Third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to commence on 31 January


The translation of the announcement is as follows:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
Announcement No.1/2012
1st Waning of Pyatho, 1373 ME
(9th January, 2012)

Third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw summoned

In accord with Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 13 of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, it is hereby announced that the third regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall be convened at 10 am on 8th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1373 ME (31st January, 2012) Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Sd/
Khin Aung Myint
Speaker
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Bangkok

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Jan—High-ranking delegation of Myanmar army led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing left here yesterday morning by the special flight to pay a goodwill visit to Thailand at the invitation of Commander-in-Chief General Tanasak Patimapragnon of the Royal Thai Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Thailand and arrived at Don Muang Airport of Thailand at noon local time.

They were welcomed by General Tanasak Patimapragnon and wife, Lieutenant General Attanop Sirisak and wife, senior military officers of Thailand, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Aung Thein and wife Daw Khin Htway Yi, Military Attaché Col Win Maung and wife Daw Myint Myint Kyi and officials at the airport.

The two commanders-in-chief exchanged greetings at the lounge of the airport.

The delegation then proceeded to Dusit Thani Hotel.

In the afternoon, General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited Grand Palace in Bangkok, Emerald Pagoda and Ananta Samakhon Throne.

General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Hla met embassy staff, staff at the military attaché office, their family members and Myanmar students at Myanmar Embassy in Thailand and gave advices.

In his instructions, the commander-in-chief elaborated on current developments in Myanmar, making peace with national races organizations, duty of Myanmar army and the people to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes and the constitution, need to protect migrant workers who contribute to the country in accord with laws, rules and regulations, and need of students to master their subjects as they have invested time and cash in them.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing presented gifts and foods and cordially greeted them.

The commander-in-chief and party enjoyed Thai traditional dances at Siam Niramit Theatre.

 Significant night temperature (9-1-2012)

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Points to be followed in submitting candidature lists for vacant constituencies

For eligible voters to be able to include ballot lists

Slovenian adventurer embarks on eco-friendly world trip

Alaska town tries to dig out from huge snow dump

Established 1914

Volume XIX, Number 264 2nd Waning of Pyatho 1373 ME Tuesday, 10 January, 2012
View from various angles

From aerial view, we can see vast tracts of colourful sceneries such as green forests and gardens, golden rice fields, vegetable patches, hills and mountains, creek and rivers and rows of houses in urban and rural areas.

However, those sceneries can be seen differently from the ground view. For those who have the responsibility to make an important decision on development tasks of an organization or a human society, they need to study and review from various angles before making such a decision. They must consider emerging results in both short and long terms as well as the likelihood of adverse effects.

There is a common story in economic field. In it, an oboist once asked one of his village men on the way to the city to buy an obo reed. He gave the village man a ten-kyat note in advance.

On arrival in the city, the villager found out that an obo reed was worth only a kyat. Assuming that he could make nine kyats as a profit as one obo reed valued at 10 kyats in the village, he bought many obo reeds with the rest of the money. Despite having weighed prospective profits, the village man did not mull how many oboists might be in the village.

A gigantic dam named Hoover was opened on the Colorado River in the United States of America in 1936. The aim of building the dam was to supply irrigation water and generate electricity. In addition to good results earlier, expected, adverse effects emerged later.

After water had been stored for six years to reach the target level, a zone formed with fresh and sea water occurred stretching out up to 40 miles from the river mouth. As a consequence, the environment including plants and animals were greatly affected and some of the indigenous fish species came into extinction.

What’s more, the areas along the river were covered with silts and the arable farmlands turned into infertile ones. This is one of the examples showing that whatever task one wants to do, one should study from various angles.

CEO Classic Golf Tournament concludes

YANGON, 9 Jan—The prize presentation ceremony of CEO Classic Golf Tournament, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, was held in Royal Mingaladon Golf and Country Club in Mingaladon Township of Yangon Region yesterday evening.

Vice-President of MGF and Myanmar PGA U Aung Kyi delivered an address and CEO Group Chairman U Kyaw Kyaw Soe spoke words of thanks at the ceremony.

Directors of CEO Group presented Daily Best awards in both amateur and professional events.

