feb, 2012. More than a decade after the movie "The Bridges of Madison County" was released, thousands of people still travel to Winterset each year to trace the steps where Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep immortalized the area's covered bridges.—XINHUA

45 people missing after boat capsizes in S Philippines

COTABATO, 14 Feb—A sea vessel carrying at least 45 passengers capsized on Monday in the southern Philippines, a police official said.

Caraga Police Regional Director Chief Supt Reynaldo Rafal said the ship, M/B BenJun heading for the Island town of Basilisa in the province of Dinagat Islands, left at the port of Surigao City around 1:00 pm. The boat capsized after being hit by big waves when it reached Hikdop Island. The Philippine Coast Guard has launched a search and rescue operation for the missing passengers.

Xinhua

Men shout their love in Tokyo park

Dozens of men took to the stage in a Tokyo park for a "shout your love" event designed to help them express their feelings to their sweethearts.

The downtown event gave men the chance to express their feelings with a microphone before an

assembled crowd and even offered instructions on the best way to hug their lovers, *CBS News* reported Monday.

Rieko Nishiguchi, whose husband was among those making a public display of affection, said her husband is unusually affectionate for a Japanese man. "My mother

and father were the exact opposite of us. We had a very formal household, so it was impossible to ever say, 'I love you,'" Nishiguchi says. "Japanese are shy. We like to think that love needs no words, that's it's automatically understood. But love needs to be stated."

Man makes tank out of egg cartons

A British man created a full-size replica military tank from more than 5,000 egg cartons to raise money for a military charity.

Stuart Murdoch said he used more than 6 gallons of glue, more than 10,000 nails,

almost 4 gallons of paint, 262 square feet of steel and 5,013 staples to construct his Challenger 2 replica, *The Mirror* reported.

The tank, which took Murdoch three weeks to complete, will be displayed in

London as part of the festivities to commence a national egg and spoon race on 4 March to raise money for Help for Heroes, a charity that helps wounded servicemen and women returning from service.

\$55,000 cupcake comes with diamond ring

A Pennsylvania bakery is teaming with a jeweler to offer a \$55,000 cupcake that comes topped with an 8-karat diamond ring.

Cupcakes Gourmet in Malvern and Warwick's Jewelers in Exton said the red velvet cupcake is perfect for someone seeking a sweet way to propose marriage on Valentine's Day, *CBS News* reported on Monday.

"We wanted to do a

statement piece, that when people see it they would say 'Wow, I can't believe this is a \$55,000 beautiful ring,'" said Brittany Burkland, marketing manager of Warwick Jewelers.



The \$55,000 cupcake, courtesy of cupcakesgourmet.com.

1,600 jump into icy Lake Ontario

Organizers of a "Polar Plunge" in New York said about 1,600 people jumped into the icy waters of Lake Ontario to raise \$225,000.

The 12th annual event, which occurred Sunday and raised funds for Special Olympics New York, took place during a snowstorm in the Rochester area that filled the lake with ice and slush, *The (Rochester) Democrat and Chronicle* reported on Monday.

"This was the coldest and the worst," said Andy DeMarco, 49, of Rochester, a retired sheriff's deputy who has participated in the event for several years.

But Randy Crum, 51, of Buffalo, a seven-year veteran of the Polar Plunge, said jumping into the frigid water is "not as bad as everybody thinks it is."

News Album



Vanessa Hudgens

Vanessa Hudgens wants Ryan Gosling to win Oscar

NEW YORK, 14 Feb—Vanessa Hudgens picked Ryan Gosling as her favourite to win the Oscars this year, even though the star hasn't even been nominated for the award.

The former 'High School Musical' star was cooing about Gosling at the Oster Media Presents Leila Shams party at Westway on Thursday night, the *New York Post* reported.

"I just adore Ryan Gosling. I love him, and I loved that movie 'Drive'," she said when asked about her Oscar picks.

Sadly for her, neither 'Drive' nor Gosling's performance in the film has been named for the Academy awards this year.

Internet

Watson to star in fairytale 'Beauty'

LOS ANGELES, 14 Feb—Guillermo del Toro is to direct a new version of the fairytale "Beauty and the Beast," starring Emma Watson, *The Hollywood Reporter* said.

Del Toro previously helmed "Pan's Labyrinth" and the "Hellboy" movies.

Watson is best known for her work as Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter film franchise, as well as "My Week with Marilyn."

