True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and party leave for Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—A Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing left here by Tatmadaw special aircraft at 9.30 am today to pay a goodwill visit to Thailand at the invitation of Commander-in-Chief General Tansak Patimapragorn of the Royal Thai Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, Commander-in-Chief(Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Li-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services was accompanied by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Li-Gen Hla Hay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, Li-Gen Thet Naing Win and Li-Gen Kyaw Swe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Chief of Staff(Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win, Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Hay and senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.—MNA

Initial peace agreement inked between State Level Peace-making Group and CNF

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—In order to build peace as offered by the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, an initial peace agreement was signed between State level Peace-making Group from the Chin State Government and Chin National Front (CNF) Peace-making Group at the meeting hall of Chin State on 6 January. Present on the occasion were Union Level Peace-making Group Leader Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Min Oo, General Staff Officer (Grade-I) Lt-Col Ko Ko Gyi of North-West Command, State Advocate General U Katpati L and officials and Dr Shwe Kha of CNF Peace-making Group and members.

In the presence of Union Minister U Aung Min, Union Minister U Win Tun, State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai and peace-making groups, the State Level Peace-making Group and CNF Peace-making Group signed some agreements for initial peace talks and souvenirs were exchanged.

Then, State Minister Col Zaw Min Oo and Dr Shwe Kha exchanged the documents and they posed for a documentary photo together with the Union Ministers.—MNA

Chin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Min Oo and Leader of Chin National Front Peace-making Group Dr Shwe Kha exchange notes of preliminary agreement.—MNA
PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 9 January, 2012

Role of ICE in youths

In Myanmar tradition, a maxim says youths of today are adults of future. They are defined as human resources of the mankind and good sons of the future. Whatever it may be, today’s youths are future generations.

Youth and ICE is playing a crucial role in building a developed nation. Nowadays, every youth must have skills in ICE. Those who have no skill in ICE will be lagged behind the progressive world. Thus, all the youths need to apply ICE at full capacity.

Long time ago, those who had completed in eighteen mainly skills were reliable in building the nation. At present, all younger people must have skills of ICEs. In fact, the youths and the ICE are in pairs.

ICE is a compulsory art for the youth. “I” means Internet. All youths must have proficient skills to apply the Internet. Various websites all over the world are posted on the Internet to share information, knowledge, sports and so on to global people. All happenings across the world can be seen on the websites in the real time. The youths may seek general knowledge on the website. Only when they study and analyze various items of knowledge on the website, can they catch up the advancement of the world.

The word “C” means computer science. The youths must be well-versed in applications of e-mail, Gmail, blog, face book, twitter, etc. They all should understand the applications concerning the software and hardware in computer science.

The last word “E” is the most important, defining English language. All youths must have better in English proficiency with four skills. They must have good command in English as it is a global language. If possible, they should study more languages.

In reality, the youth can enjoy fruits of accomplishments in their life by studying the ICE. All youths must have skills in ICE. Those who have ICE skills are future generations.

Kachin State to crack down Pirate VCDs

NAV PNY TAW, 8 Jan — Kachin State Video Industry Scrutinizing Supervisory Committee held its first work coordination meeting at Kachin State General Administration Department in Myitkyina on 6 January. Chairman of the committee Commissioner of Kachin State General Administration Department U Min Chit Oo clarified the tasks of the committee and measures for prevention of pirate VCDs in Kachin State.

Secretary of the committee In-charge of the Kachin State Branch of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise U Saw Lin Tun reported on organizing the Kachin State video industry and prevention of pirate VCDs in Kachin State. Chairman of the committee Commissioner of Kachin State General Administration Department U Min Chit Oo explained the purpose of organizing the Kachin State video industry and prevention of pirate VCDs in Kachin State.

Development of cooperative stimulated

YANGON, 7 Jan — Staff Officer of Yameethin Township Cooperative Department and inspection team of Cooperative Development Branch met members of Lokehtar Saikhtoke Cooperative Society in Ingyinkan Village of Yameethin Township on 23 December.

The staff officer and party viewed thriving paddy plantation of the society. Next, they micro-credit tasks of Shwe Kan Moo Farming General Cooperative Society.

Myanmar Alin

Best mother and baby contest held

Myanma Alin

53rd Kayin New Year was celebrated in Nweni street in ward (e) of North Okkalapa Township in Yangon Region. This year’s Kayin New Year, coincided with Christmas was widely celebrated in the whole nation. — MNA

NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 9 January, 2012

Mass walk activities organized in Shwegyin

SHWEGYIN, 8 Jan — The mass walk activities in December was held in Shwegyin Township of Bago District on 31 December.

Departmental officials, local authorities, members of social organizations, teachers and students participated in the up and down activities from the monument on Nyazay Road in Shan/Kyay Ward to Shwegyin-Madauk Sittoung Bridge. They then took physical exercises. Later, a lucky draw programme was performed for participants.

Myanmar Alin

Football tourny commences in Tatkon

TATKON, 8 Jan — The Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township Administrator’s Cup U-21 Inter-Ward Village Football Tournament 2012 kicked off at the township sports ground in Tatkon on yesterday afternoon.

First, football teams took positions at the designated places. Township Administrator U Aye Lu made a speech and greeted the football teams.

The footballers took the sports oaths. In the debut, Bayinnaung Ward team beat Myawady Ward team 1-0. Altogether nine football teams are taking part in the tournament. — Zinbo-Kyemon

LOCALSPORTS

Chess tournament opened in Dalla

DALLA, 8 Jan — Dalla Township General Administration Department of Yangon South District organized the chess tournament in commemoration of the 64th Independence Day at Thiri Zeya Nawrahta Hall in Dalla on 2 January afternoon.

Township Administrator U Tun Tun Win made a speech, and an official explained rules of the tournament. The administrator launched the tournament. Players from various wards of the township are taking part in the tournament. — Myanmar Alin

New building for Basic Education Post-primary School opened in Salingyi Township

SALINGYI, 4 Jan — A new building for Basic Education Post-primary School in Mintaw Village, Salingyi Township was opened and handed over to the education department at a ceremony held at the new school building on 23 December.

Sagingyi Region Social Affairs Minister made a speech on the occasion and Headmaster U Myint explained the purpose of opening of the new building.

Afterwards, Sagingyi Region Forest, Energy and Mines U Than Hlaik, Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein, Region Hluttaw Representatives U Aung Zaw Oo and U Nay Win formally opened the new building.

After that, Sagingyi Region Depute Hluttaw Speaker U Thaung Sein unveiled the signboard of the new building, and Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Paw Khine handed over the related document to Region Education Officer U Myint Soe.

The new facility is 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 12 feet high completed with CI sheet roof and concrete walls. It was built at a cost of over 9.8 million contributed by the State and the people.

Township IPRD

The opening ceremony of 64th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in progress at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon on 7 January.

(News reported) — MNA

The New Light of Myanmar
Army and NATO-led Afghan Interior Ministry said by Afghan forces and NATO-launched eight joint operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and America’s wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and America’s wars in the Middle East. It's the worst air quality recorded in a dozen years, and it's the unhealthiest kind—microscopic, chemical-laden particles that can get into lungs and absorbed into the bloodstream to create health risks in everyone, not just the young and infirm. It traditionally records the highest level of particulate matter and ozone pollution in the United States and has a rate of asthma three times the national average, according to the American Lung Association.
Belgian doctors carry out country’s first face transplant

**BRUSSELS, 8 Jan—** Belgian surgeons have successfully performed the country’s first-ever face transplant, the 19th in the world, doctors announced on Saturday.

Officials at the University Hospital of Ghent said a team of 65 surgeons and medical staff had performed the 20-hour operation a week earlier on a Belgian man with a severely mutilated face.

“He’s fine, he’s doing very well after six days,” surgical team leader Philip Blondeel told Belgian television. “He’s already swallowed a little water.”

Blondeel said the patient, whose name was not disclosed, was already able to speak, surpassing doctors’ expectations.

“We didn’t think he would be able to speak so soon,” the patient had been missing skin around the central part of his face, as well as lips, facial muscles and nerves.

The operation brings to 19 the number of face transplants carried out worldwide. The first was a partial face transplant, on Frenchwoman Isabelle Dinoire in 2005.

Belgium is the third European country after France and Spain to have carried out the operation.

China plans to increase nurses to 2.86 mn by 2015

**BEIJING, 8 Jan—** China will bring its nurse population to 2.86 million by 2015, meaning there will be 2.07 nurses for every 1,000 people, according to a blueprint on nursing issued Friday by the Ministry of Health (MOH).

By the end of 2010, China has registered 2.05 million nurses and there were 1.52 nurses for every 1,000 Chinese.

Even by 2015, the ratio of registered nurses for 1,000 people in China is five times fewer than countries in the European Union and the United States by current standards. By 2015, the ratio of licensed doctors to nurses will climb from 1.1 to 1.2.

Red wine may reduce breast cancer risk

**LOS ANGELES, 8 Jan—** Red wine may reduce one risk factor for breast cancer, challenging the widely-held belief that alcohol increases breast cancer, US researchers say.

Study co-author Dr Christopher Shufelt, assistant director of the Women’s Heart Center at the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute, said doctors long ago determined all alcohol increases the body’s estrogen levels, fostering the growth of cancer cells.

