Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Educative Show and Contest opened

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—The 4th Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Educative Show and Contest was opened at Aungmingala Bus Terminal in Pyinmana this morning.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Thant Shin, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee U Saw Hla and Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Major-General Kyaw Kyaw Tun formally opened the show and contest.


Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee U Saw Hla presented prizes to winners in the high and middle school level essay, poem, poster and primary level painting contests, open level poem and article contests and gave certificates of honour to officials of the ministries, wellwishers who contributed to decoration of the ceremony and members of the panel of judges.

Minister U Thein Nyunt delivered an opening address.

Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt presents prize to a prize-winner in 4th Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Educative Show and Contest.

Development of gymnastic sports discussed

YANGON, 7 Jan—Myanmar Gymnastics Federation organized the meeting on development of Myanmar gymnastic sport at its gymnasium in Kyawkasan Ground of Tamwai Township, here, this morning.

Deputy Director-General U Naw Tawng of Sports and Physical Education Department made a speech. President of MGF U Thein Win discussed a topic on turning out outstanding gymnastic athletes, gymnastic enthusiasts, former coaches and former medallists a topic on assistance for enhancement of gymnastic sports and general sector.

Later, gymnastic athletes demonstrated their excellent sport skills. —MNA

Elimination of illegal timber extraction, environmental conservation talked in Tamu

TAMU, 6 Jan—A talk on elimination of illegal timber extraction and environmental conservation was held at Pantha Village Basic Education Middle School (Branch) of Tamu Township, Tamu District, Sagaing Region, on 1 January.

Tamu District Forest Department Assistant Director U Kyaw Min Thein explained measures to be taken for elimination of illegal timber extraction and environmental conservation; District Information and Public Information Department Staff Officer U Mana Htan environmental conservation tasks and Township Forest Department Staff Officer U Aye Kyaw facts about forestry laws. Then, educative pamphlets were distributed to the local people.

District IPRD

Liver drug may cause serious side-effects

Ursodiol is also called ursodeoxycholic acid. Sold by several pharmaceutical companies under a variety of brand names, the drug is used to treat patients with a liver disease known as primary sclerosing cholangitis.

Sclerosing cholangitis is a condition marked by swelling, scarring and destruction of the bile ducts inside and outside the liver. The disease may occur in patients with other conditions, including autoimmune disorders, chronic pancreatitis and inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn’s or ulcerative colitis).

In a clinical study, patients given twice the recommended dose of ursodiol had improved serum liver test results, but overall had more serious adverse events — including swollen veins of the digestive tube, the need for a liver transplant, or death — compared with patients given a placebo.

Primary sclerosing cholangitis may also be associated with these serious events during progression of the disease.

Talks on anti-human trafficking held

BAGO, 7 Jan—A talk on anti-trafficking in person was organized by Bago District Police Force at the meeting hall of the commander of District Police Force in Bago on 2 January.

Four police officers gave talks on dissemination on prevention against trafficking in person to be undertaken by Bago District Police Force and role of MPF. —Myanma Alinn

World’s first chimeric monkeys created by fusing six embryos into one

London Olympics volunteers warned over social media use

Japan to shut nuke reactors after 40 years of use
Well done!
The people of Myanmar paid homage to the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic that was recently conveyed from the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar and made donations with great generosity. The cash and kind donations by Myanmar citizens in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay amounted to about US$ 4 million, 62 kinds of foreign currencies, various items of jewellery worth over K 985 million, gems and ornaments worth over K 1269 million, and five million Euro for carving Buddha image and related items to be kept at Buddha Tooth Relic Temple up to 20 December 2011.

Myanmar people have deep faith in the Lord Buddha. Despite paying homage in a short time, all the Myanmar people have been keeping the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic in their hearts and minds forever. Piety of Myanmar people was wonderful and their activities motivated the witnesses to say “Well done!”

Spending the various donations, a plan is underway to build a pagoda whose design is similar to Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon of the People’s Republic of China. Those people of Myanmar who made cash and kind donations while the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic was conveyed in Myanmar will be donors of that pagoda.

Everybody who pays obeisance to the pagoda would praise the generous donations of Myanmar people and say “Well done!” for their meritorious deeds. All the persons who performed meritorious deeds should maintain the great virtuous actions forever. Paying homage to the sacred tooth relic dedicating to the Lord Buddha as a cause will multiply meritorious activities as an effect for the devotees.

All the people must be dedicated to the Lord Buddha by paying homage and respects to the pagoda. As such, their activities will be deepest respects to be paid to the Lord Buddha in performing meritorious deeds in the past, present and in future.

Community Forest Users’ Group meets
MOHNYIN, 7 Jan—The Annual Meeting of Community Forest Users’ Group was held in Pinhe Village of Mohnyin Township on 31 December 2011.

Township Administrator U Sai San Win made a speech. An official of Township Forest Department explained rules and regulations of the department.

Project Officer U Moe Moe of Kachin Conservation and Community Forest (KCCF) also explained establishment of communal forests for environmental conservation and for benfitting the local people.

Community forests have been established in three villages of Patao Township, two villages in Waingma Township, one village each in Moguang and Myitkyina townships and three villages in Mohnyin Township, said Project Officer U Moe Moe.

Union Cooperatives Minister attends meeting of cooperatives development subcommittee
NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—The meeting on 1/2012 of the cooperatives development subcommittee for rural development and poverty alleviation, yesterday morning held at the Ministry of Cooperatives’ meeting hall, heard an address of Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint.

In his speech, the Union Minister said that monthly endeavours to accomplish the tasks need to be assessed in accord with the laid-out eight plans for the rural development and poverty alleviation; that the trainees who had finished the two-year diploma course of the cooperatives colleges are favoured so as to serve in cooperatives teams and companies or the Conco shops to be launched in livestock and breeding, forestry and agricultural schools; and that it needs to cooperate with GEC cooperatives teams in upgrading fisheries, breeding of milch cows and poultry farming.

The Union Minister yesterday noon attended the meeting of the subcommittee for livestock and fisheries development, took place at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.—MNA

Chairman of Union Civil Services Board U Kyaw Thu addresses coordination meeting of UCSB

UCSB holds coord meeting

Local sports
PYAY, 7 Jan—The Pyay Township Administrator’s Cup Football Tournament reached the final and prize awarding ceremony at Mingala Shwepyi Sports Ground in Pyay on 26 December afternoon.

Khiitaya Myothi Ward beat Hsandaw Ward 7-6 in the final match. The township administrator presented championship shield to the first prize winning team and officials, prizes to respective winning teams.

Namkhiam gets asphalt road
NAMHKAM, 6 Jan—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, Shwethinkha Education Development Project Office of UCSB.—MNA.

NLM 001

U Kyaw Thu addresses coordination meeting of UCSB.—MNA

4th Horizon Open Table Tennis Tournament 28-29 Jan
YANGON, 6 Jan—Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon), Myanmar Table Tennis Federation and Horizon Sport Academy will jointly hold the 4th Horizon Open Table Tennis Tournament at Horizon International School on Shukhintha Ringroad on 28 and 29 January.

The competition will be categorized as girls’ U-12, women’s U-15 and women’s open, boys’ U-12, men’s U-15, men’s 18, men’s amateur and men’s open individual classes.

Applications for the tourney may be taken out from Table Tennis Club of Ministry of Defence, Horizon International School (Po Sein Campus and Shukhinha Campus) and www.horizonmyanmar.com and may be submitted to the federation and the school (Po Sein Campus) not later than 23 January. For further information, dial 543926, 541085, 551795 and 551796.

Khiitaya Myothi wins Pyay Administrator’s Cup
PYAY, 7 Jan—The Pyay Township Administrator’s Cup Football Tournament reached the final and prize awarding ceremony at Mingala Shwepyi Sports Ground in Pyay on 26 December afternoon.

Khiitaya Myothi Ward beat Hsandaw Ward 7-6 in the final match. The township administrator presented championship shield to the first prize winning team and officials, prizes to respective winning teams.

Namkhiam gets asphalt road
NAMHKAM, 6 Jan—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, Kyarbyut road was opened in Namkhiam on 1 January.
Three freight trains derail in Indiana, cars burn

VALPARAISO, (Ind), 7 Jan.—Three freight trains derailed in northwest Indiana on Friday, leaving several mangled train cars on their sides along the tracks and forcing nearby residents to temporarily leave home as smoke billowed from the wreckage.

Two of six crew members were taken to the hospital after the accident that happened about 2:15 pm in an area of rural farmland northeast of Valparaiso, Porter County Sheriff’s Sgt. Larry LaFlower said. He said their injuries were not considered life-threatening.

A CSX train that had been pulling mostly empty tankers of ethanol stopped on the tracks and was rear-ended by a second train, LaFlower said. A third train on parallel tracks then came up and struck the derailed cars.

CSX said in a statement that there appeared to be no significant leaks or spills of hazardous materials, but that all loaded and empty hazardous materials cars were inspected.

Officials evacuated 50 to 150 homes within about a mile of the tracks as a precaution, LaFlower said, in part because officials were uncertain about the source of the billowing black smoke that lingered for hours after the accident.

“It’s unknown what is actually on fire. Once we get it out, we will be able to ascertain that a lot better,” LaFlower said.

Internet

10 NATO soldiers killed in Afghanistan since early January

KABUL, 7 Jan.—Ten service members with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) have lost their lives in the militancy-plagued Afghanistan since the beginning of this year.

The latest casualties for the military alliance in Afghanistan were the killing of four soldiers in the restive southern region on Friday, bringing its casualties to eight since Thursday and ten since the beginning of this year.

“Four service members of International Security Assistance Force were killed in a roadside bomb in south Afghanistan today,” the alliance said in a statement released here Friday.

However, it did not reveal the nationalities of the victims and the exact place of the incident.

Earlier, the military alliance in separate statements confirmed losing one and three service members in two separate incidents in the southern region.—Xinhua

Iran plans more naval exercises in Hormuz Strait

BIDDEFORD, 7 Jan.—Iran has announced plans for new military exercises in the world’s most important oil shipping lane. This is its latest gesture towards the West, as new sanctions threaten Tehran’s oil exports.

Real Admiral Ali Fadavi, naval commander of the Revolutionary Guards Corps, said exercises next month would focus directly on the Strait of Hormuz. Leading up to this, Iran held a 10-day drill which ended on Monday in neighbouring seas. Fadavi said Iran has full domination over the region and controls all movements within it.

Iran has threatened in recent weeks to block the strait if new sanctions harm Tehran’s oil exports. This week Iran warned they would take action if the United States sails an aircraft carrier through it.—Xinhua

Russian warships heading for Syria

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan.—The Russian Navy’s warships patrolling the eastern Mediterranean Sea were heading for a Syrian port, the state-owned Itar-Tass news agency reported on Friday. The warships were scheduled to arrive in Tartus, a point of logistics supplies of the Russian navy on Saturday, according to preliminary information.