Andrew Davies, who has adapted numerous literary classics for British television, is to write the screenplay for "Beauty," the entertainment industry newspaper said, without offering details of when and where the story is to be set.

Internet



British actress Emma Watson attends the premiere of "My Week With Marilyn" at Cineworld Haymarket in London on 20 Nov, 2011.

INTERNET

Reeves produces film about filmmaking

NEW YORK, 14 Feb—Keanu Reeves says it has acquired North American distribution rights to "Side by Side," a documentary produced and presented by actor Keanu Reeves.

Chris Kenneally directed the movie about the transition

between Keanu and the top professionals in the industry about this revolution and its impact.

"Keanu Reeves has long distinguished himself with compelling and original performances, but with 'Side By Side' he demonstrates

by Side."

The movie is set for release in theaters this summer. In it, Reeves conducts in-depth interviews with master filmmakers such as Danny Boyle, James Cameron, David Fincher, George Lucas, David Lynch, Christopher Nolan, Martin Scorsese, Steven Soderbergh, Lars Von Trier and The Wachowskis. Reeves is best known for his work in "The Matrix" and "Bill & Ted" movies, as well as the films "Parenthood," "I Love You to Death," "Much Ado About Nothing" and "My Own Private Idaho."—*Internet*

Internet

39 million watched Grammy Awards show



Adele cradles the six awards she won at the 54th annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Centre in Los Angeles on 12 Feb, 2012.

INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 14 Feb—More than 39 million viewers tuned in to the 54th annual Grammy Awards show in Los Angeles, CBS announced on Monday. Sunday night's prize presentation was the most watched edition of the event since 1984 and the second most viewed telecast in Grammy history.

Highlights of Sunday's show included British soul singer Adele's sweep of six award categories, as well as Beach Boys reunion and touching tributes to recording star Whitney Houston, who died Saturday at the age of 48.—*Internet*



Keanu Reeves is pictured on the set of "Side by Side," a documentary he produced. Photo courtesy of Tribeca Film, the company that will distribute it in North America this summer.—INTERNET

from traditional film to digital technology.

"Cinema is at a tipping point. Digital has challenged, and in some ways completely overturned, a process of making movies on photo-chemical film that has been a tradition for over 100 years," Kenneally said in a statement Monday. "'Side by Side' is an intimate conversation

another dimension: remarkable passion and thoughtfulness about the state of film itself," said Nancy Schafer, executive vice president of Tribeca Enterprises. "Chris Kenneally has created a fantastic resource about the film medium and we are anticipating a great dialogue throughout this year as audiences experience 'Side

I would love to work with Winslet



Actor George Clooney

LONDON, 14 Feb—Actor George Clooney says he is a huge fan of Kate Winslet and wants to work with her.

"I've never worked with Kate Winslet and I'd love to work with her. There are a million more out there. Pretty much any actress—I love working with actresses in general," showbizspy.com quoted the 50-year-old as saying.—*Internet*



Actor Russell Crowe

Russell Crowe in talks to play Harker?

LONDON, 14 Feb—Actor Russell Crowe is in talks to recreate the popular character of Jonathan Harker in the modern-day adaptation of Bram Stoker's classic novel "Dracula."

He would be seen playing the role of a tough London detective on the hunt for the ghoulish figure behind a string of gory murders, reports contactmusic.com.

The movie will be directed by Jaume Collet-Serra and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio.

Internet

Wolves dismiss manager McCarthy



Terry Connor will take charge of Wolves in the interim after Mick McCarthy's departure.—INTERNET

LONDON, 14 Feb — Wolverhampton Wanderers manager Mick McCarthy has left the club with immediate effect after a disappointing run of results. Terry Connor will take charge of team training in the interim until a new manager is appointed. Wolves suffered a 5-1 defeat at home to Black Country rivals West Bromwich Albion on Sunday, a result which prompted McCarthy to apologize to fans for the display.