The study, published online ahead of the April print edition of the Journal of Women’s Health, found chemicals in the skins and seeds of red grapes slightly lowered estrogen levels while elevating testosterone among premenopausal women who drank 8 ounces of red wine nightly for about a month. The effect was not found in white wine.

S Africa faces big downside risk from Europe

**BLUMENTHAL, 8 Jan—** The euro zone crisis could hurt South Africa’s economy and the country should maintain a supportive monetary policy to ensure growth in the medium term, head of the International Monetary Fund said on Saturday.

Christine Lagarde, in South Africa as part of her first tour of the continent since taking the IMF post, said the African country’s economic powerhouse would do well to also moderate wage growth.

Although well integrated into the global economy, South Africa mitigated the worst impact of 2008’s recession through a sound macroeconomic regime, a strong financial sector and a flexible exchange rate, she said.

“South Africa has lost about a million jobs in the past two years, positions analysts say will be difficult to reopen because businesses have priced labour out of the market.”

Government, Exxon reach deal on disputed Gulf leases

**WASHINGTON, 8 Jan—** Exxon Mobil Corp and the government reached a deal on Friday that would allow the company to move ahead with development of a field in the Gulf of Mexico estimated to yield tens of billions of dollars of oil.

Exxon sued the government last year after the Interior Department canceled three of five leases for what is called the Julia field. “The settlement will allow Exxon Mobil to develop this very large, but challenging resource as quickly as possible using a phased approach,” Exxon Mobil spokesman Patrick McGinn said in a statement.

In its lawsuit, Exxon argued that the department arbitrarily deprived the company of its rights under the canceled leases and took away Exxon’s ability to produce a reservoir believed to hold billions of barrels of oil. The dispute arose after the government rejected Exxon’s Oct. 2003 request for a “suspenion of production.” Following several appeals, the Interior Department concluded in a decision last May that Exxon lacked a “commitment” to producing oil at the time the leases expired.

The Interior Department said the proposed settlement preserves the “important regulatory progress” made in the decision last May that treating hepatitis-C associated liver disease that afflicts an estimated 180 million people worldwide—while setting off a scramble among large drugmakers to develop the most promising products.

The Bristol-Infibex deal comes on the heels of GlaxoSmithKline, which has its own promising hepatitis C therapies. That deal was at an 18.90 premium.

Infibex’s lead asset is INX-198, an oral drug in Phase II or mid-stage development. Bristol envisions combining INX-198 with products in its own pipeline to create an all-oral regimen that would eliminate the need for interferons, which often cause flu-like side effects that lead many hepatitis C patients to stop or delay treatment. Bristol expects the transaction to hit earnings per share of about 4 cents in 2012 and 5 cents in 2013.

Aluminum traders to producers: Cut like it’s 1994

**NEW YORK, 8 Jan—** To find a precedent for the deep, lasting output cuts that aluminum producers must make to put a floor under prices, traders are looking a lot further back than the last recession. 

Three years ago, with the global economy convulsing in the throes of a serious recession, smelters worldwide started cutting back production—temporarily. As prices quickly rebounded, nearly doubling within a year, those companies were just as quick to fire up their furnaces again.

With the overhang of high inventories and a 28-per cent drop in prices since May last year, they’re responding again, with significant downside risks to the aluminum market. Traders may not be so readily appeased as three years ago. Many say that much deeper, longer-lasting cuts—more akin to the post-Soviet government pact of the mid-1990s—will be required in order to maintain a supportive and competitive macroeconomic regime, a strong financial sector and a flexible exchange rate, she said.

“South Africa also faces significant economic contractions, particularly in South Africa’s main export markets,” the IMF said in a statement after meetings with President Jacob Zuma and senior officials.

“The in this context, we agreed that the challenge now is to ensure that monetary policy remains supportive and competitiveness improves.”

The country has lost about a million jobs in the past two years, positions analysts say will be difficult to reopen because businesses have priced labour out of the market.
World’s smallest silicon wire brings quantum computers closer to reality

WASHINGTON, 8 Jan—World’s thinnest silicon wire, which is just one atom tall and four atoms wide, may play a vital role in developing quantum computers in future, researchers say.

The wire created by a team of researchers from the University of New South Wales, Melbourne University and Purdue University has the same current-carrying capability as copper wires.

Experiments and atom-by-atom supercomputer models of the wires have found that the wires maintain a low capacity for resistance despite being more than 20 times thinner than conventional copper wires in microprocessors.

Bent Werner, the paper’s lead author and a graduate student in the Center for Excellence for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology at the University of New South Wales, was thrilled with the finding. “It’s extraordinary to show that Ohm’s Law, such a basic law, still holds even when constructing a wire from the fundamental building blocks of nature—atoms,” he said.

The innovation of the Australian group was to build the circuits up atom by atom, instead of the current method of building microprocessors, in which material is stripped away, said Gerhard Klimeck, a Purdue professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of the Network for Computational Nanotechnology.

“Typically we chip or etch material away, which can be very expensive, difficult and inaccurate,” Klimeck stated. “Once you get to 20 atoms wide you have atomic fluctuations that make scaling difficult.”

Facebook takes action after computer worm

LONDON, 8 Jan—Social networking giant Facebook has acted to stop the spread of a new computer worm that has stolen over 45,000 login credentials.

According to computer security experts, the Ramnit worm has been spreading since April 2012, but was only recently adapted to target Facebook accounts. A “worm” is distinct from a normal computer virus in that it can reproduce itself without needing to attach itself to an existing programme.

The new threat to Facebook users was highlighted recently by Secuirty, an Israeli computer security firm. It said most of the users affected so far are in Britain or France, The Telegraph reports.

“Our research lab identified a completely new ‘financial’ Ramnit variant that was only recently adapted to steal Facebook login credentials,” the firm said in a blog post.

“It was fairly straightforward to detect that over 45,000 Facebook login credentials have been stolen worldwide, mostly from users in the United Kingdom and France,” it added.

Facebook, that learned of the new attack on its users last week, said it has taken action to defend them. It said it had studied the 45,000 stolen login details and concluded that most of them were out of date. However all affected users will be forced to reset their passwords to improve security, the social network said. “Last week we received from external security researchers a set of user credentials that had been harvested,” Facebook spokesman said. —Internet

New tools help map 3-D world of vision in mice

WASHINGTON, 8 Jan—Mapping the 3-D world in our brains—the landscape that mimics the outside world, where the objects we see exist as collections of neural circuits and electrical impulses—would not be too far off. Scientists at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies are reporting the discovery of an improved way to remove carbon dioxide—the major greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming—from smokestacks and other sources, including the atmosphere.

Their report on the process, which achieves some of the highest carbon dioxide removal capacity ever reported for real-world conditions where the air contains moisture, appears in the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

The group found ways to make such carbon dioxide removal devices more practical by making them less subject to the competing processes of corrosion and fouling.

They point out that existing methods for removing carbon dioxide from smokestacks and other sources, including the atmosphere, are energy intensive, don’t work well and have other drawbacks.

In an effort to overcome such obstacles, the group turned to solid materials based on polyethyleneimine, a readily available and inexpensive polymeric material.
2011 was the driest year on record in Texas

FORT WORTH, 8 Jan—It’s official: 2011 was the driest year on record in Texas, according to the National Weather Service. It was also the second-hottest ever.

That won’t surprise Texans who lived through a year in which wildfires roared through the Lone Star State, cattle went thirsty and many Fourth of July fireworks shows were canceled.

The weather service said the average rainfall in Texas in 2011 was 14.89 inches. The previous record of 14.99 inches of average rainfall was set in 1917.

The average temperature in 2011 was 67.2 degrees. The warmest year on record was 1921, when the average temperature was 67.5 degrees, the weather service said.

The prolonged Texas drought is to blame for devastating agriculture and livestock losses, estimated in the billions of dollars.

The historic drought has killed as many as half a billion trees, not including those that died in wildfires that scorched some 4 million acres in 2011, the Texas Forest Service has reported.

While some officials of Texas received substantial rainfall during December, 97.83 percent of the state remained in severe drought this week, according to a Thursday report by the US Drought Monitor.

In addition, 32.4 percent of Texas lingered in exceptional drought, the most extreme category, according to the Drought Monitor.

**Grounded cargo ship breaks apart on NZ reef**

WELLINGTON, 8 Jan—A cargo ship grounded off the New Zealand coast since October has split in two, spilling sea containers and debris and sparking fears of a fresh oil spill, maritime officials said Sunday.

The wreck of the Greek-owned Rena was described as New Zealand’s worst maritime environmental disaster even before the rear section of the ship, lashed by pounding seas, broke away overnight.

The ship previously spilled heavy fuel oil that fouled pristine North Island beaches and killed up to 20,000 seabirds, and despite salvage efforts nearly 400 tons of oil remain onboard.

Maritime officials said the front section of the wreck remains stuck in its original position, but the stern section slipped at least 100 feet (30 meters) away from the bow and is “moving significantly,” bounded by 19-foot (6-meter) swells.

The storm that split the vessel will continue for another three to four days, Maritime New Zealand spokesman Rob Henderson said. Officials said up to 300 of the roughly 880 containers that had been on board were lost when the ship broke apart. Of those, about 38 percent had been fitted with monitoring devices and some 30 containers had already been located.

