

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIX, Number 304

12th Waning of Tabodwe 1373 ME

Sunday, 19 February, 2012

True patriotism

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

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

Ancient cultural heritage must be preserved through not only strength of the State but also that of wellwishers, entrepreneurs, NGOs, people and international organizations

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan addresses the Workshop on Preservation of Bagan Region Cultural Heritage and Construction of Historical Park (or) Archaeological Park.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—At Bagan Archaeological Museum in Bagan Ancient Cultural Region of NyaungU Township on 15 February morning, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the Workshop on Preservation of Bagan Region Cultural Heritage and Construction of Historical Park (or) Archaeological Park in Future, jointly organized by Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Myanmar Engineering Society and Myanmar Architects Association.



Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that Bagan region is a land of ancient pagodas and religious edifices and showcase of Myanmar ancient cultural heritage. It is one of the tourist destinations, he said. Thus, he said that the workshop was aimed at preserving the ancient cultural heritages in Bagan for their perpetual existence.

He noted that the workshop is to seek the ways to maintain the Bagan region

ancient cultural heritage for perpetuity and construction of Historical Park (or) Archaeological Park step by step. In so doing, he stressed the need to focus on maintenance of the heritages without deviating their original styles and emphasized maintenance works on

religious point of view.

He suggested that the workshop should discuss ways and means in six sectors. With regard to first section, the workshop is to seek ways of preservation, conservation, restoration and renovation of the brick, stone and wooden-made ancient heritages,

masonry works, relieves, stone inscriptions, glaze works, mural paintings, ink inscriptions and horoscopes for their perpetuity. The second section is to build new structures of roads, landscapes, electricity, toilets, souvenir shops, fast food

(See page 8)

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing at 369-acre modern farm in Ayinlo Village, Pynmana Township.—MNA

Thriving Paletwe hybrid paddy plantations inspected in Nay Pyi Taw



NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—At 369-acre modern farmland in Ayinlo Village of Pynmana Township, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, this morning instructed district manager and officials of Myanma Agriculture Service to supply water for agriculture purpose to local farmers as water sufficiency is a key to thriving summer paddy. Agriculturalists are to make field trips and provide local farmers with agricultural methods in order that the latter to secure the highest production of Paletwe hybrid paddy, he said.

Afterwards, the union minister inspected soil preparations,

construction of production roads and digging of drains at 228-acre modern farm in Aungchantha Village of Zabuthiri Township, 11 species of Vietnamese Paletwe hybrid paddy strain, hybrid sunflower plantation and dragon fruit plantation at Chaing Village in Dekkhinathiri Township. The union minister proceeded to Zabuthiri Township where he looked into cultivation of four species of Paletwe hybrid paddy strain on 100-acre modern farmland in Tegyigon region, and nursery of Paletwe hybrid paddy strain on 100-acre mechanized farmland near Kyagu Village of Dekkhinathiri Township.

MNA

Deputy ministers inspect accommodations of displaced persons in Kachin State

PAGE 8

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) under construction to shorten distance



PAGE 7

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 19 February, 2012

Conserve beauty of mountain ranges forever

In topographical conditions, the land of Myanmar with Bago mountain range at the centre is rounded by Shan mountain range called Shan plateau in the east, Rakhine mountain ranges and Chin mountain ranges in the west, ice-capped mountain ranges in the north and Taninthayi coastal line and mountain ranges in the south.

In fact, mountain ranges are natural origins of artery rivers namely Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin, Sittoung and so on. Streams, springs and small waterfalls join together as creeks. Combination of creeks emerges rivers. In reality, mountain ranges embellish natural beauties of rivers.

Beauties of mountain ranges and that of rivers are in pairs. However, scenic beauties of mountain ranges are degrading gradually due to forest fire, land reclamation, logging and mining works.

In early summer period, forest fires break out on mountains frequently. Before rainy season, growers set trees on the hills on fire to set up croplands. Moreover, making charcoal and cutting firewood cause barren hills.

Nowadays, climate change across the world is becoming worse year by year. Deforestation and forest fire are root causes for worsening the climate. The global countries face natural disasters caused by climate change such as forest fires, droughts, floods and storms yearly.

With a view to protecting the ecosystem of the nation, officials concerned are to raise environmental conservation by urging and educating the local people not to reclaim more land for crops and set forests on fire.

NLM hails Valentines Day

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Nowhere in our country is the Valentines Day more significant than in *The New Light of Myanmar* where seven couples got married within a period of one year after the daily moved to its new location in Nay Pyi Taw.

Zarni was a carefree guy and nobody in *The New Light of Myanmar* thought he would get married when they all arrived at Nachangon. Unexpectedly, he was the first to get married in Nachangon that is renamed Khayaybin crossroad. Not only Zarni, but also other six happy-go-lucky guys of the NLM or NLM-ners became responsible husbands during the period. One of them was a confirmed bachelor who rarely showed special interest in any girl or woman.

NLM hails this year's Valentines Day with the message that more NLM-ners including another confirmed bachelor are planning to fix a date for their wedding.—NLM



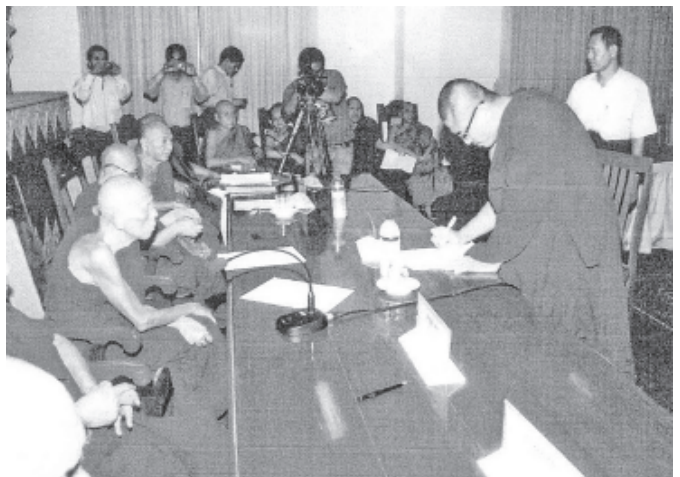
U Gambhira not only committs offences but also insults national-level Sangha organization after his release from prison

Legal actions to be taken in consideration of religion, Sasana and purity of Sasana as Dhamma action no more works

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—The authorities concerned are taking legal steps to bring U Gambhira to trial. U Gambhira who was released from the prison on 13 January by amnesty and rejoined the religious order the same day without request will have to face the charges of squatting in Magin Monastery in Thingangyun Township which is sealed by the government in accordance with laws without permission, and forcing the locks of Sasana Theikpan Monastery and Sasana Gonyi Monastery in Kyaukhetgyi Pagoda in Bahan Township.

Concerning the above-mentioned cases, Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee summoned U Gambhira for three times in vain and thus Yangon Region Police Force took him to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township on 10 February. SSMNC Chairman Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa ordered U Gambhira to follow the admonition of the SSMNC Sayadaws and U Gambhira gave a written guarantee of following the Sayadaws' advice to the letter, agreeing to receive punitive actions either by Sangha organization law or existing laws in case of violation of his assurance.

U Gambhira though gave the guarantee requested the Sayadaws to let him present



U Gambhira signs guarantee before the Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.—MNA

10-point letter to the SSMNC on behalf of the whole Sanghamembers. In his letter, U Gambhira revealed his objection to the phrase "committing offences without permission" in the notice of the SSMNC to him, to ordering Shwenyawa monk U Pinnya Sila to leave Sadhu Buddha Tekkatho Monastery within one month, and denouncing of SSMNC for doing nothing for release of 43 monks included in 415 prisoners.

Moreover, although SSMNC Sayadaws asked him to rejoin religious order in line with code of conduct for Buddhist monks, U

Gambhira replied that it has no concern with a monk like him and he wouldn't request to let him rejoin the religious order.

His response was seen as a slap in the face of the SSMNC Sayadaws, offensively blackening their reputation. His actions are an insult to educational prestige, moral prestige and probity prestige of the SSMNC, disrupting code of conduct for members of Sangha. Furthermore, neglecting of his words such as "objection, denouncement" to the national-level Sangha organization constituted with 47

venerable monks will make monks and person with dark attitude to be too daring to commit the similar cases.

So, the SSMNC Sayadaws felt heartaches and wished for legal actions as Dhamma actions is no more possible.

Punitive actions will be taken against U Gambhira (a) Candobhasa (a) Nyi Nyi Lwin, 33 who, under complete political spell, has repeatedly broken Buddhist monks code of conduct and laws that every citizen need to abide by, in consideration of religion, Sasana and purity of Sasana.

MNA

Coord meeting on drafting sectoral agreement for construction Kalotehta Dam to be used in Dawei Special Economic Zone

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—A coordination meeting on drafting sectoral agreement

between Irrigation Department and Italian-Thai Development Public Co Ltd

to build Kalotehta Dam to be used in Dawei Special Economic Zone was held at Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry yesterday, with an address by Deputy Minister U Khin Zaw.

The coordination meeting was aimed to discuss required technologies and environmental conservation works in construction of Kalotehta Dam and piping of water to the special economic zone for consumption and industrial process. The Italian-Thai Co is reported to be making survey and to design and construct the dam. It is reported that Dawei

Water Supply Co Ltd needs to make draft of sectoral agreement and present to the related ministries from Myanmar side urgently to smooth the way of the project.

Vice-President (Project) Dr Nattawith Udayasen of Italian-Thai Development Public Co Ltd explained facts about Kalotehta Dam Project and progress in pre-engineering surveys. Technical Expert Dr Suda Bunduwongse of the company explained work plans for supply of quality water to the special economic zone.

MNA

Rector Dr Than Cho speaks at the opening of table tennis competition jointly organized by University of Medicine (1) and Sports and Physical Education Committee for 2011-2012 academic year.

MNA (News reported)



Cambodia's ruling party wins 46 seats, opposition 11 in Senate race

PHNOM PENH, 18 Feb— The Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of Prime Minister Hun Sen gained 46 seats and Sam Rainsy Party (SRP), the country's main opposition party, won the remaining 11 seats in the election for the third legislature of the Senate late last month, according to the official results released by the National Election Committee (NEC) on Saturday. Tep Nytha, NEC's secretary general, said that among the 57 elected senators, 8 are women—six belong to the CPP and two

are in the SRP. The Jan. 29's election had only the two parties in contest, and the voters were only 119 Members of Parliament and 11,351 commune councilors. The Senate has 61 seats, but the election was held for only 57 seats as two senators will be nominated by the King and the other two by the National Assembly. According to the constitution, the Senate will hold its first session no later than 60 days after the election. Before taking office, the Senate will decide on the

validity of each member's mandate and vote separately to choose a president, vice presidents and its members of each commission by a two-third majority vote, it said. Cambodia's Senate election is held once in six years. The last one was in January 2006, at that time, three parties — Cambodian People's Party, royalist Funcinpec and Sam Rainsy Party — joined the race. As a result, the CPP won 45 seats, the royalist Funcinpec 10 seats and the Sam Rainsy Party two seats.—XINHUA



President Barack Obama (R) looks at an overhead compartment of a Boeing Dreamliner during a visit to a production facility of a Boeing plant in Everett, Washington. INTERNET

Obama's top advisor to visit Israel

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb— The White House said on Friday that President Barack Obama is sending his top advisor Tom Donilon to Israel at a time when speculation is rife about an imminent Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear facilities.

The president's National Security Advisor Tom Donilon will travel to Israel on 18 to 20 February for consultations with senior Israeli officials about a range

of issues, including Iran, Syria and other regional security issues, the White House said in a statement.

It called the trip the latest in a series of regular and high-level consultations between the two countries, "consistent with our strong bilateral partnership, and part of our unshakable commitment to Israel's security."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday called Iran "the most

irresponsible" country in the world, saying sanctions against Teheran over its controversial nuclear programme "haven't worked."

US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta was quoted as saying early this month that Israel could attack Iran as soon as this spring.

Israel also accused Iran of being behind the recent attacks on its embassy personnel in India, Georgia and Thailand.—INTERNET



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping (L) and his US counterpart Joe Biden smile as they meet with governors of Chinese provinces and US states in Los Angeles, the United States, on 17 Feb, 2012.—XINHUA

Terror suspect arrested near US Capitol

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb— An Alexandria, Va, man was arrested on Friday as he allegedly prepared to blow himself up at the US Capitol in a suicide bomb attack, Capitol Police said.