Vice-President of MGF and Myanmar PGA U Min Thein awarded winners in amateur events.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik and the CEO Group chairman presented prizes to winners in professional events.

Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon), who stood first in the professional game, expressed thanks.

U Aung Kyi presented gift of MGF to CEO Group Director U Min Han. U Kyaw Kyaw Soe presented gift to the golf club through its general manager. —MNA

Myanmar, US to promote bilateral relations and cooperation

Nav Pyi Taw, 9 Jan—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell, US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar, and Ambassador-at-large Mr CdeBaca, US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Person, at the Ministry here this afternoon. At the call, they cordially discussed promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation on matters of mutual interests.

Also present at the meeting with the Union Minister were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Derek Mitchell and Ambassador-at-large Mr CdeBaca were accompanied by Chargé d’Affaires of United States of America Mr Michael E Thurston.—MNA

214 drug cases exposed in December, 2011

Nav Pyi Taw, 9 Jan—A total of 214 drug cases were exposed in December, 2011 nationwide and 20,381.2 kilos of opium in five cases, 1,729.6 kilos of heroin in 47 cases, 0.4642 kilo of solidified opium oil in four cases, 2,435.1 kilos of inferior opium in five cases, 6,071.6 kilos of marijuana in 12 cases, 248,439.5 stimulants in 75 cases, 14,814.8 kilos of speciosa in seven cases, 0.33 litre of liquid opium, 34 tablets of alprazolam in one case, 14 bottles of diazepam, 13 bottles of morphine, 635.49 kilos of pseudoephedrine in five cases, 7,009.6 kilos of ice in four cases, 1,120 liters of ethyl ether in one case and 4.5 kilos of ediphiadrine were seized.

Action were taken against altogether 329 people—276 men and 53 women in connection with 214 drug cases. —MNA

Winners awarded in Bowling Contest

Nav Pyi Taw, 9 Jan—The open men’s and women’s individual bowling contest in commemoration of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012, organized by Myanmar Bowling Federation, was held at Nay Pyi Taw Bowling Hall on 7 and 8 January.

Deputy Director-General U Khin Maung Win of the Civil Services Affairs Department, President of Myanmar Bowling Federation U Thein Zaw and officials presented medals and cash award to the winners in men’s singles event and women’s singles event. (Pictured)—Myanmar Alin

Mass walks, sports activities organized

Insein, 9 Jan—The mass walk activity in last week of December was organized in Insein Township on 31 December. Over 5000 participants including local authorities, NGO members and local people walked from the park junction to Aungzeya Suspension Bridge along Hline River Road.

In commemoration of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012, the football matches were held at the sports ground of Insein Basic Education High School No. 1.—Kyemon

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Mr Christian Friis Bach. (News on page 16) MNA
Iran to launch nuclear work in bunker in "near future"

TEHERAN, 9 Jan—Iran will in the “near future” start enriching uranium deep inside a mountain, a senior official said, a move likely to further aggravate Western powers which suspect Tehran is seeking nuclear weapons capabilities.

According to the Islamic Republic to conduct sensitive atomic activities at an underground site — offering better protection against any enemy attacks — could complicate diplomatic efforts to resolve the long-running row peacefully.

Iran has said for months that it is preparing to move its highest-grade uranium enrichment, activity which can have both civilian and military uses. The West has imposed increasingly tight economic sanctions on Tehran over its nuclear programme, culminating with a new law signed on New Year’s Eve by President Barack Obama aimed at preventing buyers from paying for Iranian oil. “I would see it as another escalatory step on the Iranian side,” the official, who declined to be named, said.—Reuters

Heavy snow slows road, rail travel in Alps

GENEVA, 9 Jan—Heavy snow is blanketing much of the central Alpine Region between eastern Switzerland and western Austria, causing traffic accidents and bringing road and rail traffic to a crawl.

Three days of snowfall has dropped up to 3 feet (1 metre) of fresh snow in some areas. A highway link in Austria’s Tyrol Province remained closed Sunday. Authorities said a Czech man received life-threatening injuries in Austria on Saturday when a car skidded and hit him as he was fitting snow chains to his own car.

In Switzerland, authorities warned of avalanche risk throughout the Swiss Alps and Jura mountains. Meteor Suisse predicted an end to the snowfall by Monday and perfect winter sports conditions throughout the week.

