Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham awards winners at 2011-2012 prize presentation of Education Ministry

NAT PYI TAW, 30 Dec.—The prize presentation for outstanding students for 2011-2012 academic year of the Ministry of Education was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, at 3 pm today, attended by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, teachers and prize winning students.

First, students of Nay Pyi Taw Basic Education High School No. 1 sang the song entitled “Myanmar School” to open the ceremony. Then, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye delivered an address. Students of Pyinmana BEHS No. 2 sang the song entitled “outstanding student”.

Afterwards, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented medals and certificates of honour to the winners from the fourth to the tenth including the first prize to Ma Myat Shwe Yi Tun of Dagon BEHS No. 1 of Yangon Region in science combination of matriculation examination in 2011, second prizes to Ma Yamin Aye of Thawwunna BEHS in Thingangyun Township and Ma Yi Mon Lwin of Dagon BEHS No. 1, the third prize to Ma Han Win Tun of Dagon BEHS No. 1, those from the fourth to the tenth including the first prize to Ma Swe Swe Hlaing of Hsinswe Village BEHS Branch of Htilin Township in Magway Region in the arts combination, the second to Ma Hsu Myint Myat Hnin of Ahtaung BEHS in Kyonpyaw Township in Magway Region and the third to Ma Sanda Oo of Mauk Village BEHS Branch in Gangaw Township of Magway Region.

The Vice-President posed for documentary photo with the prize winners. The Union Minister for Education awarded the first, second and third winners in the English proficiency skills contest for eighth, seventh, sixth, fifth and fourth.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents medals and certificates of honour to outstanding students who passed matric exam for 2011.—MNA
LPDR delegation leaves Yangon after attending 10th Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—At the invitation of U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Lao delegation led by Mr Boukneut Sangsomsak, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic arrived by air in the evening of 28 December to attend the Tenth Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities at Central Level, held in Ngwe Hsaung on 29 and 30 December.

The Lao deputy foreign minister and delegates were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Director-General Daw Yin Yin Myint and responsible officials of the ministry, Lao Ambassador Mr Nirahath Sayalath and Lao Embassy staff.

The Tenth Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities at Central Level was held at Sunny Paradise Hotel in Ngwe Hsaung in the morning of 30 December. The meeting was attended on Myanmar side by Co-Chairman and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint as leader of the delegation and senior officials from various ministries concerned as members and on the Lao side by Co-Chairman and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of LPDR led by Mr Boukneut Sangsomsak, and members of his delegation. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters relating to further strengthening of the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting came to a successful conclusion with the adoption of the Agreed Minutes of the meeting. The Tenth Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities at Central Level was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting to discuss the draft Agreed Minutes.

On 29 December, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Lao delegation at Sunny Paradise Hotel.

The Lao delegation departed from Yangon International Airport in the evening of 30 December.

Over 1700 jade lots fetched during 6th day of Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—A total of 1742 jade lots were sold today at the Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium here today.

The emporium continued today at Mani Yadana Jade Hall here for the sixth day and local and foreign merchants observed jade lots which are on sale through the open tender system and put the tender forms into the tender boxes.

Secretary of the Central Committee for Holding Myanma Gems Emporium Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and members of the committee have supervised the sales which will last till 3 January, 2012.

Local and foreign gems merchants observe jade lots.—MNA

Local Sports

Kayah State CM’s Trophy Football Tournament reaches final

YANGON, 30 Dec—The first Kayah State Chief Minister’s Trophy Invitational Football Tournament 2011 continued at Peace Football Ground of Kayah State.

Yesterday, GFA team beat Kayah State (A) team in the first semifinal match.

Today, Kayah State (B) team will play against Shan State in the second semifinal.

Gymnastic professional Ms Yan Yun Ying of China training new generation Myanmar athletes.—SPEED

Chinese gymnastic professional gives trainings

YANGON, 30 Dec—With a aim of developing gymnastic sports in Myanmar and securing achievement in the XXVII SEA Games, gymnastic professional Ms Yan Yun Ying of China is providing training to the trainees at Myanmar Gymnastics Camp (Kyaukkan) from 19 December 2011 to 11 January 2012.

The Chinese gymnastic professional is training 17 coach-officers of Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Gymnastics Federation by applying modern techniques. She is also giving training to students of basic education schools from Yangon Region. A plan is underway to give talks on techniques and rules in international competitions with female and male gymnastic referees of the federation and to designate grades of the athletes.

Kayin New Year Don dance goes with a bang

YANGON, 30 Dec—Kayin New Year traditional “Don” dance contests for Kayin Era 2751 were held on a grand scale at Thiri ground in Hpa-an of Kayin State from 24 to 26 December.

Along with the three night Don dance contests in which Don troupes took part, Kayin traditional dances, stage shows, tradition boxing tournaments, Chinlone contests and funfairs occupied the ground. Thiri ground was very crowded with national races.

Literature helps broaden horizons of youth

With the aim of forging Union Spirit and of preserving tradition, culture and national characters, National Literary Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards go to the outstanding literati yearly.

Prize-awarding ceremony for winners of Lifetime Achievement Award, National Literary Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards was held at Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 December. It is the first time in the time of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Taking a look at the current literary world, there were publications of over 3000 books in the year 2000. Nowadays, about 200 monthly magazines and about 200 weekly journals are in publication. A total of over 10,000 books were published in 2010. Among them, Committee for scrutinizing National Literary Awards has chosen 11 out of 2000 books for 2010. Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award has been conferred since 2001.

Fourteen genres are designated for National Literary Awards and twelve for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards.

National Literary Awards went to eleven authors and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards to 23. As a milestone, a winner for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards in English has emerged for the first time in the course of Hl.

Literature is great valuable cultural heritage among notational heritage being preserved in successive eras. All literati are duty-bound to serve the interest of people. So, today youth can widen the scope of their knowledge by reading those books.
US, S Korean envoys discuss ‘next steps’ on N Korea

PONTIANAK, 30 Dec— Top US and South Korean diplomats discussed the “next steps” to take on the Korean peninsula following the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong-II, the US State Department said Thursday.

South Korea’s top nuclear envoy Lim Sung-Nam held “constructive, substantive” talks in Washington on Wednesday with Glyn Davies, the US special representative for North Korea policy, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said. “They discussed a wide variety of issues, including next steps in the Korean Peninsula,” she told reporters without elaborating.

The talks reflected the “close cooperation between our two countries and the personal bond beginning to form,” she added.

South Korean foreign ministry spokesman Cho Byung-Jae said Tuesday the pair would discuss “the current state of the Korean Peninsula after Kim Jong-II’s death and discuss coordination to make progress on the North’s nuclear issue.” Lim met with China’s chief nuclear envoy Wu Dawei in Beijing last week to talk about how to respond to the sudden demise of North Korea’s longtime ruler on 17 December.

The six-party talks on North Korea’s nuclear weapons program — chaired by China and involving the two Koreas, the United States, Japan and Russia — have been at a standstill since the last round in December 2008.

Pyongyang stormed out in 2009 in protest against what it described as US hostility, and staged its second nuclear test about a month later. The North and China have expressed a willingness to return to the forum without preconditions.

But Washington and Seoul, the two countries that should show sincerity in demilitarization and denuclearization, have not.

Negotiations to resume the talks had appeared to be making progress before Kim’s death, with reports Pyongyang would bow to a key US demand that it suspend its uranium enrichment programme in return for food aid from the United States. —Internet

Gunmen kill prominent Pakistani police surgeon

QUETTA, 30 Dec— Gunmen in southwestern Pakistan on Thursday killed a police surgeon who had received threats for his role in investigating the deaths of five foreigners at the hands of security forces earlier this year, police said.

Surgeon Baqir Shah was among an armed group of at least five foreigners, including three women, who security forces initially said were would-be suicide bombers who died 17 May when they detonated a grenade at a checkpoint near Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan Province.

But Shah found that the unarmored foreigners from central Asia, one of whom was pregnant, were killed by a hail of bullets. Video showed one of the women raising an arm in what appeared to be a Retrieved gesture as the security forces fired. Shah was severely beaten by men who he claimed were police soon after he testified before a government commission investigating the July 2011 attacks.

Police denied the allegations. The surgeon continued to receive threats until he was shot Thursday by unknown gunmen in Quetta, said police officer Nazir Ahmed Khurdi.

The government tribunal held several police and paramilitary soldiers responsible for the deaths of the foreigners.

At least 13 killed in Venezuela tanker truck fire

CARACAS, 30 Dec— A tanker truck filled with gasoline crashed and burst into flames Thursday on a highway in Venezuela, engulfing several cars and a bus and killing at least 13 people.

The tanker truck tipped over as it was trying to be pulled gasoline, which ignited and burned seven vehicles. Caracas fire chief William Martinez said. “Rescue workers pulled victims’ bodies from the blackened vehicles,” Martinez said.

Martinez said the tanker truck driver apparently lost control on the highway in Caracas but the cause of the accident was unclear.

At least 13 people were injured in the accident, national police chief Luis Fernandez said. The 30-year-old truck driver, Tulio Estenique, was unhurt and was arrested, prosecutors said in a statement. He is to be arraigned and is under investigation for his responsibility in causing the accident. Prosecutors said that according to witnesses the truck was speeding.