Oil has been seen leaking from the broken ship. Alex van Wijngaarden, on-scene commander for the national response team, said oil from the vessel could come ashore around midnight Sunday.

“While reports at this stage indicate there has not been a significant release of oil, with the Rena in its current fragile state, a further release is likely,” he said. “While it is unknown at this stage exactly how much oil may be released, teams have been mobilized and will be ready to respond to anything that may come ashore.”

**Iran leader looks to Latin America for support**

CARACAS, 8 Jan—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is courting Latin America on a four-nation tour starting Sunday that will let him tout some of Iran’s few friendships while tensions grow over the country’s threats to block oil shipments in retaliation for tighter US sanctions.

His government found itself largely isolated in the standoff over its nuclear program, and the new sanctions targeting Iran’s Central Bank and oil industry have triggered an abrupt drop in the nation’s currency.

Iran’s growing economic ties with Latin America could give it some breathing space from the sanctions, and by welcoming Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his allies, Ahmadinejad also gets a chance to join like-minded leaders in denouncing US foreign policy.

“Iran needs all the friends it can get,” he said in a statement on its official IRNA news agency.

Ahmadinejad’s fifth visit to Venezuela, to be followed by trips to Nicaragua, Ecuador and Cuba, has been to all the countries before, and the visit seems aimed at reinforcing ties with leaders who speak up for Iran.

Tensions have been rising as Iran has warned that it could retaliate against US sanctions by blocking shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf. A large share of the world’s oil tanker traffic passes through the Strait of Hormuz, which runs along the Iranian coast.

**77,865 kg of narcotics seized in Pakistan in 2011**

ISLAMABAD, 8 Jan—Pakistan’s Anti Narcotics Forces (ANF) seized a total of 77,865 kilograms of narcotics from different parts of the country in 2011.

Of all the narcotics seized in the country last year, heroin accounted for 1,583.2 kilograms, opium for 7,875 kilograms, hashish for 7,652.72 kilograms, morphine for 961 kilograms and cocaine for 2.5 kilograms with remaining to be balanced by other type of narcotics, said ANF on Saturday.

In the past year, ANF also organized a variety of activities including lectures, seminars, workshops, free medical camps, speech competitions, stage drama, photo exhibitions and drug burning ceremonies to promote drug-free environment in the country with special focus on the youth, it said.
Philippines extends assistance to flood victims in Thailand, Pakistan

MANILA, 8 Jan – The Philippine government has turned over its donations to the flood victims in Thailand and Pakistan, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Saturday.

The department said that 100,000 US dollars and 10,000 US dollars were given to Thailand and Pakistan, respectively, in ceremonies in both countries.

The donations were turned over to Thai Ambassador to the Philippines Prasas Prasavvinitchai and Pakistani Ambassador to the Philippines Mohsin Raza.

“The Philippines donation to both countries will be used for rehabilitation programs for the flood victims,” the DFA said.

The donations were used to buy rice and other food stuffs, and to support the recovery efforts in both countries.

Argentina extends assistance to flood victims in Thailand, Pakistan

BUENOS AIRES, 8 Jan—Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner said Thursday that 100,000 US dollars and 550 billion Thai bhat will be used to support the flood victims in Thailand and Pakistan, respectively, in ceremonies to begin her second term.

Fernandez said that the funds will be used to support the flood victims in both countries, and that the assistance will be provided in cooperation with the local governments.

She added that the flood victims in Thailand have turned over its donations to the Philippine government, which has also contributed to the relief efforts.

Argentina leader’s thyroid wasn’t cancerous

BUENOS AIRES, 8 Jan—Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner said Thursday that her thyroid cancer surgery was successful.

Fernandez said that she underwent the surgery on Wednesday, just 2 years after the diagnosis was made.

She added that she is cancer-free and that the surgery was successful.

She also thanked her doctors and the medical team led by the hospital’s surgery chief, Dr. Pedro Sacchi, an expert in cancers of the thyroid.

The announcement came just days after the Argentine leader’s thyroid wasn’t cancerous.

Rare Asian duck draws bird watchers to Calif

FRESNO, (Calif), 8 Jan—A rare duck normally only seen in Asia has somehow turned up in California, drawing excited bird watchers from all over the US and Canada to a wildlife refuge in the state’s Central Valley.

Wildlife officials say a male falcated duck, a bird common in China, was first spotted at the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge’s visitor centre. More than 2,000 cars packed with visitors have streamed into the refuge over the last month — double the usual visitor numbers.

“Falcated” or “curved and tapering to a point!” refers to the male duck’s long wing feathers near the body that overhang onto the tail.

There have only been a few previous sightings in California: One was spotted in Orange County in 1969 and one in Lassen County in the far northern part of the state in 2002 and 2003.

Hawaii hit by number of endangered seal killings

HONOLULU, 8 Jan—Two Hawaiian monk seals were found dead in the state’s most recent killing.

One of the seals was found on the beach at the Polynesian Cultural Center on Oahu, while the other was found on a beach in Maui.

There have been more than 25 seal killings in the past two years at a Hawaiian island, leading to simmering resentment among some fishermen who fear new regulations will trample upon their right to fish.

The killings are also having an impact on the island’s tourism industry.

Scientists perturbed

Mysterious disease kills 100 people in northern Uganda, leaves scientists puzzled

KISUMU, (Uganda), 8 Jan—Scientists are to launch a series of other investigations after previous ones failed to identify the cause of a mysterious disease that has killed over 100 people and left over 50 others infected in several districts in northern Uganda.

The disease was first reported in September 2009 and there have been more than 25 seal killings in the past two years at a Hawaiian island.

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Scientists perturbed

Hawaiian monk seals are critically endangered species, and their population has been declining steadily in recent years.

In this 15 Dec, 2011 file photo, a nearly blind, endangered Hawaiian monk seal swims at the Waikiki Aquarium in Honolulu, Hawaii, also known as KPS, has spent the past two years at a California research lab.

He was first rescued when federal officials found him sucking on a rock three weeks after his mother abandoned him on Kauai.

Scientists say the seal is on course to vanish in 50 to 100 years.

In this 10 Dec, 2011 file photo, Argentina’s President Cristina Fernandez smiles during her swearing-in ceremony in Buenos Aires, Argentina.—INTERNET

In this 10 Dec, 2011 file photo, President Cristina Fernandez smiles during her swearing-in ceremony in Buenos Aires, Argentina.—INTERNET

Police quiz male nurse over triple patient murder

LONDON, 8 Jan—Police investigating a string of deaths at a hospital caused by contaminated saline drips were Sunday questioning a male nurse on suspicion of murdering three patients.

Victorino Chua, 46, was initially arrested Thursday on suspicion of tampering with medical records at Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport.

But Greater Manchester Police said late Saturday he had now been arrested on suspicion of three murders and 18 instances of causing grievous bodily harm between 1 June and 15 July last year.

“We have taken the decision to arrest this man on suspicion of murder in close consultation with (prosecutors),” said Assistant Chief Constable Terry Sweeney.

“It is important that no one jumps to any conclusions because of these steps or second guesses where our investigations will take us.”

The nurse was being questioned over the contamination of saline drips, which caused patients’ blood sugar to fall to unusually low levels. Three patients, all on acute wards for the seriously ill, died shortly after each episode.

Three patients died after being given contaminated saline drips at Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport.

In this 10 Dec, 2011 file photo, Argentina’s President Cristina Fernandez smiles during her swearing-in ceremony in Buenos Aires, Argentina.—INTERNET

In this 10 Dec, 2011 file photo, Argentina’s President Cristina Fernandez smiles during her swearing-in ceremony in Buenos Aires, Argentina.—INTERNET

Mysterious disease kills 100 people in northern Uganda, leaves scientists puzzled

KISUMU, (Uganda), 8 Jan—Scientists are to launch a series of other investigations after previous ones failed to identify the cause of a mysterious disease that has killed over 100 people and left over 50 others infected in several districts in northern Uganda.

The disease was first reported in September 2009 and has since been dubbed ‘noodling disease’ because it leaves its victims nodding. It has since spread to five districts in the region which include Kitgum, Lamwo, Pader, Agago and Amuru.

Richard Nduhora, minister of state for health in charge of general duties, said that the previous samples and tests carried out by Centres for Disease Control (CDC) scientists in Atlanta US failed to identify the cause of the disease.

Nduhora, who is leading a fact finding mission in the affected areas which are also recovering from two decades long insurgency, told the residents on Friday that a team of scientists from the ministry of Health, World Health Organization and CDC is going to carry out new tests.

In this 15 Dec, 2011 photo, a nearly blind, endangered Hawaiian monk seal swims at the Waikiki Aquarium in Honolulu, Hawaii, also known as KPS, has spent the past two years at a California research lab.

He was first rescued when federal officials found him sucking on a rock three weeks after his mother abandoned him on Kauai.

Scientists say the seal is on course to vanish in 50 to 100 years.
Union Ministers, Chin State Chief Minister inspect construction of inter-village roads

Union Minister U Win Tun and Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai inspected the chosen site for construction of 8-mile Talanzawl-Latinter-village road, and progress in construction of Falam-Kunli inter-village road and Laива-Laylet inter-village road. On 6 January, the Union Ministers and the State Chief Minister attended the donation ceremony for rural development and poverty alleviation at Haka Township People’s Hospital in which hospital equipment, TV and computers were donated for hospitals, schools and libraries in Haka, Thantlang, Falam, Tonanzu Townships and Kyikah and Reekawdalah sub-townships. (MNA)

Region Chief Minister looks into development tasks in Shwebo District

Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Nyunt Oo, Chin State Chief Minister U Tha Aye attended the cornerstone laying ceremony for new buildings of Affiliated Basic Education Middle School in Ywanan Village of Wellet Township on 5 January. Wellwishers donated cash to the funds for the new building.