Amine El Khalifi, 29, who is from Morocco and living in the United States illegally, was arrested in a parking garage several blocks from the Capitol, carrying a vest that was supposed to be packed with explosives but actually posed no risk to the public, federal prosecutors said. He was also carrying a gun that he allegedly planned to use on any officers who tried to stop him. The arrest was the culmination of an undercover operation and he was being closely monitored by the FBI, the US Justice Department said. El Khalifi allegedly thought undercover FBI agents assisting him were members of al-Qaeda.

US Attorney Neil MacBride said El Khalifi "devised the plot, the targets and the methods on his own." Prosecutors said El Khalifi had also proposed attacks on a building that contained US military offices, as well as a synagogue and a restaurant frequented by military officials.—INTERNET

Toll from Pakistan suicide blast reaches 32

PESHAWAR, 18 Feb— A local official says the death toll from a suicide attack in a majority-Shiite Pakistan town close to the Afghan border has reached 32. Wajid Ali, who is an administrator in the town of Parachinar in the Kurram region, said Saturday that nine people had died in hospitals since the Friday blast, which was initially reported to have killed 23.

Another 67 were injured when on a motorcyclist detonated his explosives in the Parachinar's market. Ali said security forces later shot and killed four people who took to the streets to protest. Violence by Sunni extremists against Shiites is common in Sunni-dominated Pakistan. The Kurram region has seen outbreaks of sectarian bloodshed in recent years.—INTERNET



An Afghan child carries a brick at a brick factory on the outskirts of the city in Herat, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 11 Feb, 2012. Thousands of Afghan children work to make money to support their families in Afghanistan.—INTERNET

Three insurgents killed, eight detained in Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Feb— Three insurgents were killed and eight other suspects detained during joint operations launched by the Afghan forces and NATO-led troops in four Afghan provinces, the country's Interior Ministry said on Saturday. "Afghan National Police, Afghan army and International Coalition Forces launched four joint operations in Kunar, Nangarhar, Kandahar and Helmand provinces over the past 24 hours killing three armed insurgents and detaining eight others," the ministry said in a statement.

Pakistan suicide attack



Map of Pakistan showing the location of the town of Parachinar in the northwestern tribal belt — a largely Shiite Muslim area — where a suicide bomber attacked a market on Friday.—INTERNET

Fifth bombing suspect identified: Thai police

BANGKOK, 18 Feb— Police have identified the name of the fifth suspect who may have been involved in Tuesday explosions in downtown Bangkok, Thai News Agency reported on Saturday.

National Police Bureau Chief Pol Gen Prieupan Dhamapong told reporters on Saturday that investigators identified the fifth suspect who appeared on surveillance camera footages but he had already left Thailand.

The camera captured images of him walking from the rented house where the first bomb apparently exploded by accident.

According to the

surveillance record, he had left the house between 7-8 am local time, and the first explosion occurred on the same day at a rented house in Soi Sukhumvit 71 in downtown Bangkok that afternoon.

However, Gen Prieupan did not reveal the name of the fifth suspect. He merely said that the investigation was ongoing and until now no additional arrest warrants were sought from the court.

Thailand's Criminal Court on Thursday issued arrest warrants for four Iranians on various charges related to Tuesday's Bangkok bomb incidents.

Xinhua

'Pharmacy on a chip' gets closer

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — The futuristic idea that microchips could be implanted under a patient's skin to control the release of drugs has taken another step forward. US scientists have been testing just such a device on women with the bone-wasting disease osteoporosis. The chip was inserted in their waist and activated by remote control.

A clinical trial, reported in *Science Translational Medicine*, showed the chip could administer the correct doses and that there were no side effects. The innovation has also been discussed here at the

annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). One of the designers, Prof Robert Langer from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), claimed the programmable nature of the device opened up fascinating new avenues for medicine.

"You could literally have a pharmacy on a chip," he said. "This study used the device for the treatment of osteoporosis. However, there are many other applications where this type of microchip approach could improve treatment outcomes for patients, such as multiple sclerosis, vaccine delivery, for cancer treatment and for pain management." The work is described as the first in-human testing of a wirelessly controlled drug delivery microchip. The technology at its core has been in development for more than 15 years. — *Internet*



The clinical trial reports the working of the implant device in seven women from Denmark. — *INTERNET*



Body clock 'alters' immune system

LONDON, 18 Feb — The time of the day could be an important factor in the risk of getting an infection, according to researchers in the US. They showed how a protein in the immune system was affected by changes in the chemistry of the body through the day. The findings, published in the journal *Immunity*, showed the time of an infection changed its severity. An expert said drugs were likely to take advantage of the body clock in the near future.

Plants, animals and even bacteria go through a daily 24-



Will the time affect medicine? — *Internet*

hour routine, known as a circadian rhythm. Jet lag is what happens when the body gets out of sync with its surroundings after crossing

time zones. It has been known that there are variations in the immune system throughout the day. Researchers are now drilling down into what causes

the details. The immune system needs to detect an infection before it can begin to fight it off. Researchers at Yale University School of Medicine were investigating one of the proteins involved in the detection process—Toll-like receptor nine (TLR9), which can spot DNA from bacteria and viruses. In experiments on mice, the scientists showed that the amount of TLR9 produced and the way it functioned was controlled by the body clock and varied through the day. — *Internet*

MRI brain changes seen in early infants with Autism

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — Autism may be detectable in infants as young as 6 months old, according to a study released Friday in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, suggesting the condition has a stronger genetic and biological root. The study, which tracked MRI images of 92 infants from 6 to 24 months, found that infants who went on to develop autism may have had brain abnormalities visible on MRI at 6 months of age, before the development of clinical symptoms. The infants studied were already considered at high risk for the condition because their siblings were diagnosed with autism. Researchers tracked brain changes in infants at 6 months—, 1 year—, and 2 years old. Then, they formally tested for autism using the standard diagnostic test at 2 years old, the typical age when autism is diagnosed. Twenty-eight infants whose MRI results showed slower brain connections went on to be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

Previous studies have looked at brain changes in babies as young as 1 year old, but researchers said the new study is the first to track changes in infants as young as 6 months old. According to Dr. Nancy Minshew, director of the NICHD Collaborative Program of Excellence in Autism at the University of Pittsburgh, who was not involved in the study, the current findings suggest that a child might have autism long before he or she begins to show outward signs. — *Internet*

Health Tip: Is your baby breast-feeding enough?

Nursing moms may be worried that their newborn isn't getting enough to eat, and it can be difficult to tell when you can't see how much baby is eating. The women's health.gov website mentions these indicators that your breast-feeding baby is getting enough milk:

- * Steady weight gain in the first week after birth.
- * Passing regular urine that is very pale or clear in colour.
- * Producing regular bowel movements.
- * Alternating between periods of sleep and alertness/wakefulness.
- * Seeming happy and satisfied when a feeding is finished.
- * A softening of your breast after a feeding. — *Internet*

General Motors unveils record profits for 2011

DETROIT, 18 Feb — US carmaker General Motors made record profits in 2011 but unveiled huge losses in its European operations. The firm made a profit of \$7.6bn (£4.85bn) over the year, up 62% from 2010. However, it lost \$700m in Europe, which includes its UK Vauxhall plants in Ellesmere Port and Luton, and made a \$100m loss in South America. The firm, which faced bankruptcy two years ago, saw sales rise 7.6% last year to more than 9 million vehicles. Much of its growth came from North America, where profits more than tripled to \$7.19bn

in 2011. GM has announced it will give up to \$7,000 each in bonuses to 47,500 eligible workers across the world - compared with \$4,300 a year ago. In 2008, the firm filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and received a \$50bn bailout from President Barack Obama's administration, with the US government now owning 32% of the firm. In the UK, the firm has about 4,500 staff, making the Vauxhall Astra van, estate and hatchback models.

General Motors' chief financial officer, Dan Ammann, said: "Behind the scenes, we are working hard to eliminate complexity and

cost throughout the organization to increase margins in all of our regions and return Europe and South America to profitability." However, he did not disclose whether this would mean job cuts. Some analysts were disappointed that GM failed to give a detailed forecast for 2012. "A lack of guidance leaves GM shares shrouded in the thick fog of macro-uncertainty," said Adam Jonas of Morgan Stanley.

— *Internet*



GM will pay profit-sharing bonuses to staff. — *INTERNET*

Apple loses China smartphone market share in Q4

BEIJING, 18 Feb — Apple Inc's share of China's smartphone market slipped for a second straight quarter in the fourth quarter of 2011 amid competition from Chinese vendors and as some consumers delayed purchases to wait for the iPhone 4S launch. China has not been an easy market for Apple, with the US technology giant grappling with a lawsuit from a Chinese company over the iPad name and issues at its suppliers' factories over wages and working conditions.

In the world's largest mobile phone market, where the number of subscribers is set to hit 1 billion this year, there is keen

competition from vendors such as South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, and domestic players Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and ZTE Corp. "Chinese handset makers have been actively promoting their smartphones with China's three telecommunications operators, so we saw ZTE and Huawei gain significant market share," said Taipei-based analyst CK Lu at research firm Gartner.

Apple's market share fell to 7.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011, from 10.4 percent in the previous three months. Huawei's share rose to 12.6 percent, while ZTE's was up at 11.1 percent, Gartner data showed.

Samsung displaced Nokia Oyj as the top smartphone vendor in China during the fourth quarter, data obtained by Reuters showed. China Unicom, the country's No 2 telecoms operator, is the only carrier to officially carry the iPhone. The market expects the third and smallest operator China Telecom Corp Ltd to be next to clinch a similar deal with Apple later this year.

— *Internet*

Nestle cautious on sales in 2012

GENEVA, 18 Feb — Global food giant Nestle has reported 2011 profits of 9.5bn Swiss francs (£6.5bn; \$10.2bn), up 8.1% on 2010. But the Swiss firm's chief executive, Paul Bulcke, described 2011 as "challenging" and said he did not expect 2012 to be any easier. Nestle, which owns a wide range of brands including Nescafe, Smarties and Milky Bar, saw its business in emerging markets grow 13.3%.

Developed markets, such as Europe, grew only 4.3%. The company's overall

sales fell to 83.6bn Swiss francs, from 110bn Swiss francs in 2010. However, the firm's 2010 sales had been boosted by Nestle's sale of its 53% stake in eyecare firm Alcon to Novartis for 25bn Swiss francs. The Swiss franc soared in 2011, raising the cost of Nestle's exports to clients in other countries.

Nestle said the effects of foreign exchange had a negative impact of 13.4%. Last month, Nestle announced that it was moving its UK headquarters from south London to west Sussex after



Nestle's profits come despite rising food prices across the world in 2011. — *INTERNET*

more than 40 years. Its 840 office-based employees will move from Croydon to Gatwick by the end of the year. — *Internet*



Goat kids can develop ‘accents’

LONDON , 18 Feb — Pygmy goats can develop “accents” as they grow older, according to scientists. The young animals, known as “kids”, are raised in groups or “creches” with goats of a similar age. Researchers found that when young goats mixed in these social groups their calls became more similar. The animals join an elite group of mammals known to adapt a vocal sound in response to the environment that includes humans, bats and whales.

Dr Elodie Briefer and Dr Alan McElligott from Queen Mary’s School of Biological and Chemical

Sciences at the University of London, UK published their results in the journal *Animal Behaviour*. In order to test the goats’ vocal repertoire they recorded calls at one-week-old and again when they were aged five weeks. “Five weeks corresponds to the time when, in the wild, they join their social group after spending some time hidden in vegetation to avoid predators,” Dr Briefer explained.

“We found that genetically-related kids produced similar calls... but the calls of kids raised in the same social groups were also similar to each other, and

became more similar as the kids grew older.” “This suggests that goat kids modify their calls according to their social surroundings, developing similar ‘accents’.” Dr Briefer suggested that the social structure of the goats could be the motivator behind the convergence in calls.

Internet



Young goats live in creches with their siblings and others.—INTERNET

Swiss to launch space junk cleaning device

GENEVA , 18 Feb — Switzerland is well known for being a tidy nation, but now Swiss scientists are using this national instinct to help design a special satellite to scoop up space junk orbiting Earth.

NASA says more than half a million pieces of spent rocket parts, broken satellites and other pieces of debris are orbiting Earth and some satellites have been damaged or destroyed after colliding with space junk. —Internet

Humans have about 100 broken genes each

LONDON, 18 Feb — A new analysis of 185 human genomes indicates that every one of us has about 100 “broken genes.” Some of these lost genes cause harmful effects, many seem innocuous, and some even seem to have some benefit. Figuring out what’s normal in the genome can help researchers better understand disease (and the mutations that can cause it).

“Currently, there are thousands of disease patients who are having their genomes sequenced as part of studies all around the world,” study researcher Daniel MacArthur, of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in the United Kingdom, told LiveScience. “Our study will make genome sequences easier to interpret — for instance, researchers will be able to see whether the DNA changes they find in their patients are in genes that have been shown to be nonessential in our study, meaning they’re less likely to be disease-causing.”