Bystanders watch at a burned bus at the site of an accident that killed at least 13 people in Caracas, Venezuela, on 29 Dec, 2011. A tanker truck filled with gasoline crashed and burst into flames devouring several cars and a bus. —Internet

Yingluck’s administration brings close ties for Cambodia, Thailand

PHNOM PENH, 30 Dec— Cambodia’s Prime Minister Hun Sen on Thursday hailed the Thai government led by Yingluck Shinawatra for her efforts to restore good relations with Cambodia.

Speaking at a meeting with visiting Thai foreign minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul and energy minister Pichai Narinphathorn at the Phnom Penh’s Peace Palace, Hun Sen said that the bilateral relations between Cambodia and Thailand have “turned good” since the Phue Thai Party won the general election in July this year. He added that it was the open of the new chapter of Cambodian and Thai relations and cooperation.

The premier said that since July this year, the bilateral trade and tourism have been significant increased. Meanwhile, Surapong pledged to continue boosting the bilateral ties on trade, investment, tourism and cultures for the mutual interests of the two countries’ peoples.

Cambodia and Thailand have had sporadic border conflict over territorial dispute near Cambodia’s Preah Vihear temple since the UNESCO listed the temple as a World Heritage Site on July, 2008 and witnessed fierce border fighting in February and April this year during the previous Thai’s administration led by the Democrat Party. —Xinhua

35 killed in air raid across Turkish-Iraqi border

ANKARA, 30 Dec— Governor’s Office of Turkey’s southern border province Sirnak said Thursday an air raid across Turkish-Iraqi border killed 35 people and wounded another one. Turkish semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Turkey’s General Staff said earlier on Thursday in a statement that Turkish jets bombed a group of PKK members’ base in its border in accordance with an intelligence that the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) was planning to attack military outposts after their recent losses.

The incident occurred in Iraq’s northern Region of Sinat-Hautan, where the main camps of the PKK were located with a civilian settlement. The statement came after some allegations that “villagers were killed” in the airstrike. Earlier Tuesday, Sinak Governor Vahdetin Ozkan said that over 20 people were killed across Turkish-Iraqi border.

According to earlier reports, the air raid was conducted Wednesday night under the guidance of unmanned aerial vehicles near the Ortasu village of Deredik town in Sirnak Province, which borders Iraq. —Xinhua

Man in Afghan uniform kills French soldiers

KABUL, 30 Dec— A man dressed in Afghan army fatigues on Thursday shot dead two French soldiers in what appeared to be the latest attack by a member of the Afghan security forces on NATO troops.

The Taliban claimed responsibility, saying the soldier joined the army in order to carry out his attack in Kapisa Province, in the volatile east of the country where many of the 3,700 French troops in Afghanistan are based.

The militant group, which has been waging a 10-year militant against US-led NATO and Afghan forces, also said they carried out a roadside bombing in the southern Province of Helmand that killed 10 local police.

“An individual wearing an Afghan National Army uniform turned his weapon against international Security Assistance Forces service members in eastern Afghanistan, today, killing both service members,” an ISAF statement said.

The Taliban, who frequently exaggerate their claims, said three French soldiers were killed and others wounded.

“Abraham (the soldier)... achieved his aim by taking out three French invading troops and wounding a number of them after he opened fire,” spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on their website. —Internet

Internet

Five people wounded in Iraq’s Diyala

BAQUBA, 30 Dec— Five people were wounded in a bomb attack in Iraq’s eastern Province of Diyala on Thursday, a provincial police source said. A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol in southern the provincial capital City of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, wounding three policemen and two passers-by, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Diyala Province, which stretches from the eastern edges of Baghdad to the Iranian border east of the country, has long been a stronghold for al-Qaeda militants and other militant groups since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. Iraqi cities have been plagued by several attacks, including roadside bombings, since the US troops pulled out of the country earlier this month. —Xinhua
Teen hearing risk from MP3 players

SANTIAGO, 30 Dec—Food inflation in Latin America and the Caribbean declined slightly to 8.2 percent in November from 8.4 percent in October while total inflation remained stable, a UN body said Thursday.

Food prices went up by over one percentage point in Chile, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela while countries like Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Honduras and Paraguay saw inflationary pressures easing, said a report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)’s regional office in Santiago.

As for the Central America, the inflation rates decreased in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras, with food prices dropping some two percentage points in Honduras between October and November.

Lawsuit charges Verizon Wireless with fraud

New York, 30 Dec—Verizon Wireless has tried to inflate its number of phone activations to raise the company’s value, a lawsuit filed in New York says.

The lawsuit was filed by ZCom, a firm that operates 120 Verizon Wireless stores in the greater New York area, the New York Post reported Thursday.

ZCom attorney John Sampson, who is also the state Senate minority leader, said Verizon Wireless was “steroid enhancing” to appear more profitable.

Accusations, however, are ricocheting around New York courtrooms. A ZCom sub-lessee, Shelly Bhumitra, has filed a lawsuit claiming ZCom and Verizon Wireless executive were involved in a phone activation scam. Verizon Wireless has also filed a lawsuit against ZCom in an attempt to cancel their business agreements on the basis of ZCom engaging in fraud.

FAO reports 8.2 pct food inflation in L America and Caribbean

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—BlackBerry maker Research In Motion’s share of the US smartphone market slipped over eight percentage points during the three months ending in November, while Apple and Google’s Android platform both made gains, industry tracker comScore said Thursday.

The Waterloo, Ontario-based RIM saw its share of US smartphone subscribers fall 16.9 percent to 13.8 percent in the three months ending in November from 19.7 percent at the end of August, according to comScore.

Android was the top smartphone platform with a 46.9 percent share of the US market at the end of November, up from 43.8 percent.

Apple’s market share also rose during the period — by 1.4 percentage points to 28.7 percent.

Microsoft, meanwhile, saw its share of the smartphone market fall to 5.2 percent from 5.7 percent.

RIM share of US smartphone market slips

New York, 30 Dec—Old prices erased morning losses and ended moderately higher on Thursday even after report showed the US crude stockpiles rose unexpectedly last week.

Light, sweet crude for Feb. delivery added 29 cents, or 0.29 percent to settle at 99.65 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Verizon Wireless has tried to inflate its number of phone activations to raise the company’s value, a lawsuit filed in New York says.

Crude up moderately despite inventory build

Wendy’s in Tokyo launches $16.50 burger

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—Verizon Wireless with fraud

The industry tracker said 234 million Americans were using mobile devices and 91.4 million were using smartphones.

Samsung remained the top handset manufacturer in the United States with 25.6 percent of US mobile subscribers at the end of November, up from 25.3 percent at the end of August.

Apple’s share of US mobile subscribers rose to 11.2 percent from 9.8 percent while RIM saw its market share drop to 6.5 percent from 7.1 percent.

RIM has been struggling in recent months and has been the subject of persistent takeover speculation.
**‘Brainless’ fish found off Scotland**

**INTERNET**

**Science**

**New island rising from Red Sea**

**INTERNET**

**Gene identified in increasing pancreatic cancer risk**

**INTERNET**

**Technology**

**Amazon says 2011 ‘best holiday ever’ for Kindle**

**INTERNET**

**Google beats Facebook and Yahoo! as the top US web brand in 2011**

**INTERNET**

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**Brainless’ fish found off Scotland**

Orkney, 30 Dec — A marine survey around islands off Scotland has found a fish-like creature without a face or a brain, researchers said.

The creature and others were recorded during a government-backed survey of the waters around Scotland’s coast, using underwater video and 3D images, the BBC reported Wednesday.

The survey recorded the prehistoric “faceless and brainless” amphioxus off Orkney, scientists said.

**INTERNET**

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**Sperm study could help couples conceive**

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 Dec — US researchers say studying electrical currents in sperm cells may offer hope to infertile couples but also may lead to an effective male birth control pill.

University of California, San Francisco, biologists Yuriy Kirichok and Polina Lishko have uncovered how progesterone — a hormone involved in menstruation and embryo development — switches on a sperm’s internal electricity.

The electric current kicks sperm tails into overdrive, powering the final push toward the egg, the husband-and-wife researchers said.

Sperm that fail to respond to progesterone’s signal could help explain why some couples have difficulty conceiving, Kirichok and Lishko, both Ukrainian immigrants, said.

The researchers have been using a technique called “whole-cell recording” to perform some of the world’s first electrical recordings from human sperm to map out a key process in fertilization.

“For the first time, we have a reliable method to record, in a very direct fashion, the molecules that control male fertility,” Kirichok told the San Jose Mercury News.

“Now I believe the field will move faster.” And if progesterone molecules excite sperm tails, then blocking them with some drug that keeps progesterone from interacting with sperm could lead to an effective male birth control pill, researchers said.

**INTERNET**

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**Google beats Facebook and Yahoo! as the top US web brand in 2011**

San Francisco, 30 Dec — Google was the most visited US web brand in 2011, defeating social networking site Facebook and its rival internet giant Yahoo! to gain the top spot.

An average of 153.4 million people visited the site each month in the US in 2011, according to data published Thursday in Cancer Discovery, the latest journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most morbid cancers, with less than five percent of those diagnosed with the disease surviving five years. Approximately 10 percent of patients come from families with multiple cases of pancreatic cancer.

There was significant reason to believe this clustering was due to genetics, but we had not, to this point, been able to find the causative genes that explained the cluster of pancreatic cancer for a majority of these families,” said lead author Alison Klein, associate professor at Johns Hopkins University and director of the National Familial Pancreatic Tumor Registry.