McCarthy joined Wolves in July 2006 and led the club to the Championship title in the 2008/09 campaign, and has kept Wolves in the Barclays Premier League for the past two seasons. A statement on the club's official website said: "The board took the difficult decision to terminate Mick's contract after a run of form which has seen Wolves pick up only 14 points in the last 22 League games." The statement added: "The board would like to place on record their sincere thanks and appreciation to Mick McCarthy and he leaves with the very best wishes of everyone connected to the club." — *Internet*

Harry Redknapp wants Paul Scholes at Euro 2012

LONDON, 14 Feb — Harry Redknapp believes Manchester United veteran Paul Scholes should be included in England's Euro 2012 squad. Redknapp, favourite to take the England manager's job vacated by Italian Fabio Capello, likened the 37-year-old to Barcelona pair Xavi and Andres Iniesta. "You'd love to have Paul Scholes in the Euros," the Tottenham boss said. "He'd be in your team, he's that good. He plays like a Spaniard, he can play like Xavi and Iniesta. He doesn't give the ball away."

Scholes has not played for England since retiring from international football in 2004 at the age of 29. The midfielder stepped away from the playing side altogether last summer, but returned to the United squad in January at the request of manager Sir Alex Ferguson. Scholes, who played at the 1998 and 2002 World Cups and Euro 2000 and Euro 2004, played the full 90 minutes of United's 2-1 win over Liverpool on Saturday. Redknapp also backed his own player

Scott Parker or Liverpool's Steven Gerrard to take over the England captaincy. "Scotty could do it for sure, so could Steven Gerrard," Redknapp said. "Scotty is a fantastic boy, he's a family man, he loves his football, he trains well, he plays well, he gets on with the job, he's not a minute's problem. "He's not a Billy big-time. He's just a great boy and that's what you need in your football club if you're going to do anything." — *Internet*



Harry Redknapp believes Manchester United veteran Paul Scholes should be included in England's Euro 2012 squad.—INTERNET

Napoli back on track thanks to Uruguayan duo

NAPLES, 14 Feb — Napoli ended a winless run of five matches on Monday with a 2-0 win over Serie A rivals Chievo thanks to goals from Uruguayan duo Miguel Angel Britos and Edinson Cavani. The win—which followed a run of four draws and a defeat—saw them climb to a point off sixth-placed AS Roma, who slumped to a surprise 1-0 defeat by relegation-threatened Siena. Napoli had the game won by half-time as first Britos rose to head home a 14th minute corner and then

Cavani otherwise known as the 'Matador' tucked away a 37th minute penalty he had obtained himself when fouled by Chievo goalkeeper Stefano Sorrentino.

Napoli coach Walter Mazzarri said that his side were capable of playing better football once they relaxed. "This is an important victory," he said. "I am convinced that when we overcome the fear factor, the pressure that we feel weighing down on us, Napoli will show a much better quality of play." — *Internet*



SSC Napoli's defender Michael Angel Britos (C) scores during their Serie A football match SSC Napoli vs AC Chievo at San Paolo Stadium in Naples. Napoli ended a winless run of five matches on Monday with a 2-0 win over Serie A rivals Chievo. — INTERNET

McEnroe wins doubles exhibition at SAP Open

SAN JOSE, 14 Feb — The hands were still soft, the volleys were crisp and the temper had calmed down 20 years after John McEnroe had last been a regular on the ATP Tour. McEnroe made a brief return to play an exhibition doubles match Monday on the opening night of the SAP Open, teaming with young American Jack Sock to beat Gael Monfils and Steve Johnson 6-4, 6-4 in a lighthearted match.

McEnroe showed the deft skill at the net that made him one of the game's best doubles players ever in a match that included three

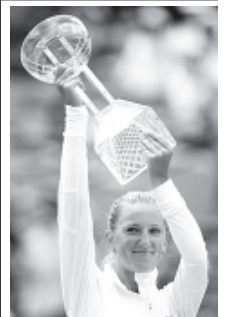
players young enough to be his children. "If you know some of the tricks of the trade, I don't care," he said. "I'm covering half the court. This is beautiful for me. I'm not saying I could go out and win things but I'd be comfortable going against anybody right



John McEnroe

now playing doubles."

McEnroe hit crisp volleys all match long, bringing back memories of his touring days when he won seven Grand Slam singles titles and 10 major doubles titles from 1977-92. Even though he lacks the power of the younger, modern players, McEnroe was able to get his serve up as high as 125 mph—a feat he credited to a friendly radar gun operator rather than some newfound strength. "I hit one 125 (mph)," he said. "I've never hit it that hard in my life. I owe that guy a dinner." — *Internet*



Victoria Azarenka

Azarenka already thinking about 'Golden Slam'

DOHA, 14 Feb — With the No. 1 ranking and her first major title secured, Victoria Azarenka is already thinking about the "Golden Slam."