The researchers looked specifically at human’s 20,000 protein-coding genes, which are genes that direct the production of proteins, the molecules that do most of the work in our cells. Protein-coding genes make up only about 1.5 percent of the human genome, the rest are regulatory elements and other unused DNA sequences.—Internet

In this 20 Feb, 1962 photo provided by NASA, astronaut John Glenn climbs into the Friendship 7 space capsule atop an Atlas rocket at Cape Canaveral, Fla for the flight which made him the first American to orbit the earth.—INTERNET



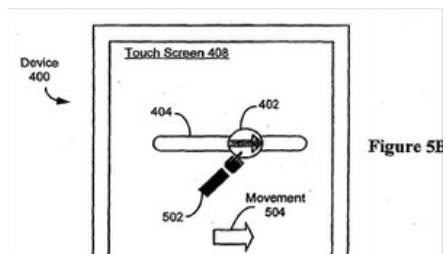
Kids develop accents that sound like those of their social group.— INTERNET



Patents: Apple wins over Motorola in ‘slide-to-unlock’ ruling

MUNICH , 18 Feb — Apple has won a patent dispute against Motorola Mobility regarding a “slide-to-unlock” feature on smartphones.

The judgement marks Apple’s first patent victory over Motorola in any part of the world. Patent consultant Florian Mueller said the ruling could affect patent disputes involving Android device makers worldwide. Motorola said it planned to appeal and the judgement would have “no impact” on supply or future sales. A spokeswoman for the Motorola said: “Today’s ruling in the patent litigation brought by



Apple was granted the sliding patent in March 2010. INTERNET

Apple in Munich, Germany, concerns a software feature related to phone unlocking in select Motorola devices sold in Germany. “Motorola has implemented a new design for the feature. Therefore, we expect no impact on current

supply or future sales.” Apple said it would not be commenting on the decision.

Motorola Mobility is in the process of being acquired by Google, and most of its handsets run on the search firm’s mobile operating

system, Android. The Android system is Apple’s closest rival in the mobile market. Mr Mueller, a patent expert who has in the past consulted for Microsoft, described the ruling as a “very significant win for Apple against Android”. “After Google closes the acquisition of Motorola Mobility, the Apple-Motorola Mobility dispute will soon gain importance transcending that of the global battle with Samsung,” he said. While this decision relates solely to activity in the German market, the decision could potentially help Apple with other patent disputes in other parts of the world, Mr Mueller added.

Internet

Mobile money — has its moment come?



Rory Cellan-Jones is given a demo of the Pingit service.—INTERNET

LONDON , 18 Feb — Take two scenarios where mobile technology should be able to make our lives easier. A migrant worker in Kenya wants to send your family some money without having to get on a bus and travel for days. A group of young professionals in London goes out for a meal with friends, and when one person pays, the others need to settle up with him.

In the first case, the money transfer system M-Pesa has been allowing people to transfer cash across the country for years now, proving hugely popular. In the second, it only becomes possible today for anyone with a smartphone to send cash to their friends and see it transferred instantly. The Barclays Pingit system uses a smartphone app to permit person-to-person cash transfers of up to £300. Users who have an account with Barclays — and from March anyone with a UK bank account — can download the app, link it to their phone number, and then send cash to anybody who has linked their mobile number to their account.

This looks like a big step forwards in the long delayed mobile money revolution. When it comes to turning the phone into a wallet, this country — and much of Europe — is in the slow lane compared to some countries in the developing world. In Kenya, the M-Pesa mobile money transfer system was launched in 2007 and is now woven into the fabric of everyday life. In Africa, where just about everyone has a mobile phone but only a minority have a bank account, banking on the move seemed the obvious answer to all sorts of problems. — Internet

Curb the car dashboard technology, government asks

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — Auto dashboards are becoming an arcade of text messages, GPS images, phone calls and web surfing, the government says, and it’s asking carmakers to curb those distractions when vehicles are moving. Manufacturers have been loading up higher-end vehicles with an array of built-in gadgets in an effort to tempt car buyers who want to multi-task behind the wheel in today’s increasingly connected society. But the technological advances

have raised concerns that drivers’ attention is being diverted too much from the road.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on Thursday proposed voluntary guidelines for manufacturers, including a recommendation that they design dashboards so that distracting devices are automatically disabled unless the vehicle is stopped and the transmission is in park. “We recognize that vehicle manufacturers want to build vehicles that include the tools and conveniences expected

by today’s American drivers,” said NHTSA Administrator David Strickland. “The guidelines we’re proposing would offer real-world guidance to automakers to help them develop electronic devices that provide features consumers want without disrupting a driver’s attention or sacrificing safety.”

Gloria Bergquist, vice president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, said carmakers will review the

guidelines, which have a 60-day comment period. She noted that the industry has had its own voluntary guidelines since 2002. “Drivers are going to have conversations, listening to music and read maps while driving, and automakers are helping them do this more safely with integrated hands-free systems that help drivers focus on the road,” Bergquist said.

Internet



Britain mints coin honouring Titanic

BELFAST, 18 Feb—The British Mint has created a coin observing the 100th anniversary of the 1912 sinking of the Titanic, which killed more than 1,500 people.

Royal Mint engraver Lee Robert Jones designed the 5 pound (\$7.91), depicting the doomed ship and Thane, the goddess of death, the *Belfast (Northern Ireland) Telegraph* reported Friday.

"Thane, the goddess of death, is to reflect the significance of the event — she symbolizes respect and sorrow for the loss that occurred," Jones told the *Telegraph*. The image of Thane receiving the body of a seaman was used on the



Peter Rager, dressed in period attire, reads a menu before the serving of an 11-course meal for the press, of what people that were on the Titanic may have eaten, at the Fox Theater in St Louis, 10 Feb, 2012.

INTERNET

Titanic Memorial in Belfast.

The Titanic sank after hitting an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean 15 April, 1912 — on its maiden

voyage from Southampton, England, to New York. All but 705 of the 2,228 people on board died. "The passing of 100 years has not lessened

the interest in the tragic outcome of her maiden voyage, the personal stories of those on board or the achievement of the iconic ship as a feat of British engineering," said Kevin Clancy, director of the Royal Mint Museum. "The Royal Mint's coin will mark this occasion and, we hope, will be passed on to future generations to honor the lives that were lost, underlining the significance of RMS Titanic in British history."

Though the coin is considered legal tender, the Royal Mint will not release it into circulation. The coin has been made available for purchase for \$20.56 — or \$130.62 for a silver proof.

INTERNET

Organic, baby foods high in arsenic content

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb—All those who swear by organic food or prefer baby food formulas are in for a rude shock - they may be high in arsenic content, known for toxicity and as a potential carcinogen. Brian Jackson from Dartmouth College and others conducted a study to determine the concentrations of arsenic in food products containing organic brown rice

syrup, including infant formula, cereal and high-energy foods used by endurance athletes.

The results were alarming. One of the infant formulas had a total arsenic concentration of six times the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) safe drinking water limit of 10 parts per billion (ppb), the journal *Environmental Health*

Perspectives reports.

Cereal bars and high-energy foods using organic brown rice syrup also had higher arsenic concentrations than those without the syrup, said Jackson, member of Dartmouth's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) who led the study.

Jackson and colleagues purchased commercial food

products containing organic brown rice syrup and compared these with similar products that did not contain the syrup, according to a Dartmouth statement.

Seventeen infant formulas, 29 cereal bars, and three energy "shots" were all purchased from local stores. Of the 17 infant milk formulas tested, only two had listed organic brown rice syrup as the primary ingredient.

INTERNET

Falklands tension: Argentina condemns UK MPs visit

LONDON, 18 Feb — Argentina has condemned a planned visit to the Falkland Islands by UK MPs as another sign of Britain's "militarisation" of the South Atlantic. The plans for a visit by members of the Commons

defence select committee emerged on Tuesday.

Tension over the islands — which Argentina claims as the Malvinas — has been rising in the run-up to the 30th anniversary of the Falklands war.

The UK has rejected Argentina's calls for talks on the islands' sovereignty. "The UK has transformed the Malvinas into the cornerstone of a system of military bases thousands of kilometres from London to

control the South Atlantic, inter-oceanic routes, and the approaches to Antarctica," Argentina's foreign ministry said in a statement. It also repeated its claim that Britain had sent a nuclear submarine to the region.

Members of the select committee have said their visit was not intended to exacerbate tensions with Argentina. Labour member Thomas Docherty said the Falklands were "an appropriate place" for the committee to visit, given the presence of British troops there. The last such visit was in 1999. The UK government has dismissed Argentine accusations of militarisation as "absurd" and says its defensive military posture has not changed.—INTERNET



This April marks the 30th anniversary of the start of the Falklands War.—INTERNET

Michigan biggest head-to-head fight for Romney, Santorum

DETROIT, 18 Feb — After weeks of skirmishes, the two leading Republican presidential candidates are locked in their biggest head-to-head battle in Michigan - one that tests Mitt Romney's status as the favourite in the race and Rick Santorum's ability to go beyond an insurgent campaign. Romney and Santorum have launched negative ads against each other in the big Midwestern state, home to the nation's auto industry, which holds its primary on 28 February.

Romney, the former Massachusetts governor and private equity executive, needs to win the primary to dispel doubts about the viability of his White House bid. Romney's opposition to the US government bailout of Michigan automakers in 2009 may come back to haunt him as Santorum rises in polls following his sweep of the 7 February contests in Colorado, Minnesota and Missouri.

Santorum, a former US senator from Pennsylvania, has taken a risk by choosing Michigan as a battleground to take on Romney, who has family ties to Michigan and a strong organization in the economically distressed state.

But a poll of 450 likely Michigan Republican primary voters released on Tuesday found Santorum leading Romney 34 percent to 25 percent in the state.

According to the Mitchell/Rosetta Stone Poll, Santorum is outpacing Romney in Michigan among voters who identify themselves as members of the conservative Tea Party movement, evangelical Christians and the "very conservative."

Nationwide, the former underdog Santorum now leads Romney in polls of Republican voters by several percentage points.—INTERNET

Iran announces some nuclear "achievements", defies western sanction threats

TEHRAN, 18 Feb — Iran announced some nuclear "achievements" on Wednesday in defiance to the western sanction threats. In a ceremony held in Teheran, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad unveiled nuclear fuel rods, new generation of centrifuges and a number of radioactive medicines.

In the ceremony, Ahmadinejad, symbolically, fed a home-made fuel rod made out of 20-percent enriched uranium into the core of Teheran Research Reactor.

State TV broadcast a live ceremony in which Ahmadinejad was briefed about the process of production

and performance and then he fed a rod into the core of Teheran Research Reactor.

Simultaneously, the TV showed other "achievements" in Iran's nuclear technology, including the radioactive medicines for the treatment of cancer. Ahmadinejad also unveiled a new generation of centrifuges for uranium enrichment. In a live broadcast footage by the state TV, a model of the fourth generation of domestically-made centrifuges was presented. At the same time, a live video from Iran's central Natanz enrichment site displayed a chain of new generation of centrifuges.—XINHUA



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2nd, L) attends an unveiling ceremony of a new generation of centrifuge for uranium enrichment in Teheran, Iran, on 15 Feb, 2012. In the ceremony, Ahmadinejad, symbolically, fed a home-made fuel rod made out of 20-percent enriched uranium into the core of Teheran Research Reactor.—XINHUA

Plane carrying marijuana strays into Obama LA airspace

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb — A small plane with more than 20 pounds of marijuana strayed into restricted airspace around President Barack Obama's helicopter on Thursday in Los Angeles, prompting US F-16 fighters to rush to intercept it, officials said.

The two F-16s were scrambled from March Air Reserve Base, east of Los Angeles, by North American Aerospace Defence (NORAD)

Command officials alerted to an airspace violation "in the vicinity" of Los Angeles International Airport, a NORAD spokesman said.

The fighter jets made contact with the pilot of the *Cessna 182*, a single-engine plane, and the pilot then complied with instructions to land at Long Beach Airport, spokesman Michael Kucharek said. US Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan said agents questioned the pilot and determined there was no apparent intention to harm the president.

An FBI spokeswoman said the pilot had been flying from Santa Maria, in Central California, to Long Beach and had failed to respond to radio communications prior to contact by the fighter jets.