“It is planned that the port of Tartus will be visited by a big anti-submarine ship of the Northern Fleet ‘Admiral Chabanenko’ and an escort ship ‘Yaroslav Mudry’,” Itar-Tass quoted a source with the Russian Navy as saying.

“Our ships are supposed to stay in Syria for several days,” the source said, without giving more details about the warships’ mission in the country.

Russian Navy dispatched their warships to the Mediterranean sea in November, and claimed the move was part of scheduled exercises and had no connection with the situation in Syria.

The warships, led by “Admiral Kuznetsov”, the country’s only aircraft carrier, have started their patrol missions in the Northeast Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea since 6 Dec to “ensure the security of the sea navigation and other Russian maritime economic activities,” according to Russian Navy.—Xinhua

Children, troops, police die in bloody Afghan day

KABUL, 7 Jan.—Six children, five soldiers, three policemen and a civilian died in another bloody day in Afghanistan’s long war on Friday, officials said.

The children and the civilians who were killed in a bomb planted in a garbage bin exploded in Tirin Kot, capital of Afghanistan’s southern Province of Uruzgan, police said.

Four other children who were playing nearby were wounded, said the police spokesman, Farid Ayel.

There was no obvious target for the bombing, although the home of a local police commander was nearby, he said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but this type of attack is regularly blamed on Taliban militants seeking to overthrow the Western-backed government of President Hamid Karzai.

Karzai condemned the killings, blaming them on “terrorists”.

Earlier in a day of violence in the war-weary country, five NATO soldiers were killed in two roadside bomb blasts, also in southern Afghanistan.

More than 560 foreign troops were killed last year in Afghanistan, where some 130,000 US-led troops are fighting the Taliban militancy alongside the Afghan army and police.

Also on Friday, a policeman turned his gun on his colleagues in their headquarters of Shahrez district, central Ghor province, killing two before being gunned down himself, deputy provincial police chief Abdul Rashid said.

In this photo released by US Navy, a US Navy SH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter provides support to a visit, board, search and seize (VBSS) team in a 7-metre rigid-hull inflatable boat, assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd (DDG 100) in the Arabian Sea on 5 Jan, 2012. Xinhua

US Navy rescues 13 Iranians taken hostage by Somali pirates

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan.—The US Navy said on Friday that it has rescued 13 Iranian hostages held by Somali pirates in Arabian Sea, days after tension escalated as Iran warned against the return to the Gulf by a US aircraft carrier strike group.

The US guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd, part of the USS John C Stennis aircraft carrier strike group which just departed the Gulf days ago, responded to a distress call from the Iranian boat Al Molai held by Somali pirates for more than 40 days, the US Navy said in a statement.

A US Navy team from the USS Kidd was taken by a helicopter to board the Iranian boat, called as a “mother ship” by the pirates, and detained 15 pirates, who surrendered quickly without any resistance.

“The Al Molai had been taken over by pirates for roughly the last 40-45 days,” said Josh Schminky, a Navy Criminal Investigative Service agent aboard the Kidd. “They were held hostage, with limited rations, and we believed they were fighting against their will to assist the pirates with other piracy operations.

The Iranians were freed and headed home after the US Navy team gave them food, water and medical care.

The rescue operation came amid rising tension between the US and Iran, whose military chief on Tuesday warned Washington on against sending the aircraft carrier back to the Gulf.—Xinhua

Internet
Health Tip: Make eating a family affair

It's easier to eat healthily when everybody in the family is eating the same nutritional habits. The American Academy of Family Physicians offers these suggestions to help the whole family eat healthy:

- Cook meals at home, together as a family.
- Encourage your kids to help you plan snacks and meals.
- Stock up on healthy snacks.
- Make sure your children understand they should only eat when they're hungry, rather than when they're bored or emotional.
- Make sure the whole family eats breakfast.
- Take turns putting down your forks and talking about your day during meals. —Internet

 CPUsFR 4(8).pmd 1/8/2012, 7:54 AM

Germans, Czechs warn on French breasts implants

PARIS, 7 Jan—Germany and the Czech Republic advised women Friday to have potentially faulty breast implants made by French firm PIP removed, but Britain said it was not convinced of the need. Germany’s Federal Institute for Medicines and Medical Products (BfArM) recommended that implants made by the firm at the heart of the scandal should be removed "as a precautionary measure". The Czech health ministry gave similar advice to up to 2,000 women there. And while Britain said there was no evidence requiring a general recommendation to remove the implants of some 40,000 women, it said those who had received them from the state-run National Health Service could have the prostheses removed free of charge. About 300,000 women in 65 countries are estimated to have received implants made by Poly Implant Prothése (PIP), which allegedly used an illegal industrial-grade gel that investigators say has led to abnormally high rates of ruptured implants. Some estimates of the number of women affected are higher. France has already advised the removal of the PIP implants, while 13 other countries in Europe and in Latin America have urged women to get regular checkups. Two of them of —Bolivia and Venezuela—are offering operations to have the prostheses removed. Australia, however, has said it found no evidence that the implants posed a risk. French police are investigating the now-defunct PIP and its founder Jean-Claude Mas. —72.

INTERNET

Brain power can decline from age 45

LONDON, 7 Jan—European governments can start to withdraw from the age of 45, not from around the age of 60 as is commonly thought, according to research published on Friday by the British Medical Journal (BMJ).—INTERNET

Researchers led by Archana Singh-Manoux from the Centre for Research in Epidemiology and Population Health in France and University College London observed 5,198 men and 2,192 women over a 10-year period from 1997. The volunteers were London civil servants aged between 45 and 70 who had been contributing data in a long-term health study. Over the 10 years, the participants were tested three times — for memory, vocabulary, and skills in aural and visual comprehension. During this time, there was a 3.6 percent decline in mental reasoning in men aged 45-49 and a 6.9 percent fall in those aged 65-70. The corresponding figures for women were 3.6 and 7.4 percent.

“Cognitive decline is already evident in middle age,” says the paper, which defines this as the years from 45 to 49. While findings should spur further research into spotting and braking cognitive deterioration, the authors hope. Many societies face an “exponential increase” in the number of elderly people as a result of increases in life expectancy, they note. “These changes are likely to have a profound influence on individuals’ lives and society at large, ” says the paper. “Poor cognitive status is perhaps the single most disabling condition in old age.”—INTERNET

Best Buy December sales fall

MINNEAPOLIS, 7 Jan—Best Buy Co says that weaker than expected traffic until the week before Christmas and low demand in Canada and Europe put a crimp in its December sales.

The largest US electronics retailer said Friday that revenue in stores open at least two years fell 1.2 percent. The measure is considered a key gauge of a retailer’s financial health because it excludes stores that open or close during the year. That’s an improvement from a 4 percent drop in the same period last year.

Still, Best Buy reaffirmed its annual guidance. December is a crucial month for retailers since the holiday period can account for up to 40 percent of annual sales. Best Buy is opening smaller stores and beefing up its online presence as it faces tough competition from discounters and online retailers.

“Based on our performance in December we continue to expect to achieve our annual guidance, despite customer traffic that was lower than expected until the last week before Christmas, which resulted in December revenue that was slightly lower than our expectations,” said CEO Brian Dunn.

CitiInvestment research analyst Kate McShane said the company tried to be more competitive on price and shoppers delayed purchases until the last moment.

Table computers, smart phones, appliances and e-readers were strong sellers. But TVs, digital cameras and video consoles and games were weaker. Total revenue was flat at $8.4 billion. Online revenue rose 26 percent. Domestically, revenue edged up less than 1 percent to $8.5 billion. But revenue fell nearly 2 percent to $1.9 billion. Revenue in stores open at least two years fell in Canada and Europe.

The company reaffirmed its annual adjusted profit guidance to $3.35 to $3.65 per share. Analysts expect $3.41 per share. Shares rose 78 cents, or 3.3 percent, to close at $24.22 Friday. Its shares are still near their 52-week low of $21.79 in early October. They are down 33 percent from their high of $36.13 set almost a year ago.—INTERNET

In this 25 Nov, 2011 file photo, customers shop at a Best Buy store in Burbank, Calif. Best Buy Co said on 6 Jan, 2012, that weaker than expected traffic until the week before Christmas and low demand in Canada and Europe put a crimp in its December sales. —INTERNET

Investors brace for European hit on earnings

NEW YORK, 7 Jan—Investors are about to find out if the economic woes in Europe are going to deliver a deep wound to US company earnings instead of the mere scratch that many expect.

The fourth-quarter reporting period kicks off next week, and all eyes will be on erosion in sales in Europe, where the debt crisis has propelled the region toward recession. This could dent positive sentiment just as investors start to focus on strong US growth.

Analysts believe that low US stock market valuations already factor in weakness from Europe for the fourth quarter, but there are concerns that earnings forecasts for 2012 have yet to account for deeper fallout. “There’s some unhealthy optimism that thinks somehow the US can decouple from the rest of the world,” said Shawn Hackett, president at Hackett Financial Advisors in Boynton Beach, Florida. “That is highly unlikely.”

Companies including tech heavyweights Texas Instruments and Hewlett Packard and others like insurer Merl, if have already cited fallout from Europe for reduced expectations. Analyst forecasts for fourth- and even first-quarter earnings have tumbled since the summer despite steady improvement in US economic demand.

While all 10 S&P 500 sectors have seen profit estimates cut, materials and financials have been the hardest hit. Other sectors that could get dragged down by Europe’s problems include the industrial, consumer and technology sectors. The overall S&P 500 forecast for fourth-quarter earnings growth has already been lowered, down to growth of 7.9 percent from 17.6 percent previously. —Reuters
Mercury influx into eco-system may have caused extinction 250myrs ago

According to Peter Kasting, a software engineer who frequently visited pages as loads are most notable on well as watch the site start autofill in the omnibar as what the user types and starts to type “D” and watch the site start pre-render with an eye control based on the addition of pre-rendering, Google Chrome 17 will also bring new improvements to the security of the browser. In the past, Google has simply protected users from sites that are frequently reported as offering malware. In Chrome 17, this protection will extend to the download manager. By protecting users from malicious downloads, Google hopes to halt malicious sites from attempting to convince the user to download a bad file. Chrome will analyze executable files and flag a warning to the user before they attempt to load the file. Google accomplishes this by matching up downloads with sites that have proven to be malicious or dangerous to users in the past. However, Google recommends that users should be wary of all files that are downloaded and Chrome 17’s new security feature won’t be able to provide protection for all malicious files that exist on the Internet.

Now, control your computer screen with your ‘gaze’

LG to roll out Google TV

Google Chrome 17 pre-renders pages you may visit

Google Chrome 17 pre-renders pages you may visit.
**The New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 8 January, 2012**

**Mexico nab key suspect in arson that killed 52**

Police in Mexico captured an alleged member of the Zetas drug cartel considered the mastermind behind a casino fire that killed 52 people in the northern city of Monterrey, authorities said Friday.