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—Minister for Railways and Transport U Aung Min, Minister for Cooperation and Development Affairs U Ohn Ohn Kyaw inspected construction of inter-village roads due to comparably lesser number of bus lines in the area in its infancy of urbanization, and straight and smooth roads.

Accidents by faults of traffic rules are mostly involved in schoolchildren, expectant mothers and drunken drivers who have not complete driving training licences, lack of awareness, and who are mostly involved in accidents. In addition to errors of drivers, lack of maintenance contributes to so many accidents. The danger of traffic accidents is posed not only to Myanmar but to the whole world.

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye attended the cornerstone laying ceremony for new building of Affiliated Basic Education Middle School in Ywanan Village of Wellet Township on 5 January. Wellwishers donated cash to the funds for the new building.

After meeting with local farmers in Okhahtyi Village of Ayawad Township, the Chief Minister inspected construction of Nainggyaung-Thitkyingyi-Thazi Road. (MNA)

Everybody has responsibility to help curb traffic accidents

Accidents by faults of drivers outnumber any other cases. Drivers without driving licences, lack of awareness, and drunken drivers who are mostly involved in accidents.

While the respective invasions are taking measures to disseminate traffic rules among the public, the people should in turn do their bits to help wipe out traffic accidents.

Translation: HKA Kyemon: 8-1-2012

Figures of accidents in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area from 2009 to 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Accident</th>
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<th>Death</th>
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<td>503</td>
<td>178</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>935</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Accidents by faults of drivers outnumber any other cases. Drivers without driving licences, lack of awareness, and drunken drivers who have not complete driving training are mostly involved in accidents.
Regional development tasks supervised in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—The mass walk activities for December was held in Hpa-an of Kayin State on 31 December morning. Over 10,000 people including Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min, authorities and students participated in the mass walk. The state ministers and their wives awarded the winners in the sports events.

The Chief Minister and party inspected harvesting of bean and thriving groundnut plantations in Kanni Village of Hlaingbwe Township. They also viewed road sections, bridges and rubber plantations in the region.

At Paingkyon Station Hospital, the Chief Minister comforted the patients and presented cash assistance to them. The Chief Minister looked into thriving paddy plantations on 150-acre model farm with the use of irrigated water from Yaybok Dam near Htilon Village of Hlaingbwe Township.

Seminar on results of group-wise all-round data collection held

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—A seminar on results of group-wise all-round data collection was held at Sittway Hotel in Sittway, Rakhine State, on 6 January morning. It was attended by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, state ministers, officials from related departments and UNICEF. The chief minister gave an opening speech.

At the seminar, sample collection and data collection of child development, water and sanitation, facts about HIV/AIDS, nutrition, child health, reproductive health care services, child protection, education and child mortality were discussed.

In the evening, the chief minister and State ministers attended the 9th Buddha Pujaniya festival opening ceremony of Buddha Pada Cheyadaw Pagoda in Yatheudaw Township.—MM

Myanmar Fire Brigade helping people at risk to their own life

As today’s State has gathered development momentum, public residences, buildings, factories and workshops of production industry are also improved.

Danger of fire and natural disasters occur across the world at any time. To be able to take preventive measures against the dangers, the Fire Services Department extended its establishment of setup on 14 February 2011.

In so doing, fire stations in Regions and States were also upgraded in the nation. At present, there are 677 fire stations throughout the nation. Of 1981 fire engines, a total of 355 TE vehicles were transformed into the fire engines at the Fire Services Department to save foreign exchange.

Members of the Fire Brigade who were conducted training courses by the training section (Yangon) of the Fire Services Department (Head Office). Central Fire Fighting Training School in PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region, Central Institutes of Civil Service, training schools of the Union Auditor-General’s Office and advanced courses from abroad are ready to help the people.

The dangers of explosive equipment, high-rise apartments and closed rooms are posing dreadful threats to property and life of the people.

The research and development section has been formed for applying modern fire extinguishers to put out the fire of chemicals, poisonous gas and dangerous smoke. Moreover, the department manages its members to pursue technologies of Internet, English language and information technology. The GPS system and Vehicle Tracking System have been installed in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay so as to effectively and quickly perform fire fighting and rescue works at the occurrences of natural disasters.

The Myanmar Fire Brigade is taking out its tasks as a reserved force of the State with sacrifice of life for the sake of the State and the people.

UNION A & I Minister inspects hybrid sunflower plantation

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited 10-acre model hybrid sunflower plantation of farmers U Than Swe and U Than Ohn near Thiteikhin Village, Kinpointan Village-tract in Pyinmana Township here yesterday.

The cross-bred sunflowers were grown through GAP system and expected to yield over 50 baskets per acre. The Union Minister mentioned financial and health benefits of sunflower oil and called for extended cultivation of sunflower to meet the domestic edible oil demand. According to the Union Minister, an acre of sunflower can produce over 220 viss of oil, generating an income of nearly K 0.8 million.

The Union Minister then visited 58-year-old Pyinmana Agricultural Science which has so far turned out 3927 agriculturalists. The Union Minister called students for expertise in related subjects, instructing them to form teams and competing with each others in making researches.—MM

Asphalt road inaugurated in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 8 Jan—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, Kyaukme Township Development Affairs Committee opened the 380 feet long and 12 feet wide asphalt Hkatta Road in Ward 9 on 2 January.

The committee spent K 5,860,000 on construction of the road. Local authorities opened the facility.

Myanma Alin

People participate in putting out fire in demonstration as fire extinguishing drill.

Chapter 1

Members of the Fire Brigade inspect fire preventive measures and advices to beware of fire in line with the Fire Brigade Law and they give educative talks on danger of fire and exercise fire drills.

The Fire Brigade members are ready to put out fire with full equipment of fuel, fire engine, manpower and water in accord with the work guidelines.

A total of 144 Search and Rescue Teams have been organized in Nay Pyi Taw and townships of regions and states with the aim of carrying out rescue works in outbreaks of storms, earthquakes and explosions in the real time.

The Myanmar National Search and Rescue Committee has been reconstituted. As such, altogether 50 members of rescue teams from region and state Fire Brigades, totalling 7200 members of Fire Brigade putting out oil fire in demonstration as fire extinguishing drill.

END
Mount Rainier reopens after fatal ranger shooting

Mount Rainier National Park, (Wash), 8 Jan—Rangers and volunteers somberly embraced as Mount Rainier National Park reopened to the public Saturday for the first time since an Iraq War veteran shot and killed a park ranger there on New Year’s Day.

“We’re here to take back the mountain today,” park spokeswoman Lee Snook said. Margaret Anderson, who had worked as a ranger with her husband at the park for three years, was shot dead by 24-year-old Benjamin Colton Barnes after he busted through a snow tire checkpoint.

Authorities say Barnes, who showed signs of erratic behavior since returning from war, had fled to the mountain hours after a house party shooting in the Seattle suburb of Skyway that left four injured.

After killing Anderson and shooting at another ranger, Barnes fled for the woods, triggering a massive manhunt in the rugged terrain. He was found dead in a creek the following day. An autopsy showed he drowned.

On Saturday, small groups of visitors headed to the mountain’s freshly powdered trails to snow shoe and cross-country ski. The flag at the ranger’s kiosk remained at half-staff, and uniformed rangers wore black bands across their badges.

“This is a place to come to be happy,” Allan Evans, a park volunteer from Graham, Wash, said after hugging a ranger who was on duty when Anderson was killed.

“Is this what this park is about. This is the first step to trying to get everything as whole as can be.”

Ivy Coast finds remains; may be missing reporter

ABIDJAN, (Ivory Coast), 8 Jan—Authorities in Ivory Coast have unearthed human remains that may be those of a French-Cambodian journalist who disappeared in 2004, a government official and a media watchdog group said Saturday.

Justice Minister Jeannot Koneou Aboussou said the remains were found in the western region of ISSA, but he did not provide further details.

Guy-Andre Kieffer, who was 54 when he disappeared, was working in the commercial capital, Abidjan, as an independent journalist, writing articles about corruption in Ivory Coast. He was a dual citizen of France and Canada.

Reporters without Borders said in a statement that a skeleton was discovered after French judge Patrick Ramael ordered a search in the presidential palace for his reporting, and says he would be “very welcome.

Butch Benedict told the Associated Press immediately return a call from the Bowl Championship Series national championship game, which will be played Monday in New Orleans.

The extent of the injuries was not immediately known Saturday evening.—Internet

Death toll from 5 Philippine landside rises to 31; 44 still missing

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 8 Jan—The death toll from a recent landslide that hit a gold-rich mining township in southern Philippines rose to 31 as search operations continued, officials said on Sunday.

Arthuro Uly, governor of Compostela Valley province in Mindanao, said at least 30 bodies had been recovered and rescuers were still looking for 44 people who went missing following the landslide that hit Nipaupan village, Pantukan town. “Yesterday (Saturday), three more bodies have been recovered. We will continue the search mission for three more days,” he said.