Russia to put new-generation radars into service this year

MOSCOW, 9 Jan—New-generation radars would be put on combat duty this year in the service of a new law signed on New Year’s Eve by President Dmitry Medvedev to put new-generation radars into service this year.

A decision by the Islamic Republic to launch nuclear work in bunker in the “near future,” the head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, Fereydoun Abbasi-Davani, said. Uranium refined to purity levels of 99.5 percent and 20 percent can be produced at the site, he added in comments carried by Iran’s Kayhan newspaper on Sunday. One Western official said with the start-up of Fordow, Iran would send a political signal to show it will not bow to international demands to suspend uranium enrichment, which the United States and Russia to put new-generation radars into service this year.

Voronezh-class radars would be installed near the Siberian City of Irkutsk by the end of 2012. “It is not complete yet, but it is already working in the test programme,” Zolotukhin said. According to local media reports, the Voronkuy-class radars are a breakthrough compared with Russia’s older Dnepr and Daryal class radars.

The radar in Kaliningrad region was already deployed in Krasnodar Territory.

While the Kaliningrad has been in service since late November after President Dmitry Medvedev said new missile systems would be stationed in western and southern Russia in response to a planned US missile shield in Europe. “The new radar in the Leningrad Region is ready to go on combat duty. Another new radar is on test duty in Armavir in Krasnodar Territory,” Zolotukhin said.

The spokesman also revealed that another fourth generation Voronkuy-class radar would be installed near the Siberian City of Irkutsk by the end of 2012.

A spokesman at St Patrick’s Hospital in Missoula, where the most severely hurt were taken, initially listed two victims as critically injured, but one was later upgraded to serious condition.

Demolition crews bring down Houston skyscraper

HOUSTON, 9 Jan—It didn’t take long—mere seconds, in fact — to create a new hole in the skyline of Houston’s medical district. Demolition crews used high explosives to implode the 20-story former Prudential Building that had been a landmark of the district landscape southwest of downtown Houston since 1952.

The crews had planned initially to touch off the explosives shortly before 8 am Sunday, but a delay by the series of blasts until 11:15 am.

The Prudential Insurance Co of America built the 500,000-square-foot skyscraper to serve as its southwest regional headquarters. The MD Anderson Cancer Centre bought the building in 1974 and made it the center’s main building in 1980 before vacating and closing the building in April 2010.—Internet

Thai flood victims unhappy with government’s compensation

BANGKOK, 9 Jan—The majority of flood-affected people are not satisfied with the compensation provided by the government, ABAC Poll revealed on Sunday.

The poll, which was conducted among victims in nine flood-hit provinces regarding home repair and restoration costs after the floods, showed that most respondents or 84.2 percent used their own money to repair inundated homes and resume damaged businesses while 40.8 percent counted on the service of fast cash loans.

More than half of the respondents said financial compensation should be more than 5,000 baht.

In addition, the poll found that in flood aftermath, people suffered the most by increasing expenses, devastated home and damaged belongings and cars.

As for expenditure for flood recovery, home repairs came first with an average cost of 77,922 baht (1,168 dollars) followed by electrical appliances and furniture repair or replacement totaling 26,745 baht (665 dollars).

The worst deluge in over half a century has hit Thailand countrywide since late July, affecting more than 13 million people and claiming almost 800 lives.—Xinhua

A bus drives on a snowy street in Klosters-Montiel, Switzerland, on 8 Jan, 2012. —Reuters

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A bus drives on a snowy street in Klosters-Montiel, Switzerland, on 8 Jan, 2012. —Reuters
Boston lawsuit claims DES-breast cancer link

BOSTON, 9 Jan—Arline MacCormack first heard about DES from her mother when she was 17. Three decades later, MacCormack believes that the drug her mother took to prevent miscarriages caused her to develop breast cancer at age 44.

MacCormack, of Newton, is one of 53 women from around the country who are suing drug companies who made and promoted DES for millions of pregnant women from about 1938 to the early 1970s. DES, or diethylstilbestrol (dih-eth-uhl-stil-bes’)-trawl, is a synthetic estrogen that was prescribed to millions of women in the United States, Europe and other countries to prevent miscarriages, premature birth and other problems.