The 22-year-old Belarussian, who won the Australia Open last month, still has a long way to go, but the London Olympics is high on her wish list.

"That's everybody's dream to achieve, but I mean, it's a very difficult task," said Azarenka, who will put her 12-0 record on the line this week at the Qatar Open. "But I definitely am going to have the mentality to try to do that."

Heading into this week's tournament, Azarenka is preparing to be the player everyone else wants to beat.

"There's going to be extra motivation (for others), but for me it's kind of exciting that every time I have to step on the court I have tougher task to handle," she said. "So I worked really hard to be at this position, so, you know, I have to deal with it now." — *Internet*

Donald tops Match-Play field while Els sneaks in

NEW YORK, 14 Feb — Defending champion Luke Donald topped the qualifiers list released on Monday for next week's World Golf Championships Match-Play Championship while Ernie Els will just sneak into the 64-man field. World No. 1 Donald, who won the US and



Defending champion Luke Donald, topped the qualifiers list released on Monday for next week's World Golf Championships Match-Play Championship while Ernie Els will just sneak into the 64-man field. — INTERNET

European money titles last year, led the field by virtue of his ranking with fellow Englishman Lee Westwood second, Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy third and Germany's Martin Kaymer fourth.

If the European foursome hold their spots for another week they will be the top seeds in the four brackets to be released next Monday based upon next week's rankings. While the entry list is pulled from this week's rankings, players have until Friday to confirm their spot in the field

or drop out. World No 11 Phil Mickelson, coming off a victory at Pebble Beach on Sunday, plans to play this week at Riviera and skip the WGC event, opening the way for the 65th-ranked player in the world, South Africa's Els, to make the lineup. Els was just ahead of 66th-ranked compatriot George Coetzee, who might also find his way into the lineup if England's Paul Casey, ranked 23rd, skips the Dove Mountain event. He is recovering from a shoulder injury. — *Internet*

Derek Chisora chasing eighth-round win over Vitali Klitschko

FRANKFURT, 14 Feb — Britain's Derek Chisora has reiterated that he plans to knock Vitali Klitschko out in the eighth round and claim the Ukrainian's WBC heavyweight crown. The Zimbabwe-born fighter takes on his 40-year-old Ukrainian opponent in Frankfurt on Saturday. Chisora, 28, is widely regarded as the underdog in the WBC heavyweight championship fight, but he is promising to silence his doubters.

"I will end the Klitschko reign and cause a massive upset," he pledged. Klitschko is yet to be knocked down in any professional fight, or lose on points but Chisora, who stands six inches shorter than his opponent at 6ft, professes to be undaunted. "Vitali has been around a long time. He's the king of the sport but it is time someone came in who is young and fresh," said Chisora.

"It is the end for Vitali, I promise you. I will end the Klitschko reign and cause a massive upset in my magic eighth round. It will be felt around the world. "A lot of people have tried to do it but they do not have the swagger and the passion to go in there and do the business. I have got it." Chisora is looking to bounce back from a controversial points defeat by Robert Helenius in December - he also lost to Tyson Fury in their British title showdown in July last year. — *Internet*



DISTRICT NEWS

New gravel road inaugurated

OTTWIN, 14 Feb—In commemoration of the 65th Anniversary Union Day, the 1630 feet long and 10 feet wide gravel road was inaugurated in Manganyoe Ward of Kywepwe in Ottwin Township on 6 February.

The local authorities cut the ribbon to open the road built at a cost of K 9.168 million by Township Development Affairs Committee.

Township IPRD

Talks on environmental conservation given

YWANGAN, 14 Feb—Ywangan Township Forest Department organized a talk on eradication of illegal timber extraction and environmental conservation in Kyungyi and Hmyagale villages in the township on 28 and 30 January.



Head of the department U Zaw Naing explained environmental conservation and foresters U Tin Tun and U Win Naing, crime and penalty of the forestry law.—Township IPRD

Still no venue for Spanish Cup final

MADRID, 14 Feb—There is still no venue for the Copa del Rey final between FC Barcelona and Athletic Club Bilbao. The Spanish Cup final is due to be played on 20th May (or 25th May if Barcelona reach the Champions League final), but as of yet the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) has been unable to name a venue.