Obama flew on the White House helicopter, Marine One, from Los Angeles to the seaside community of Corona Del Mar and back on Thursday morning for a fundraiser.—Reuters



Republican US presidential candidate Mitt Romney (R-MA) speaks at the American Conservative Union's annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, on 10 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) under construction to shorten distance



- * Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) across Ayeyawady River will link Nwneyein Village, Kyaukmyaung Sub-township, Shwebo Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Region and Singu Township, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Region.
- Bridge Project Special Construction Group (14) of the Public Works under the Ministry of Construction has been building the bridge since 16 April, 2010.
- * Upon completion of the bridge, one can travel to Mogok in Mandalay Region, Momeik and Mabein in Shan State and Sieu, Mantha and Mansi in Kachin State via Mandalay-Madaya-Bhamo-Myitkyina through Singu in the east bank of Ayeyawady River.
- * It will also create a smooth link Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina road, Shwebo-KhinU-Kalaywa road, Shwebo-Ayadaw-Monywa-Yagyi-Kalaywa-Kalay road and Thekelgyin-Mongpyin-Homalin-Htanmanthi-Khamti via Nwneyein-Kyaukmyaung-Shwebo road on the west bank of Ayeyawady River.
- * The bridge will bring about connectedness and social cohesion among national brethren who were separated by rivers and mountains, fostering the national solidarity.

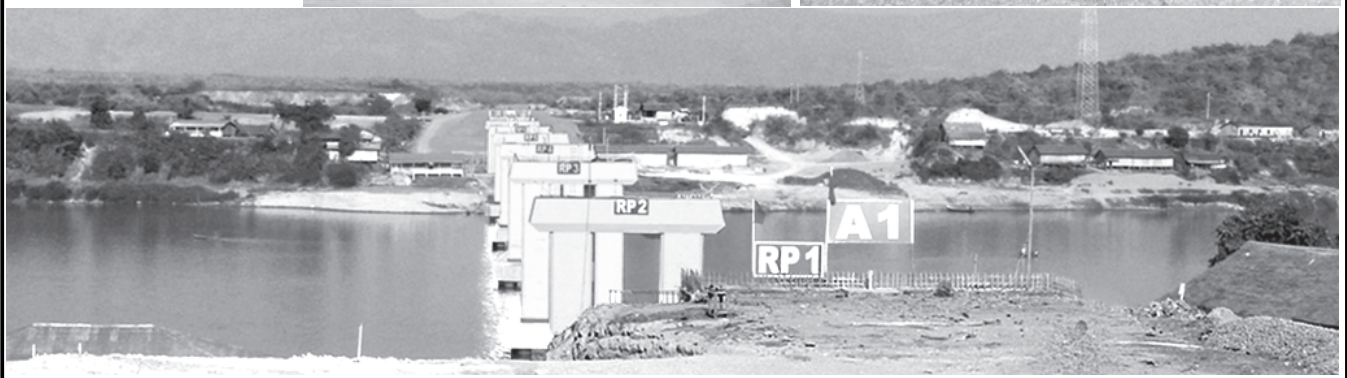
Translation: TKK

Facts about Yadana Theinga Bridge

1. The bridge is 2480 feet in total length.
2. It has 28-ft wide two-way motor lane, flanked by three-ft wide pedestrian walks.
3. Its clearance is 320 feet wide and 47 feet high and it can withstand 75 tons load per vehicle.
4. The bridge superstructure is of RC type with 1.5 meter diameter RC type bored piles foundation and upper structure is of steel truss and RC type floor.



Archive: Maung Nyein Aye



Harvard offers students \$100,000 prize

CAMBRIDGE, 18 Feb—The president of Harvard University has offered \$100,000 to students who come up with solutions to some of the world's biggest problems.

"The world's most pressing problems heed no borders and to better address them we need to work across boundaries to formulate solutions," Harvard President Drew Faust said in a statement on Wednesday. The President's Challenge, hosted by the new Harvard Innovation Lab, is intended to get students from different

disciplines to respond to problems such as poverty and global warming, the *Boston Herald* reported. The 2012 Challenge will kick off later this month when a faculty panel will select five important social issues to be presented to students. The 10 teams participating in the challenge will be announced in early April.

A grand-prize winner and up to three runners-up will be named and awarded a share of the \$100,000 prize shortly before commencement.—*Internet*

Autism impairs kids' motor skills

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb—Autism hampers the development of motor skills in children, say scientists.

Autistic kids often have problems developing motor skills, such as running, throwing a ball or even learning how to write. But scientists have not known whether those difficulties run in families or are linked to autism.

Now, new research at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis points to autism as the culprit. "From our results, it looks like motor impairments may

be part of the autism diagnosis, rather than a trait genetically carried in the family," said lead author Claudia List Hilton, PhD, assistant professor in occupational therapy and an instructor in psychiatry.

"That suggests that motor impairments are a core characteristic of the diagnosis," Hilton noted. The researchers studied 144 children from 67 families in which at least one child had a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder as well as at least one biological sibling in the same age group.—*Internet*

Ancient cultural heritage must be preserved through...

(from page 1)

shops and car parking without harming the ancient works in building Bagan ancient cultural region as Historical Park (or) Archaeological Park. The third section is to compile the data and records for long-term storage of ancient cultural heritages by applying print media, digital format and video format.

Moreover, he stressed the need to post an Internet Website for showing off progress of works to the world. The fourth section is to renovate ancient heritage, conduct research for preservation of the works and discover the ancient heritages. The fifth section is to try hard for enlisting the ancient heritages into the World Heritage List. It must be carried out in line with the ancient heritage preservation policy of the nation. The sixth section is to undertake general management and environmental conservation of the cultural region.

In so doing, he said that it is necessary to seek the ways for working in concert for carrying out the preservation of

heritage through not only the strength of the State but also that of wellwishers, entrepreneurs, NGOs, people and international organizations.

Moreover, he said that it is necessary to cooperate with international organizations including UNESCO, foreign countries, scholars, people, the persons and organizations wishing to participate in tasks in line with the State's ancient cultural preservation policy.

He stressed the need to form an advisory group with participation of experts from various arenas and take suggestions and experiences from them. Thus, he requested those present to hold discussions on a wider scale for seeking the ways based on his suggestions.

Director-General U Kyaw Oo Lwin of Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library reported on damages of Bagan ancient cultural heritage and progress of maintenance works.

The Union Minister posed for documentary photo with those present at the main hall of the museum.

The workshop was held from 15 to 17 February, with participation of Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Kyaing of Nyaung U Constituency, the director-general of the DANML, officials of the Ministry of Science and

Technology, professors of the Technological Universities, chairmen, executives and scholars of MES and MAA.

The workshop focused on basic factors and requirements for construction of Historical Park (or) Archaeological Park, rules and standards for renovation of ancient buildings and maintenance theories, experiences on maintenance of pagodas and stupas of Pyu and Bagan eras, damage of ancient buildings due to rain water and ways for protection, progress in renovation of architectural works at Bawbawgyi Pagoda of Pyu era, difficulties in maintenance of ancient buildings in Bagan region, special studies on Shwezigon Pagoda and its environs regarding management for maintenance works, structural view on ancient religious edifices in Bagan region, and maintenance of architectural heritages at Buddhist monasteries in central Myanmar.

The tasks will be continued to draw a Master Plan based on the discussions, suggestions and reviews.

The participants of the workshop made a field trip study to ancient pagodas and stupas in Bagan on 16 February.

MNA

Deputy ministers inspect accommodations of displaced persons in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, together with Kachin State ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Tun Tun, Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives U San Tun and U Khat Htein Nan, Secretary U Sit Myaing of National Human Rights Commission, officials of UN agencies and social organizations and well-wishers on 14 February visited Hswut Ngai Taung Church in Sitapu Ward, Tatkon Baptist Church in Tatkon Ward, Thanpawlu Church and Janmaing Kaung Baptist Church in Janmaing Kaung Ward, Dhamma Rakhita Wuntho Monastery in North Shansu Ward, Ziohn Baptist Church and Legon Maliyan Church in Legon Ward, where fleers are being accommodated on account of regional security in Myitkyina Township of Kachin State.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win said that by systematically managing needs for food, shelter and clothes, education and healthcare, cooperative measures would be made with Kachin State

government for homeward journey of locals if they want to. The new government is negotiating with national races armed groups for ensuring of eternal peace. The peace talks between KIO and Union level peace-making group would produce eternal peace. Gleam of stability and peace is now lighting up the region as a result of ceasefire of both sides. Arrangements are being made to give locals better living standard in their own region more than ever before as soon as full stream of ceasefire comes up.

Deputy Minister U Phone Swe noted that state government is providing basic needs of locals in a systematic way. As peace was restored in the state, national races families, requirements of locals could be fulfilled. He urged locals to take part in such measures showing spiritual strength, and students to try hard to be educated.

Hluttaw representatives, the National Human Rights Commission secretary and officials gave encouragement to national races people who poured out their difficulties they are facing in their own lands.

The deputy ministers and officials



Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win presents cash assistance to refugees who fled their homes due to regional instability.

MNA

presented national races families, who fled from Myitkyina, Waingmaw and Bhamo townships to Myitkyina due to regional security, with Sky Net DTH and TV gifted by the President, K 13,838,000 provided by the Border Affairs Ministry, K 949,410 by the Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Ministry, K 10,050,000 by the Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association, rations for one month by the WFP, and K 10 million for National Races Youths Development Training School Nos. 1 and 2 from Myitkyina.

MNA

Information on Kaladan River Multi-Model Transit Transport Project clarified

YANGON, 18 Feb—Chairman of Implementation Committee for Kaladan River Multi-Model Transit Transport Project Managing Director U Cho Than Maung of Myanma Port Authority delivered an opening address at the press briefing on Kaladan River Multi-Model Transit Transport Project at the MPA Office on Pansodan Street, here, on 15 February afternoon.

Chairman of the Supporting Committee of the Project General Manager U Kyaw Myint of MPA and Secretary Deputy Chief Engineer (Road) U Khin Maung Kyaw of Public Works explained matters related to the project and construction of motor road.

Project Coordinator Mr N Unni of IWA of India discussed important role and impact of the project on environment and Manager Mr Bhavesh Patel of Essar Co Ltd of India, management for avoiding environmental

degradation.

Officials replied to queries raised by Chin National Party and media persons.

Rakhine State Minister for Transport U Kyaw Khin explained contribution of the project to development of region and Adviser to the President U Ko Ko Hlaing, development for the nation and the region thanks to the project.

The tasks of the project will include sand dredging for adequate draught for 6000-ton vessels at Sittway Port, construction of a jetty for docking of 20000-ton vessels at Sittway Port, installation of buoys along Kaladan River from Sittway to Paletwa, construction of two jetties for 300-ton vessels at Sittway and Paletwa and port buildings, handing over of six 300-ton inland waterway vessels to Myanmar and construction of a highway from Paletwa to Myanmar-India border.

Mine blasts in Namkham Township

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—A wire was found in the ground under a vehicle of workers from Namkham Township Public Works between Hankam Village and Mantmyaing Village, one mile west of Shweli Suspension Bridge in Namkham Township at 6.20 pm on 15 February.

After the vehicle had left there, an explosion occurred from the place of wire. However, there was no injury of human and animal and damage of material.

According to the information given by a duty conscientious people, one hand-made mine made of motorcycle battery container packaged with black-coloured plastic sheet was found by the roadside, about 100 feet from the entrance to Mantmyaing Village Monastery in Namkham Township at 7.45 am on 16

February. The security troops set the mine on fire.

In the first incident, the mine explosion caused a two feet square pit and it damaged nearby trees. After explosion, the authorities found one damaged motorcycle battery container, pieces of plastic, five inches long and one-fourth inch diameter iron bars and balls of motorcycle. It was learnt that mines from two incidents were the same.

Thus, it was scrutinized that insurgents use hand-made mines with pieces of iron materials and balls aimed at killing and injuring many people. Therefore, the people are to inform the officials concerned about finding suspect objects and conditions as quickly as possible.

MNA

It is estimated that the project will cost US\$ 74 million and the highway, US\$ 140 million.

On 14 February, a new briefing on

implementation of the project was held and it was attended by reporters of periodicals, 13 social organizations of Rakhine and Chin states.—MNA

Union Minister for Information and for Culture meets heads of District/Township IPRDs

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan held a meeting with heads of District/Township Information and Public Relations Departments at NyaungU District IPRD in NyaungU on 15 February morning.

At the meeting, the Union Minister heard reports presented by heads of NyaungU, Myingyan and Pakokku District IPRDs, Myaing, Seikpyu, Yesago, Natogyi, Taungtha, Myingyan, Kyaukpadaung, Chauk townships and Ngathayauk Sub-township IPRDs on establishment of village libraries, wall-magazines and raising reading skills.

The Union Minister stressed the need to organize departments, local people and well-wishers to become IPRDs as libraries for the youth, facilitate the libraries meeting five-point standards for raising reading skills of local people and holding essay and extempore talk contests for students, disseminate the people on reforms of the nation, eternal peace, national reconsolidation and development of the country and create the departments to become information centres of the State in respective regions.