The case in Boston is being closely watched by DES daughters around the country. Thousands of lawsuits have been filed since the 1970s linking DES and cervical and vaginal cancer, as well as infertility problems. Many of those cases were settled before trial.

The Boston case is believed to be the first major litigation alleging a link between DES and breast cancer in DES daughters over the age of 40. MacCormack, now 50, said she was stunned when she was diagnosed with breast cancer six years ago after having mammograms every six months since she turned 40 because she had several benign cysts removed over the years.

GM challenges German brands with small Cadillac

DETROIT, 9 Jan—General Motors Co proved with the Chevrolet Cruz it can build a top-selling compact car—cracking a market long dominated by Japanese brands. Now the No 1 US automaker is targeting the entrenched German luxury brands with a more nimble compact Cadillac.

The 2013 ATS is central to GM chief executive Dan Akerson’s mission to refashion Cadillac into a global luxury brand by winning over younger buyers with a sportier image. From the start, GM took aim at BMW’s 3-Series, the world’s top auto market in the United States to become the world’s largest vehicle market.

GM and its joint ventures in China sold around 2.55 million units last year, up more than 8.0 percent from the previous record of 2.35 million in 2010, the company said in a statement.

“GM stayed ahead of the competition despite a slowdown in the growth of industry demand,” Kevin Wale, president of GM China Group, said in the statement.

China, which overtook the United States to become the world’s top auto market in 2009, has become increasingly important for global players such as GM and Germany’s Volkswagen Group.

In December alone, GM’s sales in China rose 9.8 percent annually to 196,979 units. The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, which tracks auto sales and production in the country, has yet to release figures for all of 2011.

Asia stocks drop on eurozone worries

BANGKOK, 9 Jan—Asian stocks dropped on Monday, ignoring signs of an improvement in the US, as traders continued to fret about Europe’s unfolding sovereign debt drama. Benchmark oil fell to $101 per barrel while the euro strengthened against the dollar but fell against the yen. South Korea’s Kospi fell 1.1 percent to 1,822.42 while Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index was 0.9 percent lower at 18,422.23. Benchmarks in Singapore, Taipei, India and Indonesia also were lower.

In Japan, financial markets were closed for a public holiday. Bucking the negative trend were mainland Chinese shares, which rose amid promises by Beijing to channel more bank lending to struggling entrepreneurs while keeping inflation and surging housing costs in check. The Shanghai Composite Index jumped 1.4 percent to 2,194.57. The smaller Shenzhen Composite Index added 1.8 percent to 832.81. China tightened lending and investment curbs last year to cool its overheated economy but has reversed course in recent months following a slump in global demand that has hurt exporters and led to job losses. Other positive economic data from the US, where the unemployment rate fell to 7.8 percent in December, the lowest level in nearly three years.
Slovenian adventurer embarks on eco-friendly world trip

Ultra-light plane boasting super-low fuel mileage.

“I want to make people understand that this world is the only one we’ve been given and if we destroy it, we and our descendants will be losing it for good,” Lenarcic told AFP ahead of the solo adventure dubbed GreenLight WorldFlight.

Lenarcic hopes to fly the Pipistrel Virus SW914 weighing just 290 kilograms (640 pounds) some 100,000 kilometres (62,000 miles), circling the world westbound in two and a half months.

His first stop will be Morocco, followed by Senegal, from where he will embark across the Atlantic Ocean. Lenarcic plans to overfly seven continents, 60 countries, 120 national parks, the world’s highest mountains including Mount Everest, cross three oceans and the Antarctic, whileburning the smallest amount of unleaded fuel per distance flown. Internet

Global warning: European species lag in habitat shift

PARIS, 9 Jan—Fast-track warming in Europe is making butterflies and birds fall behind in the move to cooler habitats and prompting a worrying turnover in alpine plant species, studies published Sunday said. The papers, both published in the journal Nature Climate Change, are the biggest endeavour yet to pinpoint impacts on European biodiversity from accelerating global temperatures. A team led by Vincent Devictor of France’s National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) found that from 1990 to 2008, average temperatures in Europe rose by one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit). This is extremely high, being around 25 percent greater than the global average for all of the last century. In order to live at the same temperature, species would have to shift northward by 249 kilometres (155 miles), they calculated. But during this period, butterflies moved only 114 kms (71 miles), and birds by just 37 kms (23 miles). The data derives from observations made by a network of thousands of amateur naturalists, amounting to a remarkable 1.5 million hours of fieldwork. The study was not designed to say whether these species are suffering as a result of warming, which is one of the big questions in the climate-change saga. However, the risk of population decline is clear, the authors say. Species that lag behind a move to a more suitable habitat accumulate a “climate debt.”