**INTERNET**

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**Technology**

Amazon says 2011 ‘best holiday ever’ for Kindle

Seattle, 30 Dec — Online retailer Amazon says 2011 was the best holiday ever for its Kindle-brand e-readers and tablet computers. Amazon.com Inc. said Thursday that people bought more than 1 million Kindles each week in December.

The company has never released specific sales figures for the Kindle. Since the launch of the first Kindle in 2007, this franchise has grown to include several e-readers and the Kindle Fire tablet. The Kindle Fire is expected to be one of the first true competitors to Apple’s iPad.

Amazon says the Fire has been the best-selling product on its site since its introduction 13 weeks ago. Even so, the iPad is still expected outside all other tablets, including the $199 Kindle Fire and Barnes & Noble Inc.’s new $249 Nook Tablet. The iPad starts at $499.

This file photograph taken on 28 Sept, 2011, shows the Kindle Fire at a news conference in New York.

Online retailer Amazon said Thursday, on 29 Nov, 2011, it was the best holiday ever for its Kindle-brand e-readers and tablet computers.

**INTERNET**

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**Science**

**New island rising from Red Sea**

**INTERNET**

**Gene identified in increasing pancreatic cancer risk**

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — Mutations in the ATM gene may increase the hereditary risk for pancreatic cancer, according to data published Thursday in Cancer Discovery, the latest journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Google was the most visited US web brand in 2011

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Tourist arrested with loaded gun at 11 September memorial

New York, 30 Dec—A tourist from Tennessee was arrested after she brought a loaded handgun to the National 11 September Memorial in her handbag, and she could face a possible prison term, authorities said on Thursday.

Martha Graves, 29, was trying to visit the New York City memorial on 22 December but was arrested when she told security officers that she had a gun, apparently thinking she could check it for safetykeeping, authorities said.

Security is tight at the memorial, located at the site of the World Trade Center towers destroyed in the attacks of 11 September, 2001. Tickets for the memorial must be reserved online, and visitors pass through airport-style security screening.

More than a million people have visited the site since it opened to the public on 12 September, a memorial spokesman said.

 Graves told officers at the memorial that she had a permit to carry the concealed .32-caliber handgun in Tennessee, but such permits are not valid in New York, police said.—Reuters

Police arrest fifth man, see Indian murder as hate crime

London, 30 Dec—British police said Thursday they were treating the murder of an Indian student in northwest England as a hate crime, as they arrested a fifth person in connection with the shooting.

Anuj Bidve, a 23-year-old postgraduate student, was shot in the head at close range early Monday in Salford, near Manchester, while he was out with other Indian friends. A 20-year-old man on Thursday became the fifth person to be arrested on suspicion of Bidve’s murder, joining a 16-year-old, two 17-year-olds and a 19-year-old in police custody.

Chief Superintendent Kevin Mulligan said there was no evidence to suggest the murder was racially motivated, but that police were treating it as a hate crime. “We have not established a clear motive for the senseless murder of Anuj, and there is no definitive evidence pointing to it being racially motivated,” he told a Press conference.

“We however are treating this as a hate crime based on the growing perceptions within the community that it was motivated by hate,” Mulligan said that regardless of the motive, “we’ve got significant resources committed to it and we’ll leave no stone unturned in trying to find those responsible for this awful crime.”

He said police had searched a number of properties in the area, were conducting forensic and ballistic tests as well as house to house inquiries, and were tawling through CCTV footage from the night of the attack.—Internet

A photo provided by Greater Manchester Police shows Indian student Anuj Bidve who was shot dead in Salford, a borough of Manchester, on 26 December as he walked from his hotel with friends—Reuters

Two killed, dozens injured in 40-car pile-up near New Orleans

New Orleans, 30 Dec—A 40-car pile-up near New Orleans in an area that has been blanketed by fog in recent mornings killed two men and injured dozens of other people on Thursday, tying up traffic for hours, police said.

The early morning chain-reaction crash took place on Interstate 10 just east of New Orleans, killing a 54-year-old man who was a passenger in a truck and the driver of another truck, police spokesman Officer Gary Flot said.

Both men, residents of Louisiana, died on the scene but were not immediately identified. Another 23 people were transported to a hospital with injuries ranging from minor to critical, while 37 more declined treatment, Flot said.

The injured included a New Orleans mother who sustained a small cut to her face while assisting in the incident.

Reuters

Somali staff member kills 2 MSF aid workers in Mogadishu

Mogadishu, 30 Dec—A Somali staff member of Medecins Sans Frontieres shot dead two of the aid agency’s foreign workers in Somalia’s Capital Mogadishu on Thursday, police said.

Police spokesman Abdulrahman Barise said the gunman had been taken into custody. A Reuters witness said the man was dragged from the building, still holding a pistol.

“The man was armed with a pistol and we understand he had a quarrel with the coordinator. It’s very shocking,” Barise said. He said the gunman had worked as a logistics officer for the agency.

The MSF official, who declined to be identified, also said the Somali gunman had worked for the aid agency.

One of the aid workers was shot dead at the scene, and the other was wounded and taken to hospital, where he died of his wounds, according to police and medical staff at the hospital.

MSF said in a statement: “We confirm that a serious shooting incident has taken place in the MSF compound in Mogadishu. At this point we don’t have more information about the scale and the extent of this incident. MSF is doing everything it can to ensure the safety of its staff. It would neither confirm nor deny the deaths.

MSF, or Doctors Without Borders, operates in a number of locations in Somalia, providing emergency aid to people suffering from famine and the violence that has plagued the country for decades.

The attack happened in a bustling part of the capital which is under the control of government and African Union troops.

In mid-October, gunmen kidnapped two Spanish aid workers for MSF in Kenya, near the Somali border.

Somalia descended into chaos in 1991 after dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was ousted, and has not had a functional central government since.

Reuters

Ukraine ex-PM Tymoshenko moved to prison

Kyiv, 30 Dec—Former Ukrainian prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, sentenced to seven years in prison for abuse of office, has been moved to a prison from a detention centre where she has been held since early August, the state penitentiary service said on Friday.

The move indicated she was unlikely to go free any time soon despite pressure from the European Union, which considered her trial politically motivated and put off the signing of key agreements with Ukraine because of her sentence.

Tymoshenko is the fiercest opponent of President Viktor Yanukovych, who narrowly beat her in the presidential run-off in February 2010 after losing his earlier bid for the presidency because of the 2004 “Orange Revolution” protests, which helped lead to

A local court sentenced Tymoshenko to seven years in prison in October, saying she had exceeded her powers when forcing through a 2009 gas deal with Russia. Tymoshenko, who denies any wrongdoing, lost an appeal against the verdict one week ago.

Tymoshenko has been moved to a prison in the Kharkiv region,” the state penitentiary service said in a statement. The European Union, which had planned to initial agreements on political association and free trade with Ukraine at a summit this month, put off the signing and cited Tymoshenko’s case as an example of selective justice in the former Soviet republic.—MNA/Reuters

Five Bahraini policemen to face charges of torture in court

Manama, 30 Dec—Bahrain’s Public Prosecution on Thursday referred cases of torture and maltreatment carried out by Interior Ministry staff to the High Criminal Court.

Chief Public Prosecutor Nawaf Hamza said in a statement that the court case has been scheduled for 11 January, 2012, adding that the charges in the case included five members of the police force, “two of which were charged with torture and mistreatment of a detainee that led to death.”

The other three defendants were charged with negligence, for their failure to report the incident,” said Hamza.

The transfer is according to an order by the Military High Criminal Court to the High Criminal Court to refer cases of torture and maltreatment carried out by Interior Ministry staffs to the Bahrain’s Public Prosecution. The transfer is according to an order by the Military High Criminal Court.

The case was referred to the court after the Ministry’s luxurious police force intervened and arrested the suspects in the case.

The Public Prosecution relied on evidence ranging from confessions to workbooks and written documents seized in the possession of the accused policemen. The documents contained organizational plans and instructions for making bombs,” added Hamza.—Xinhua

Female inmates are seen at the bedroom area of penal colony number 54 in this January 1992 file photo, the same prison where former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko will be held after being sentenced to seven years for abuse of office, in Kharkiv.—Reuters

Profile case involving members in a sleeper cell planning to target the Saudi embassy in Bahrain and the Interior Ministry.

Hamza said that eight defendants are being referred to the High Criminal Court to be tried for espionage, as well as organizing, managing, and joining an illegal group. The first court hearing for the case has been set for 9 January next year.

The accused collared with a foreign country to provide military training for the sake of committing terrorist acts.”

“The Public Prosecution relied on evidence ranging from confessions to workbooks and written documents seized in the possession of the accused policemen. The documents contained organizational plans and instructions for making bombs,” added Hamza.—Xinhua

In the coming weeks, the Public Prosecution will be trying to espionage, as well as organizing, managing, and joining an illegal group. The first court hearing for the case has been set for 9 January next year.

The accused collared with a foreign country to provide military training for the sake of committing terrorist acts.”

“The Public Prosecution relied on evidence ranging from confessions to workbooks and written documents seized in the possession of the accused policemen. The documents contained organizational plans and instructions for making bombs,” added Hamza.—Xinhua

Visitors look at panels containing the names of the victims of the attacks, as well as one of the memorial pools, on the first day that the 9/11 Memorial was opened to the public at the World Trade Centre site in New York, on 12 September, 2011.—Reuters

A local court sentenced Tymoshenko to seven years in prison in October, saying she had exceeded her powers when forcing through a 2009 gas deal with Russia. Tymoshenko, who denies any wrongdoing, lost an appeal against the verdict one week ago.
China to develop new-generation launch vehicles: white paper

BEIJING, 30 Dec — China will develop new-generation launch vehicles, such as Long March-5, Long March-6 and Long March-7, in the next five years, a governmental white paper said Thursday.