Later, he viewed publications and wall-magazines displayed at the library.—MNA



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan views wall-magazines on display at NyaungU District Information and Public Relations Department.—MNA

Work coord meeting on resettlement of displaced persons in Kachin State held

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsaing, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, Kachin State ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Tun Tun,

by the Union Government and UN agencies to tackle the increased number of displaced persons, arrangements for students of displaced persons to continue pursuing education and requirements of displaced persons being accommodated at camps.



Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsaing, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Zaw Win and U Phone Swe and personnel hold discussion for home-returning of displaced persons in Kachin State.—MNA

Amoytha Hluttaw Representatives U San Tun and U Khet Htein Nan, Secretary of National Human Rights Commission U Sit Myaing and officials on 13 February held a meeting at the Kachin State Government Office and discussed matters on resettlement of those who were displaced due to security reasons in Kachin State.

First, the Kachin State Chief Minister clarified about assistance provided by the State Government and social organizations for those who were displaced since 15 June due to security reasons in Kachin State, steps being taken

Afterwards, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Zaw Win and U Phone Swe discussed systematic measures to be taken by the Union Government in cooperation with Kachin State Government according to the wishes of national races families, activities to be undertaken for resettlement of displaced persons through thorough study of the assistance of the Government, the State Government, social organizations and international organizations to displaced persons and requirements for collecting facts and data to be able to carry out rehabilitation tasks in the aftermath of rescue missions.

At 1 pm, a coordination meeting on resettlement of displaced persons was held at the meeting hall of Kachin State Government Office. At the meeting, Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Than Aung reported on assistance provided for those who were displaced for security reasons in Kachin State, steps being taken for peace in the State. State Minister for Social Affairs Daw Bauk Ja explained physical and mental care provided for the resettled persons at the camp apart from compiling a systematic list of the arrival and arranging health care and accommodation for them.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win explained assistance for those wishing to settle at places where security is improving or appropriate places to enjoy a better life there, the State's sensible programmes to effectively end internal armed conflicts in a short period and achieve eternal peace. The Border Affairs Ministry in coherence with NGOs will work for fulfilling the hopes of national races families for a peaceful, secure and joyful life.

Deputy Minister U Phone Swe gave suggestions on parental-like acts of the Kachin State government and the respective organizations for helping children of the displaced persons to pursue education without any difficulties.

Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department and WFP jointly presented 780,4009 tons of rice, 49,8316 tons of edible oil, 98,647 tons of green pea, 8,1382 tons of salt and nutrition powder to 15430 families of Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo, Momaik, Mansi and Shwegu townships in Kachin State who moved from their homes for security reasons; and Kachin State government, departments, social organizations, International agencies, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives and well-wishers 10757.97 rice bags, 12267.89 viss of edible oil, 4264 viss of salt, 3500 pieces of cloths and K 271570860 up to 13 February.

Kachin State government has helped 4019 children of displaced persons who are basic education and higher students to continue their studies at 128 basic education schools and institutions of higher learning.—MNA

Special Refresher Course No. 79 for basic education teachers concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Special Refresher Course No. 79 for basic education teachers concluded at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint.

It was also attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Member of Union Civil Services Board Dr Win Myint and personnel, 1499 trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Aye Myint said education is key to human resources development, especially the basic education sector. As the government is promoting national education to reach international standard, teachers

from different regions are to accomplish their duties with devotion. Teachers themselves need to try hard for improvement in personal qualities. As the matriculation exam is the one and only national examination organized by the State, teachers are to monitor the exam to be fair, disciplined and without cheating. He urged the teachers to bolster the nation character and strive to overtake the expected 95.5-percent literacy rate of the entire nation in 2015.

Union Minister awarded outstanding trainees and presented certificates to trainees. Next, Union Minister U Aye Myint and Union Minister Dr Mya Aye cordially greeted the trainees.—MNA

Dy Education Minister visits schools in PyinOoLwin

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu visited Pyinsa model village Basic Education Primary School in PyinOoLwin Township this morning. In meeting with school board of trustees, the township education officer, the headmistress and teachers, he called them to train students to become morally good, polite and disciplined ones, stressing the quality of education.

He then attended the stake-driving ceremony for construction of

two-storey school building in Pyinsa model village Basic Education High School (branch) and viewed round the classrooms and sports ground of the school.

He then visited Anisakhan BEHS and coordinated essentials for the school. He inspected progress in construction of self-reliant new BEPS building in Aungthuka Ward (Kachinsu), Sinkaunggyi Village-tract in Ward (17) and attended to the needs.

MNA

Htamane (sticky rice) making competitions

By Hpone Thant (Enchanting Myanmar)

Tabodwe (January-February) is a cool month in Myanmar. A Myanmar saying goes "so cold as to freeze the tips of the buffalo's horns", that is how cold it gets in the central parts of the country in Pyatho (January) and Tabodwe (February).

But it is also the time when the first harvest is gathered. The paddy crop had

the flavor. Encouraged by their fans the teams stir and stir. Seems so easy at first. But slowly it gets harder and harder as the rice grains soak up the water and swell and consequently the whole wok becomes one sticky mess of glutinous matter. The sticky mess clings to the long paddles and makes them very difficult to stir. But the youths



ripened but it is the paddy species known as "kuak nyin" or the glutinous/sticky rice that are first harvested. In Myanmar this first harvest is offered to the pagodas and monks, and to friends and neighbours too, to gain merit. Tabodwe is known as the month when the Htamane (sticky rice) making competitions are held.

The people of Myanmar had, however, organized these occasions into a community-based and joyful event. They organize competitions to make the finest sticky rice. Teams of youth representing their own neighbourhoods enter these competitions with good spirits, sometimes accompanied by traditional "doebut" (a music group) and their own group of fans.

The glutinous rice (either white or black variety) is put in a huge iron wok. Water and oil are added and stirred by muscular teams of youths. Slowly other ingredients are added too. These will include coconut shavings, sesame seeds, groundnuts, sliced ginger etc to enhance

must put in more effort. The rice grains must all be dissolved into one huge sticky piece inside the wok and the added ingredients must also be thoroughly mixed in to get a really delicious wok of glutinous rice.

Sweats flow from the brows but the youths are urged on. The heat from the fire underneath the wok is unbearable. Maybe a secret smile from his sweetheart had given one boy extra strength as he renews his efforts by the huge wok. But for many it is stir, stir and stir. Will somebody scrape off the rice sticking on this youth's long paddles, please? Thank you.

Everybody is busy here. The ladies had prepared clean plates to put the glutinous rice and offer the finished product to the pagodas and the monks. The children run around, busy in their own world of fantasies. The young girls do not want to come near the roaring fire, despite the commands from the older ladies. It would play havoc with their hairdos and their make-ups. It will make them look ugly! But the men folks



cannot be bothered. A lively discussion is going on.

They need to discuss the latest world news sitting around a table while sipping green tea. But all in all, everybody is happy and having a good time.

Soon the glutinous rice is ready. All reverently take the first plates to the pagoda and the monks. Packets are also prepared to be distributed to neighbours and friends. These will be taken around by the children with much fun and shouts. Other friends

who had come here are also warmly welcomed and invited to partake the glutinous rice.

These traditional sticky rice preparation competitions are held all over the country during the Myanmar month of Tabodwe (February). Many are held at monasteries and pagoda compounds but some also in residential areas. No invitations are necessary or needed. Just walk into any competition and you will be warmly welcomed.



Fresh Somalia fighting forces thousands to flee

MOGADISHU, 18 Feb — Thousands of internally displaced Somalis have been forced to flee again to avoid heavy fighting in the Afgoye corridor, just south of the capital. A BBC correspondent says he saw hundreds of loaded lorries and small vehicles streaming into Mogadishu. African Union forces say they launched a major assault on Wednesday on Afgoye, a stronghold of Islamic militants. Upto 400,000 people live in the area - in sprawling roadside camps, amid unsanitary conditions and rife hunger.

The BBC's Mohammed

Dhore in Mogadishu says people fled to the Afgoye corridor when fighting in the capital escalated in 2007. They are now heading back to Mogadishu, he says, to escape heavy artillery shelling and mortar fire as African Union and Somali government troops battle al-Shabab militants for control of Afgoye, about 30 km (18 miles) from Mogadishu. Our correspondent says thousands will be returning to already overcrowded camps in the capital — with no running water and no electricity. — *Internet*



If African Union forces take Afgoye it could be a major blow to al-Shabab. — INTERNET

UN urges Iraq to move Iranian dissidents to new camp

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Feb — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged Iraq on Wednesday to speed up the transfer of Iranian dissidents to a camp near Baghdad to a temporary facility that the dissident group has compared to a prison. Camp Ashraf, 40 miles from Baghdad, has been home for 25 years to the People's Mujahideen Organization of Iran, or PMOI, an Iranian opposition group the United States and Iran officially consider a terrorist organization.

The current Iraqi

government has never concealed its desire get rid of the camp. Under pressure from the United Nations and European Union, Baghdad extended its deadline to close Ashraf late last year from 31 Dec, 2011 to 30 April, 2012.

But Ban is now urging Iraq and the PMOI to work together to begin moving Ashraf residents immediately because, as UN officials told *Reuters*, the United Nations is afraid that violence could erupt if the relocation does not begin soon.

"The Secretary-General

believes that the time has come to start the relocation process without further delay," Ban's press office said in a statement. "He urges the Iraqi authorities and the residents of Camp Ashraf to continue to cooperate and complete the process in a peaceful manner." The statement said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has "confirmed that the infrastructure and facilities at the temporary transit location are in accordance with ... international humanitarian standards."

Internet

Children 'watch same level' of junk food ads despite TV rules

LONDON, 18 Feb — Children are still exposed to the same level of junk food advertising despite tighter regulations, research suggests. The UK regulations ban the advertising of foods high in fat, salt or sugar during children's programming. Newcastle University academics said 6.1% of adverts seen by children were about junk food before the ban — the figure was 7% after the ban. They said young people do not just watch children's programmes, to which the rules apply.

The researchers measured the amount of unhealthy food advertising six months before the restrictions were introduced in 2007, and again six months after they were fully implemented in 2009. They linked this data



The rules on the advertising of unhealthy food were introduced amid concerns about child obesity. — INTERNET

to how many people saw the adverts, and found there was a rise in the promotion of less healthy items such as crisps, sugared breakfast cereals and drinks containing large amounts of sugar. — *Internet*

Trade, tourism keep Dubai economy growing

DUBAI, 18 Feb — Dubai's economy will continue to grow in 2012 despite persistent contraction in its once rapidly-booming construction sector, thanks to healthy trade and tourism, an official and economists said on Wednesday. Growth in the gross domestic product of the debt-laden emirate is "expected to be over 4.5 percent this year," said Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, the head of the Dubai Economic Sector Committee.

The forecast by Dubai's Department of Economic Development (DED) is also around 4.1 percent for 2012. This is a "respectable rate" driven by over six percent growth in tourism, and similar rates in trade and manufacturing, in addition to transport, said DED chief economist Mohammad Lahouel.

The growth will continue "despite a continued decline in construction," he said at

the Dubai Economic Outlook 2012 forum.

Lahouel said the final figures on GDP growth achieved in 2011 were not out, though he expected they should be around three percent, a "little bit over two percent," achieved in 2010. Standard Chartered's Marios Maratheftis agreed with the positive outlook for Dubai, but he put the forecast for growth rate in 2012 at 2.4 percent.

"We think it is good given that 2011 was a good year," said Maratheftis, the bank's head of research for Western Hemisphere.

A slower rate of growth is not bad news because the quality of growth is improving, he said. "The fundamentals of Dubai are pretty healthy and strong. Construction will continue to be negative, but I think it is good news because focus is shifting towards productive sectors," he said. — *Internet*



A firefighter explains how the lifesaving device works to pupils at Dunhua Road Primary School in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 15 Feb, 2012. At the beginning of the new term, Qingdao's primary and secondary school students received a special education on fire prevention and escape skills in emergency.

XINHUA

Cyclist says helmet saved his life

BRISTOL, 18 Feb — A British cyclist thrown off his bike when a bus driver rammed into him says his helmet saved his life. Phillip Mead, 43, was knocked off his bicycle when Gavin Hill, 29, swerved into him in a bout of road rage, *The Daily Telegraph* reported.

On 5 April, Hill cut Mead off as the two were traveling down a street. At a stop light, Mead tugged at one of the bus' windshield wipers. He then rode off, at a slow pace, in front of the

bus.

The bus was then caught on camera trying to catch up to Mead and swerving into him, running him over.