Boreal ducks said hurt by global warming

As this mismatch gets worse, the ducklings are impacted the most,” Slattery said. “The food just simply isn’t there in the amounts that it was historically.” He said other duck species, such as the mallard, have shown signs of adapting, but he suspects the scapnos and scoters have not. “They just get here late, and so they don’t have a chance to re-nest like some of the other earlier nesting species do,” he said.

Bangladeshi faces sedition charge over Facebook post

Dhaka, 9 Jan—A Bangladeshi high court Sunday ordered police to prosecute a university lecturer for sedition after he wished for the death of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Facebook, a state prosecutor said. Internet

Apple apps still crushing ‘green robot army’—for now anyway

New York, 9 Jan—Sure, phones with the Android OS from Google. are outselling iPhones from Apple. But Apple still dominates app revenue—at least for the next few years, according to market research group Strategy Analytics. “Apple is expected to account for 53 percent of paid application download revenue in 2013,” Zara McAlister reported in Financial Post. “Apple Inc isn’t afraid of being overshadowed by a growing army of little green robots,” Angela Moscaritolo reported in PCMag.com that Strategy Analytics projected that Apple will be No 1 in app downloads followed by Google while Amazon and Barnes & Noble are expected to fight Microsoft for third place. “Unlike paid downloads that offer one time payment, virtual goods allow developers to earn recurring revenue from heavily used apps, making the business opportunity appealing,” said Josh Martin, director of apps research at Strategy Analytics. Internet
At 30, Kate tiptoes into the royal limelight

LONDON, 9 Jan—Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, turns 30 on Monday after nine months of low-key engagements as she makes a gentle entrance into royal life alongside her husband Prince William.

The tabloids are full of rumours that Williams’ party-loving brother Prince Harry and Catherine’s high-profile younger sister Pippa Middleton are preparing a lavish birthday party for the woman who could one day be queen. But the royal family insists the occasion will be “low-key and private.” The public part of the celebrations was to come on Sunday when she attends the British premiere of the movie “War Horse” with William.

As she enters her fourth decade, the former commoner Kate Middleton — most Britons still call her simply “Kate” — has already become a “global superstar,” according to the producers of the movie “War Horse” with William.

“Her ‘shes a put a foot wrong’ and ‘what’s more, she has made it all look so easy,’” Seward wrote in the Sunday Express. Catherine’s wedding to the second-in-line to the throne last April was watched by an estimated two billion TV viewers.

Her face has adorned millions of magazines covers and every one of her outfits is poured over, with the clothes invariably becoming instant best-sellers — as was the case for William’s mother Diana. Meanwhile, celebrity magazines scrutinise every photograph for evidence of a baby bump, but she is not pregnant yet, and the pressure will inevitably build from a hungry media as time goes on. —Internet

Fatah urges Hamas to apologize for banning its delegation from entering Gaza

RAMALLAH, 9 Jan—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah Party on Sunday said that the Islamic Hamas movement must apologize for banning its delegation from entering the Gaza Strip on Friday.

Fatah Central Committee, which convened in the West Bank City of Ramallah, asked Hamas to apologize and said that “it would evaluate its position concerning the implementation of the Palestinian Authority’s decisions.”

“Hamas should apologize to Fatah and to the Palestinian people for its humiliating and indecent behavior that followed preventing the delegation and threatening to sue one of its members,” Fatah said.

On Friday, four top Fatah leaders arrived from Ramallah and were refused entry into the Gaza Strip through the Israeli-controlled Erez border crossing in northern Gaza.

Fatah officials said that they were stopped at a checkpoint controlled by Hamas security forces and were held for a long time after their identification documents were confiscated.

Hamas ministry of interior said in a Press statement that it has no intention to prevent anyone from entering Gaza, adding that “members of the delegation were impudent and refused to wait until officers check with their leaders.”