Jorge Domene, security agency spokesman for Nuevo Leon state, said Baltazar Saucedo Estrada is a main hit man who was sought on a 15 million peso, or $1 million, reward because of the casino attack. Saucedo, nicknamed the “Dog Killer,” was shown to reporters Friday in Monterrey in what has become usual procedure in drug war captures.

Domene said the suspect acknowledged he was involved in the Casino Royale arson and other high-profile crimes in routine confessions that may be permissible as court evidence.

The suspect told police the cartel targeted the casino because its owners hadn’t paid extortion money, a theory officials confirm. At least one of the casino’s owners has denied the claim to reporters.

Saucedo, 38, was arrested Thursday but lied about his identity, Domene said.

He added that Saucedo along with another man were detained by state police in Monterrey because they appeared suspicious. Police ordered the two men to stop their van, but they gave chase and crashed into a car.

Saucedo was identified hours later as he was being fingerprinted.

Authorities have arrested 17 of 33 suspects in the 25 August casino arson. None have gone to trial.

In October, the Mexican army captured a top cartel lieutenant of the Zetas who allegedly ordered the attack.—*Internet*

**London Olympics volunteers warned over social media use**

LONDON, 7 Jan— Volunteers working at the London Olympics have been warned not to give away breaking news about athletes or disclose the location of politicians and celebrities through online comments or pictures posted on social media sites.

Organizers are in the process of recruiting 70,000 unpaid volunteers to help run the Games from 27 July – 12 August.

Britain said last month that it would provide up to 13,500 troops to protect the Games after organizers said security needed to be doubled. As well as the athletes, many world leaders traditionally visit the Games at some point.

Organizers are also keen to ensure that sponsors who help to fund the Olympics are the only companies able to market their brand names. A spokesperson for the London Organizing Committee said that security was one concern, but that it was normal for organizations to explain how workers should use social media.

“We understand that many of our Games Makers (volunteers) will want to use social media to share their exciting experiences at London 2012 with their friends and family,” the spokesperson said.

“As is standard in most organisations, we have provided some practical guidelines to give basic advice on interacting in a social media environment with the aim of protecting the interests of our workforce and operation,” he added. —*Reuters*
**Tanker encounters ice near Bering Sea island**

ANCHORAGE, (Alaska), 7 Jan—A Russian tanker carrying fuel for an ice-in Alaska city that without a delivery could run out of crucial supplies before winter’s end encountered ice early Friday in the eastern Bering Sea.

The ice was not a surprise. The 370-foot tanker *Renda* will have to go through more than 300 miles of sea ice to get to Nome, a city of about 3,500 people on the western Alaska coastline that did not get its last pre-winter fuel delivery because of a massive storm.

If the delivery of diesel fuel and unleaded gasoline is not made, the city will likely run short of fuel supplies before another barge delivery can be made in spring.

If the mission is successful, it will be the first time petroleum products have been delivered by sea to a Western Alaska community in winter.

The Coast Guard said the Russian tanker came upon ice about a foot thick very Friday near Nunivak Island, a large island in the eastern Bering Sea. The tanker is following the Healy, the Coast Guard’s only functioning icebreaker—a ship of special design with a reinforced hull made to move through ice.

The icebreaker should have no problem getting through the ice even if it becomes several feet thick, said Coast Guard Petty Officer First Class David Mosley.

“In the worst-case scenario, it might stop and back up and ram their way through the pressure ridges, where it gets really thick,” he said.

The icebreaker is creating a path through the ice for the tanker.

The *Renda* left Russia in mid-December after the barge delivery of 1.6 million gallons of fuel failed and Nome became iced-in for the winter. The tanker is carrying more than 1 million gallons of diesel fuel loaded in South Korea and 300,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline picked up in Dutch Harbor in southwestern Alaska.

**Green Beret released on bond in airport bomb case**

SAN ANTONIO, 7 Jan—An Army demolitions expert who was arrested New Year’s Eve for trying to carry explosives onto a commercial airplane in Texas was ordered released Friday on a $50,000 unsecured bond.

Green Beret Sergeant First Class Trey Scott Atwater was arrested at the Midland, Texas, airport after security screeners found 2.5 pounds of C-4 explosives and about 20 feet of detonating cord in his bag, which he grabbed from his North Carolina home when he prepared to fly home to Texas for the Christmas holidays.

Airport screeners apparently failed to detect the C-4 on the outbound flight.

Prosecutors said Atwater did not pose a flight risk, and his military escorts agreed to report any bond violations.

“The government has uncovered no information that would suggest that Atwater intended harm to any aircraft, or to the flying public,” Assistant US Attorney John Klassen said in a brief court hearing. “The government believes that with close supervision by the court and by the United States Army, Sergeant Atwater will not pose a danger.”

**Chile blames deadly fires on Mapuche Indian terror**

SANTIAGO, (Chile), 7 Jan—Chile’s government said Friday that many of the wildfires burning out of control in Patagonia were set intentionally, and blamed a Mapuche Indian group that has long struggled to regain its ancestral lands for starting the blaze that killed seven firefighters.

The body of the seventh firefighter killed while trying to contain a blaze on the property of the Mininco Forestry company was recovered early Friday.

Interior Minister Rodrigo Hinzpeter directly named the “Coordinadora Arauco Maliqueo” group, whose leaders have been accused and in some cases convicted of violent attacks on forestry company property. He noted that only days earlier, the group burned a helicopter that would have fought the deadly fire. “Based on this, one can conjecture and say that the group is behind other fires that could be intentional,” Hinzpeter told reporters.

President Sebastian Pinera also said the wildfires appear to be acts of terror: “Behind this premeditated and criminal conduct is hidden activity of a terrorist nature.”

Hector Rebollido, the fire chief whose men were killed, said earlier this week that people were seen making charcoal in the area before the fires broke out, but regional authorities later determined that the deadly blaze appeared to have started simultaneously in 50 places—a clear sign of arson.

The forestry worker’s union, which has tried to organize the firefighters, blamed Mininco for their deaths, accusing the company of leaving poorly trained and supported firefighters in unsafe conditions.

Mapuche activists did take responsibility for destroying the forestry company helicopter and several bulldozers, which it said were operating “illegally” on Indian territo.

Much of the area’s forests were sold off after Gen. Augusto Pinochet dictatorship expropriated them from the Indians, and governments since then have failed to reach an accord that satisfies all the Mapuche’s demands.

“My people also lament these deaths, just as they have destroyed our mother earth” Mapuche spokesman Sativald Llanquesq tweeted Friday in response to an Associated Press request for comment.

**Seven whales die in New Zealand stranding**

WELLINGTON, 7 Jan—Conservationists in New Zealand were struggling Saturday to save 18 long-finned pilot whales after a mass stranding in which seven of the animals died.

The surviving whales had been refloated but appeared to lack the energy to swim away, the Conservation Department’s area manager John Mason said.

The whales, which reached themselves on Friday afternoon at the top of New Zealand’s South Island were from a pod of about 70 that appeared at Cape Farewell, where strandings are common.

**Semi driver safe after rig sinks in Minnesota pond**

MONTOICELLO, 7 Jan—A semi driver crawled to safety after his rig ran off an interstate in Minnesota and sank into an ice-covered pond.

The Minnesota State Patrol says the driver was treated and released from the hospital after the Friday crash.

Patrol Lt Eric Roese says the driver was pulling a Target trailer when his left tire went off the interstate, crossed over oncoming traffic and skidded onto the pond. It fell through about 6 inches of ice.

Roese says the semi skidded 100 to 200 yards across the ice before breaking through.

A photo from the State Patrol showed about half the trailer above the icy water.

A big rig tow truck pulled the semi out of the pond hours later.

In this photo provided by Minnesota State Patrol, a semi truck is submerged in an icy pond in Monticello, Minn. on 6 Jan, 2012. Roese

**Indian child reported killed in Brazil’s north**

BRASILIA, (Brazil), 7 Jan—A group associated with the Roman Catholic Church says a child from an isolated indigenous community in northern Brazil was killed and the body burned in a region where loggers operate.

The Pastoral Commission of the Earth on Friday denounced the killing of the child, whose name, age and gender are unknown because communication with remote indigenous groups in Brazil is difficult. The church-associated environmental group says the child’s burned body was found by leaders of a neighboring indigenous community in Maranhao state.

The group says the case was presented to the government’s National Indian Foundation but no investigation was launched. The foundation says the case was then forwarded to police.

**Fireman fights a massive forest fire affecting the commune of Ranquil, in southern Chile’s Bio Bio region, some 450 km south of Santiago, on 4 Jan. Six Chilean firefighters died Thursday and four were injured tackling one of a series of wildfires that President Sebastian Pinera said were intentionally lit by criminals.**

**A fireman fights a massive forest fire affecting the commune of Ranquil, in southern Chile’s Bio Bio region, some 450 km south of Santiago, on 4 Jan. Six Chilean firefighters died Thursday and four were injured tackling one of a series of wildfires that President Sebastian Pinera said were intentionally lit by criminals.**

**Seven whales die in New Zealand stranding**

Rescuers herded a pod of long-finned pilot whales into shallow waters Saturday to save 18 long-finned pilot whales after a mass stranding in which seven of the animals died.

Two months ago, 47 pilot whales up to six metres (20 feet) long were the most common species of whale seen in New Zealand waters.

**Indian child reported killed in Brazil’s north**

BRASILIA, (Brazil), 7 Jan—A group associated with the Roman Catholic Church says a child from an isolated indigenous community in northern Brazil was killed and the body burned in a region where loggers operate.

The Pastoral Commission of the Earth on Friday denounced the killing of the child, whose name, age and gender are unknown because communication with remote indigenous groups in Brazil is difficult. The church-associated environmental group says the child’s burned body was found by leaders of a neighboring indigenous community in Maranhao state.

The group says the case was presented to the government’s National Indian Foundation but no investigation was launched. The foundation says the case was then forwarded to police.

**Fireman fights a massive forest fire affecting the commune of Ranquil, in southern Chile’s Bio Bio region, some 450 km south of Santiago, on 4 Jan. Six Chilean firefighters died Thursday and four were injured tackling one of a series of wildfires that President Sebastian Pinera said were intentionally lit by criminals.**

**A fireman fights a massive forest fire affecting the commune of Ranquil, in southern Chile’s Bio Bio region, some 450 km south of Santiago, on 4 Jan. Six Chilean firefighters died Thursday and four were injured tackling one of a series of wildfires that President Sebastian Pinera said were intentionally lit by criminals.**

**Seven whales die in New Zealand stranding**

Rescuers herded a pod of long-finned pilot whales into shallow waters Saturday to save 18 long-finned pilot whales after a mass stranding in which seven of the animals died.

Two months ago, 47 pilot whales up to six metres (20 feet) long were the most common species of whale seen in New Zealand waters.