Mead suffered a broken leg, fractured wrist and thumb, but said he could have died if he had not been wearing a helmet.

"Without my helmet it could have been a lot worse — I could have been killed," he said.

Mead said he felt "no anger" toward Hill, who was

sentenced to 17 months in jail for the incident Thursday after pleading guilty to dangerous driving and causing grievous bodily harm. "It goes to show how one bit of [road] rage can affect so many people's lives," Mead said.

"It has affected me and my family — but also now him and his family now he has gone to prison. But I do not feel any anger towards him now. In fact, I feel really sorry for his family."

Internet

Britons come home after 36 years at sea

LONDON, 18 Feb — Globe-trotting Britons Bill and Laurel Cooper have returned home to retire after spending 36 years at sea, *The Sun* reported on Friday. The couple have sailed the equivalent of four times around the globe since setting off in 1976.

They have been travelling around on boats they built themselves since Bill quit his high-flying job in the city and they sold their home in Chatham, Kent. Over the past four decades they have notched up nearly 100,000 nautical miles sailing across seven seas, stopping in 45 different countries.

They've also battled 25 feet waves, hurricanes, winds of 100 mph and got close enough to dolphins, sharks and whales.

And they even once had a one-eyed cat called Nelson on their boat. Former Royal Navy Commander Bill, 83, said: "We've had a

wonderful time but I'm afraid I have been over-taken by what you could call ill-health.

"When I got to about 78, I thought this isn't going to go on forever so we built a boat we could manage when old age really strikes — we call it the geriatric boat."

"We will have to get used to the life here. I plan to write a book and decay gently," Laurel, 82, added: "We have had an absolutely amazing life. I wouldn't have missed it for the world. I'm very happy looking back at all the wonderful places we've been, the people we've met and the adventures we've had. "We've been very lucky, but we always knew it wouldn't last forever."

The couple met in 1945 and started sailing together on the Norfolk Broads two years later, with Bill as the captain and Laurel as first mate. — *Internet*

Dutch prince rescued from avalanche

INNSBRUCK, 18 Feb — Dutch Prince Johan Friso was in critical condition on Friday after being buried in an avalanche while skiing in western Austria, officials said.

Friso, the second son of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, had to be resuscitated after rescuers pulled him out from beneath the snow Friday near the village of Lech. He had been trapped for at least 15 minutes, *The Daily Telegraph* of Britain reported.

He was airlifted to a hospital in Innsbruck, Austria, the newspaper said.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said Queen Beatrix and Friso's wife, Princess Mabel, were at the hospital.

"The prince is stable but not out of danger, and we await more information," Rutte was quoted as saying. "Austria has excellent medical care and we have great faith in it."

The prince was skiing off-piste with three others who managed to escape when a 100-foot-wide wave of snow buried him, the newspaper said. The village of Lech was under an avalanche warning on Friday.

Friso has a degree in mechanical engineering and lives in London with his wife and two daughters. He is chief financial officer for Ureco, a British uranium enrichment company. — *Internet*

In this undated photo, two Miami blue butterfly are shown at Bahia Honda State Park in the Florida Keys. No confirmed Miami blues have been seen on Bahia Honda since July 2010. The US Fish and Wildlife Service last August issued an emergency listing of the Miami blue as an endangered species.

INTERNET



Tourists enjoy Dubai's Jumeira beach. Dubai's economy will continue to grow in 2012 despite persistent contraction in its once rapidly-booming construction sector, thanks to healthy trade and tourism, an official and economists said. — INTERNET

Threatened butterfly vanishes in last Fla refuge

BAHIA HONDA KEY, 18 Feb — For more than a year, Bahia Honda State Park biologist Jim Duquesnel traversed the nature sanctuary with two hopes. He wanted to see a Miami blue butterfly and rid the Florida Keys outpost of as many iguanas as he could.

The reason: The Central American invader may be driving the Miami blue into extinction by eating the leaves where it lays its eggs — a bit of butterfly caviar in every bite. No confirmed Miami blues have been seen on Bahia Honda since July 2010, and with each passing day it becomes less likely any exist there. The US Fish and Wildlife

Service last August issued an emergency listing of the Miami blue as an endangered species and three similar butterflies — cassius blue, ceranus blue and nickertean blue — as threatened. The emergency listing continues through April, and federal officials may make it permanent.

In the listing, federal officials noted that the only surviving Miami blue population appears to be a few hundred living in the Key West National Wildlife Refuge, about 50 miles west of Bahia Honda. Still, Duquesnel has tried to keep hope alive — and eradicate the iguana from his 600-acre park in the Middle Keys. Perhaps, he says, a half dozen Miami blues survive on some corner of the island, waiting for the right weather to

emerge.

"And if that happens and the weather starts changing and if Miami blues start breeding, we want them to find this a good place to be doing that like they used to," he says. "In this case, that means it will be lacking in iguanas." If the Miami blue makes a comeback, it wouldn't be the first time. The pale blue butterfly — about the size of a quarter — was once ubiquitous in the hardwood hammocks, pines and scrub along the Florida coasts from the Keys north to Tampa Bay on the Gulf Coast and Cape Canaveral on the Atlantic. But the region's development after World War II slowly shrank its habitat until by the early 1990s it was found only in the Keys.

Internet



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (477)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (477) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2012 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Cargo ship sinks killing eight in east China

FUZHOU, 18 Feb—A cargo ship with 11 aboard sank in waters off China's southeastern coast on early Saturday, leaving at least eight crew members dead.

A spokesman of the maritime rescue center said by noon rescuers had saved one person, recovered eight bodies, and were still searching for the remaining two missing.

The Xinyuanshun 6 cargo ship, registered in Beihai of China's Guangxi, was carrying 5,000 tonnes of pottery clay to the coastal Shandong Province when it sank off the coast of Chongwu in Fujian Province at about 3 am, the spokesman said.

The vessel might have capsized after goods slid to one side of its hold, he added.

Eleven boats and two helicopters were involved in the rescue, battling strong winds and rough seas, the spokesman said. The lone crew member rescued had been hospitalized.

Authorities are probing the cause of the sinking and have upped the alert for an oil spill.—Xinhua

Thieves rob Greece's Olympia museum

ATHENS, 18 Feb—Thieves burst into a museum in Greece's ancient Olympia Friday and made off with dozens of artifacts of "incalculable value", media reports said.

The robbers entered the Archaeological Museum of Olympia, also known as New Museum, around 7.30 am and when a female guard refused to hand over the pieces, she was tied up and gagged.

The robbers "approached the museum's guard, tied her hands and bound

her mouth and then went into the museum, where they took 65 to 68 small clay and brass small statues, and a gold ring, and put them in a bag and left", CNN said quoting police.

Olympia - in southern Greece on the Peloponnese peninsula - is the birthplace of the ancient Olympic Games, which were first held in 776 BC. Greek culture minister Pavlos Geroulanos submitted his resignation following robbery, the prime minister's office said.

Internet

Italy impounds fake US bonds worth USD 6 trillion

ROME, 18 Feb—Italian police have confiscated counterfeit US state bonds worth USD 6 trillion, media reports said on Friday.

The operation was sanctioned by the prosecutor's office of the southern Italian city of Potenza and was the result of an investigation initiated a year ago by the Potenza prosecutor and Swiss authorities.

The false securities supposedly issued by the US Fed in 1934 were confiscated in a Swiss company based in Zurich in January but it became known only recently.

The police also detained eight people on suspicion of



Fake US Treasury bonds are displayed during a news conference in the southern Italian city of Potenza on 17 Feb, 2012.

INTERNET creating a company for international financial fraud. Internet



A surviving sailor is carried out of a helicopter in Quanzhou City, southeast China's Fujian Province, on 18 Feb, 2012. A bulk cargo sank in the water area near Chongwu County of Quanzhou around 3:00 am of local time Saturday. Eight sailors were confirmed dead and two were missing after rescuers saved one up to 1:00 pm Saturday of local time.

XINHUA

China set to overtake US in diamond consumption

BEIJING, 18 Feb—China is expected to overtake the US to become the world's largest diamond-consuming country in 2016, Ari Epstein, CEO of Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC), said on Friday.

China's demand for diamonds has grown sharply in recent years with its rapid economic development.

Many Chinese regard diamonds as a token of love

as they are traditional gifts in wedding ceremonies, while others buy the stones with the hope of maintaining and increasing the value of assets, Epstein said, reported Xinhua.

One fourth of Antwerp's diamond exports, totalling USD 5 billion, were sold to Hong Kong and the mainland last year, he said.

The AWDC plans to establish a polished diamond sales centre in China, and deepen cooperation with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, in order to boost its presence in the country and Asia, Epstein said.

He added that diamond prices will continue to trend upward in the future due to a limited rise in output and a rapid increase in demand.

Antwerp is the world's most important diamond trading centre. About 50 percent of global end-product diamonds are exported from the Belgian city to other parts of the world.

Internet

Arrested Sun journalists can return to work

LONDON, 18 Feb—News Corporation chairman Rupert Murdoch has said that suspensions had been lifted on Sun newspaper employees arrested over allegations of payments to police officers, The Telegraph reported on Friday.

In an email, he said a Sunday version of the paper —The Sun on Sunday — would launch "very soon". Murdoch visited The

Sun's newsroom on Friday in an attempt to reassure staff that he will not close or sell the paper following the arrest of senior staff members over alleged corrupt payments.

He told colleagues the newspaper was "part of me" and described it as "one of our proudest achievements".

Murdoch also gave his firm backing to the members of staff arrested by saying

"everyone is innocent unless proven otherwise."

Five Sun journalists, including the deputy editor, picture editor and chief reporter, were held by Scotland Yard detectives Saturday on suspicion of making improper payments to police and public officials.

The Sun is a daily national tabloid newspaper published in Britain and owned by News Corporation.

Internet



The Logos Hope is reflected on a puddle of water as it docks in Pier 15 in Manila, the Philippines, on 17 Feb, 2012. The Logos Hope is the world's largest floating book fair which displays and sell books in a wide range of subjects such as art, philosophy and technology.

XINHUA



Rescuers work at the site of a road accident in Hualien, southeast China's Taipei, 17 Feb, 2012. A total of 34 people, mostly from the Chinese mainland, were wounded in a traffic accident Friday evening in Hualien, ten of them in serious conditions, according to local media. The mainland travellers have been identified as a group involved in a Peking opera exchange and comprised of people from 18 mainland provinces, invited by a Taipei-based Chinese opera institution.—XINHUA

Puzzle solving helps infants pick up math skills

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb—Children who love to play with puzzles between two and four years of age develop better spatial skills later, according to an analysis of video recordings.

"The children who played with puzzles performed better than those who did not on tasks that assessed their ability to rotate and translate shapes," said Susan Levine, professor of psychology and maths expert at the University of Chicago, who led the study.

The video recordings of parents interacting with children at home showed that kids who play with puzzles between 26 and 46 months of age have better spatial skills when assessed at 54 months of age, the journal Developmental Science reports. Activities such as early puzzle play may lay the groundwork for the development of this ability, the study found, according to a Chicago statement.

The study is the first to look at puzzle play in a

naturalistic setting, based on an analysis of 53 child-parent pairs from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

Researchers video-recorded parent-child interactions for 90-minute sessions that occurred every four months between 26 and 46 months of age.

The parents were asked to interact with their children as they normally would, and about half of the children in the study played puzzles at one time.

Both boys and girls who played with puzzles had better spatial skills, but boys played with more complicated puzzles than girls, and the parents of boys provided more spatial language during puzzle play and were more engaged in play than the parents of girls.

Boys also performed better than girls on a mental transformation task given at 54 months of age. The research on puzzle play is part of a series of studies based on observations in naturalistic settings Levine has led.

Internet

Home intruder plays piano, uses skateboard

Two Asian teenagers visiting Canada will go home with scary memories of a drunken man entering their home, playing the piano and using a skateboard, police say. News emerged Thursday about the incident at a home in Saanich, British Columbia, where the two teens were staying with relatives, the *Victoria Times-Colonist* reported.

Sunday afternoon, one of the teenagers heard the piano playing and went downstairs to find an inebriated man at the keyboard, Saanich police Sgt Dean Jantzen told the

newspaper. As the girl went to call police, the man made some racial slurs and then went outside and began playing on a skateboard, Jantzen said.

Police arrived and the man became violent and refused to take a breath test. He was arrested and charged with breaking into a home and refusing a breath test.

Outside the home, officers found a pick-up truck with a U-Haul trailer attached. Police suspect the 23-year-old man had earlier crashed the truck but continued driving it to the alleged break-in site on three wheels and a broken axle, Jantzen said.