Benito Ramos, chief of the country’s National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), said he was hopeful that there would be more survivors. “I’m not losing hope there are still alive victims,” said Ramos, who visited the town. “Only four of the fatalities were residents of Pantukan. The rest came from other provinces,” he added.

Seven teens charged with beating classmate unconscious

MIAMI, 8 Jan—Seven central Florida teenagers were arrested after authorities said they punched and kicked a 13-year-old until she was unconscious while on a school bus.

The victim told authorities that Friday was her first time riding the bus and no one would let her sit down. About 25 children were riding the bus bound for a middle school in Ocala, a rural city north of Orlando. The victim said someone threw a shoe at her and she threw one back, according to an arrest report.

One girl allegedly asked students if they wanted to hit the victim, then instructed the teens to form a circle and began hitting and kicking the victim. Several witnesses said they saw the girl fall to the floor and “appear to have a seizure and pass out,” according to the arrest report.

The victim, who is not being identified, was taken to the hospital and diagnosed with a concussion, severe bruising on her head and muscle pains.

Seven teens, ranging in age from 12 to 15, were charged with battery and disorderly conduct. The Associated Press is not identifying the suspects because they are minors.

Chinese Ambassador to Italy Ding Wei (2nd L) pays a visit to Zheng Liyan at San Giovanni Hospital in Rome, Italy, on 6 Jan, 2012. Zheng’s husband and their less than one-year-old daughter were shot dead in Rome late Wednesday during an armed robbery. Zheng was also wounded in the attack but her life is not in danger now.—Xinhua

Six killed, two injured after geothermal plant blast in north China

SHIZHAIJUANG, 8 Jan—Six people were dead and two injured in a geothermal plant explosion in northern China’s Hebei Province Saturday afternoon, local authorities said.

The blast occurred at around 3:00 pm in a residential area in the city of Shenzhou. Rescue work was launched right after the accident.

An investigation into the cause of the blast is underway.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 7 Jan, 2012 shows the Gangsu section of the Tianshui-Dingsi Highway where three consecutive road accidents took place in Gangsu County, northwest China’s Gansu Province. Seven people died and another 15 were injured after three consecutive accidents happened here due to slick road early Saturday morning. Local police said the injured have been hospitalized.—Xinhua

P110(9).pmd 10 1/9/2012, 7:56 AM
Snow causes chaos in Bulgaria cuts off power

SOFIA, 8 Jan—Heavy snow caused chaos in Bulgaria on Saturday, leaving hundreds of villages without electricity and stranded cars, buses and trucks, officials and local media said.

More than 300 villages and towns were without electricity and power distributor E VN said it was difficult to restore power in western Bulgaria due to strong gusts of wind.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works warned people to refrain from traveling as snow up to 60 centimeters (2 foot) deep covered parts of the Balkan country and temperatures dropped to minus 10° Celsius.

Torrential rain has also swept through regions in southeastern Bulgaria, destroying roads and cutting off remote villages.

A passenger has her train ticket and identification card checked at the Beijing Railway Station in Beijing, capital of China, on 8 Jan, 2011.—Xinhua

Mercedes-Benz to recall 2,424 diesel cars in S Korea

SEOUL, 8 Jan—Mercedes-Benz Korea planned to recall 2,424 diesel cars in South Korea for a defective fuel filter in five diesel models, the transportation ministry said on Sunday.

Voluntary recall would be made for 2,424 diesel sedans with faulty fuel filters that could leak oil on the road, and in turn make dangerous driving conditions for cars that follow behind, according to the Ministry of Land, Transportation and Maritime Affairs.


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Euro hit as investors fret over Europe’s banks

LONDON, 8 Jan—Renewed fears over Europe’s shaky banking sector sent the euro skidding to a near 16-month low against the dollar Thursday, while stock markets failed to get much of a boost from another round of upbeat US economic data.

For a second day running, market concern has centered on the state of the banks, which consisted of at least one example of every coin ever made at the United States Mint, a feat never duplicated, Halperin said in the news release.

The final bid for the coin last week was one of the largest sales at the Florida United Numismatists coin show and which centered on the state of the banks.

The remarks come as the African Union on Thursday asked the United Nations to authorize an increase of its peacekeeping force in war-torn Somalia by 5,700 to 17,700 amid mounting attacks by the rebels.

Xinhua

Philippines to grow 5-6 pct in 2012, economic managers predict

MANILA, 8 Jan—Economic managers of the Philippine government have said that the country’s gross domestic product ( GDP ) growth would grow by 5 to 6 percent this year despite uncertainties in the global economy. 

According to Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Padaranga, this slightly higher GDP growth could be achieved through increased government spending and the full implementation of the public-private partnership ( PPP ) programme of the Aquino administration.

The government’s full-year growth forecast for 2011 is from 4.5 to 5.5 percent although multilateral lending institutions have pegged the country’s gross growth last year from just 3.7-3.8 percent.

The government is not expecting to release government spending growth figures for 2011 until the end of this month.

Padaranga, who is also the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority ( NEDA ), cited the 72-billion-peso (1.64 billion US dollars) stimulus spending program and reforms in project implementation as the major contributing factors to this year’s growth.

Earlier, Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas ( BSP ), the country’s central bank, has said that the sound macroeconomic fundamentals of the Philippines would play a major role in helping the country survive the global economic slowdown and the debt crisis in Europe.

In a forum, Tetangco said the Philippine peso (1.64 billion US dollars) to meet New European requirements for banks to thicken their capital base and improve their ability to cover euro53 billion ($69 billion) to meet New European requirements for banks to thicken their capital base and improve their ability to cover possible losses.

Banks are an integral part of the debt crisis because they hold government bonds. A default or steep fall in the value of government bonds could inflict heavy losses on banks and choke off credit to the European economy.

That’s why regulatory authorities want Europe’s banks to raise their balance sheet by euro115 billion (149 billion) over the next few months. The worry in the markets is that banks will have to offer sharp discounts.

Xinhua

UAE to host Somalia conference in February

NAIROBI, 8 Jan—The United Arab Emirates will host an expert meeting in February aiming at seeking a local solution to Somalia’s instability, Kenya’s ministry of foreign affairs official said on Saturday.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Second Counselor in the Horn of Africa Division, Anthony Safiri, told journalists in Nairobi that the one-day technical conference will target all relevant stakeholders in order to find lasting peace in Somalia.

“The UAE sponsored conference will take into account the needs of local Somalis as part of plans to bring normalcy, especially in regions liberated from the Al-Shabaab militant group,” he said.

The resolutions will be forwarded to the Somali conference to be held in late February in London, Safiri said.

“Somalia is an unstable Somalia poses a danger not only to local citizens but also to the rest of the Horn of Africa,” the ministry official said.

He added that Kenya assumed the seat to chair the African Union Peace and Security Council in January this year. “We will use the position to further lead and guide the debate in order to consolidate peace in Somalia,” he added.

Safiri said that Kenya is waiting for a definite decision on whether or not to be allowed to join the Africa Union Mission in Somalia ( AMISON ) in January.

The remarks come as the African Union on Thursday asked the United Nations to authorize an increase of its peacekeeping force in war-torn Somalia by 5,700 to 17,700 amid mounting attacks by the rebels.

Xinhua

Artists of the China Jinling Dance Company perform dance drama “The Peony Pavilion” at David H. Koch theater of Lincoln Centre in New York, the United States, on 6 Jan, 2012.—Xinhua

1793 penny fetches $1.38m at Fla auction

ORLANDO, 8 Jan—A once-well known copper coin from the earliest days of the US Mint in 1793 has sold for a record$1.38 million at a Florida auction.

James Halperin of Texas-based Heritage Auctions told The Associated Press on Saturday that the sale was “the most a United States copper coin has ever sold for at auction.” The coin was made at the Mint in Philadelphia in 1793, the first year that the US made its own coins.

Heritage officials said in a news release that the name of the buyer was not revealed but that he was “a major collector.” One of the coin’s current owners was a well-known Baltimore banker, Louis E Eliasberg, Sr.

“Mr Eliasberg was nick-named ‘thecoin king’ because before his death in 1978 he assembled an extensive collection that consisted of at least one example of every coin ever made at the United States Mint, a feat never duplicated,” Halperin said in the news release.

The final bid for the coin last week was one of the largest sales at the Florida United Numismatists coin show and which centered on the state of the banks.

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Xinhua
Indian FM to visit Israel, Palestinian territory

NEW DELHI, 8 Jan—Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna is to embark on a visit to Israel and Palestinian territory from Sunday, said official sources here on Saturday.

The foreign minister will first visit Tel Aviv till 10 Jan, during which two agreements, Extradition Treaty and Transfer of Sentenced Persons, are likely to be inked between the two countries, the sources said.

Krishna’s visit will also mark the 26th year of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

He would also meet Israeli President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

“Apart from anti-terror cooperation, issues like defence and agriculture would also be discussed,” the sources said.

Krishna would also visit the Palestinian territories in the later part of his tour.

The visit to Israel will be the first by any Indian Foreign Minister in a decade.

India-Israeli relations are regarded as “sensitive” because of New Delhi’s support of the Palestinian cause. India has lately backed at the UN an independent Palestinian statehood.