**Indian child reported killed in Brazil’s north**

BRASILIA, (Brazil), 7 Jan—A group associated with the Roman Catholic Church says a child from an isolated indigenous community in northern Brazil was killed and the body burned in a region where loggers operate.

The Pastoral Commission of the Earth on Friday denounced the killing of the child, whose name, age and gender are unknown because communication with remote indigenous groups in Brazil is difficult. The church-associated environmental group says the child’s burned body was found by leaders of a neighboring indigenous community in Maranhao state.

The group says the case was presented to the government’s National Indian Foundation but no investigation was launched. The foundation says the case was then forwarded to police.

**Fireman fights a massive forest fire affecting the commune of Ranquil, in southern Chile’s Bio Bio region, some 450 km south of Santiago, on 4 Jan. Six Chilean firefighters died Thursday and four were injured tackling one of a series of wildfires that President Sebastian Pinera said were intentionally lit by criminals.**

**A fireman fights a massive forest fire affecting the commune of Ranquil, in southern Chile’s Bio Bio region, some 450 km south of Santiago, on 4 Jan. Six Chilean firefighters died Thursday and four were injured tackling one of a series of wildfires that President Sebastian Pinera said were intentionally lit by criminals.**

**Seven whales die in New Zealand stranding**

Rescuers herded a pod of long-finned pilot whales into shallow waters Saturday to save 18 long-finned pilot whales after a mass stranding in which seven of the animals died.

Two months ago, 47 pilot whales up to six metres (20 feet) long were the most common species of whale seen in New Zealand waters.

**Indian child reported killed in Brazil’s north**

BRASILIA, (Brazil), 7 Jan—A group associated with the Roman Catholic Church says a child from an isolated indigenous community in northern Brazil was killed and the body burned in a region where loggers operate.

The Pastoral Commission of the Earth on Friday denounced the killing of the child, whose name, age and gender are unknown because communication with remote indigenous groups in Brazil is difficult. The church-associated environmental group says the child’s burned body was found by leaders of a neighboring indigenous community in Maranhao state.

The group says the case was presented to the government’s National Indian Foundation but no investigation was launched. The foundation says the case was then forwarded to police.
NAV PHA TAW, 4 Jan.—The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Affairs Ministers to U Winna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Koichiro Gemba Excellency,

On the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish you all the best wishes, prosperity, and good health for you and your people.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Secretary of Foreign Affairs of China Mr Wang Yi Excellency,

I wish to extend to Your Excellency my warm felicitations on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Mr Huy Namhong Excellency,

I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency my warmest congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I would like to extend to Your Excellency my cordial congratulations and best wishes for good health, happiness, and progress in your country.

I have strong confidence that the relations of good friendship and close cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened and developed for the mutual interests of our two nations as well as for ASEAN community building.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From K Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law, Singapore Dear Excellency,

I am very glad to see that the bilateral relations developed comprehensively, the exchanges and cooperations in all areas deepened continuously, and good communications and cooperations maintained on related international and regional issues. I am willing to work with Your Excellency to actively implement the consensus reached by our leaders and make unremitting efforts to the constant development of China-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the great prosperity to the people of Myanmar.

From Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Mr Albert F. Del Rosario Excellency,

I would like to take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of the Philippines’ support for Myanmar’s reform process.

I hope that the close ties between our nations and peoples will continue to grow and that cooperation at the bilateral, as well as in ASEAN and other regional and international fora will grow stronger.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

From Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of China Mr Wang Yi Excellency,

I would like to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and warmest wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the people on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China Mr Wang Yi Excellency,

I would like to extend to Your Excellency the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

From Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Mr Huy Namhong Excellency,

I hope that the close ties between our nations and peoples will continue to grow and that cooperation at the bilateral, as well as in ASEAN and other regional and international fora will grow stronger.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

From Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Mr Huy Namhong Excellency,

I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency my warmest congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I would like to extend to Your Excellency my cordial congratulations and best wishes for good health, happiness, and progress in your country.

I have strong confidence that the relations of good friendship and close cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened and developed for the mutual interests of our two nations as well as for ASEAN community building.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From K Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law, Singapore Dear Excellency,

I am very glad to see that the bilateral relations developed comprehensively, the exchanges and cooperations in all areas deepened continuously, and good communications and cooperations maintained on related international and regional issues. I am willing to work with Your Excellency to actively implement the consensus reached by our leaders and make unremitting efforts to the constant development of China-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the great prosperity to the people of Myanmar.

From Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Mr Huy Namhong Excellency,

I would like to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and warmest wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the people on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Mr Albert F. Del Rosario Excellency,

I would like to extend to Your Excellency my warm felicitations on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

This year’s celebration takes place during a very auspicious and exiting time in Myanmar’s contemporary history—the Government’s serious implementation of its steadfast commitment to pursue wide-ranging reforms in the country.

I take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of the Philippines’ support for Myanmar’s reform process.

I hope that the close ties between our nations and peoples will continue to grow and that cooperation at the bilateral, as well as in ASEAN and other regional and international fora will grow stronger.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

From Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of China Mr Wang Yi Excellency,

I would like to extend to Your Excellency my cordial congratulations and best wishes for good health, happiness, and progress in your country.

I have strong confidence that the relations of good friendship and close cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened and developed for the mutual interests of our two nations as well as for ASEAN community building.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From K Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law, Singapore Dear Excellency,

I am very glad to see that the bilateral relations developed comprehensively, the exchanges and cooperations in all areas deepened continuously, and good communications and cooperations maintained on related international and regional issues. I am willing to work with Your Excellency to actively implement the consensus reached by our leaders and make unremitting efforts to the constant development of China-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the great prosperity to the people of Myanmar.

From Secretary of Foreign Affairs of China Mr Wang Yi Excellency,

I would like to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and warmest wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the people on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Mr Albert F. Del Rosario Excellency,

I would like to extend to Your Excellency my warm felicitations on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

This year’s celebration takes place during a very auspicious and exiting time in Myanmar’s contemporary history—the Government’s serious implementation of its steadfast commitment to pursue wide-ranging reforms in the country.

I take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of the Philippines’ support for Myanmar’s reform process.

I hope that the close ties between our nations and peoples will continue to grow and that cooperation at the bilateral, as well as in ASEAN and other regional and international fora will grow stronger.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.
EP-2 Ministry concludes training courses

YANGON, 7 Jan — The Spoken English and ProficiencyCourse No.9/2011 and the Basic Storekeeping Course No.1/2011 concluded at the Ministry of Electric Power No.2 at the ministry, here, yesterday morning. Union Minister for Electric Power No.2 U Khin Maung Soe awarded the outstanding trainees. Officials presented completion certificates to the leaders of the trainees. Altogether 60 trainees attended the courses. MNA

Ceremony to mark 64th Independence Day held in Loikaw, Kayah State

YANGON, 7 Jan — A ceremony to mark the 64th Independence Day was observed in Loikaw, Kayah State, on 6 January. During the ceremony, Chief Minister of Kayah State U Khin Maung Oo read out the message sent by the President of the Union of Myanmar. Baby contest and model mothers competition organized by Kayah State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee was held in Loikaw to mark the 64th Independence Day. Kayah State School Family Day for the 2011-12 academic year was held at No.2 Basic Education High School in Loikaw on 3 January and State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo and regional ministers, departmental officials, teachers and students visited the festival. MNA

Sumitomo Golf Classic on 11-14 January

YANGON, 7 Jan — Sumitomo Golf Classic golf tournament will be held at Yetagun Taung Golf Club in Mandalay from 11 to 14 January. The tournament is organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar GPA and mainly sponsored by Aung Hein Min Co Ltd and Sumitomo Heavy Machinery. The tournament has invited professional, senior professional and amateur (H’Cap 0-10) golfers. Entrance fee is K20,000 and those golfers who want to participate in the tournament may contact Ph: 09-2037671, 09-73130474, 651374 and enlist at Yetagun Taung Golf Club not later than 2 pm, 9 January. — MNA

Fire drill at Auto Exchange Office in Loikaw

YANGON, 7 Jan — Talks on preventive measures against fire and fire drill were held at the exchange office of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications Loikaw. Kayah State, on 2 January. The Region Chief Minister, the deputy ministers and region ministers accepted cash donations from wellwishers and gave certificates to them. The examination will last 33 days up to 18 February. — MNA

Fire drill at Auto Exchange Office in Loikaw

On 6 January, the Region Chief Minister, the deputy ministers and region ministers accepted cash donations from wellwishers and gave certificates to the leaders of the trainees. Altogether 60 trainees attended the courses.

BEMS upgraded to BEHS branch

SUWEGYIN, 7 Jan — A ceremony to upgrade Basic Education Middle School to BEHS Branch in Thanseik Village-tract was held in conjunction with the handing over of new building donated by U Kyaw Min Naing-Daw L.L Win and family of Shwekyungyi. The region Chief Minister, the deputy minister and region ministers accepted cash donations from wellwishers and gave certificates to them. The examination will last 33 days up to 18 February. — MNA

Nutritious refreshments presented to expectant mothers

YANGON, 7 Jan — Yangon North District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee provided nutritious refreshments and cash to funds for construction of fly-proof latrines at the hall of Bawle Village Basic Education Primary School in Hluttaw Township on 2 January. Chairperson of the committee Daw Sein Soe and Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Pauk Pauk presented nutritious refreshments to expectant mothers and 11 older persons and cash to the funds for construction of three fly-proof latrines worth K 48,500 through officials. Myanma Alin

Nutritious refreshments presented to expectant mothers

Myaungmya gets new repaved street

MYAUNGMYA, 7 Jan — In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, Myaungmya Township Development Affairs Committee opened the repaved 6th street in Ward 2 of Myaungmya on 30 December.

Myaungmya gets new repaved street

Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win unveiled signboard of Kanbawzathadi Mingala Hall at Shwewahtun Hotel in Bago on 3 January. — MNA

New school building opened in Singaing Township

SINGAING, 7 Jan — The new building of Kyettha Village Basic Education Primary School was opened in Singaing Township on 16 December. Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyi Pyone of Singaing Township, Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Sein Thaung of Singaing Township Constituency No.2 and officials formally opened the new school building. — Myanma Alin

The 310 feet long and 27 feet wide street was placed with three-inch thick asphalt and it was covered K 5.4 million.

Dr Maung Maung Htay supplicated on the 64th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination commencement

Kumarabhivamsa gave a Saraniya Ovadakatha. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay supplicated on religious affairs.

Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Nayaka Committee Mandalay Bhamo Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathna Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta

Sumitomo Golf Classic on 11-14 January

YANGON, 7 Jan — Sumitomo Golf Classic golf tournament will be held at Yetagun Taung Golf Club in Mandalay from 11 to 14 January. The tournament is organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar GPA and mainly sponsored by Aung Hein Min Co Ltd and Sumitomo Heavy Machinery. The tournament has invited professional, senior professional and amateur (H’Cap 0-10) golfers. Entrance fee is K20,000 and those golfers who want to participate in the tournament may contact Ph: 09-2037671, 09-73130474, 651374 and enlist at Yetagun Taung Golf Club not later than 2 pm, 9 January. — MNA

Fire drill at Auto Exchange Office in Loikaw

YANGON, 6 Jan — Talks on preventive measures against fire and fire drill were held at the exchange office of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications Loikaw. Kayah State, on 2 January. The Region Chief Minister, the deputy ministers and region ministers accepted cash donations from wellwishers and gave certificates to the leaders of the trainees. Altogether 60 trainees attended the courses.

Fire drill at Auto Exchange Office in Loikaw

It was attended by Kayah State Transport Minister U Chit Hla, departmental officials and employees of the office. — MNA

Fire drill at Auto Exchange Office in Loikaw

MNA

On 6 January, the Region Chief Minister, the deputy ministers and region ministers accepted cash donations from wellwishers and gave certificates to the leaders of the trainees. Altogether 60 trainees attended the courses.

Fire drill at Auto Exchange Office in Loikaw

The tournament has invited professional, senior professional and amateur (H’Cap 0-10) golfers. Entrance fee is K20,000 and those golfers who want to participate in the tournament may contact Ph: 09-2037671, 09-73130474, 651374 and enlist at Yetagun Taung Golf Club not later than 2 pm, 9 January. — MNA

Fire drill at Auto Exchange Office in Loikaw

On 6 January, the Region Chief Minister, the deputy ministers and region ministers accepted cash donations from wellwishers and gave certificates to the leaders of the trainees. Altogether 60 trainees attended the courses.

Fire drill at Auto Exchange Office in Loikaw

It was attended by Kayah State Transport Minister U Chit Hla, departmental officials and employees of the office. — MNA
Three men arrested for violating weapons import laws

Los Angeles, 7 Jan—Authorities arrested three Philippine nationals on charges of violating arms import laws by selling a grenade launcher, mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and other weapons to an undercover officer.

The men were charged in a criminal complaint unsealed Thursday with importing weapons to the US without a license in violation of the Arms Export Control Act. The case is part of a federal investigation of Asian organized crime groups involved in the illicit trafficking of firearms.

Suspicts: Sergio Santiago de Leon Syjaco, Cesar Paolo Incioing Ubaldio and Atjil Reversion appeared Friday in US District Court in Los Angeles. It could not be immediately determined if they had lawyers or entered pleas.

During a period of eight months beginning in 2010, an undercover agent in the Philippines gained the trust of the men who eventually sold him military-grade firearms, said Dennis Loo, a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. “The premise for these introductions was that the (undercover) agent was interested in purchasing high-powered weapons and explosive devices to be used by the Mexican drug cartels in the United States and Mexico,” an affidavit states. Beginning in October 2010, the agent was sold 12 fully automatic Bushmaster caliber rifles, Loo said.

Ubaldio later offered to introduce the agent to other suppliers of high-powered firearms and eventually provided the agent with a detailed inventory of weapons for sale, the document states. Internet

London investors await Bank of England next week

London, 7 Jan—London investors likely take their leads from events in the eurozone and United States next week in the absence of major British news, with the Bank of England set to keep interest rates on hold. According to the FTSE 100 index of top shares closed at 5,649.68 points on Friday, up 1.39 percent from a week earlier. The benchmark index grew strongly on Friday in the wake of positive US job news, which helped to offset losses caused by fresh tensions over the debt crisis gripping the eurozone.

Britain does not use the euro, but relies on the eurozone for half of its trade. Next Thursday, the Bank of England is widely expected to hold its key interest rate at a record low 0.5 percent, where it has stood for almost three years.

The nation’s economy showed unexpectedly strong growth of 0.6 percent in the third quarter but the country still faces possible recession in the new year. Internet

Anti-elephantiasis campaign launched in Nepal

Kathmandu, 7 Jan—The Nepalese Government on Friday launched its annual anti-elephantiasis campaign in 46 out of 75 districts of the nation. It is caused by mosquitoes and although the risk is high during summer season where the availability of mosquitoes is high, the campaign has been launched early this year.

It does not, however, include women under pregnancy and patients of any diseases. According to the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), it is caused by mosquitoes and although the risk is high during summer season where the availability of mosquitoes is high, the campaign has been launched early this year.

According to the Ministry of Health, some 26.1 million people from 60 districts of Nepal including the capital Kathmandu are at a high risk of disease. More than 600,000 people are to benefit from the present campaign.

In 2011, the campaign had drawn a negative attention after five deaths reported due to wrong medications by the medical workers. People are to benefit from the present campaign.

Internet

Nevada’s largest casinos lose $4 billion in 2011

Carson City, 7 Jan—Nevada’s largest casinos suffered a combined $4.5 billion loss in 2011. A report released Friday by the state Gaming Control Board shows 256 casinos grossed $1 million or more in gambling revenue for the fiscal year that ended 30 June. Combined, they had total revenue of $2.2 billion and posted a net loss of $3.9 billion from the previous year.

In 2010, the largest casinos had a net loss of $3.4 billion on total revenues of almost $20.9 billion. Total revenue includes money spent by patrons on gambling, rooms, food, beverages and attractions. The figure says revenue from gamblers accounted for nearly $10.2 billion, or 46 percent, of total revenue. Casinos paid $792 million in taxes and fees, equating to 7.8 percent of gambling revenue. Internet

SC missing boy’s mom told cops she had no children

LOS ANGELES, 7 Jan—Federal regulators are trying to decide whether to issue a waiver allowing a salaried pilot to continue to fly a bird-like plane that 10 young whooping cranes think is mama to the birds’ winter home in Florida.

Operation Migration, a conservation group that guides the young birds on their first 1.28-mile fall migration, says it voluntarily grounded the plane and the birds in Alabama last month after FAA officials notified them the agency had opened an investigation.

The men were charged in a criminal complaint unsealed Thursday with importing weapons to the US without a license in violation of the Arms Export Control Act. The case is part of a federal investigation of Asian organized crime groups involved in the illicit trafficking of firearms.

Authorities arrested three Philippine nationals on charges of violating arms import laws by selling a grenade launcher, mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and other weapons to an undercover officer.

The men were charged in a criminal complaint unsealed Thursday with importing weapons to the US without a license in violation of the Arms Export Control Act. The case is part of a federal investigation of Asian organized crime groups involved in the illicit trafficking of firearms.

Authorities arrested three Philippine nationals on charges of violating arms import laws by selling a grenade launcher, mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and other weapons to an undercover officer.

The men were charged in a criminal complaint unsealed Thursday with importing weapons to the US without a license in violation of the Arms Export Control Act. The case is part of a federal investigation of Asian organized crime groups involved in the illicit trafficking of firearms.

Authorities arrested three Philippine nationals on charges of violating arms import laws by selling a grenade launcher, mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and other weapons to an undercover officer. The Operation Migration pilots are licensed to fly sport planes. The regulations also prohibit spectators, which is sometimes of exotic design—from being flown to benefit a business or charity. Internet

Three men arrested for violating weapons import laws

Los Angeles, 7 Jan—Authorities arrested three Philippine nationals on charges of violating arms import laws by selling a grenade launcher, mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and other weapons to an undercover officer.

The men were charged in a criminal complaint unsealed Thursday with importing weapons to the US without a license in violation of the Arms Export Control Act. The case is part of a federal investigation of Asian organized crime groups involved in the illicit trafficking of firearms.

Authorities arrested three Philippine nationals on charges of violating arms import laws by selling a grenade launcher, mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and other weapons to an undercover officer. The Operation Migration pilots are licensed to fly sport planes. The regulations also prohibit spectators, which is sometimes of exotic design—from being flown to benefit a business or charity. Internet

Three men arrested for violating weapons import laws

Los Angeles, 7 Jan—Authorities arrested three Philippine nationals on charges of violating arms import laws by selling a grenade launcher, mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and other weapons to an undercover officer. The Operation Migration pilots are licensed to fly sport planes. The regulations also prohibit spectators, which is sometimes of exotic design—from being flown to benefit a business or charity. Internet

3.5-magnitude quake hits New Britain region, Papua New Guinea

BEIRUG, 7 Jan—An earthquake measuring 3.5 on the Richter scale jolted New Britain region, Papua New Guinea at 64.30-31 GMT on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 113.10 km, was initially determined to be at 4.3666 degrees south latitude and 152.5318 degrees east longitude. —Xinhua

This photo taken on 6 Jan 2012 shows the dried-up lake bed of the Yinshan Section of the Poyang Lake in Dunchang County, east China’s Jiangxi Province. There are few fish nowadays in the lake’s Xinjiang and Yinshan sections in the Dunchang County, and 120,000 residents in the county are even in the struggle for tackling drinking water shortage. The lake’s water-level monitored by the Hydrometric Station of Dunchang County on 6 Jan stood at a record low of 7.95 metres, 0.04 metres lower than the previous year. It was also showed that the surface area of the Poyang Lake, China’s largest freshwater lake, has shrunk to less than 200 square kilometers. Persistent drought caused a lack of rainfall in the lake area and in the upper reaches of its tributaries is blamed for the lake’s shrinkage, according to local authorities. —Xinhua
Oddly mild winter leaves much of US on thin ice

Conway, (Mass.), 7 Jan—Unusually mild winter weather is spurring the fun for hockey players, skaters and ice fishermen across the Northeast and Midwest as officials warn of uncommonly thin ice.

Fish and game officials in several northeastern states have issued advisories in recent days, saying ice conditions were unsafe on lakes where ice typically reaches 10 inches thick.

In Minnesota, officials warned ice was unreliable in the southern part of the state, where temperatures topped 60 degrees for the first time on record in the first week of January.

With no ice yet recorded on Lake Erie, organizers of Buffalo’s public hockey tournament for amateur players say they may have to cancel the 10 February event for the first time in its 5-year history.

An extraordinarily mild December and early January failed to deliver the cold needed to freeze most lakes and ponds.

Meteorologists say December temperatures in the region were the warmest in five years. Massachusetts recorded 12 days when the temperature was more than 10 degrees above normal, said Mark Paquette, meteorologist with AccuWeather in State College, Pennsylvania.

As a result, winter sports enthusiasts who flock to frozen lakes and ponds are at risk, said Lieutenant Robert Bryant of New Hampshire Fish and Game.

“We’ve had some tragedies over the years with ice skaters,” Bryant said. “Ice fishermen tend to get close to their holes and stay in one place and skaters sometimes roam about.”