Workers put final touches on a castle made from lemons and oranges during the lemon festival in Menton, southern France, on 16 Feb, 2012. Some 145 metric tons of lemons and oranges were used to make displays during the 79th festival, which is themed "The regions of France", and runs from 17 Feb through 7 March.

Airline passengers ride in toilet

A Pakistani airline allowed two passengers to ride in the bathroom when there were no seats available on the flight. The Indo-Asian News Service said the captain of Pakistani International Airlines Flight PK 303 from Lahore to Karachi allowed the passengers to ride in the restroom stall

as there were no remaining available seats on the flight.

The incident came after Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani rejected a business plan submitted by the cash-strapped airline in December.

News Album

Man gets six months for shooting TV

A North Dakota man who admitted shooting a TV because he was angry about the volume has been sentenced to six months in jail.

Daryl Lee Nikle, 56, of Grand Forks, pleaded guilty in Grand Forks County District Court to a charge of reckless endangerment and the court ruled he will receive credit for time served and will be able to serve the remainder of the sentence on electronic home monitoring or work release, the *Grand Forks Herald* reported Wednesday. Police said Nikle asked three people in his home to turn down the volume on the TV just after 4 am 2 Oct, and fired his .44 Magnum handgun at the set when they refused. Investigators said the bullet went through the wall of his home.

Nikle was also ordered to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation.

Madonna named 'Greatest Woman in Music'

LONDON, 18 Feb—Madonna still reigns as the Queen of Pop, according to a poll of the 100 Greatest Women in Music.

The Material Girl came out on top of the survey by VH1, which aims to rank accomplishments made in the last 20 years.

The 53-year-old singer is followed by Mariah Carey and Beyonce, who take the second and third spots respectively, the *Daily Express* reported.

Her current biggest rival, Lady Gaga, is in fourth, while Adele is at number five. The late Whitney Houston is sixth in the poll.

Janet Jackson, Christina Aguilera, Mary J Blige and Pink round out the top ten, while Britney Spears only makes it to number 11.—*Internet*



Madonna



Actors Brad Pitt and George Clooney attend the Critics' Choice awards on 12 January, in Los Angeles, California.—INTERNET

Katy Perry to donate new song's proceeds to charity

LONDON, 18 Feb—Pop star Katy Perry has decided to donate the proceeds of her new single "Part of me" to charity.

The profits from the song will go to arts charity MusicCares Foundation, which assists struggling musicians, reports contactmusic.com.



Pop star Katy Perry

"My proceeds of 'Part of Me' from iTunes and others will go to one of my favourite charities for the arts, MusicCares," tweeted Perry.

The "I kissed a girl" hitmaker's latest song shot into the top 10 on iTunes just hours after she debuted it at the Grammy Awards Sunday.

Internet

'King's Speech' play to open in West End

LONDON, 18 Feb—A stage version of the Oscar-winning film "The King's Speech" is to open in London's West End next month, producers said.

The play penned by the film's Academy Award-winning screenwriter David Seidler has been touring the United Kingdom with Jonathan Hyde and Charles Edwards in the lead roles of Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue and his stammering client, British King George VI, *The Daily Telegraph* said.

The roles were played by Geoffrey Rush and Colin Firth, who won an Oscar for his performance, in the 2010 film.

The Telegraph said the play, due to open at Wyndham's Theatre on 22 March, has been earning rave reviews. "The fact that so many people have seen the film might preclude them from wanting to go and see the play, I understand that. On the other hand, the fact that there's such a bank of goodwill means

there's a lot of interest. They're two different animals, albeit closely related," Seidler said, noting he wrote "The King's Speech" first as a play, then as a film script when he couldn't get it produced.—*Internet*



Colin Firth, pictured in a scene from "The King's Speech" was nominated for best leading actor for his performance in the film for the 83rd annual Academy Awards.—INTERNET

Beyonce to bounce back with two albums

LONDON, 18 Feb—Motherhood hasn't let Beyonce Knowles to slow down on the work front. She is working on two new albums post the birth of her baby daughter Blue Ivy last month.

The R&B superstar, whose is married to rapper Jay-Z, took some time off the spotlight in 2011 while she was preparing for the arrival of her first child, but her songwriting pal Ryan Tedder reveals Beyonce is already setting her sights on a chart comeback, reports dailystar.co.uk. "The conversations about her next album literally just started and there (are) two projects happening," said Tedder.

However, Tedder says

fans shouldn't get too excited as he is unsure when the new albums will be released.

"All I can say is you kind of feed her the best that you have and she's this phenomenal filter and she

takes it all in," he said.

Beyonce's last album, "4", hit music retailers in June 2011.—*Internet*



Beyonce Knowles

Clooney praises Pitt

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb—Actor George Clooney has heaped praises on Brad Pitt and says the latter is "one of the great guys" in Hollywood.

Clooney has praised Brad for being one of his best friends in the movie business, but insists they don't hang out as much as people think they do.

"Brad is one of the great guys. We're good friends, but it's different from what people think — meaning we don't spend a lot of time together. He has been to my home in Como; we motorcycle together. But until recently, I hadn't seen Brad in a year," *The Hollywood Reporter* quoted the "Descendants" star

as saying.

Clooney is known to be a huge prankster in Hollywood, and even played numerous pranks on Pitt, especially when they filmed "Ocean's Eleven" and its sequels.

But the 50-year-old insists the 48-year-old actor has got him good on a few occasions.

"A couple of years ago, he (Pitt) really nailed me. He did one of those shows and they asked him when he was going to marry Angie, and he said, 'I'll marry when George can legally marry (a man)'. He really got me badly, it's something I have had to deal with the past few years," said Clooney.—*Internet*

Robin Thicke arrested for alleged pot possession

NEW YORK, 18 Feb—Recording artist Robin Thicke has been arrested for alleged marijuana possession in New York, police said.

The 34-year-old son of actor Alan Thicke was arrested on Friday afternoon near Manhattan's Madison Square Park after he allegedly lit up a joint in a car in front of police, TMZ reported.

The singer cooperated with police and was issued a desk appearance ticket. He has since been released from police custody, the celebrity news Web site said.

Internet



Singer Robin Thicke arrives at the 39th American Music Awards at Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles on 20 Nov, 2011.—INTERNET

Injury blow for Arsenal's Mertesacker



Per Mertesacker was stretchered off during Arsenal's 2-1 League win at Sunderland.—INTERNET

LONDON, 18 Feb — An ankle ligament injury will rule Arsenal defender Per Mertesacker out for the "long term", Gunners boss Arsene Wenger has said. The Germany international was injured during Saturday's 2-1 Barclays Premier League victory at Sunderland and had to be carried off. Mertesacker did not feature in the midweek Champions League defeat at AC Milan. On Friday, Wenger told the club's official website:

"Unfortunately he has had surgery and we have lost him for a while.

"How long I don't know. He had reconstruction of his ligaments, so it will be long term." The news will cast a shadow over Arsenal's run-in to the League season and could have hit Mertesacker's chances of playing for Germany in Euro 2012 in the summer. Elsewhere there was better news for the Gunners as Wenger said the knee injury picked up by Laurent Koscielny against Milan was only likely to rule the Frenchman out for one week.

"He had a scan [on Thursday] and the news is quite good," said Wenger. "He will be out for hopefully around a week. He will miss the FA Cup tie against Sunderland, but he should be back for next week." Gervinho is also back after international duty with Ivory Coast at the Africa Cup of Nations, while Kieran Gibbs suffered no setback after playing his first match in four months in Milan.

Internet

Man Utd's Valencia suffers hamstring injury

LONDON, 18 Feb — Manchester United winger Antonio Valencia is set to miss the next month of the season after suffering a hamstring injury. Valencia, 26, picked up a strain after coming on as a late substitute in United's 2-0 UEFA Europa League last 16 first leg victory over Ajax in Amsterdam on Thursday. The Ecuadorian was himself taken off only 10 minutes after coming on, getting injured while he was in the process of helping to set up Javier Hernandez to score for United.

"It looks a bad one," said United manager Sir Alex Ferguson after the match. "He has a hamstring injury unfortunately. It will be four weeks out." Losing Valencia is a blow to United, who are only two points behind leaders

Manchester City in the Barclays Premier League going into the final few months of the season. But Ferguson gave midfielder Tom Cleverley his first run-out since October in the



Winger Antonio Valencia has been in superb form for Manchester United this season.—INTERNET

Netherlands and he was also able to pick the returning Phil Jones, with other players also getting back to full fitness.

"It's a blow to lose Valencia tonight, but bit by bit, we are getting stronger with Nani and Ashley Young coming back," added Ferguson. "Tom Cleverley has played a bit of football tonight and Phil Jones has played a full game which is good for us. Chris Smalling was on the bench but will play in the return match at Old Trafford next Thursday."

Internet

Boos at the Bridge as Chelsea held by Birmingham

LONDON, 18 Feb — Daniel Sturridge's 62nd minute header spared Chelsea from a humiliating FA Cup exit at the hands of Championship side Birmingham but Saturday's unconvincing 1-1 draw will do little to ease the pressure on Andre Villas-Boas.

The home side recovered after falling behind to David Murphy's first half goal to earn a fifth round replay.

But the chorus of boos as the players left the Stamford Bridge pitch confirmed this had been another sub-standard display from Villas-Boas's side. Birmingham fully deserved the opportunity to take this tie back to St Andrew's where they will justifiably believe they have a good opportunity of reaching the quarter-finals.—INTERNET



Chelsea's Daniel Sturridge (right) headed home a second-half equaliser to save Chelsea's blushes against Birmingham at a restive Stamford Bridge on Saturday, but Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas' problems mounted after his side laboured to a 1-1 draw with the lower-league side.—INTERNET

Chelsea striker Didier Drogba says he wants to stay with club

LONDON, 18 Feb — Chelsea striker Didier Drogba says he wants to stay at Stamford Bridge despite rumours of a move to China. The 33-year-old, who joined Chelsea in 2004, has been linked with Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua, where former Blues team-mate Nicolas Anelka now plays. But Drogba told Football Focus: "I'm really happy where I am. I belong to Chelsea. For me, that's what matters. "Everyone knows I want to stay in blue and everybody knows I love the club and the fans." Anelka signed a two-year deal to play in the Chinese Super League in December. In his first news conference with his new club, the Frenchman said: "I hope Drogba will come. I'm in contact with him very often and if all goes well, we could see him in Shanghai." Drogba, who is 34 next month, arrived at Stamford Bridge from Marseille for a reported £24m and in his first season helped the team win the Premier League and League Cup.

The Ivory Coast international collected another Premier League winner's medal the following season and has also won three FA Cups, another League Cup and a third league title with the Blues. However, the club are without a trophy since their Premier League success in 2010 and have struggled to make headway in the league in Andre Villas-Boas's first season at the helm. Asked how he would improve the team's fortunes, Drogba said: "I don't know, I'm not the manager but I think all together we can find a solution."

Internet



Chelsea striker Didier Drogba

Raonic advances to San Jose Open tennis semis

SAN JOSE, 18 Feb — Defending champion Milos Raonic of Canada advanced to the semi-finals of the \$531,000 ATP San Jose Open by defeating South African sixth seed



Canadian Milos Raonic, has advanced to the semi-finals of the \$531,000 ATP San Jose Open by defeating South African sixth seed Kevin Anderson 7-5, 7-6 (7/3).

INTERNET

Kevin Anderson 7-5, 7-6 (7/3). Third seed Raonic fired 16 aces and never faced a break point in booking himself into a Saturday matchup against American Ryan Harrison, who earlier ousted Bulgarian Dimitar Kutrovsky 6-1, 6-4 at the indoor hardcourt tournament.

Raonic claimed the first set with his eighth ace of the match, one fewer than Anderson blasted in the opening set, and won six of the first seven points in the tie-breaker on his way to winning in one hour, 42 minutes. In later quarter-finals, US second seed and three-time San Jose winner Andy Roddick will face Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin and French fifth seed Julien Benneteau will meet Belgian Steve Darcis.—INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb — Phil Mickelson wasn't at his best Friday at Riviera. Two shots at least helped him stay in the lead. Despite having only two birdie chances inside 15 feet, Mickelson holed out from the eighth fairway for eagle and chipped in for birdie on the par-3 16th. That carried him to a 1-under 70 and a one-shot lead over Pat Perez in the Northern Trust Open.

Mickelson made three par saves from outside 10 feet, starting with his opening hole

Phil Mickelson shoots 1-over 70 to lead at Riviera

at the par-4 10th. He went from the front bunker to the back bunker, blasted out



safely to 18 feet and curled in the par putt. That set the tone for a day that only looked good on the scorecard. "I probably didn't play the greatest today, but I was able to kind of salvage a good round and had a good break on eight where I holed out from the fairway," he said. "That was a nice little bonus."