Later, representatives of the two governments signed agreements establishing mechanisms for transport, storage, refining and marketing of hydrocarbons.

Other pacts cover the sale in India of tractors and other farm implements made in Venezuela.

Palestinians’ Hamas, Fatah hurl recriminations weeks after shaking hands

GAZA, 8 Jan—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah Party and its rival Islamic movement Hamas recriminated each other on Saturday over Abbas’ “bar against a Fatah delegation from entering the Gaza Strip.”

Fatah sources said in an email to reporters that the security forces of Hamas, which rules the coastal enclave, prevented a high-ranking Fatah delegation from entering Gaza on Friday, adding that Hamas behaved like gangs and don’t want the reconciliation deal to work.

On Friday, four senior Fatah leaders from the West Bank city of Ramallah bound for the enclave were stopped by Hamas security forces stationed near Erez border crossing in northern Gaza.

Hamas ministry of interior said in a press release that one of the Fatah leaders cursed Allah in front of the security officers.

“There is no objection to the arrival of Fatah movement’s delegation to the Gaza Strip, but the head of the delegation Sakher Bseiso must prepare himself to stand before the locals in Gaza for violating the law and cursing the name of Allah,” said the Press release.

Bseiso said in an earlier statement on Saturday that he didn’t curse the name of Allah, adding that “the Hamas security officers at the crossing humiliated the Fatah senior officials by keeping them waiting for a long time.”

Fatah and Hamas have been on rocky terms since the latter seized control of the Gaza Strip and rooted Fatah forces out from the enclave.

The two rival movements signed an Egyptian-brokered reconciliation agreement in Cairo last May, and Hamas chief Khaled Meshaal and President Abbas agreed to set up separate committees to clear way for the implementation of the agreement. —INTERNET

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Venezuela, Peru in pacts on oil investments, trade

CARACAS, 8 Jan—The presidents of Venezuela and Peru have reached an agreement for the Peruvian state oil company to invest in development of Venezuela’s eastern Orinoco oil belt.

Venezuela’s state oil monopoly will study a possible role in developing a petrochemical complex in Peru as well as helping Peru increase its production of heavy and extra heavy crude oil.

The formal agreement came during a Saturday meeting between Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Peruvian leader Ollanta Humala.

Later, representatives of the two governments signed agreements establishing mechanisms for transport, storage, refining and marketing of hydrocarbons. Other pacts cover the sale in Peru of tractors and other farm implements made in Venezuela.

Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez, left, Peru’s President Ollanta Humala, front centre, and Venezuela’s Minister of Energy and Petroleum Rafael Ramirez, right, looks at documents during a visit to oil installations in the faja petrolifera del Orinoco, or Orinoco oil belt, in the state of Monagas, Venezuela, on 7 Jan. 2012. Chavez and Humala reached an agreement for the Peruvian state oil company to invest in development of Venezuela’s eastern Orinoco oil belt. Venezuela’s state oil monopoly will study a possible role in developing a petrochemical complex in Peru as well as helping Peru increase its production of heavy and extra heavy crude oil. —INTERNET

Iran to launch Fordo enrichment facilities soon

TEHERAN, 8 Jan—Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Fereidoon Abbasi said Saturday that the subterranean Fordo enrichment facilities will start operating in the near future, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported.

“The Fordo facilities will be launched soon and will be able to produce 20 percent, percent and 4 percent enriched uranium,” Abbasi said during the opening ceremony of an exhibition displaying the country’s nuclear achievements in Hormozgan.

In August, Abbasi said that the Islamic republic had started transferring the nuclear enrichment centrifuges of its Natanz nuclear facility to the Fordo site.

In June, Abbasi said that Iran is going to install new generation of centrifuges in its uranium enrichment sites and will increase its 20-percent uranium enrichment output by three times.

Nepal sets to make Visit Lumbini Year 2012 successful

KATHMANDU, 8 Jan—Nepali government has started various works to make the Visit Lumbini Year 2012 successful, Minister for Culture Gopal Kiranti said.

“President Ram Baran Yadav would inaugurate the Visit Lumbini Year with the conclusion of Nepal Tourism Year 2011 at a special function on 14 January in Lumbini,” Kiranti told a press conference here on Saturday.

The focus of the Visit Lumbini Year Secretariat is aimed at bringing in more than 1 million tourists, and promoting Nepal as the country of Lord Buddha’s birthplace, he said.

Moreover, Kiranti briefed media on other preparation for the Visit Lumbini Year, such as establishment of memorial pillar of the Buddha, publication of postal stamp, Boudha circuit in the concerned districts, special discount in the airlines, and the renovation of Ashok pillar. —Xinhua

36 swim across Yellow River in freezing cold

GUANGZHOU, (Northwest China), 8 Jan—Thirty-six swimmers from China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan braved the cold to swim across the Yellow River, the second largest river in China, at Guide County in Northwest China’s Qinghai Province on Saturday. The water temperature was just 3 degrees Celsius Saturday morning, but the amateur swimmers all successfully swam about 500 meters in the frigid river.

The top eight finishers of each group win a cash reward ranging from 1,000 yuan to 10,000 yuan (about 158 to 1,580 U.S. dollars). The annual challenge is billed one of the world’s highest-altitude winter swim races. Guide is about 2,200 metres above the sea level. —Xinhua

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Man calls 911 after gluing plastic cups to head

A man who “accidently” glued five plastic cups to his head put in a desperate call to 911 seeking medical attention. But that’s just one of the more ridiculous non-emergency calls being highlighted in the Shields region of England. The Shields Gazette has posted a list of the more unusual Northeast Ambulance Service (NEAS) calls the region has recently experienced. The glued cups to the head takes the ribbon, but some of the other contenders include:

- **One woman dined 999 because she had the hiccups**
- A rabbit owner called because her pet had a sore leg
- A caller phoned in because a contact lens had become stuck in his eye.

It’s also worth noting that unlike in America, but perhaps to the delight of Herman Cain, British emergency calls are placed to **999**.

“All 999 calls are treated as an emergency. That means a call-taker has to go through a series of questions to establish the facts of an incident,” said a NEAS spokesperson.

“Handling requests which are clearly not an emergency means a call-taker is tied up, when they could be dispatching an ambulance to someone genuinely in need.”

The NEAS has been publicising the non-emergency calls to help educate the public on when it is appropriate to request immediate medical assistance.

Cat rescued from atop 50-foot tree

The Animal Rescue League of Boston said a member used a rope to hoist himself up and save a cat stranded at 50-fooť tree.

Crystal Jones said her 6-month-old cat, Fendi, ran up the oak tree around 10:30 pm Wednesday and was still up high when the following morning, when she contacted the ARL, the Boston Herald reported Friday. “I was scared,” Jones said. “I said we were saying the cat’s going to die.” Police shot down in traffic on the street about 1 pm and rescued Bill Tanguay used a rope to hoist himself up the tree and coax the cat down with a can of Fancy Feast.

“It’s really good at what they do,” Jones said. “I’m really relieved.”

National Society of Film Critics, which chose its star Kirsten Dunst as best actress and Brad Pitt as best actor for the baseball drama “Moneyball” as well as “The Tree of Life.”

But the big win by “Melancholia” bolstered the offshore film’s chances for the upcoming Academy Awards, which will announce nominees later this month.

Set against the backdrop of a country wedding, the dark film explores the strained relationship of two sisters, one a bride played by Dunst, while a strange planet threatens to collide with Earth, wiping out all traces of human existence.—Reuters

Manager arrested for keeping lost iPad

Police in Florida said they arrested a store manager who falsely told a customer she did not have her lost iPad. The Collier County Sheriff’s Office said the victim told deputies she left her iPad at the Family Dollar store in East Naples and store manager Veronica Damaso, 23, was acting suspiciously when she returned to the store and asked if it had been turned in, the Naples Daily News reported Friday. The victim said Damaso claimed not to have the iPad, although the victim saw an object she believed to be her tablet computer being used on the device.

Deputies said Damaso confessed to having the iPad when they asked her for the store’s surveillance footage and told her the device had a GPS tracker. Damaso was charged with a felony count of grand theft.

“Melancholia”, Dunst, Pitt win film critics awards

The nation’s Society of Film Critics, which chose its star Kirsten Dunst as best actress and Brad Pitt as best actor for the baseball drama “Moneyball” as well as “The Tree of Life.”

Los Angeles. The trial involved one of the biggest names in 2011 to try to meet her. Superior Court Judge William D. Stewart granted the order, which required The Brodnicki to stay away from the “Wizards of Waverly Place” star and not attempt to contact her. Another judge dropped a felony stalking charge against the Brodnicki, 46, last year after determining prosecutors hadn’t proven he had caused fear in the star. Stewart twice delayed issuing a civil order until Brodnicki had an opportunity to respond. Gomez, 19, did not appear at Wednesday’s hearing. She wrote in a declaration filed in October that she was in extreme fear after learning that Brodnicki had threatened to kill her while he was in a psychiatric hospital. Prosecutors later alleged he stalked the actress between July and October. Stewart noted that Brodnicki filed a declaration in December essentially consenting to the protective order that the man with a history of mental illness had received “due process.”