A construction worker guides a rafter into position at a construction site, on 5 Jan, 2012, in Dayton, Ohio. A burst of hiring in December pushed the unemployment rate to its lowest level in nearly three years, giving the economy a boost at the end of 2011. —Reuters

London Boat Show diversifies into art and jewels

London, 7 Jan—The grey-haired men stood admiring the line of luxury cars at London’s Excel centre while at a nearby stand a woman handed over money for a silver cigarette case — not the usual things you would expect to buy at a boat show.

But London’s International Boat Show, one of the biggest in Europe, is looking to tap into other high-end markets to attract new customers during a recession that has priced out mid-range sailors.

“It’s like any industry — it’s looking to diversify,” said Michael Enser, head of marketing at the British Marine Federation, which represents businesses from makers of canoes to super yachts.

“It is bringing in high-net worths, and they are reasonably insulated from the economy. If we invite those people into the show who have not been exposed to boats in the past it is a new audience for manufacturers to engage in, to sell their products, and eventually a new boater.”

Numbers of people passing through the turnstiles at London’s Boat Show have not recovered from pre-recession levels, while exhibitor numbers are down by about 10 percent. Among the biggest absentees are French boat builder Beneteau along with Dufour and Elan. “It’s still a very sizeable show,” said Murray Ellis, managing director of National Boat Shows. “It is not a reflection of the show, that is purely a reflection of the UK economy and the UK marine market.”

Taking the place of boat builders are luxury cars, watches, a contemporary fine art gallery, jewellery and a home cinema. Aravadi, a diamond investment company has also moved effortlessly alongside the champagne bars.

London Boat Show diversifies into art and jewels

Aussie police: ‘Stolen car’ proves to be a runaway

Adelaide, (Australia), 7 Jan — Police say a car reported stolen from an Australian shopping centre parking lot has been found more than two weeks later in the closed garage of a nearby home where it had apparently rolled unaided.

Police said in a statement Friday that the owner of the station wagon had reported it stolen from outside a shop in a suburb of Adelaide on 18 Dec. The car was found parked in the home’s garage Wednesday when the residents returned from vacation.

Police concluded that the car’s owner had failed to leave its gear in park. The car then rolled across the parking lot, across a street and then down a driveway. It then bumped under the garage door by knocking it off its tracks. The door then closed behind it. —Internet

New Year celebrations cause 194 Beijing fires

Beijing, 7 Jan—State media are reporting that people celebrating the Lunar New Year by setting off fireworks in Beijing caused 194 fires in the Chinese capital, double the number from last year.

The official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday that the fires were not serious, but added that 386 people were hurt by fireworks during the first six days of the holiday period.

The tradition of setting off fireworks to ward off evil spirits results in injuries and fires every year, with the biggest fire during this year’s holiday period gutting a five-star hotel in northeast China. There were no casualties.

Xinhua said Beijing mobilized a force of 840,000 police and civilians to help prevent firework-induced disasters during the holiday. —Internet

Nation adds 200,000 jobs in December hiring surge

Washington, 7 Jan—Four painful years after the Great Recession struck and wiped out 8.7 million jobs, the United States may finally be in an expansionary phase as a virtuous cycle — an escalating loop of hiring and spending.

The nation added 200,000 jobs in December in a burst of hiring that drove the unemployment rate down two notches to 8.5 percent, its lowest in almost three years, and led economists to conclude that the improvement in the job market might just last.

“There is more horsepower to this economy than most believe,” said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University, Channel Islands. “The stars are aligned right for a meaningful economic recovery.”

It was the sixth month in a row that the economy added at least 100,000 jobs, the longest streak since 2006. The economy added jobs every month last year, the first time that has happened since 2005.

And the unemployment rate, which peaked at 10 percent in October 2009 and stood at 9.1 percent in August, has fallen four months straight. It was 8.7 percent in November.

If economics textbooks and the best hopes of millions of unemployed Americans are confirmed, the virtuous cycle may be under way, which would suggest the job market will continue to strengthen.

When people are hired, they have more money to spend. The mean greater demand for goods and services and results in businesses hiring even more people. That results in even more spending and leads to even more hiring. —Internet

EPA may truck water to residents near fracking site

New York, 7 Jan—Federal regulators are considering trucking fresh water to households in a Pennsylvania town where residents say wells have been polluted by hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, for natural gas.

Only a month after declaring water in Dimock safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency is reconsidering action after residents supplied the EPA with hundreds of pages of data that link water pollution to fracking. Two residents of Dimock, a town of some 1,400 in the northeast corner of Pennsylvania, told Reuters that the EPA said water would be delivered on Friday, but the agency indicated it was still considering the issue.

Reuters

A chef with a restaurant enjoys fireworks to celebrate the New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 8 January, 2012

INTERNET

“New decision has been made by EPA to provide alternate sources of water,” an EPA spokeswoman said in an email on Friday. She added that the agency was trying to understand the situation in Dimock where state regulators recently halted deliveries of fresh water.

If the EPA delivers water to the village, it would be the clearest sign yet regulators are concerned about the effect of drilling on drinking water there. Dimock may become pivotal in a national debate about the environmental impact of fracking, the drilling technique that could unlock decades’ worth of natural gas trapped in shale deposits, but which environmentalists say contaminates wastewater supplies. —Reuters

The official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday that the fires were not serious, but added that 386 people were hurt by fireworks during the first six days of the holiday period.

The tradition of setting off fireworks to ward off evil spirits results in injuries and fires every year, with the biggest fire during this year’s holiday period gutting a five-star hotel in northeast China. There were no casualties.

Xinhua said Beijing mobilized a force of 840,000 police and civilians to help prevent firework-induced disasters during the holiday. —Internet

“New decision has been made by EPA to provide alternate sources of water,” an EPA spokeswoman said in an email on Friday. She added that the agency was trying to understand the situation in Dimock where state regulators recently halted deliveries of fresh water.

If the EPA delivers water to the village, it would be the clearest sign yet regulators are concerned about the effect of drilling on drinking water there. Dimock may become pivotal in a national debate about the environmental impact of fracking, the drilling technique that could unlock decades’ worth of natural gas trapped in shale deposits, but which environmentalists say contaminates wastewater supplies. —Reuters

Reuters
AIDS kills 2,608 Cambodians in 2011, down 11 pct

PHNOM PENH, 7 Jan — Cambodia estimated that about 2,608 people were killed by HIV/AIDS in 2011, a decrease of 11 percent from 2,943 people in a year earlier, Dr Teng Kunthy, secretary general of National AIDS Authority (NAA), said Thursday.

He said among the 2,608 deaths last year, some 2,484 were over 15 years old and 124 were children, whilst in 2010, among the 2, 943 deaths, 2,783 were over 15 years old and 160 were children.

He continued to say that the last year’s new infection rate was also declined by 12 percent to 1,517 people including 191 children from 1,726 people including 256 children in a year earlier.

“We see a good result in our efforts to fight against HIV/AIDS; however, we still not satisfy it and hope to see further decline in years to come,” he told Xinhua.

Currently, an estimated 75,000 Cambodian people in 60,000 households are living with HIV/AIDS, according to a 2011’s survey on the Socioeconomic Impact of HIV in Cambodia conducted by the United Nations Development Programme.

About 96, 7 percent of them have received antiretroviral therapy.

The impoverished Southeast Asian nation needs about 58 million US dollars a year to fight against HIV/AIDS, said Dr Kunthy.

More than 90 percent of the fund comes from external donors.

Free library opens door to knowledge

BEIJING, 7 Jan — It was a brisk and sunny morning in late December. Like every other day in the town of Wanfu, Jiangxi province, a man stooped over laying out newspapers and magazines on a table in the market, his face wrinkled into a half-smile.

His table was soon surrounded by adults and children flipping through the papers and magazines. They were reading at the little bookstand for free, or to borrow favorite books at the bookstore without giving any deposit.

Liu Mulei, 76, taught primary students Chinese for 40 years. Since retiring in 1996, he has been spending 5,000 yuan a year on buying reading material. “In order to satisfy their needs, since 2001 I spend about 4,000 yuan a year on buying reading material,” he told Xinhua.

With this considerable collection, Liu opened his first library in 2006 when he began to take care of the activity room for elderly people in the town. Now he runs four libraries, including this famous one set up in the market in 2009.

“For the first five years after retirement I spent about 1,000 yuan ($140) on newspapers and magazines every year, and more and more people came to read them,” Liu said. “So in order to satisfy their needs, since 2001 I spend about 4,000 yuan a year on buying reading material.” —Xinhua

Hundreds flee home as volcano activity rises in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 7 Jan — More than 500 scared people have fled home on the slopes of a volcano in East Nusa Tenggara in eastern Indonesia as it emitted strong smell of sulfur, officials said on Friday. The Mount Lewotolok activity has risen to the second highest alert level since 2 December last year and the people took initiative by themselves to flee despite of no recommendation for evacuation from the authorities, said Anton Hali, secretary of disaster management and mitigation agency in Lombok District.

“People took shelter in evacuation centre or their relatives houses for fear that the mount would erupt at any time as the smell of sulfur becomes stronger and stronger,” he told Xinhua by phone.

He said among the 2,608 deaths last year, some 2,484 were over 15 years old and 124 were children, whilst in 2010, among the 2, 943 deaths, 2,783 were over 15 years old and 160 were children.

He continued to say that the last year’s new infection rate was also declined by 12 percent to 1,517 people including 191 children from 1,726 people including 256 children in a year earlier.

“We see a good result in our efforts to fight against HIV/AIDS; however, we still not satisfy it and hope to see further decline in years to come,” he told Xinhua.

Currently, an estimated 75,000 Cambodian people in 60,000 households are living with HIV/AIDS, according to a 2011’s survey on the Socioeconomic Impact of HIV in Cambodia conducted by the United Nations Development Programme.

About 96, 7 percent of them have received antiretroviral therapy.

The impoverished Southeast Asian nation needs about 58 million US dollars a year to fight against HIV/AIDS, said Dr Kunthy.

More than 90 percent of the fund comes from external donors.

Free library opens door to knowledge

BEIJING, 7 Jan — It was a brisk and sunny morning in late December. Like every other day in the town of Wanfu, Jiangxi province, a man stooped over laying out newspapers and magazines on a table in the market, his face wrinkled into a half-smile.

His table was soon surrounded by adults and children flipping through the papers and magazines. They were reading at the little bookstand for free, or to borrow favorite books at the bookstore without giving any deposit.

Liu Mulei, 76, taught primary students Chinese for 40 years. Since retiring in 1996, he has been spending 5,000 yuan a year on buying reading material. “In order to satisfy their needs, since 2001 I spend about 4,000 yuan a year on buying reading material,” he told Xinhua.

With this considerable collection, Liu opened his first library in 2006 when he began to take care of the activity room for elderly people in the town. Now he runs four libraries, including this famous one set up in the market in 2009.