The Long March-5 will use non-toxic and pollution-free propellant, and will be capable of placing 25 tonnes of payload into the near-Earth orbit, or placing 14 tonnes of payload into the GEO orbit, said the white paper “China’s Space Activities in 2011” released by the State Council Information Office.

The Long March-6 will be a new type of high-speed response launch vehicle, which will be capable of placing not less than 1 tonne of payload into a sun-synchronous orbit at a height of 700 km.

The Long March-7 will be capable of placing 5.5 tonnes of payload into a sun-synchronous orbit at a height of 700 km, according to the white paper.

The country will also conduct special demonstrations and pre-research on key technologies for heavy-lift launch vehicles, the document said.

Since 2006, Long March rockets have accomplished 67 successful launches, sending 79 spacecraft into planned orbits and demonstrating noteworthy improvement in the reliability of China’s launch vehicles. — Xinhua

Israel develops green pesticide

JERUSALEM, 30 Dec — Israeli scientists have developed an inexpensive environment friendly pesticide. Researchers, led by Shmuel Gan-Mor, at Israel’s Agricultural Research Organization (ARO), said they have developed an emission based on an edible oil that is effective against pests on tomatoes, zucchinis, peppers and other vegetables. The multispectral spray works against “diseases, insects, fungi and agricultural pests, such as mites, sternebrychyna, and powdery mildew”, Xinhua reported Wednesday quoting Gan-Mor. The pests were unable to develop a resistance to the mixture during the growing season, he said.

The agriculture and rural development ministry said that the new pesticide, which costs about USD 1 per liter, is safe for immediate harvesting and has a long shelf life. — Internet

US stocks slide on continuing European concerns

NEW YORK, 30 Dec — The US stocks dropped on Wednesday, with the S&P 500 back to negative territory for the year, as sentiment was still pressured by lingering European concerns.

Italy on Wednesday successfully sold 9 billion euro 6-month bonds at 3.251 percent, just half of the 6.4 percent yield last month, suggesting that the country’s borrowing cost significantly decreased. However, the positive news failed to lift the market as uncertainties remained on peoples’ mind.

The European Central Bank said that European banks deposited a record 452 billion euros overnight at the bank, reflecting that the banks were reluctant to fix the price of e-books in Europe.

Apple has also come under pressure from a bitter global legal battle with South Korean electronics giant Samsung, which accuses the US giant of infringing four of its patents with the iPhone.

Apple reported a record net profit of $6.62 billion (5.06 billion euros) in the third quarter of this year.

European antitrust officials earlier this month launched a probe to determine whether Apple and five international publishers struck illegal deals to fix the price of e-books in Europe. Apple has also come under pressure from a bitter global legal battle with South Korean electronics giant Samsung, which accuses the US giant of infringing four of its patents with the iPhone.

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Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham awards winners at 2011-2012 prize...

(from page 1)

fourth standards, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, the first, second and third winners in the mathematics skills contest for grade 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 and Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun, the first, second and third winners in the Olympic Mathematics Contest and posed for documentary photo with them.

Deputy Ministers U Than Tun, U Aye Myint Kyu, Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and Daw Sanda Khin also gave prizes and certificates of honour to the winners in the international painting competitions, international sports competitions and SEA Games, the 5th ASEAN Quiz Competition (National Level) and basic education teacher level, high school level, middle school level and primary level of the 2011 Myanmar ICT Award-Educational Project Competition.

Next, students of Nay Pyi Taw BEHS No. 12 sang the song "nationalistic spirit".

After the ceremony, the Vice-President cordially greeted those present and visited the booths on development of education.

Union Minister Dr Mya Aye presents medals and certificates of honour to outstanding students who won English language skills contest.—MNA

Relief aids provided for fire victims of Mingala Taungnyunt Tsp

Yangon, 30 Dec—Relief aids, including cash, were provided for the fire victims of Kadoseik Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, this afternoon.

At the donation ceremony held at Yakya Monastery in Pathein Nyunt Ward, Dr Myint Thein, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs, accepted 70 bags of rice, 80 viss of onions, 200 viss of various kinds of dried fish, 15 viss of fish sauce, 170 viss of shrimp paste, 15 viss of edible oil, 45 viss of gram, one bag and 3 packets of dried noodles and one bag of vermicelli donated by Dagon Ayeya Brokerage, Highway Bus Terminal, Bayintnang Brokerage and Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal; K 0.3 million by Dagon Ayeya Brokerage and Highway Bus Terminal; K 0.5 million by Bayintnang Brokerage and Bus Terminals; K 0.1 million by Nanthagon Bicycle and Parts Trading; K 0.3 million by Dagon Ayeya Brokerage, Highway Bus Terminal, Bayintnang Brokerage and Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal; K 0.3 million by Nanthagon Bicycle and Parts Trading; K 275,000 by Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal and K 2.5 million by U Aung Htwe.—MNA

64th Independence Day hailed with newly-opened road in Myaungmya Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Dec—Hailing the 64th Independence Day, the opening ceremony of tarred road on 6th Street at No. 2 Ward, which constructed by Myaungmya Township Development Affairs Committee, was held this morning.

It was attended by Ayeyawady Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Ko Ko and officials concerned.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Ko Myo (MNA)

As the nation is placing greater emphasis on environmental conservation, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has planned to form an environmental conservation department in the near future.

Moreover, the ministry is planning to reduce nationwide timber extraction phase by phase within a certain period. At some time, extraction will be carried out only for domestic needs.

Sales of raw materials will be completely stopped in a few years and wood-based industry will be prioritized.

Now that the nation’s forest area merely accounts for 24.6 per cent of the total land area, the ministry will take a systematic step to establish more internal and external protected forest reserves, it is learnt.

(Translation: ST)

In-charge Rector Dr Daw Khin San Yi of Yangon Institute of Economics and Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Chu Cong Phung made speeches. Rep: Chief Mr Vuong Thanh Long of BIDV representative office explained offering of scholarship.

The Vietnamese Ambassador and the Institute rector presented stipends to outstanding university students.

Next, Rector Dr Daw Khin San Yi presented certificate of honour to the Vietnamese Ambassador.
**F&R Ministry holds family funfairs, games, kitchen crops contest**

**NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—** To hail the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue held an awarding-ceremony of games, family funfairs and kitchen crops at Myanmar Economic Bank in Myanpan Thazin Road in Nay Pyi Taw Banks Zone here this morning.

Together with Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun and wife, Deputy Minister U Win Than, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyin, Managing Directors of the departments and enterprises of the ministry and wives and other ranks and their families attended the ceremony.

The officials concerned awarded the winners of the contests. Then, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Than Nyin presented first prize to Central Bank of Myanmar and second prize to Myanmar Economic Bank in Women’s Volleyball Contest, and Deputy Minister U Win Than presented first prize to the Customs Department and second prize to Central Bank of Myanmar in Men’s Volleyball Contest.

It was reported that Union Minister U Hla Tun awarded the winners in Kitchen crops contest, and the staff participated in lucky draw programmes happily.

**Basic computer course No. 3/2011 of SWRR concludes**

**YANGON, 30 Dec—** This concluding ceremony of basic computer course No. 3/2011 for service personnel of departments under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held at Social Welfare Training School on Kyak Kaing Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township here today.

On behalf of the Union minister, Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department made a speech. A total of 20 trainees attended the eight-week course.

**Insurgent group kills three workers from road construction site, seizes three others**

**NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—** Three workers from Mongpang, Monghtaw–Monghtaw road construction site were killed and three others, seized by an insurgent group. Those, namely, U Kyaw Win Thet, U Aung Htet Pyae, U Ye Zaw Aung, U Sai Aung Myat Lin, U Sai Owat, U Tin Tun Win and U Htin Ze, were lost on the way to the south of Mongpang from their worksites on 17 December. They were found dead while the authority concerned was searching for them at southeast of Naunglon village on 22 December.

The case is under investigation.—**MNA**

**Severe cyclonic storm “THANE” crosses Tamilnadu Coast in Southern India**

**NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—** According to the observations at (05:30) hrs MST today, the severe cyclonic storm “THANE” which formed over Southwest Bay is crossing Tamilnadu Coast, near Chennai in Southern India.

Under the influence of the very severe cyclonic storm, rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagain, Mandalay, Magway, Bagu, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 m/h.—**MVA**

**Donate blood**

**DISTRICT NEWS**

**Control of foot-and-mouth disease performed**

**THAKHIN, 30 Dec—** The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department give a talk on foot-and-mouth disease at Thakhin Township LBVD on 26 December.

Assistant Director Dr Cho Cho Tun of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Section explained eradication of the disease in upper Mekong region and outbreak of the disease and replied to queries raised by those present.

Officials of the department injected vaccine for foot- and-mouth disease to cattle and organized the local people for control of the disease.—**Myaana Alin**

**New gravel road put back into service**

**OTTWIN, 30 Dec—** Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, Ottwin Township Development Committee commissioned new gravel Shin Saw Pu Road on 27 December morning.

Local authorities formally opened the road that measures 640 feet long and 10 feet wide.—**Township IPRD**

**Funfairs for the disabled persons on 4 Jan**

**YANGON, 30 Dec—** Shwe eINtha Foundation (Yangon) will organize the Independence Day Funfairs for the disabled persons at the township sports ground in Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 4 January 2012.