**Cat rescued from atop 50-foot tree**

Cat rescued from atop 50-foot tree

Man calls 911 after gluing plastic cups to head

“A caller phoned in because a contact lens had become stuck in his eye. It’s also worth noting that unlike in America, but perhaps to the delight of Herman Cain, British emergency calls are placed to 999.”

“All 999 calls are treated as an emergency. That means a call-taker has to go through a series of questions to establish the facts of an incident,” said a NEAS spokesperson.

“Handling requests which are clearly not an emergency means a call-taker is tied up, when they could be dispatching an ambulance to someone genuinely in need.”

The NEAS has been publicising the non-emergency calls to help educate the public on when it is appropriate to request immediate medical assistance.

Cat rescued from atop 50-foot tree

The Animal Rescue League of Boston said a member used a rope to hoist himself up and save a cat stranded at 50-foot tree.

Crystal Jones said her 6-month-old cat, Fendi, ran up the oak tree around 10:30 pm Wednesday and was still up high when the following morning, when she contacted the ARL, the Boston Herald reported Friday. “I was scared,” Jones said. “I said we were saying the cat’s going to die.” Police shot down in traffic on the street about 1 pm and rescued Bill Tanguay used a rope to hoist himself up the tree and coax the cat down with a can of Fancy Feast.

“It’s really good at what they do,” Jones said. “I’m really relieved.”

National Society of Film Critics, which chose its star Kirsten Dunst as best actress and Brad Pitt as best actor for the baseball drama “Moneyball” as well as “The Tree of Life.”

But the big win by “Melancholia” bolstered the offshore film’s chances for the upcoming Academy Awards, which will announce nominees later this month.

Set against the backdrop of a country wedding, the dark film explores the strained relationship of two sisters, one a bride played by Dunst, while a strange planet threatens to collide with Earth, wiping out all traces of human existence.—Reuters

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Golden Age screenwriter Maas dies at 111

San Diego, 8 Jan— Frederica Sagor Maas, a forestry screenwriter from Hollywood’s silent-movie era, died in California this week at the age of 111. Maas, who lived in San Diego, wrote for bygone stars such as Clara Bow, Greta Garbo, Norma Shearer and Betty Grable. Although Maas made the transition from silents to talkies, she and her husband and writing partner, Ernest Maas, walked away from Hollywood for good terms. The Los Angeles Times said the couple had grown weary of seeing their work plagiarized and re-written into what they saw as shallow trite.

“The Times” said Maas didn’t “exactly mellow with age.” “It’s my only consolation to think,” All you lousy so-and-sos are all 20 under, and I’m still here,” she told the San Francisco Chronicle in 1994.

She wrote a book called “The Shocking Miss Pilgrim: A Writer’s Early Hollywood” when she was 99, which was based on the latest Hollywood news and exposition. The title referred to “The Shocking Miss Pilgrim,” a 1947 film that started out as a serious look at the treatment of women but was released as a fluffy musical starring the beautiful Marlene Dietrich.

Maas was the third-oldest person in California when she died.
Murray flattens Dolgopolov in Brisbane final

Brisbane, 8 Jan — World No.4 Andy Murray laid down a marker for the Australian Open with a 65-minute demolition of Alexandr Dolgopolov in the final of the Brisbane International on Sunday. Murray, runner-up at Melbourne Park for the past two years, showed no mercy against the world No.15 from Ukraine as he cruised to the title 6-1, 6-3 in the Pat Rafter Arena. The Scotman was lethal in all departments as he dominated Dolgopolov, a player whom he had pushed him to four close games in the Australian Open quarterfinals last year.

He broke Dolgopolov twice in the first set and did not lose a point on his first three service games to claim the opener in just 25 minutes. Murray won on a run of nine consecutive games from 2-1 in the first to 4-0 in the second before the Ukrainian finally stemmed the flow by holding for serve only the second time in the match. That signal a led a little comeback from Dolgopolov, who then surprisingly sat a service game back before holding after a struggle to make it 4-3. "It was dangerous but they did enough to make it OK," said the 26-year-old Murray. "If you look at Ryan Giggs now, it is not the same Ryan Giggs who used to take of skill in the wing and dribble past everyone and deliver a great cross." Internet

Tsonga beats Monfils to win misty Qatar Open

Doha, 8 Jan — Jo-Wilfried Tsonga defied treacherous conditions to defeat French compatriot Gael Monfils 7-5, 6-3 on Saturday to win the 20th edition of the Qatar Open. Third seeded Tsonga claimed his eighth career title and a third win in four meetings with Monfils on a day when the final had to be halted early in the first set because of fog and a slippery court. "It was difficult. The surface was very slippery especially on the 'Qatar' sign painted on the court," said the 26-year-old Tsonga. "It was dangerous but they did enough to make it OK. This is a good win for me going into the Australian Open, it's just amazing." Monfils broke Tsonga in the opening game of the match, handing his compatriot just his third break of the tournament. But after Tsonga won the first point on Monfils' serve, the match was suspended for a little over a half hour as fog caused slippery conditions on the baseline.

When the final resumed, Monfils consolidated the break, and kept his advantage until 5-3, when Tsonga wrestled the momentum away from his countryman. Tsonga won 16 of the final 19 points, winning four straight games to clinch the set. World number six Tsonga continued at this level, despite tumbling at the end of the fourth game of the second set. He shook it off and on the next point, ran down a Monfils lob before stumbling at the back of the court. His efforts drew a smile from Monfils and roaring applause from the crowd. Trailing 2-3, Monfils gifted Tsonga the lone break of the set with a forehand unforced error. Tsonga went on to close out the entertaining encounter in one hour and 57 minutes. Tsonga is the third Frenchman to lift the Doha trophy, following triumphs by Nicolas Escudé in 2004, and Fabrice Santoro in 2000.  — Internet

Swindon Town boss Paolo Di Canio wants to honour FA Cup win

LONDON, 8 Jan — Swindon manager Paolo Di Canio called for the League Two club to honour his players for their 3rd round victory over Premier League Wigan. Goals from Alan Connell and Paul Benson earned a 2-1 win for Di Canio’s side after Callum McManaman put Wigan ahead. “My lads today deserve something from the club - to do something and put their names in the stadium forever,” said Italian Di Canio.

“I don’t want a big statue. Maybe just a small plaque with all their names.” Former West Ham forward Di Canio insisted his team were worthy victors, despite Wigan complaints that Benson was in an offside position when Matt Ritchie’s long-range shot deflected in off the striker’s legs. “There is no doubt we deserved to win,” he said. “It is the best moment of my life. Today they did show the dream can come true. We have not seen in years.” Internet

Australian Open:
Kim Clijsters should be fit, Serena hopeful

Brisbane, 8 Jan — Kim Clijsters has revealed her hip injury scare is not as bad as initially feared ahead of her defence of the Australian Open title. The Belgian retired midway through her Brisbane International semi-final against Slovakska’s Daniela Hantuchova with a hip injury on Friday. Clijsters underwent an MRI scan and was relieved to learn she had suffered a muscle spasm rather than a tear.

“With this one I kind of have an OK feeling,” said the 28-year-old. “If everything comes out OK it should take a little less than a week to get completely healed. I felt my left hip was getting tighter and tighter to the point I couldn’t move forward with my upper body. The smartest choice was not to let it get any worse and try to be right for Melbourne.” The scan revealed a muscle spasm to the tensor fascia lata, a muscle on the outside of the hip, according to a report on the Australian Open website.

Clijsters’ recovery has been hampered over the next few days ahead of a second check-up on Wednesday. Clijsters, who beat Li Na to win her first Australian Open last year, has only just returned after spending four months on the sidelines with an abdominal injury towards World number one Serena Williams is also hoping to win a fitness battle in time to compete in Melbourne after her withdrawal after the second round of the Brisbane International with an ankle problem. World

Henry: My playing style has changed

Thierry Henry is the third all-time leading goalscorer in the Premier League with 174. — Internet

LONDON, 8 Jan — Thierry Henry says Arsenal fans should expect to see a different style of player to the one they are accustomed to when the striker makes his first appearance for the Gunners since signing on a two-month loan deal.

The Frenchman is set to play in Arsenal’s third-round FA Cup match against Leeds on Monday night, his first match since his temporary switch from MLS team New York Red Bulls. He scored a record 226 goals for the north London club during a trophy-filled nine-year period between 1999 and 2007 and was feared by opposition defenders for his abundant pace. However, Henry concedes it is ‘not as any more’ and cannot use speed to beat defenders, but says he has adapted his game to become a more all-round footballer. “I remember Dennis [Bergkamp] and he used to be the main front guy,” he told Arsenal’s official website. “Suddenly he was playing behind the striker and if you have the awareness to see things before players, you can get away with not having your legs. ‘If you look at Ryan Giggs now, it is not the same Ryan Giggs who used to take of skill in the wing and dribble past everyone and deliver a great cross.” Internet

Amir Khan - Lamont Peterson: Promoter says WBA orders rematch

LONDON, 8 Jan — The World Boxing Association has ordered an immediate rematch between Amir Khan and Lamont Peterson, according to Khan’s promoter. Khan lost his WBA and IBF titles to Peterson in December but has questioned a number of aspects of the fight. One claim is that an unknown man, who has now apparently been identified, was seen interfering with a WBA official.