“For the first five years after retirement I spent about 1,000 yuan ($140) on newspapers and magazines every year, and more and more people came to read them,” Liu said. “So in order to satisfy their needs, since 2001 I spend about 4,000 yuan a year on buying reading material.” —Xinhua

Hundreds flee home as volcano activity rises in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 7 Jan — More than 500 scared people have fled home on the slopes of a volcano in East Nusa Tenggara in eastern Indonesia as it emitted strong smell of sulfur, officials said on Friday. The Mount Lewotolok activity has risen to the second highest alert level since 2 December last year and the people took initiative by themselves to flee despite of no recommendation for evacuation from the authorities, said Anton Hali, secretary of disaster management and mitigation agency in Lombok District.

“People took shelter in evacuation centre or their relatives houses for fear that the mount would erupt at any time as the smell of sulfur becomes stronger and stronger,” he told Xinhua by phone.

He said among the 2,608 deaths last year, some 2,484 were over 15 years old and 124 were children, whilst in 2010, among the 2, 943 deaths, 2,783 were over 15 years old and 160 were children.

He continued to say that the last year’s new infection rate was also declined by 12 percent to 1,517 people including 191 children from 1,726 people including 256 children in a year earlier.

“We see a good result in our efforts to fight against HIV/AIDS; however, we still not satisfy it and hope to see further decline in years to come,” he told Xinhua.

Currently, an estimated 75,000 Cambodian people in 60,000 households are living with HIV/AIDS, according to a 2011’s survey on the Socioeconomic Impact of HIV in Cambodia conducted by the United Nations Development Programme.

About 96, 7 percent of them have received antiretroviral therapy.

The impoverished Southeast Asian nation needs about 58 million US dollars a year to fight against HIV/AIDS, said Dr Kunthy.

More than 90 percent of the fund comes from external donors.

Free library opens door to knowledge

BEIJING, 7 Jan — It was a brisk and sunny morning in late December. Like every other day in the town of Wanfu, Jiangxi province, a man stooped over laying out newspapers and magazines on a table in the market, his face wrinkled into a half-smile.

His table was soon surrounded by adults and children flipping through the papers and magazines. They were reading at the little bookstand for free, or to borrow favorite books at the bookstore without giving any deposit.

Liu Mulei, 76, taught primary students Chinese for 40 years. Since retiring in 1996, he has been spending 5,000 yuan a year on buying reading material. “In order to satisfy their needs, since 2001 I spend about 4,000 yuan a year on buying reading material,” he told Xinhua.

With this considerable collection, Liu opened his first library in 2006 when he began to take care of the activity room for elderly people in the town. Now he runs four libraries, including this famous one set up in the market in 2009.

“For the first five years after retirement I spent about 1,000 yuan ($140) on newspapers and magazines every year, and more and more people came to read them,” Liu said. “So in order to satisfy their needs, since 2001 I spend about 4,000 yuan a year on buying reading material.” —Xinhua
**Utah woman uses fake mustache to rob neighbors**

A 31-year-old woman in Salt Lake City has been charged with two counts of burglary after she allegedly used a fake mustache to disguise her appearance as she robbed her neighbors. The Salt Lake Tribune reports that the unnamed woman’s neighbors first noticed that several thousand dollars were missing from their local coin-counting box.

**Town resists billionaire’s Zeus temple bid**

The mayor of Agrigento, Italy, says the legendary rock of Temple of Zeus isn’t for sale — not even for as much money as it took “to save Italy’s finances.”

**Police: Man sold moonshine near Gator Bowl**

Florida police said they arrested a man accused of selling moonshine from a barbecue stand near the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville. Not an authorized rare coin dealer. The Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office said state alcohol agents observed Michael Freeman, 44, of Jacksonville, selling Grey Goose Vodka, Canadian Whiskey, and moonshine whiskey without a state beverage license near EverBank Field, First Coast News, Jacksonville, reported Thursday. Freeman, who was also in possession of 66 prescription Lortab pills, purchased the two gallons of moonshine for $70 during a trip to Macon, Ga.

**Van Halen to kick off tour, album in February**

New York, 7 Jan — Veteran rockers Van Halen said on Friday that they will kick off their first tour in more than two years with a special guest: Sammy Hagar. The band will be joined by Kool & The Gang for select dates on the 40-plus city tour, which opens at the KFC Yum! Centre in Louisville, Kentucky on Feb 18 with Van Halen to kick off tour, album in February. The band will be promoted by the Secret Society of Pickup Artists,” which was released by Regan Books in 2005. Franco’s role would be as “a pick-up artist.”

**Janes Franco in talks for starring role in “The Game”**

Los Angeles, 7 Jan — James Franco is in early talks for a starring role in “The Game,” the MGM movie based on Neil Strauss’ “The Game.” Strauss documented his experiences in “The Game: Penetrating the Secret Society of Pickup Artists,” which was released by Regan Books in 2005. Franco’s role would be as “a pick-up artist.”

**“Harry Potter”, “Hangover 2” among Warner hits in 2011**

Los Angeles, 7 Jan — Thanks to the final Harry Potter film and the raunchy comedy “The Hangover Part II,” Warner Bros. racked up $4.7 billion worldwide in 2011, the studio announced on Friday. That’s a lordly sum, but Warner Bros. did have to surrender its box-office crown to rival Paramount, which grossed $5.17 billion. It also falls short of the $4.8 billion the studio generated in the previous year. However, in a release to tout the announcement, Warner’s notes that 2011’s gross makes it the first studio to ever exceed $4 billion globally for three consecutive years.

Domestically, the studio made north of $1.83 billion. Foreign markets continued to be a source of strength for Warner Bros. with the studio earning $2.87 billion internationally last year on a tentpole heavy slate that included new installments of its Final Destination and Sherlock Holmes franchises.

“Our 2011 slate saw a broad range of hits that encompassed comedy, action, suspense, and, of course, a little magic,” Jeff Robinov, president of Warner Bros. Picture Group, said in a statement. “We share these successes with our production partners, as well as all those who worked so hard, not only to make the movies but to bring them to a worldwide audience.”

Leading the pack for the studios was its farewell to the mega-grossing boy wizard saga, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows — Part 2,” which earned more than $1.33 billion worldwide.


**First Coast News license near EverBank Field, without a state beverage license near EverBank Field, Jacksonville.**

**Police: Man sold moonshine near Gator Bowl**

Florida police said they arrested a man accused of selling moonshine from a barbecue stand near the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville. Not an authorized rare coin dealer. The Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office said state alcohol agents observed Michael Freeman, 44, of Jacksonville, selling Grey Goose Vodka, Canadian Whiskey, and moonshine whiskey without a state beverage license near EverBank Field, First Coast News, Jacksonville, reported Thursday. Freeman, who was also in possession of 66 prescription Lortab pills, purchased the two gallons of moonshine for $70 during a trip to Macon, Ga.

**Van Halen to kick off tour, album in February**

New York, 7 Jan — Veteran rockers Van Halen said on Friday that they will kick off their first tour in more than two years with a special guest: Sammy Hagar. The band will be joined by Kool & The Gang for select dates on the 40-plus city tour, which opens at the KFC Yum! Centre in Louisville, Kentucky on Feb 18 with Van Halen to kick off tour, album in February. The band will be promoted by the Secret Society of Pickup Artists,” which was released by Regan Books in 2005. Franco’s role would be as “a pick-up artist.”

**Janes Franco in talks for starring role in “The Game”**

Los Angeles, 7 Jan — James Franco is in early talks for a starring role in “The Game,” the MGM movie based on Neil Strauss’ “The Game.” Strauss documented his experiences in “The Game: Penetrating the Secret Society of Pickup Artists,” which was released by Regan Books in 2005. Franco’s role would be as “a pick-up artist.”

**“Harry Potter”, “Hangover 2” among Warner hits in 2011**

Los Angeles, 7 Jan — Thanks to the final Harry Potter film and the raunchy comedy “The Hangover Part II,” Warner Bros. racked up $4.7 billion worldwide in 2011, the studio announced on Friday. That’s a lordly sum, but Warner Bros. did have to surrender its box-office crown to rival Paramount, which grossed $5.17 billion. It also falls short of the $4.8 billion the studio generated in the previous year. However, in a release to tout the announcement, Warner’s notes that 2011’s gross makes it the first studio to ever exceed $4 billion globally for three consecutive years.

Domestically, the studio made north of $1.83 billion. Foreign markets continued to be a source of strength for Warner Bros. with the studio earning $2.87 billion internationally last year on a tentpole heavy slate that included new installments of its Final Destination and Sherlock Holmes franchises.

“Our 2011 slate saw a broad range of hits that encompassed comedy, action, suspense, and, of course, a little magic,” Jeff Robinov, president of Warner Bros. Picture Group, said in a statement. “We share these successes with our production partners, as well as all those who worked so hard, not only to make the movies but to bring them to a worldwide audience.”

Leading the pack for the studios was its farewell to the mega-grossing boy wizard saga, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows — Part 2,” which earned more than $1.33 billion worldwide.

United.— look forward to working together in the coming seasons.” The always had and retain the utmost respect for each other and nonsense” and that the England striker and Ferguson “have a suggestion that Manchester Ferguson.

Andreas Seppi and is seeded Richard Gasquet and top-seeded in the men’s first-round byes. Second-seeded Nicolas Almagro of Spain and fourth-seeded Milos Raonic of Canada will play in the other semifinal.

Go Soeda dispatched defending champion Stanislas Wawrinka to advance to the semifinals of the Chennai Open.—INTERNET

Chennai, 7 Jan—Japanese qualifier Go Soeda upset defending champion Stanislas Wawrinka 6-4, 6-4 in the Chennai Open quarterfinals on Friday. Soeda will play top-seeded Janko Tipsarevic in the semifinals after the Serbian beat Belgian wild card entry David Goffin 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

Second-seeded Nicolas Almagro of Spain and fourth-seeded Milos Raonic of Canada will play in the other semifinal. Almagro labored to 6-7, 6-7, 6-4 win over Japanese qualifier Yuichi Sugita, while the big-serving Raonic had 15 aces to defeat Israel’s Dudi Sela 7-6 (4), 6-3.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

Wawrinka knocked out in Chennai Open quarterfinals

Sydney, 7 Jan—Grand Slam champions Samantha Stosur and Francesca Schiavone will meet in the first round of the Sydney International—a rematch of their 2010 French Open final won by Schiavone. The high-profile encounter is a byproduct of the strength of the field—nine of the top 10 players in the WTA rankings are entered in tournament which begins Sunday. Stosur, who won the US Open last year, is seeded fifth, whole the 11th-ranked Schiavone is unseeded. Top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki, and Wimbleden champion and second-seeded Petra Kvitova have first-round byes. Juan Martin del Potro, top-seeded in the men’s draw, No. 2 John Isner, third-seeded Richard Gasquet and No. 4 Feliciano Lopez have first-round byes.

Stosur to face Schiavone in 1st round at Sydney

INTERNET

Today is definitely not very good, otherwise I would be playing. But I feel without play and the right treatment, I will get rid of it in the next few days.”