Any disabled persons of Yangon Region may take part in the funfairs and may enlist at the foundation (head office), No. 797, room-104/ B, MAC Tower (II), Wadan Street (at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Street) in Lannawdaw Township, Tel: 2300332 and 215939.

**Rural development tasks undertaken**

**MONGHSAT, 30 Dec—** As part of efforts for ensuring rural development and poverty alleviation, maintenance of Monghsat-Mongkhok road section, building of 1600-gallon capacity water tank in Bahan Village of Mongkshok Sub-township and construction of Affiliated Basic Education Primary School are being undertaken in Monghsat Township.

Township Administrator U Naung Aye inspected progress of construction tasks and attended to the needs. The township administrator and party gave talks on eradication of poppy cultivation.—**District IPRD**

**Bayintnaung Brokerage donates blood**

**YANGON, 30 Dec—** The 13th blood donation was held at Bayintnaung Brokerage in Mayangon Township on 24 December.

Families of the brokerage donated K 1,060,000 to the.in-charge of National Blood Centre (Yangon). Next, families of the brokerage donated 320 blood bottles. The blood donors of the brokerage have so far donated 3917 bottles of blood up to 13th time and over K 22410000 to the National Blood Centre (Yangon).

Shopkeepers of the brokerage donated T-shirts, towels and foods to the blood donors.—**Myaana Alin**

**Loans disbursed to needy farmers**

**KYAUKKYI, 30 Dec—** Kyaukkyi Township Poverty Alleviation Committee of Bago Region disbursed loans to 1000 farmers at the township administrator’s office on 22 December.

Officials presented K 50,000 each to 1000 farmers from 30 village-tracts for six-month term. The loans were provided from the fund of Bago Region Government for agricultural purpose and investment in works of farmers.—**Kyemon**
**Engine fails on United Express flight**

SOUTH BURLINGTON, 30 Dec—Engine failure forced the landing of a United Express flight that had just departed from Burlington International Airport, operated by the regional carrier Mesa Airlines, headed for Chicago around 6 am EDT Wednesday but turned about minutes later after an engine failure, the Burlington (Vt) Free Press reported. They had an issue with the number one engine,” Patrick Sharrow, an operations specialist at the airport told the newspaper. “The number one engine was shut down. Shortly after the engine was shut down, they had an indication of possible smoke in the cargo hold.”

The plane, which holds about 70 passengers, landed safely and there were no reports of injuries, the Free Press said.—Internet

**Train-Car collision kills one in east China province**

HUFU, 30 Dec—A train collision occurred on a rural railway crossing Thursday morning in Ma’anshan, a city in east China’s Anhui Province, killing the driver of the car. Local authorities said the accident happened at about 5 am at the railway crossing on Nanhu Street. The accident left the car stuck on the railroad tracks, blocking railway traffic for two hours. No further casualties have been reported. Passenger train K432 was heading toward Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province, from Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi Province, when the accident happened in Anhui. Local authorities are investigating the accident. Xinhua

**Five dead in Kyrgyz explosion**

BISHKEK, 30 Dec—An explosion at a bulk oil depot in Kyrgyzstan Wednesday killed five workers, government officials said.

The Interior Ministry said an oil tanker at the Kanda-Oil bulk oil facility exploded, triggering a fire, the Kyrgyz news agency 24kg reported. The news agency said the initial information available was that the oil depot in the northern Kyrgyzstan community of Kandy belongs to a Kyrgyz-Russian joint company.

China’s official Xinhua news agency reported Kubabek Boronov, head of the Emergency Situations Ministry, said the fire had been extinguished.

A government committee ordered by Prime Minister Omurbek Babanov was to investigate the incident. Xinhua

**Fire in US Zinc mine traps three miners, injures two**

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—A fire in a zinc mine in the US State of Tennessee trapped three miners and injured at least two others on Wednesday, the AP reported, quoting local authorities. It was not clear yet how fire started midday Wednesday, said Sammy Solomon, captain of the New Market Volunteer Fire and Rescue in Jefferson County.

He said that some miners have escaped unharmed. The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency said that the fire started around 1:10pm eastern time.

Solomon noted that the fire on a drilling was about 800 feet deep, adding that he believed rescuers would be able to reach the trapped miners soon.

**Canadian skydiver died ‘swooping’**

PARRIS, 30 Dec—An experienced Canadian skydiver was performing a trick called swooping when he fell to his death in a pond in California, a skydiving business owner said.

Michael Ungar, 32, of Ontario, died Tuesday afternoon at the Perris Valley Skydiving facility, east of Anaheim, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld, manager of Perris Valley Skydiving, said the parachuting maneuver involves falling at speeds of as much as 50 mph, and then slowing down and leveling off a few feet above the ground.

He said Ungar’s chute was open when he was killed. “He was a confident skydiver who made a big mistake too close to the ground,” Brodsky-Chenfeld said.

Brodsky-Chenfeld said Ungar was a licensed instructor with more than 2,000 jumps to his credit, including several swooping maneuvers Tuesday. The Times said more than 140,000 jumps take place yearly at Perris Valley Skydiving. There have been 14 deaths at the facility since 2000, including five this year, the newspaper said.—Internet

**Monkeys in small groups fight more**

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—Small monkey groups may win territorial disputes with larger groups because some members of the larger groups avoid aggressive encounters, US researchers say. Scientists working at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute say individual monkeys in large groups who will participate in defending their home territory often choose not to participate in conflicts in which the larger group is the invader, giving smaller groups a “home field” advantage.

Researchers used recorded vocalizations to simulate territorial invasions into the ranges of wild white-faced capuchin monkey groups at the Smithsonian research station on Barro Colorado Island in Panama. Monkeys responded more vigorously to territorial challenges near the centre of their territories and were more likely to flee in encounters near the borders, they found, and defection by members of larger groups was more common than defection by members of smaller groups. These behavior patterns even the balance of power among groups and may explain how large and small groups are able to coexist, the researchers said.—Internet

**Will this monkey fight or flee? A study at the Smithsonian research station on Barro Colorado Island in Panama shows that the answer may depend on the size of the group it belongs to.**

**Folk artist Xie Yunxian (5th R) introduces the giant flour-made dragons to children in Wangle County, north China’s Shanxi Province, on 27 Dec, 2011. Xie spent 3 days making two 3-meter-long dragons with 125 kilogrammes flours to welcome the coming Chinese traditional lunar new year, the Year of Dragon.—Xinhua**
Russia submerges nuclear submarine to douse blaze

MURMANSK (Russia) 30 Dec—Russia said it had won the battle with a raging blaze aboard a nuclear submarine on Friday by submerging the stricken vessel at a navy shipyard after hours of dousing the flames with water from helicopters and tug boats. There was no radiation leak, authorities said.

Television pictures showed a giant plume of smoke above the yard in the Murmansk region of northern Russia as over 100 firemen struggled to douse flames which witnesses said rose 10 metres (30 feet) above the Yekaterinburg submarine.

"The fire has been localized," Emergencies Minister Sergei Shoigu told officials who were leading the firefighting effort from an emergencies control room in Moscow more than nine hours after the blaze began at 1220 GMT (7.20am EDT) on Thursday. Shoigu’s comments indicate the fire was still burning but that efforts to topically sink the submarine at the dock had succeeded in reducing the intensity of the flames.

Russia said the nuclear reactor had been shut down and all weapons had been removed from the 167-metre (550 feet) Yekaterinburg, which launched an intercontinental ballistic missile from the Barents Sea at a firing range thousands of miles away in Kamchatka as recently as July.

"Radiation levels are normal," a spokeswoman for the Emergencies Ministry said. "No one was injured."

After hours of trying to put out the flames, officials decided to partially submerge the hull of the 18,200-tonne submarine at the Roslyakovo dock, one of the main dockyards of Russia’s northern fleet 1,500 km (900 miles) north of Moscow. Local media reports were vague, but the blaze was believed to have started when wooden scaffolding caught fire during welding repairs to the submarine, which had been hoisted into a dry dock.

The submarine can carry 16 ballistic missiles, each with four warheads. Its nuclear reactor was not damaged in the fire and Russian navy submarine reactors are built to withstand enormous shocks and high temperatures.

"The reactor has been shut down and does not pose any danger," Interfax news agency quoted a source at navy headquarters as saying. Russia’s worst post-Soviet submarine disaster occurred in August 2000 when the Kursk nuclear submarine sank in the Barents Sea killing all 118 crewmen aboard.

President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin have been informed about the incident, said Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who oversees the military.

"The fire has been localized," a spokesman for the Emergencies Ministry said. "No one was injured."

Fisker recalls 239 Karma cars over battery defect

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—Fisker Automotive, the electric carmaker backed by actor Leonardo DiCaprio, is recalling 239 Karma plug-in hybrid cars in the United States due to a possible defect in batteries flagged by A123 Systems.

A123 outlined the problem in a 23 Dec memo. In some cases, hose clamps on batteries made for the Karma were not aligned properly, which could lead to a leak of coolant fluid and possibly an electrical short circuit.

In the worst case scenario, the coolant could seep into the battery compartment and cause a fire, Fisker told US safety regulators according a posting on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website on Thursday. Fisker said fewer than 40 of these vehicles are with consumers and the rest remain in dealer inventories. The vehicles, made for the 2012 model year, were built from July to November of this year. Scrutiny of electric vehicles has intensified recently after battery fires in some NHTSA crash tests of General Motors Co’s Chevrolet Volt. —Reuters

China executes 12 people in single day

Beijing, 30 Dec—China has executed 12 people in a single day, including a man who bombed a local tax office.