Athletic Club Bilbao President, Jose Urrutia and Barcelona General Director, Tony Freixa were at the RFEF headquarters on Monday to decide a venue. Both clubs have asked for the final to be played in Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, which has a capacity of 82,000 fans and is approximately the same distance from Bilbao and Barcelona. However, Real Madrid appear unwilling to cede the ground, fearful of seeing bitter rivals Barcelona celebrate another title and celebrating it on their own ground.

Madrid allege they will be starting rebuilding work on the stadium as soon as the league season ends on 13th May, although the club also adds that they need the Bernabeu should they win the Champions League final, which will be held on 19th May. Quite how they could hold a celebration in a ground undergoing rebuilding work is a question that has yet to be answered by the club.—Xinhua

Lioness kills South African zoo employee



File illustration photo shows a lioness in South Africa. A lioness has attacked and killed a South African zoo employee at a rural lion farm, a spokeswoman said Tuesday. INTERNET

JOHANNESBURG, 14 Feb—A lioness has attacked and killed a South African zoo employee at a rural lion farm, a spokeswoman said Tuesday. "Apparently he was either feeding or cleaning an enclosure when he was attacked by a lioness," Johannesburg Zoo spokeswoman Letta Madlala told AFP. "The other employees heard him screaming and rushed to assist."

After the attack Monday, 63-year-old Joe Ramonetha, was taken to hospital but was declared dead on arrival, Madlala said. Ramonetha had been employed at the zoo since the 1970s and was an experienced animal handler, she said. The 11-year-old lioness was tranquillised after the incident and has been isolated in her own cage. Madlala said zookeepers were uncertain whether to keep the animal alive or cull it. "At this point a decision has not been taken," she said. The attack occurred at the zoo's lion breeding farm near the town of Vrededorp, 120 kilometres (75 miles) southwest of Johannesburg.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(15-2-12 09:30 am ~ 16-2-12 09:30 am) MST Oversea Transmission

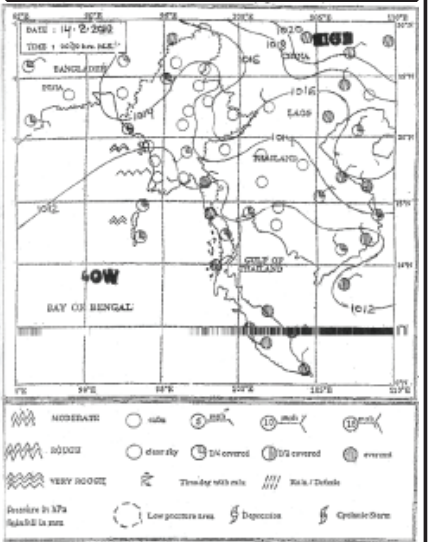
- * News
- * News Tid-Bits "Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann"
- * News
- * Royal Short Drum Troupe Dancing
- * News
- * Secret Palaces for Yummy Food" Myeik Noodle (Episode-6)
- * News
- * KNU/KNLA Peace Council Sign Initial Peace Agreement (7th Feb 2012)
- * News
- * Happy Lunar New Year 2012 "Water Dragon Year China Town"
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * Mandalay Cultural Museum Travel to the Southern Part of Myanmar
- * 1st Anniversary Asian Wings Airway
- * Let's Drink Strawberry Juice
- * Myanmar Movies "Guilt Over Love"

MYANMAR TV

(15-2-2012) (Wednesday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Saydaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
- 4. Cultural Dances
- 8:15 am
- 5. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm
- 6. Performance With Song
- 4:25 pm
- 7. Dance Of National Races
- 4:30 pm
- 9. 2012 University Entrance Examination (Biology)
- 5:05 pm
- 10. Classical Songs
- 5:45 pm
- 11. "ASEAN" Programme
- 6:20 pm
- 12. Traditional Boxing
- 7:35 pm
- 13. Alinka Wut Yi Music Troupe
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. Korea NG Award
- 16. TV Drama Series
- 17. Myanmar Video