Internet

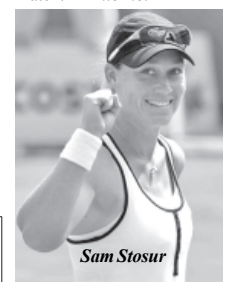
Stosur, Azarenka advance to Qatar Open semifinals

DOHA, 18 Feb — US Open champion Sam Stosur reached her first semifinal of the year, defeating Monica Niculescu 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 Friday at the Qatar Open. In another quarterfinal, top-ranked Victoria Azarenka swept aside Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium 6-0, 6-4 for her 15th straight win. Azarenka next plays Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, who beat American Christina McHale 6-1, 6-1.

After losing in the first round of her home Australian Open, Stosur has won three straight matches in Doha. Her latest victory came against a Romanian opponent who uses lots of spin and hits a two-handed backhand and forehand. Stosur will face fifth-seeded Marion Bartoli of France, who ended the strong run of Lucie Safarova of Czech Republic, 7-5, 4-6, 6-1.

Azarenka said she played a "perfect set" to go up 6-0, but the second set was much more competitive. The two players traded breaks throughout until 4-4. The Belarusian then ran off the last two games, winning a love service game to close out the

match. "Second set, I had opportunities in every single game. I just couldn't really convert them," Azarenka said. "But, you know, it's important the way I finished the second set. It was the same way I started the match."—INTERNET



Sam Stosur

International Sports

In memoriam
Family shares merits gained
Mahathayaysithu Lt-Gen Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi Lt-Gen Tin Oo who suddenly left us eleven years ago, we family members have made donations and offered 'soon' and provisions to members of the Sangha today on 19-2-2012. We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife Daw Khin Than Nwe

Sons and daughters-

- Major Maung Maung Kyaw (Retd) (BSI) + Daw Cho Leh Oo
- Phyu Phyu Tin Oo
- Dr Myat Noe+Yin Mar Oo
- Zaw Tun Oo+ Khin Thida
- Nay Tun Oo

Grandchildren

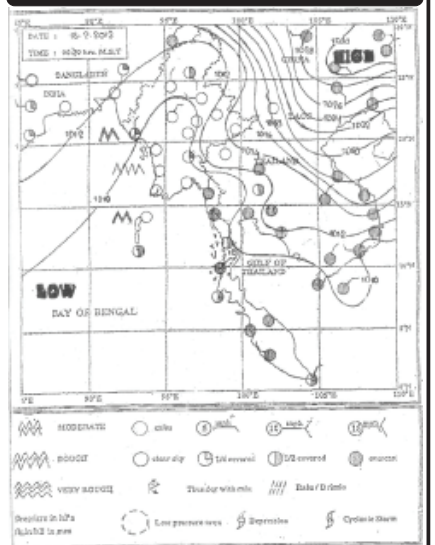
- Hein Htet, Yin Myat Noe, Phu Ngon Kyaw,
- Thant Thi Han Zaw (Po Thila)

Leverkusen
ready to
discuss
Ballack
departure

LEVERKUSEN , 18 Feb— Bayer Leverkusen owner Wolfgang Holzhaeuser has said the club is willing to discuss whether the former Germany captain Michael Ballack can leave before the end of his current contract. "His contract runs until June 30 but if he wants to leave before then, we can certainly talk about it," Holzhaeuser was quoted as saying on Friday by the German magazine Focus. Holzhaeuser, however, ruled out the idea of a farewell match because of Ballack's intention to pursue his career elsewhere.

Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 19th February, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		Forecast	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	30/86	14/57	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
2	Kayah	31/88	11/52	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	36/97	19/66	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
4	Chin	22/72	10/50	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	31/88	14/57	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
6	Lower Sagaing	36/97	18/64	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	26/79	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
8	Bago	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	36/97	17/63	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	36/97	18/64	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	35/95	23/73	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
12	Yangon	35/95	21/70	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhaing	35/95	19/66	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	38/84	11/52	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	31/88	09/48	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	32/90	12/54	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyarwady	35/95	21/70	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	38/100	17/63	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	21/70	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	36/97	18/64	Generally fair weather	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin State, weather has been Partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (°C) to (°F) above February average temperature in Kachin, Chin and Rakhaing States, (°C) above February average temperature in Tanintharyi Region and Mon State and about February average temperature in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Patheingyi (4°C), Nyaung-U (5°C) and Hloko (6°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Muek (0.71) inch, Machanbar (0.20) inch and Putao (0.15) inch.

Bay Inference Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair 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 continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

DISTRICT NEWS

Fire drill exercised



YANGON, 18 Feb—A talk on danger of fire was held in conjunction with the fire drill at Petro Green Fuel Station of Yuzana Group of Companies on Panbingyi Street in Kyimyindine Township on 11 February.

Head of Township Fire Station U Than Htet Aung talked about fire preventive measures. Members of Township Fire Brigade demonstrated fire drill.

Myanma Alin

Bo Ba Htoo Road put into service

MYAUNGMYA, 18 Feb—In commemoration of the 65th Anniversary Union Day, Bo Ba Htoo Road, repaved with asphalt, was inaugurated in Myaungmya on 9 February morning.

Township level departmental officials formally opened the road.

The 1300 feet long and 12 feet wide road was built at a cost of K 10.53 million funded by Township Development Affairs Committee.—District IPRD



Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-2-12 09:30 am ~ 20-2-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

- * News
- * Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "Tea"
- * News
- * Seminar on Myanmar Character Map
- * News
- * A Warm Welcome from the Golden Land
- * News
- * Let there be the light of Abhidhamma throughout the world
- * News
- * Myanmar Style or Western Style
- * Sand Sculptures on Beautiful Beach Chaung Tha
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Ever Blooming Flower
- * News
- * Working and Living in Myanmar "Tea House and Internet Cafe"
- * Myanmar Movies "Our Folk"

MYANMAR TV

(19-2-2012) (Sunday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Parit By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 8:00 am
- 3. (38) Phyar Mingalars
- 8:25 am
- 4. Documentary
- 11:00 am
- 5. Musical Programme
- 11:20 am
- 6. Round Up Of The Week's International News
- 11:30 pm
- 7. TV Drama Series
- 12:30 pm
- 8. Myanmar Video
- 14:00 pm
- 9. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition
- 4:15 pm
- 10. Dance Of National Races
- 4:25 pm
- 11. 2012 University Entrance Examination (Myanmar)
- 5:00 pm
- 12. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:15 pm
- 13. Weather Report
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. Cartoon Series
- 16. TV Drama Series



Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts after match point against Jarkko Nieminen of Finland during their men's singles tennis match at the World Indoor Tournament in Rotterdam on 17 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

Federer comes through tough match in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM, 18 Feb— Top seed Roger Federer struggled to defeat Finn Jarkko Nieminen 7-5 7-6 on Friday to reach the semi-finals of the World Indoor Tournament. The Swiss, who is this week making his first appearance in the Dutch port city since he won the title in 2005, lacked rhythm against the unseeded Nieminen.

Former world number one Federer came back from 40-0 down in the 11th game to break serve on the indoor carpet and then had to rely on the tie-break to clinch victory in the second set. "It was a tough match but important to get through," he told reporters. "I am still getting used to the surface and tonight I struggled with my timing in the rallies. "But I also have to give credit to Jarkko the way he played. He was really aggressive and even on his second serve he kept attacking."

Federer, the world number three, next meets Nikolay Davydenko after the unseeded Russian put out fifth-seeded Frenchman Richard Gasquet 7-5 6-3. Second-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych also went through with a 6-3 6-4 triumph over Italian Andreas Seppi. Berdych now faces third seed Juan Martin Del Potro after the Argentine thrashed seventh-seeded Serb Viktor Troicki 6-0 6-1.—Internet

MMA opens Day Care Centre for Aged Doctors

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—A ceremony to open the Day Care Centre of the Aged Doctors of Myanmar Medical Association was held at University of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Yangon this morning with an address by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that nowadays, the number of old people is on the increase with the changing ratio of population in the global nations, and there are 8.4 per cent of above 60 years old population in Myanmar. According to the resolution No. 46/90 of WHO, he said that the equal term of rights are to be given to the aged like that of others while attending to their needs.

He added that with regard to data base of the aged doctors, there are 294 aged doctors of above 70 years old, 213 of above 80 years old, 14 of above 90 years old and one of above 100 years old. He continued to say that a total of 423 aged doctors are living in Yangon and 99 in Mandalay, Taunggyi, PyinOoLwin and Monywa.

Although the Day Care Centre is being used by old doctors in Yangon, old doctors from Mandalay are welcomed to take relaxation there when they are



Union Health Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin speaks at the opening of Day Care Centre of the Aged Doctors of Myanmar Medical Association.—MNA

in Yangon. At the centre, free medical checkup, physical examination and BP checkup will be provided to the aged doctors. The centre can be used as place for get-together, demonstration workshop and recreation centre, he said.

Chairman of MMA Prof Dr Kyaw Myint Naing made a

speech, and Chairperson of the Aged Doctors' Society Prof Dr Myint Myint Khin spoke words of thanks.

Later, the Union Minister handed the bronze plaque of the centre and key to Chairperson Dr Myint Myint Khin.

MNA

Boro eye Williams deal Middlesbrough hoping to tie down star



Sky Sports understands that Middlesbrough are hopeful of tying down prized asset Rhys Williams to a new long-term deal.—INTERNET

LONDON, 18 Feb—By Graeme Bailey - Tweet me: @skygraemebailey. Last Updated: February 18, 2012:56pm The Australian international has come through Boro's famed Academy and has emerged as one of the finest prospects outside the Premier League.

The 23-year-old has 18 months left on his current deal and Boro want to secure him to a new deal.

Williams has attracted a great deal of intention in the past 12 months and Bolton had a bid rejected for him in January.

The likes of Liverpool, Aston Villa, Newcastle and West Bromwich Albion are also all believed to have been keeping tabs on his situation.

The player himself had stated that he would look to leave Boro if they did get promotion this season, but now Williams is in talks over a new deal and could be set to commit his future to the Teesside outfit, which would be a huge boost to manager Tony Mowbray.

"Talks are ongoing between ourselves and the club," his agent Gary Williams told Sky Sports.—Internet want to stay here and help this club achieve promotion like everybody else here."

The Blades currently sit second in League One and six points behind leaders Charlton after beating Preston at home on Saturday.—Internet



Defender Johannes Ertl insists he wants to stay at Sheffield United and help them to promotion this season.—INTERNET

Ertl happy with Blades

LONDON, 18 Feb—The 29-year-old centre-half, whose current deal at Bramall Lane expires in the summer, has struggled to reclaim a spot in Danny Wilson's first team since returning from a long-term injury in December.

German outfit 1860 Munich were thought to be chasing his signature last month but no move materialised.

Ertl says he is keen to stay at the South Yorkshire club until the end of the season as they bid for promotion to the Championship.

"It was quite quiet during the window to be honest, which suits me because all I am focused on is doing my best for Sheffield United and trying to break back into the side," he told Sky Sports.

"I'm not really interested in going anywhere else in the next few months and there was a bit of interest, but I

Road/bridge companies urged to do their utmost in constructing roads, bridges

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint attended the work coordination meeting between Public Works of the Ministry of Construction and 148 road/bridge companies held at the ministry here today.

The Union minister urged the companies to do their best in road and bridge construction works with altruistic mind. Deputy Ministers U Soe Tint and U Kyaw Lwin called for teamwork between region and state engineers and companies. The Union minister inspected roadwork in Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Pantin road section.—MNA

Chin State sees new reliant Phain-Khwarphe road, Daung Creek Bridge

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—To hail the 64th Chin State Day, Phain-Khwarphe village-to-village road and Daung Creek Bridge were put into service in Haka Township in Chin State, in the presence of Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, this morning.

At the event, soon after State Minister for Planning and Economic U Yanman and Phain Village administrator U Hayanlwan had formally opened the road and the bridge, those present strolled along the road.

In the meeting hall of Phain Village, the State Chief Minister made a speech citing that rural people need to make efforts for regional greening and development as the newly-opened bridge and road help them have easy access to make efforts for achieving rural development and to reduce poverty. The bridge is 10 feet wide and 21 feet long, whose costly amount is 6 million, fund of rural people.—MNA



Work coord meeting on resettlement of displaced persons in Kachin State held

PAGE 9

Goat kids can develop 'accents'



PAGE 5

Body clock 'alters' immune system

PAGE 4



Raonic advances to San Jose Open tennis semis

PAGE 14

Stosur, Azarenka advance to Qatar Open semifinals



PAGE 14