The official Xinhua News Agency says Liu Zhiheng was convicted and sentenced to death for detonating explosives outside a tax office in Changsha City in Hunan Province in July 2010. Four people were killed and 17 others wounded. Xinhua says the 52-year-old was venting anger over business losses.

Xinhua says China’s supreme court approved the death sentence of Liu and 11 others Thursday. All death sentences are sent to the supreme court for review and are usually carried out immediately if approved.

The other 11 people were convicted of crimes including murder and robbery.

China executes more people than any other country — around 4,000 people a year. —Internet

5.3-magnitude quake hits Bougainville region, Papua New Guinea

SYDNEY, 30 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Bougainville Region, Papua New Guinea at 22.25.50 GMT on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 50.005 km, was initially determined to be at 4.6515 degrees south latitude and 155.1991 degrees east longitude.

Abkhazia releases 2011 census results

Tbilisi, 30 Dec—Abkhazians make up 50.71 percent of Abkhazia, over which Georgia claims sovereignty and territorial integrity although the former pronounced independence in 2008.

Abkhazia has a population of 240,705, according to the final figures of the February 2011 census. A 2003 census put the population of Abkhazia at 214,000.

The combined light painting photo taken by Xinhua journalists respectively in China’s Hong Kong (top), Britain’s London, Belgium’s Brussels, France’s Paris and Egypt’s Cairo (from L to R, bottom) shows a smiling face and the sign of “2012”, to greet the coming New Year. —Xinhua

5.3-magnitude quake hits Vanuatu

SUVA, 30 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Vanuatu at 20:05:50 GMT on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 40.90 km, was initially determined to be at 18.7813 degrees south latitude and 168.1136 degrees east longitude.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 31 December, 2011

Abkhazia’s single day execution of 12 people is the highest number since August 2010 when 15 people were executed. —Xinhua

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INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER
TENDER NO. 3(T)AMD-FR(2011-2012)

1. Opened Tenders are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for the supply of following stores which will purchased in Myanmar Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wheel Tractor (90 HP, 75HP, 50HP)</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Heavy Duty Combine Harvester (Hold on Type)</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Tender closing date (6-1-2012) (Friday) (16:00 HR)

3. Tender documents are available at the Factory & Research Section of Agricultural Mechanization Department, Building No.(50), Naypyitaw, during the office hours.

4. For further detail please call 067-431242

AVAILABILITY OF OFFICE HOURS

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MY ORIENTAL CROWN VOY NO (015)

Consignees of cargo carried on MY ORIENTAL CROWN VOY NO (015) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged to the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the following:

- 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.

DMF M. Shafik

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: SONG WON ENTERPRISE CO LTD

Stricken Russian fishing vessel heads for New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 30 Dec—A Russian fishing vessel which was rescued from pack ice in the Ross Sea this week was now headed to New Zealand, local press reported Friday. The Sparta was led to open water on Thursday by a South Korean icebreaker, the Aron, whose crew helped repair a hole in its hull after it was pierced by ice on 16 Dec. Radio New Zealand reported.

Maritime New Zealand’s Rescue Coordination Center said the Sparta rendezvoused with a sister ship, the Chiyo Maru 3, on Thursday night to transfer fuel and provisions. The center said it would continue to monitor the Sparta, which is now sailing to New Zealand for permanent repairs.

Elephant poaching: ‘Record year’ for ivory seizures

BANGALORE, 30 Dec—More elephant tusks were seized in 2011 than in any year since 1989, when the ivory trade was banned, international wildlife trade group Traffic says. The group said elephants have had a “horrible year”, with 23 tonnes of ivory seized — representing at least 2,500 dead animals. Trade in ivory was banned in 1989 to save elephants from extinction. But it has continued illegally because of huge demand in Asia, where it is used to make decorative objects. “The escalating large ivory quantities involved in 2011 reflect both a rising demand in Asia and the increasing sophistication of the criminal gangs behind the trafficking,” said a statement from Traffic, which monitors the trade in wildlife products. “Most illegal shipments of African elephant ivory end up in either China or Thailand.”

The group said there had been at least 13 large seizures of ivory this year, amounting to more than 23 tonnes, compared to six last year of less than 10 tonnes. “In 23 years of compiling ivory seizure data, this is the worst year ever for large ivory seizures. 2011 has truly been a horrible year for elephants,” Traffic’s elephant expert Tom Milliken said.

Elephant tusks are in huge demand in Asia.—INTERNET

The group said the seizures appeared to have shifted away from using air to sea — in early 2011, three of the large scale ivory seizures were at airports but later in the year most were found in sea freight.

“The only common denominator in the trafficking is that the ivory departs Africa and arrives in Asia, but the routes are constantly changing, presumably reflecting where the smugglers gamble on being their best chance of eluding detection,” it said. In six of the 12 large seizures, Malaysia was a transit country in the supply chain, Traffic said.

In the most recent case on 21 December, the Royal Malaysian authorities seized hundreds of African elephant tusks worth about $1.3 million (€844,000) that were being shipped to Cambodia.—INTERNET

Before military radar was invented, soldiers used these equipment to detect the enemy planes during the wars.—Xinhua

25 injured as Bangladesh’s police clash with oil, gas protection activists

DHAKA, 30 Dec—At least 25 people were injured in Bangladesh’s capital on Thursday as policemen clashed with leaders and activists of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port when they tried to lay siege to the country’s Energy Ministry. The committee’s leaders and activists held a rally in front of Dhaka’s National Press Club on Thursday morning demanding the implementation of seven-point demand which include cancellation of rental power plant agreements and gas export deals with the American oil company ConocoPhillips. After the rally, the agitating activists brought out a procession to Energy Ministry to press home their demands. As the precisionists insisted on marching ahead, police fired a number of tear gas canisters and batons.

The committee leaders claimed at least 25 activists were injured during police action. A Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman was not immediately available to comment on the claims. “The demonstrators first hurled stones at police,” a senior policeman said, who requested to remain anonymous.

But the committee’s convenor Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah said it was the police that started charging them with batons without any provocation. Shahidullah said his committee demanded cancellation of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) — a key issue.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man ‘stalked’ UK pop star’s mum

A man has appeared in court after allegedly stalking the mother of ‘X Factor’ winner Joe McElderry. Eileen Joyce complained to police that she was followed at Asda in South Shields, UK, on Christmas Eve. Ennis McBride (52), of Roseview Road, Stockport, in Greater Manchester, was arrested and charged with harassment.

Woman gave out cash after robbery

A woman suspected of robbing a Boston bank was caught a short time later handing out dollar bills to children at a park. The court heard she walked into the Citizens Bank, passed the teller a note demanding money and warned she had a gun. She got an undisclosed amount of cash and left in a taxi. Jasmin Rivera was ordered to undergo a mental health evaluation when she appeared in court on Thursday.

Officers banned from charging up

A British police force has banned officers from charging up their mobile phones and MP3 players at work as it tries to save £20m (+$30.4m). Sussex Police said the new rule had the support of staff as it tries to save the cash by 2015. But the ban will save only a year’s worth of funding.

Chief proposed with stolen ring

A man proposed to his girlfriend with a stolen engagement ring — she said ‘yes’, but the only thing landed him in custody. Police in Vermont, US, said Ryan Jarvis (25) had been charged with stealing the two,379 solitaire ring from a jewellery store, after officers viewed a facebook post by his girlfriend.

Fire breaks out at Moscow University, 500 evacuated

Some 500 people were evacuated after a fire broke out at the Moscow University early Friday, the local Tass news agency reported. The fire was later extinguished, and there has been no report of casualties from the incident, said the report.
Amateur Yan Donglong, a fire in a petrole, blast, sprengt the SenBhola ForestTheme Park, Fagong county, South China’s Guangdong Province, on 25 April, 2011. Yan, 32, also known as “Fire King,” is challenging the Guinness World Record for “Running the longest distance while on fire.” And Yan plays the most items with fire. The previous record holder is the British amateur Keith Malcolm, who ran 295 feet (about 80 metres) while on fire. Yan can perform a 30-minute stunt showing more than 20 fire playing items, including “swallowing fire” and “spitting on fire.” The park is contacting the Guinness China office to help Yan declare two records.

**2011 name changes include Pink Nice**

Officials said the 10,000 Britons who had their names legally changed this year include a woman who dubbed herself Pink Nice. The Legal Deed Poll Service said a Nottingham, England, mother of three changed her name from Charlotte Price to Pink Nice. The Independent reported Monday.

Other name changes in 2011 included a pair of best friends who are now believed to have the longest names in Britain. Daniel Knox-Hewson, 23, changed his moniker to the Emperor Spiderman Gandalolf Wolverine Skywalker Optimus Prime Felix Sokka Sonic Xavier Rya Cloud Superman Heman. Meanwhile Harris Sebastian, 19, became Baron Venon Balorg Sabretooth Vader Megatron Vegeta Robotnik Magneto Bison Sripoth Lex Luthor Skeleton Joker Grind.

**‘Forrest Gump,’ ‘Bambi’ included on film registry**

WASHINGTON, Dec — "Forrest Gump,” “Bambi” and “Stand and Deliver” are to be included in the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress in Washington.

Library of Congress James H Billington Wednesday announced the titles of the films to be preserved as “cultural, artistic, and historical treasures.”