Nadal dismissed suggestions that the loss was a setback to his preparations for the Australian Open. “I go to Australia very

Roger Federer of Switzerland

Federer plans to fly out of Doha on Saturday as scheduled and is hopeful he will recover by the end of the week with rest and more treatment.

“The match was really always

“I just played my game,” said Monfils, who defeated Viktor Troicki of Serbia to reach the semifinals. “I think

Gael Monfils

“I go to Australia very

For Australia, I’m optimistic, just because it’s not very good but it can’t be that bad.” Federer said. “I have had bad backs in the past. This is definitely not very good, otherwise I would be playing. But I feel without play and the right treatment, I will get rid of it in the next few days.”

Nadal dismissed suggestions that the loss was a setback to his preparations for the Australian Open. “I go to Australia very

Rooney, United deny striker will quit Old Trafford

Manchester, 7 Jan—Wayne Rooney issued a joint statement with Manchester United denying he’s set to leave the Premier League champions.

The action was prompted by a story in Saturday’s edition of the Independent claiming that there are cracks in the relationship between Rooney and United manager Alex Ferguson.

The statement says “any suggestion that Manchester United and Wayne Rooney are to part company is complete nonsense” and that the England striker and Ferguson “have always had and retain the utmost respect for each other and look forward to working together in the coming seasons.” The 26-year-old Rooney tweeted: “The independent are talking absolute rubbish,” before reiterating his commitment to United.—INTERNET

Wayne Rooney

Gerrard returns to lead Liverpool Cup romp

This was Liverpool’s first domestic cup tie at Anfield since they were embarrassed by lowly Northampton in the League Cup last season.

They have not secured major silverware since their 2006 FA Cup triumph, the seventh-time they have won the competition yet they had only advanced past the third round only twice in five attempts since.

Liverpool have succumbed to second-tier clubs Barnsley and Reading in recent seasons while 12

months ago, in Dalglish’s first game back, they lost 1-0 to Manchester United after Gerrard was sent off at Old Trafford.

Internet

INTERNET

Internet

INTERNET

Internet

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET
Continued from yesterday...

**January transfer window**

We, the NLM-ner profiles the most likely transfer targets during the January window - at home and abroad.

Last January, the headlines were made on deadline day when Chelsea spent £88m on Fernando Torres and Liverpool replaced the Spanish striker with £15m strike Ruben Collo.

Here are our top 50 suggestions for high-profile moves this time.

**Potential European Movers . . .**

**YOANN GOURCUFF** (25, midfielder)

**Marseille:** His move to Fulham collapsed at the last minute in August but could be back on after a falling out with coach Didier Deschamps.

**EDEN HAZARD** (25, winger)

**Lille:** The exciting Belgian is a tasty prospect for Arsenal, Chelsea and Man City fans, but is also being targeted by wealthy domestic rivals Paris Saint-Germain.

**BENJAMIN CORNET** (24, midfielder)

**Marseille:** Hugely impressive in his first League season, the dynamic attacking midfielder is reportedly attracting interest from Chelsea and Liverpool.

**OLIVIER GIROUD** (24, forward)

**Montpellier:** His strength and aerial prowess make him an attractive prospect but it would take a large bid to sway the title hopefuls.

**MODIBOMAIJA** (25, winger)

**Sochaux:** Unhappy with Newcastle’s decision to withdraw interest following a medical, the Malian would be open to offers from other Premier League clubs.

**PAPA ‘BABBA’ DIALAWA** (23, forward)

**Maritimo:** The Senegalese striker nearly moved to Celtic last summer and could be on his way this time via imminent receipt of a £18m move from Bordeaux.

**YOANNE LEGER** (25, midfielder)

**Bastia:** The Frenchman has attracted admirers in La Liga and abroad. Juventus are the subject of some debate.

**JUAN FRANCO PEREIRA** (26, full-back)

**Sevilla:** His move to Fulham collapsed at the last minute in August but could be back on after a falling out with coach Andre Deschamps.

**EWERTON** (22, centre-back)

**SC Braga:** The Argentine sparkled in the Champions League last season and could be on his way this time via imminent receipt of a £18m move from Bordeaux, Lyon are ready to cut their losses on the playmaker and may even consider a loan.

**NICOLAS GAITAN** (23, midfielder)

**Benfica:** The Argentine sparkled in the Champions League last season and could be on his way this time via imminent receipt of a £18m move from Bordeaux.

**HULK** (25, forward)

**Porto:** Few clubs in the world have a realistic chance of luring the burly Brazil striker, who has an £83m buy-out clause - but Chelsea or Paris Saint-Germain might be the team to break the bank.

**KAKA** (29, forward)

**Real Madrid:** The Spanish giants are keen to offload a player earning £8.5m plus per year. Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and a return to Brazil have all been mooted but the £25m price tag is too high.

**MARTINACERES** (24, full-back)

**Sevilla:** Selling the Spanish man would raise funds for Sevilla. He has attracted admiring glances in La Liga and abroad. Juventus are keen and £38m might do it.

**To be continued . . .**

---

**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(8-12-12 09:30 am ~ 9-1-12 09:30 am) NST

- News
  - Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation (Border Areas)
  - News
  - "Exactly Cooked & Tasty Dishes" Eggplant Curry
  - Vice-President Dr. Sai Maik Khun’s Visit to Mianmar Tsang Nyantik Victims Relief Camp
  - IT Youth’s & Knowledge Age
  - "MI People’s Celebrities" Who Make Hay Go to
  - National Literary Award Presenting Ceremony
  - Moe Akyin Chan Buddha, The Unique Pagoda in Monywa
  - Shopping with Torch-Light.
  - 100 Shuttle Silk Fabric and its Key Notes
  - Let’s Sing Together
  - Myanmar Customs & Naming System
  - Beautiful Choreographic of Maid of Honour Dance and Female Spirit Dance
  - Banana
  - Myanmar Movies “One Precept-2”

---

**MYANMAR TV**

(8-1-12 (Sunday))

7:00 am
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Swaydaw - Uppatasanti Paritta
7:30 am
2. Morning News
7:50 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song
8:40 am
4. International News
8:50 am
5. Martial Song
11:00 am
7:50 am
6. TV Drama Series
12:30 pm
7. Myanmar Movies
4:20 pm
8. Dance of National Races
4:40 pm
9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
4:50 pm
10. Teleplay (Agri)
5:20 pm
11. Song & Enjoy
6:20 pm
12. Cartoon Series
7:00 pm
13. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
14. News
15. Cartoon Series
16. TV Drama Series

---

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

---

**Pyapoy gets repaved road**

**Pyapoy, 7 Jan—**The repaved Myawady Road was inaugurated in Ward 17 of Pyapoy on 2 January. Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Soe Win and officials formally opened the road.

The road, 2,300 feet long and 12.5 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of K 24.89 million contributed by World Vision (Myanmar) and local people.

---

**District News**

**Fire preventive measures taken**

PAUKHEL, 7 Jan—For prevention against danger of fire at State-owned factories and workshops, a fire drill was organized at No. 93 Saw Mill in Pyapoy Township on 20 December. Officials and members of Fire Brigade demonstrated fire drill with the participation of local people and use of fire fighting extinguishers.

---

**Vaccine of foot-and-mouth disease provided**

MANZSI, 7 Jan—Manzsi Township is striving for alleviation of poverty in rural areas. Officials of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department injected vaccine of foot-and-mouth disease to 58 buffaloes and 76 cows in PyoNoLwin Ward of Manzsi Township on 25 December.
Nav Pyi Taw, 7 Jan—A coordination meeting of Rice Reserve Supervisory Committee took place at the Ministry of Commerce here this morning with an address by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint. In his speech, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint said after taking control of rice trading in successive eras, the State gave a green light to private sectors to trade rice freely and openly beginning 24 April, 2003. In the interests of farmers, the State will purchase rice from local farmers at a profitable price after forming the Rice Reserve Supervision Committee. Moreover, necessary subcommittees will be formed and they need to take systematic measures to be able to deal with purchasing, storage, quality and money matters in rice trading.

Afterwards, the deputy ministers and officials took part in the round of discussion.

At the meeting, the committee was formed with 10 members including chairman, vice-chairman and secretary.

**Man City boss disputes Ferguson’s claim over who is playing best**

**Manchester, 7 Jan**—Roberto Mancini has refuted Sir Alex Ferguson’s claim that Tottenham are playing the best football in the Premier League, insisting Manchester United are.

Just before the New Year, Ferguson insisted Harry Redknapp’s men were title contenders and they “play the best football in the country and their current form is the best in the country.”

But Mancini believes his Premier League table-toppers are the current best as he prepares to renew rivalries with Ferguson’s side in the FA Cup on Sunday.

“It is difficult to say your neighbour is playing better football,” he said.

“Tottenham can win the title. They have done a fantastic season until now and in the next four months, I don’t know. “But, for now, we are playing the best football in the Premier League.”

**Mental strength**

But the Italian does concede Manchester United are still the best team in England because of their renowned mental strength.

“If you want my opinion, Manchester United are the best team in England,” he said.

“Maybe not now because they have six or seven important players injured.”

“But they have a strong team with a strong mentality and they are at the top.”

The former Inter Milan boss also stressed the differences between what he has managed in two seasons at City and what Ferguson has created in 25 with United.

“We can’t be like them in two years,” he said.

“They have had this mentality for 25 years. “We can improve if we continue to win, if we win the championship or other cups. We started it last season. But in two years it is impossible.”

**Hat-trick**

Mancini’s side beat United in last season’s FA Cup semi-final before going on to lift the silverware and then in October came that staggering 6-1 triumph at Old Trafford that sent shockwaves around the world and leaves City on the brink of a hat-trick of derby victories for the first time since 1969.

“It was important to beat them in the semi-final last year and it was important to beat them at Old Trafford,” said Mancini.

“It was not the 6-1, they played for 40 minutes with 10 players, which is very difficult. It was important because it was a good performance.

“We played very well away from home.”—Internet

**Community-based domiciliary care provided in Dawbon Township**

Yangon, 5 Jan—A coordination meeting on providing community-based domiciliary care was held in Dawbon Township, Yangon Region on 26 December.

Township medical officer Dr Moh Moh Aung gave talks on health care services by means of domiciliary care.

Afterwards, Leader of Yangon West District TB Control Group Dr Swe Swe Than and party provided medical check-up to chronic patients in Dawbon Township and presented medicines and nutritious foods to them.

**Significant night temperature**

(7-1-2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pinlaung</td>
<td>5°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putao</td>
<td>6°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heho</td>
<td>6°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mogok</td>
<td>6°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PyinOoLwin</td>
<td>7°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mercury influx into ecosystem may have caused extinction 250m years ago**

Brain power can decline from age 45

Rooney, United deny striker will quit Old Trafford

Wawrinka knocked out in Chennai Open quarterfinals