Accusing one of the delegation members of cursing the name of Allah, the Hamas ministry called for prosecuting him. —Xinhua

Clock ticks as London marks 200 days till Olympics

LONDON, 9 Jan—London marks 200 days to go until the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games on Monday with several setbacks in the ticketing system failing to affect the organizers’ upbeat mood.

The British government will hold a special cabinet meeting in the Olympic Park in east London to mark the day, while from Tuesday the gymnastics facilities will be the latest to open to the public.

As London prepares to become the first city to host the Olympics for the third time, most of the venues are completed and tickets for all events — except the hundreds of thousands available for the football competition — are sold out. Organizers can take pride in the remarkable transformation of a once rundown area of scrapyards and workshops into a collection of high-tech sporting venues, virtually a new city of housing and, eventually, a green park.

Yet amid the excitement, many Britons failed to secure tickets after a lottery left the majority of applicants disappointed amid massive demand.

There were red faces last week when organizers LOCOG admitted they had mistakenly oversold tickets for synchronised swimming sessions and were forced to offer thousands of people tickets to other events.

Some 10,000 tickets were meant to be on offer in the second round of sales but 20,000 were mistakenly made available.

Those who missed out on synchronised swimming tickets now have the consolation of a chance of receiving tickets to the men’s 100 metres final, the blue riband event of the Games which is likely to feature Usain Bolt.

Adding to the organizers’ blues, the website for recipients to resell tickets they do not want has been suspended because of technical problems. —Internet

Seven passengers on Qantas A380 injured by turbulence

SYDNEY, 9 Jan—Seven passengers were treated for cuts and bruises after a Qantas Airways superjumbo hit severe turbulence en route from London to Singapore, the Australian airline said Sunday.

The injuries are the latest in a string of incidents involving Qantas superjumbos in recent years, the airline said in a statement.

The aircraft cleared the turbulence after the flight crew announced that a flight from London to Singapore had encountered turbulence in the Indian airspace on Saturday three hours before it arrived in Singapore. Qantas spokeswomna Sophia Connolly said. “The seat belt sign had come on but some passengers were still moving back to their seats,” she said.

She said seven passengers suffered minor cuts and bruises, four were treated in a Singapore hospital and the others at a medical centre. All have been discharged.

The aircraft was cleared to fly after being assessed by engineers. The flight continued to Sydney on Sunday, 24 hours behind schedule. —Internet

Email passwords of British officials posted online

LONDON, 9 Jan—Email addresses and passwords belonging to British, US and NATO officials were posted online following the hacking of a US intelligence analysis firm over Christmas, the Guardian Daily reported Monday.

Online “hacktivist” group Anonymous claimed strategic cooperative partnership,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said. This is Lee’s second state visit to China since he took office in February 2008.—Xinhua

Email addresses and passwords belonging to British, US and NATO officials were posted online following the hacking of a US intelligence analysis firm over Christmas, the Guardian Daily reported Monday. —Internet

BEIJING, 9 Jan—At the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Lee Myung-bak arrived in Beijing Monday, starting his three-day state visit to China.

During his visit, Lee is scheduled to hold talks with Hu and meet with top legislator Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen Jiabao. The two sides will exchange views on China-ROK relations as well as global and regional issues of common concern, respectively.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of China-ROK diplomatic ties as well as a year of bilateral friendly exchanges.

“China attaches great importance to President Lee Myung-bak’s visit, and hopes his visit will further strengthen political trust, exchanges and cooperation between both countries, as well as further bilateral

ROK President starts China visit

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**Best friends remember 9-year-old slain in Tucson**

**TUCSON, 9 Jan—** Three little girls made plans for the future. They built sandcastles, they danced to pop songs, they swam, they laughed, they swore to be roommates in college.

Two of the girls, now 10, stood Sunday on a stage in Tucson and told a crowd of hundreds, many weeping, about their friend. Christina-Taylor Green, a 9-year-old born on 11 Sept, 2001, aspired to dance with Beyoncé to the first woman in Major League Baseball and one day be elected president of the United States.

“She wasn’t afraid of boys or sports or anything,” Serenity Hammrich said, wearing a black dress and standing with Jamie Stone on a stage in the University of Arizona.