These films are selected because of their enduring significance to American culture,” Billington said in a statement.

**Tom Hanks arrives for the “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” premiere at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York on 15 December, 2011.**

In many preserved “cultural, artistic and historical treasures.”

Spanning 1912-1994, the films named to the registry include Hollywood classics, documentaries, animation, home movies, avant-garde shorts and experimental motion pictures.

This year’s selections bring the number of films in the registry to 755.


**Man pays parking ticket 58 years later**

Parking ticket payment and procrastination just go together. But a man took 55 years to pay Houston a parking ticket. He received the day he joined the US Army. Dale Crawford, now 79, said he found the citation while going through memorabilia. KHOU-TV, Houston, reported. He said he didn’t know the ticket existed, but when he saw the date — Feb. 3, 1953 — he remembered he “became a member of the United States Army on that day.”

Crawford went off of service and left the 1946 Nash at a parking meter for his dad to pick up. But dad was late. Hence, the $1 parking fine. City officials say parking tickets now cost $35, plus $1.50 for every hour they’re late.

“We are so impressed with him coming forward that we have waived penalties and interest,” Mayor Annise Parker told KTRH21Dec. “No, it will not make any dent in the city’s budget problems, but I hope his example is one other Houstonians will follow.”

It’s a matter of personal responsibility, Crawford said, explaining. “It’s only a dollar. But it’s still a debt.”

**Singer catches dive-bombing pigeon**

A New York opera singer who moonlights as a wildlife rehabilitator said she is helping a dive-bombing pigeon get rid of his bad habits. Jennifer Dudley, a mezzo-soprano who has worked at the Metropolitan and City operas, said she became interested in Fred the pigeon when she read a New York Post article about the bird dive-bombing police officers and dropping his feces on visitors to the 11 Sept., memorial, reported Monday.

Dudley said she studied the bird and determined he was suffering from depression, a symptom of illness for the bird. She said she spent 10 days building a “bird house” to keep his schedule. Dudley is helping him feed him before she was able to catch him Tuesday.

“Tied him home in a cab, and he was extraordinarily friendly,” she said. “He insisted on perching either on my hand, shoulder or head.”

Donna Hanover joins ‘Best Man’ cast

**NEW YORK, Dec — Television person and former first lady of New York, Donna Hanover has joined the cast of the Broadway revival of 25 September “The Constant Wife,” reported Monday. Kim Cattrall, who dated Jerry Frankel before she married him, will play the title role, and Michelle Pfeiffer will play her sister. Hanover’s role is still being kept secret.**

Donna Hanover, former wife to Rudy Giuliani and current wife to Richard Gere, joins the cast of the Tony Award-winning revival. Hanover and Gere are former co-stars on the popular show “Law and Order.”

**‘Christmas’ No 1 on US album chart**

LOS ANGELES, Dec — Michael Buble’s “Christmas” is No 1 on the US album chart for a fifth consecutive week. Billboard reported Wednesday.

Coming in at No 2 on the Billboard 200 is Adele’s “21,” followed by Young & Jeezy’s “TM 103 Hustlerz Ambition” at No 3. Justin Bieber’s “Under the Mistletoe” at No 4 and Drake’s “Take Care” at No 5.

Bublé rounds out the top selling album spots with Lady Antebellum’s “Own the Night” at No 6, Rihanna’s “Talk That Talk” at No 7, Nickelback’s “Here and Now” at No 8, the Black Keys’ “El Camino” at No 9 and “Now 40” compilation CD at No 10.

**Man crashed into station wall**

Chicago Police said no one was injured when an intoxicated man crashed his vehicle into the wall of the Gresham District police station. Police said there was only minor damage to the building early Monday when Andrew Walker, 36, drove his 1987 Chevy Caprice onto the sidewalk and smashed the concrete wall before driving away from the scene, the Chicago Tribune reported Monday.

**Canadian singer Michael Buble attended a signing of his illustrated memoir “Once Upon, Offstage” at Waterstone’s, Piccadilly in London on 14 Oct, 2011.**

**Canadian singer Michael Buble attended a signing of his illustrated memoir “Once Upon, Offstage” at Waterstone’s, Piccadilly in London on 14 Oct, 2011.**

**Hair loss treatment is in no way beneficial to male pattern baldness, the researchers said.**

**Jim Carrey dates Russian student**

NEW YORK, Dec — Hollywood comedian Jim Carrey has been spotted dating Anastasia Vitikina, a student from Russia, the New York Post daily reported. The daily reports, the 49-year-old actor, known for his roles in “Ace Ventura,” “The Mask,” and “Dumb and Dumber,” among many other US blockbusters, could be dashing Vitikina since last year, after he broke up with Playboy magazine playmate Jenny McCarthy.

Vitikina, who is a student in New York, used to date Carrey’s friend David Schonsmacher before she started going out with the Hollywood star, the daily said. The Russian is now busy flying between New York and California and she was last spotted together with Carrey at a Guns N’Roses concert in Los Angeles earlier this month.
Conor Sammon has earned a regular start after a clash with United’s Michael Carrick a straight red card by referee Phil Dowd the first meeting, he got the previous he should still be there. Mourinho. It’s plainly obvious that the Real Madrid boss will achieve the greatest managerial feat should he go on to win La Liga with the Spanish giants. The midfielder won six trophies under Mourinho at Stamford Bridge before the now 48-year-old left the club in 2007 after just three years at the helm. These included two Premier League titles, the FA Cup, two league and the Community Shield. Cole is adamant that Mourinho should still be at the London club, telling talkSPORT: “Of course they should have carried on [with Mourinho]. It’s plainly obvious he should still be there. He was a big, big influence on my career. I remember the first meeting, he got the lads together and said ‘listen guys, you haven’t won anything, you have done nothing in the game, if you stick with me we are going to win this league by April. “He was just great to play for, you knew where you stood. Looking back I played my best football under him. I won my most trophies under him.”

He used to get on my back so much but I can’t thank him enough for it. He saw something in me that I didn’t see in myself. If someone tells me I can’t do something, I want to show them I can do it. That’s why he’s a great manager and he’s a good guy as well.”

Lille’s Joe Cole says Chelsea should never have let go of Jose Mourinho

Paris, 30 Dec — Lille midfielder Joe Cole has said that former club Chelsea should still be under the stewardship of Jose Mourinho and that the club made the wrong decision by letting him go. The 30-year-old is also confident that the Real Madrid boss will achieve the greatest managerial feat should he go on to win La Liga with the Spanish giants. The midfielder won six trophies under Mourinho at Stamford Bridge before the now 48-year-old left the club in 2007 after just three years at the helm. These included two Premier League titles, the FA Cup, two league and the Community Shield. Cole is adamant that Mourinho should still be at the London club, telling talkSPORT: “Of course they should have carried on [with Mourinho]. It’s plainly obvious he should still be there. He was a big, big influence on my career. I remember the first meeting, he got the lads together and said ‘listen guys, you haven’t won anything, you have done nothing in the game, if you stick with me we are going to win this league by April. “He was just great to play for, you knew where you stood. Looking back I played my best football under him. I won my most trophies under him.”

He used to get on my back so much but I can’t thank him enough for it. He saw something in me that I didn’t see in myself. If someone tells me I can’t do something, I want to show them I can do it. That’s why he’s a great manager and he’s a good guy as well.”

Wigan’s Sammon wins red card appeal

London, 30 Dec — Wigan Athletic striker Conor Sammon has won his appeal against the red card he received at 40 yards on Boxing Day. The 25-year-old was shown a straight red card by referee Phil Dowd after a clash with United’s Michael Carrick on the halfway line during the first half. The score was 1-0 at the time of the dismissal, with Wigan—18th in the Barclays Premier League—going on to lose the game 3-0. Dimitar Berbatov scored a hat-trick. Sammon will now be available for Wigan’s crucial match at Stoke City on Saturday 31st December. Real Madrid will also make their training after Christmas break

Real Madrid return to training after Christmas break

Madrid, 30 Dec — Spanish first division league giants Real Madrid returned to training on Thursday after an eight-day Christmas break. Real said in a statement that Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo and the rest of the squad all returned to training. The squad divided into two groups and practised passes and changes in position in a closed door session. Ricardo Carvalho, the Portuguese fullback, returned to training for the first time from a ligament injury in his right knee suffered in early December. Real now sit at the top of the league table with 40 points, three more than nearest rivals Barcelona. They will face four matches in 11 days during the first half of January.

Djokovic beats Monfils in Abu Dhabi exhibition

Serbia’s Novak Djokovic returned to the Barclays ATP World Tennis Championship exhibition event on Thursday. Djokovic is coming off three Grand Slam wins after a tough 2011 season. The 24-year-old Serb ended his best season with two titles. Novak Monfils was runner-up at the ATP World Tour Finals last month. Djokovic will face Roger Federer in the semi-finals on Friday, and Rafael Nadal will meet fellow Spaniard David Ferrer. Ferrer earlier beat Wilfried Tsonga of France 2-6, 7-5, 6-2 in the six-man field of the $250,000 winner-takes-all exhibition. Djokovic said he’s not in top form and probably needs another week or two to be match ready. But he said he doesn’t plan to play any other warm-up tournaments. He added, “I was working on some things throughout the match. I was trying to find a good rhythm and I think I was playing really well for this stage.”

Djokovic said he looked forward to face his rival with match with Federer, who received a bye to reach the semi-finals.