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 15th February, 2012

Sr No.	Regions/States	Temperature (C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	29/84	12/54	Partly Cloudy	
2	Kayah	32/90	10/50	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	36/97	18/64	Generally fair weather	
4	Chin	23/73	08/46	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sagaing	30/86	10/50	Partly Cloudy	
6	Lower Sagaing	35/95	13/55	Generally fair weather	
7	Taintharyi	35/95	24/75	Partly Cloudy	
8	Bhago	35/95	17/63	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	35/95	14/57	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	35/95	14/57	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	36/97	21/70	Generally fair weather	
12	Yangon	36/97	18/64	Generally fair weather	
13	Rakhine	30/86	14/57	Generally fair weather	
14	Southern Shan	25/77	09/48	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	30/86	05/41	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	30/86	10/50	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	35/95	19/66	Generally fair weather	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	35/95	13/55	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	36/97	18/64	Generally fair weather	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	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 Taintharyi Region, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were 4°C below February average temperature in Upper Sagaing Region, 3°C above February average temperature in Taintharyi Region and Chin State and about February average temperature in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Pindlaung (3°C), Heho and Loden (4°C) each.

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

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Iranian bomber maimed in blasts in Thai capital

BANGKOK, 14 Feb—An Iranian man was seriously wounded in Bangkok on Tuesday when a bomb he was carrying exploded and blew one of his legs off, police and government officials said, but they declined to speculate on whether he was involved with any militant group.

Shortly before, there had been an explosion in a house the man was renting in the Ekamai area of central Bangkok, and shortly afterwards, another blast on a nearby road. "The police have control of the situation. It is thought that the suspect might be storing more explosives inside his house," government spokeswoman Thitima Chaisaeng told reporters.

The three blasts came a day after bomb attacks targeted Israeli embassy staff in India and Georgia. Israel accused Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah of being behind those attacks.



Policemen inspect a taxi damaged in an explosion in Ekamai area in central Bangkok 14 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

Police said they were looking for two other men who had been living there and they later said they had apprehended one suspect at Bangkok's main Suvarnabhumi Airport. "We discovered the injured man's passport. It's an Iranian passport and he entered the country through Phuket and arrived at Suvarnabhumi Airport on the 8th of this month," Police General Bansiri Prapapat told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

11th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued its 11th day session at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 10 am today, attended by Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 556 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

With regard to the proposal submitted on 10 February by U Thurein Zaw of Kawkaireik Constituency “urging the Union government, in the interest of the entire people, to take action on suggestions of the Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee on the findings of the Union Auditor-General over the river water pumping projects, dams and diversion weirs built by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation as the suggestions are crucial issues for the people and urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve it”, U Thein Aung of Thanbyuzayat Constituency, U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 6, U Kyaw Thu Oo of Magway Region Constituency No. 5, Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 9, Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency No. 1, U Ohn Tin of Rakhine State Constituency No. 10, U Than Tun of Dabayin Constituency, U Sai Kyaw Myint of Mongnai Constituency and U Ohn Ngwe of Myaung Constituency participated in the discussions.

They said that it should give priority to benefits from construction of dams and reservoirs. It should consider cost and advantage in implementing the river water pumping projects, they said. As the finding of the Union Auditor-General was based on some dams, it should make more scrutiny on remaining dams and reservoirs, they noted. They added calculation on advantage of water supply facilities from river water pumping projects should be based on lesser water consumed crops but not on paddy. They



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book.—MNA

noted that in addition to building new dams, the existing dams and reservoirs are to be maintained for meeting the set standards. It should emphasize completion of the implementing dam projects, they said. In drawing and implementing the policies, it should consider public participation and suggestions of private sector, they said. It should

undertake systematic calculation in building embankments with the use of heavy machinery to protect against seawater similar to that of other dams and reservoirs, and they said they supported the proposal.

Today’s session ended at 1 pm and the 12th day session will be held on 16 February.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Special Adviser to UNSG



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Mr Vijay Nambiar, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb— Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Mr Vijay Nambiar, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General and Under Secretary-General, and party at the Hluttaw Building here this afternoon.

During the meeting, Mr Vijay Nambiar said that he has witnessed constructive changes and developments in Myanmar and encouraging signs in relation with regional and international countries, adding that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will assist the country in holding upcoming by-elections.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann expressed his delight at seeing that the UN has recognized the reforms in Myanmar and at UN’s offer to help the country’s development tasks.

The Hluttaw will also make endeavours for achieving success in the transition to democracy.

Also present at the meeting were Resident Coordinator Mr Ashok Nigan and responsible personnel and chairmen and secretaries of the committees of the Hluttaw.

MNA

Turkey’s first face transplant patient sees his new face



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Science behind ponytail revealed

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Napoli back on track thanks to Uruguayan duo



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McEnroe wins doubles exhibition at SAP Open

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