‘The WBA...will order an immediate rematch,’ said Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer. “We received a verbal confirmation today [Saturday] and we will get a written confirmation by next Tuesday. ‘That means that no fighter can take an interim fight, that the next fight for Peterson would be a rematch. ‘We hope that the IBF will follow because that’s the least they can do. The ruling of the WBA to order an immediate rematch should put additional pressures on the IBF. Earlier, WBA president Gilberto Mendoza told HBO Sport ‘Egregiamente a lot of controversy. There should be a rematch. ‘The [Washington DC] Commission did not behave properly in this fight. ‘Olympic silver medalist Khan lost his light welterweight titles on a split decision after being deducted two points for pushing but has appealed against the verdict. — Internet
Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney scores twice to beat Manchester City

Manchester, 8 Jan—Wayne Rooney scored twice and Manchester United held off a dramatic fightback from 10-man Manchester City to win a pulsating FA Cup derby at the Etihad Stadium this afternoon.

United thrillingly led 3-0 after a remarkable first half in which Rooney headed the opening two goals, Danny Welbeck added another and City captain Vincent Kompany was sent off.

City hit back after the break with goals through Aleksandar Kolarov and Sergio Aguero, but United, for whom Paul Scholes came out of retirement to make a substitute appearance, held on to end City’s cup defence in the third round.

The game, played on a greasy surface in continual drizzle, more than lived up to all the pre-match hype.

At one stage it seemed United were on course to avenge their 6-1 thrashing last October in the most incredible fashion but City’s recovery left them to settle for a narrow win.

Nevertheless, it was Premier League leaders City’s first home defeat since December 2010 and reminded them that United remain in the way of their bid for domestic dominance.

Continued from yesterday...

January transfer window

We, the NLMer 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 £50m on Fernando Torres and Liverpool replaced the Spaniard with £35m striker Andy Carroll.

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

Potential European Movers...

NILMAR (27, forward) Villarreal: The Brazilian striker initially flopped at Lyon but has impressed since arriving from Internacional. Roma and Barcelona are monitoring but would need to find £25m.

ESTEBAN GRANERO (24, midfielder) Real Madrid: Has been limited to a handful of minutes as a sub this season. Arsenal have a long-standing admiration, as do Malaga.

CARLOS KAMENI (27, goalkeeper) Espanyol: The Cameroonian stopper is one of their big targets during the January window - at home and abroad.

JOSÉ ANTONIO RÉYES (25, midfielder) Atletico Madrid: The ex-Arsenal man would not have missed his opportunity to arrive from Internacional. Roma and Barcelona are monitoring but would need to find £15m.

DANIELE DE ROSI (25, midfielder) Roma: Has never signed a new deal. Manchester City are extremely keen.

RICCARDO MONTOLIVO (26, midfielder) Fiorentina: The Italian looks likely to move away from the Viola with Arsenal potential suitors AC Milan and Liverpool are also in the frame.

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Timeslots</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-12-2012</td>
<td>Myanmar International</td>
<td>09:30 am</td>
<td>1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw - Upottasanti Paritta</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-12-2012</td>
<td>Myanmar TV</td>
<td>07:00 am</td>
<td>1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw - Upottasanti Paritta</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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<td>2. Morning News</td>
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<td>3. Nice &amp; Sweet Song</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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<td>4. Health Programme</td>
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<td>5. Song of National Races</td>
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<td>6. Documentary</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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<td>7. International News</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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<td>8. Martial Song</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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<td>9. Teleplay (Industry)</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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<td>10. Songs for Upholding National Spirit</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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<td>11. Myanmar Language</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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<td>12. TV Drama Series</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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<td>13. News</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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<td>14. World’s Stars</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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<td>15. TV Drama Series</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday</td>
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Teaching aids provided to students

YANGON, 8 Jan—Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Organization held a ceremony to provide teaching aid and materials to students at Basic Education High School branch in Bawle Village of Htanbin Township on 2 January.

Yanmyan North Development Affairs Minister Tham Myint made a speech. Chairperson of Yangon North Development Affairs committee presented exercise books and stationery to the students.

Weather forecast for 9th January, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region/State</th>
<th>Weather Forecast</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay Region</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States</td>
<td>Generally fair, night temperatures above January averages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Myanmar Areas</td>
<td>Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and on</td>
<td>Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times</td>
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</tbody>
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District News

Mawlamyinegyun gets tarred road

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 8 Jan—A ceremony to inaugurate section 1/2 of No. 5 tarred road was held in Mawlamyinegyun on 2 January. Ayyawaddy Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Zaw Hlaiing, Township Administrator U Htay Maung and Township Engineer U Aung Soe formally opened the new road section.

The road section, 840 feet long and 20 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of over K 21.1 million by Township Development Affairs Committee.

Fire drill exercised at Myoma Market

INNER, 8 Jan—Emme Township Development Affairs Committee organized the fire drill at Myoma Market on 27 December 2011 with participation of staff of Fire Services Department and Auxiliary Fire Brigade members.

They inspected fire extinguishers, maintenance of fire engines and water tank under the supervision of township level departmental officials.

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Golden nut fixed at Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan)

A ceremony to fix golden nut was held at the iron frame of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) being built by Special Project Group (2) of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction near the second defile of Ayeyawady River in Sinkhan Village of Bhamo District in Kachin State yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint fixes golden nut at iron frame of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan).—MNA

Mon State ABLSC holds coord meeting

YANGON, 8 Jan—A work coordination meeting of Mon State All Bus Lines Supervisory Committee took place at the committee office in Mawlamyine yesterday morning.

It was attended by responsible people from 10 townships, supervisors and State Supervisory Committee Secretary U Chit Maung explained traffic rule enforcement.—MNA

Foodstuff, personal goods provided for fire victims

YANGON, 8 Jan—Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein and officials provided the families of fire victims from Kutohseik Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township with food stuff and 20 items of personal goods for each household yesterday.—MNA

Preparation for summer paddy cultivation inspected

THAYAWADY, 8 Jan—Preparations are being made for cultivation of summer paddy in village-tracts of Thayawady Township.

Deputy Commissioner U Hla Myo of Thayawady District and District Agricultural Coordination Committee met local farmers on 26 December 2011 and urged them to grow summer paddy in time, use good agricultural patterns for high yield of paddy and minimize loss and waste in harvesting of paddy.

They inspected progress in construction of motor roads on Katha bank and Bhamo bank. —A y e y a w a d y Bridge (Sinkhan), the rail-cum-two-way road facility, is of steel frame type. On completion, local people will have easy access to other regions and states in addition to the regions in Bhamo District and Katha District in a short time. Thanks to the bridge, the Bhamo Township and regions in Katha District can enjoy fruits of development in economic, social, education, health and administrative sectors. —MNA

Scholes makes shock return

Midfielder comes out of retirement to join United

MANCHESTER, 8 Jan—Paul Scholes has sensation-ionally come out of retirement to join Manchester United on a short-term deal until the end of the season.

Scholes announced his retirement from playing at the end of last season to take up a coaching role at Old Trafford.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson always felt Scholes could prolong his playing career and now the 36-year-old has come out of retirement to help ease United’s injury problems.

Scholes has gone straight onto the bench for Sunday’s FA Cup third round tie against Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium.

Ferguson hailed Scholes’ return to the fold and feels the midfielder still has a lot to offer.

“It’s fantastic that Paul has made this decision. It’s always sad to see great players end their careers, but especially so when they do it early,” said Ferguson.

“But he has kept himself in great shape and I always felt that he had another season in him. It’s terrific to have him back.”

Scholes admits he has missed playing since hanging up his boots and he is happy the club have allowed him to rejoin the team.

“I’ve been pretty clear since I stopped playing that I missed it, noted Scholes. “I’m delighted the manager feels I can still make a contribution to the team and I’m looking forward to playing my part in trying to bring more success to this great club.”

Briton Brian Thompson breaks round the world record

Banque Populaire V. The 14-man crew clocked 45 days, 13 hours, 42 minutes and 53 seconds, more than two days inside the old mark. Thompson became the first Briton to circle the globe non-stop four times. “This has been an incredible trip, almost a dream ride,” he said after crossing the line in Brest, France.

Praising a crew that had already set four world records during the journey, the 49-year-old, who is based in Southampton, described his fellow sailors as “talented, industrious, dedicated, fun and welcoming to an English guy with schooldboy French”.

Banque Populaire V, a 40-metre maxi-trimaran skippered by Loick Peyron, crossed the Jules Verne trophy finish line at 22:14 GMT on Friday to easily beat the former record, despite losing almost two days on the journey because of bad weather. Thompson, who has sailed more than 100,000 miles with the late American adventurer Steve Fossett, admitted the delay was one of the low points of the voyage, as being missing Christmas and the New Year with family and friends.

However, after finishing a journey that included seeing a comet on Christmas Day and an iceberg “half as big as the Isle of Wight”, he added: “To achieve my dream of finally holding the Jules Verne trophy feels absolutely fantastic.

“At the same time, to become the first Briton to sail around the world non-stop four times is just amazing and feels very special.”

Red wine may reduce breast cancer risk

World’s smallest silicon wire brings quantum computers closer to reality

Facebook takes action after computer worm siphons 45,000 login details

Murray flattens Dolgopolov in Brisbane final

Union A & I Minister inspects hybrid sunflower plantation

Chess tournament opened in Dalla

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint fixes golden nut at iron frame of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan).—MNA

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