England plans to rest shoulder injury in February

Abu Dhabi, 30 Dec — Rafael Nadal plans to take several weeks off after the Australian Open to recover from a nagging shoulder injury. The second-ranked Spaniard said on Thursday that his injury surfaced before the ATP World Tour Finals in November and that he was still “not 10 percent ready to perform at this level.”

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England manager Fabio Capello

England manager Fabio Capello called for an end to ‘stealing’ of young stars

London, 30 Dec — England manager Fabio Capello has hit out at an apparent theft of talent in national sides and has called on governing bodies to put a stop to the “stealing” of players at club level. The Italian has said England’s use of footballers with Turkish origin, especially at last year’s World Cup in South Africa, suggesting that players shouldn’t be able to acquire new passports to pick and choose which countries they can play for.

He told The National: “A line needs to be drawn. Richer clubs are talent-stealing and stealing players by bidding higher and not thinking about the consequences for those countries. Those clubs are acquiring new passports. Germany had five of Turkish origin who opted to represent them and we all know what happened. “Problems need to be addressed. Players can be bought, especially when they come from poorer backgrounds, where their families need the financial resources. “I do not accept that, having trained as a player, a different team can pop by and steal the player from me. Uefa should pass new rules allowing people to reap the seed that’s been sown instead of having talents leave when they receive a major offer. “I’ve spoken to Michel Platini and he’s resolute. In future, clubs will be forbidden to steal players from abroad at a young age.”

Capello is worried about the development of younger players and is adamant that he made an ethically correct decision in picking Danny Welbeck for England, despite his links to Ghana.

Lille midfielder Joe Cole

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Ekta Kapoor, Karan Johar to co-produce film!

New Delhi, 30 Dec—He is known for his candyfloss movies and designer dramas, and she excels at making experimental and real life-inspired stories. Together, Ekta Kapoor and Karan Johar, once rumoured to be a couple, are now ready to co-produce a movie.

“Ekta and I are super excited about the script we are producing together... will announce details as we cast the film and title it!!!” Johar posted on his Twitter page Wednesday. According to reports, the film will be a “love story with a twist”, and it will be directed by Akshay Roy.

“It will be interesting to see what Johar’s Dharma Productions and Ekta’s Balaji Motion Pictures will have to offer considering their different styles of filmmaking.

The rumour about Johar and Ekta’s romance had reached its peak when news of their wedding started doing the rounds three years ago. But they have been good friends since childhood, and have been looking forward to working together for a long time.

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(31-12-11 09:30 am - 1-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

• News Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation (Information & Communication)

• Skilful Marionette Performance of New Generation Artists

• Exotic Kha-Yin-Khwa Island News

• Be A Gorgeous Myanmar Belle (Part - I)

• News Be A Gorgeous Myanmar Belle (Part - II)

• News Venerable Kolon Monk

• News Myanmar Classic Song

• News A Visit To Kayah State

• News A Fever of Korean Excitement (Part-1)

• Myanmar Movies “Servant of Love”

MYANMAR TV

(31-12-2011) (Saturday)

7:00 am

1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

2. Morning News

3. Health Programme

4. International News

5. Martial Song

6. TV Drama Series

7. 64th Anniversary Independence Day Programme

8. Songs of National Races

9. Beautiful “ASEAN”

10. Independence Song

11. TV Drama Series


13. Cartoon Series

14. TV Drama Series

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14. TV Drama Series

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 31 December, 2011

Cyclone “Thane” lashes India’s south coast

Chennai, 30 Dec—Lashing rains and gale force winds bore down on India’s southeastern coast on Friday, disrupting power supplies and communication lines as Cyclone Thane landfall near the industrial city of Chennai, officials and witnesses said.

Packaging wind speeds of up to 125 kmp (77 mph) and accompanied by tidal surges of up to 1.5 metres (5 feet), Thane hit Tamil Nadu State, close to the former French colonial town of Pondicherry on Friday morning. Coastal villagers moved to relief shelters.

“Under the influence of this system, rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy falls at a few places and isolated extremely heavy falls would occur,” said the Indian Meteorological Department in its latest bulletin. “Gale wind speed reaching 120-130 kmph gusting to 145 kmph is likely along and off north Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry coasts during next 3 hours and then decrease gradually.”

Witnesses in Chennai and Pondicherry said trees had been toppled and there had been power outages throughout the night and disruptions in phone and Internet services in some areas. There have been no reports of casualties. Hundreds of people from fishing communities along north Tamil Nadu’s coast, and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh state, have moved to schools set up as relief centres until the weather system passes.

Free clinic opened

DaikU, 30 Dec—A ceremony to open MyintU free clinic was held in conjunction with cash donation to medical fund at the clinic on Aungchantha Street in DaikU on 27 November.

After opening the clinic, local wellwishers donated cash and medical equipment amounting to over K 6 million to the fund of the clinic.—Kyemon

District News

Teak, hardwood plants nurtured

HpaAn, 30 Dec—HpaAn Township Forest Department of Shan State (North) and Township Environmental Conservation Committee jointly motivated the local people of Hsuanlan Village in HpaAn Township to participate in weeding, watering and substituting teak and hardwood plantations and commercial teak plantations on 6 December.

Local people grew three teak saplings and 20 hardwood plants per household in last rainy season.—Kyemon

Signboards put up at plantations

YANGON, 30 Dec—The Head of Yawbye Township Forest Department and staff of Rakhine State put up signboards of the department at commercial ironwood plantations in Kunchentuang protected public forest, west of Yawbye, on 20 December.

The signboards were put up for cutting of fuel-wood and extraction of poles from the plantations.—Kyemon

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A mechanic works on a vehicle of BMW Monster team in the Dakar Village, located at the Apostadero Naval de Mar del Plata, property used by the organization of de Mar del Plata, property used by the organization of in the Dakar Village, located at the Apostadero Naval 400 km from Buenos Aires City, capital of Argentina, are outstanding in their field.”

A man is driving down a country road, when he spots a farmer standing in the middle of a huge field of grass. He pulls the car over to the side of the road and notices that the farmer is just standing there, doing nothing, looking at nothing.

The farmer replies, “I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize.” “How?” asks the man, puzzled.

“Although I'm not a writer or anything, I’m going to win a Nobel prize!”

“A Nobel Prize for what?”

“The Nobel Prize for Literature!”

The man gets out of the car, walks all the way out to the farmer, and says, “You got the right idea. But you’ve got to do something more...”

“Something more?”

“Yeah, do something...”

“I’m trying to win a Nobel Prize.” “How?” asks the man, puzzled.

“Well, I heard they give the Nobel Prize... to people who...”

“...do something?”

“Well, I heard they give the Nobel Prize... to people who...”
The Union Election Commission issued Announcement No. 51/2011 dated 29-12-2011, announcing dates for nomination, scrutinizing, revocation and announcement of Hluttaw representatives for constituencies of respective Hluttaws.

**Vacant Amyotha Hluttaw Constituencies**
- 1. Sagaing Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 3
- 2. Sagaing Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 7
- 3. Bago Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 7
- 4. Magway Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 4
- 5. Shan State Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 3
- 6. Ayeyawady Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 10

**Vacant Region Hluttaw Constituencies**
- 1. Kawa Township Region Hluttaw Constituency No. 2
- 2. Yekyi Township Region Hluttaw Constituency No. 2

The Union Election Commission has designated the following dates for nomination, scrutinizing, revocation and announcement of Hluttaw representatives for vacant seats in constituencies of respective Hluttaws.

(1) Starting date for nomination of Hluttaw representatives for constituencies of respective Hluttaws: 8th Waning of Pyatho, 1373 ME (16th January, 2012)
(2) Last date for nomination of Hluttaw representatives for constituencies of respective Hluttaws: 8th Waning of Tabodwe, 1373 ME (31st January, 2012)
(3) Last date for revocation of Hluttaw representatives for constituencies of respective Hluttaws: 11th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1373 ME (3rd February, 2012)
(4) Date for scrutinizing the nomination of Hluttaw representatives: from 14th Waxing of Tabodwe to 3rd Waning of Tabodwe, 1373 ME (from 6th to 10th February, 2012)

Chairman
Union Election Commission

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**Announcement of dates for nomination, scrutinizing, revocation and announcement of Hluttaw representatives for vacant seats**

1. Phakant Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
2. Mogau Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
3. Bhamo Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
4. Sagaing Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
5. Pale Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
6. Mungin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
7. Kyunsu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
8. Launglon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
9. Toungoo Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
10. Htantabin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
11. Thanapin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
12. Letpadan Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
13. Magway Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
14. Yezagyo Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
15. Myaying Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
16. Pakokku Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
17. Pwintbyu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
18. Zabathiri Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
19. Pobbahthiri Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
20. Dekkhanthiri Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
21. Ottathiri Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
22. Kyaukpadaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
23. Natogyi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
24. Mahaungmye Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
25. Tadali Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
26. Meiktila Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
27. PyinOoLwin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
28. Mawlamyine Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
29. Kawhmu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
30. Thongwa Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
31. Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
32. Mingala Taungnyunt Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
33. Hlegu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
34. Mayangon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
35. Kalaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
36. Pathein Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
37. Maubin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
38. Myaungmya Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
39. Wakema Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
40. Myaungngyi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency

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**LPDR delegation leaves Yangon after attending 10th Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities**

**Fire breaks out at BEHS No. 2 in Kamayut Tsp**

**Severe cyclonic storm “THANE” crosses Tamilnadu Coast in Southern India**

**Djokovic beats Monfils in Abu Dhabi exhibition**

**England manager Fabio Capello calls for end to ‘stealing’ of young stars**