“When she made state council, I was so happy for her. She believed it was important to help others to try to make a difference in the school and to put others first.”

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**Alaska town tries to dig out from huge snow dump**

**ANCHORAGE, (Alaska) 9 Jan—** The small Alaska fishing town of Cordova is using a deal with excessive snow — but not like this.

Residents have turned to the snow to help them dig out of massive snow levels that have collapsed roofs, triggered avalanches and even covered doors, trapping some people in their homes.

“There’s nowhere to go with the snow because it’s piled up so high,” said Wendy Rainney, who owns the Ora Adventure Lodge.

A storage building for the lodge — which offers fishing trips, hiking, kayaking and glacier tours — has collapsed under the weight of the snow, she said.

“This is more quantity than can be handled,” the Alaska National Guard reported more than 18 feet of snow has fallen on Cordova in the past weeks, although the National Weather Service did not immediately have a measurement.

Officials said at least three buildings have collapsed or partially collapsed and six homes are deemed severely stressed by heavy wet snow.

The city has set up a shelter at a local recreation center, but said people leaving homes in avalanche-risky areas have been staying with relatives.

Cordova spokesman Alan Marquette said the town also was ready to set up a pet shelter if necessary. —Internet

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**Danish warship frees 14 hostages in Somalia action**

**COPENHAGEN, 9 Jan—** A Danish warship freed 14 Iranian and Pakistani hostages following a seaborne action against alleged pirates off Somalia’s coast, the Danish Navy said late Saturday.

“The operation took place as planned and without harm to the ship’s crew, the hostages or the pirates,” said Carsten Fyld Larsen, Captain of the warship Absalon, which conducted the action, in a Press statement.

The Danish Navy is now considering what further action to take with the 25 alleged pirates who were found on board, and how to send home the hostages. On Saturday morning, the Absalon, which is part of a NATO-led anti-piracy operation, pursued a fishing boat it had suspected of being a pirate mother ship for some time, off Somalia’s coast in the Indian Ocean.

“At three hours after, the 25 pirates gave themselves up. Some began to throw their weapons overboard, and others followed,” Larsen told DPA News, Denmark’s public broadcaster.

The Absalon fired warning shots and gave verbal instructions to the pirates to surrender, he added.

On inspection, the fishing vessel, which was previously hijacked by pirates, was found to contain small motor boats and fuel, allegedly used by the pirates. —Xinhua

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**British police have named the young woman found dead on Queen Elizabeth II’s Sandringham country estate as a 17-year-old Latvian who was missing in August.**

**KINGS POINT, 9 Jan—** Police on Sunday named the young woman found dead on Queen Elizabeth II’s Sandringham country estate as a 17-year-old Latvian who was missing in August.

The remains of Alisa Dmitrijeva were found on 1 January by a dog walker in woods on farmland about 1.5 kilometres (one mile) from the main gate to Sandringham House in eastern England.

Forensics experts had difficulty identifying the body. Records of the girl’s palm and DNA from her fur were used, police said.

The teenager was last seen on 31 August in the nearby town of King’s Lynn and was reported missing by a family member on 5 September. Since then there have been a number of unconfirmed sightings and police had offered a reward for information on her whereabouts.

Detectives believe she was murdered. They have interviewed the Sandringham gamekeeper, estate manager and others who worked on the estate and have appealed for anyone with information to contact detectives.

The land where her body was found is frequently used for pheasant and partridge shoots, which are often attended by members of the royal family.

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**Carbon monoxide leak in NY sends 38 to hospital**

**KINGS POINT, 9 Jan—** Nassau County police say about 38 people have been taken from the US Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point to area hospitals for evaluation after carbon monoxide was found to be leaking at the facility.

Newsday says that authorities responded to reports of a “positive rating” for carbon monoxide shortly before 10 pm Sunday.

A police spokeswoman told The Associated Press early Monday that no one is seriously ill and that officials have wrapped up their investigation. She says the leak was in the Academy’s facilities.

The Merchant Marine Academy prepares students for careers in the maritime industry.
**Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing meets President of Privy Council of Thailand**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Service General Min Aung Hlaing paid a call on President of the Privy Council of Thailand General Prem Tinsulanonda, at his office at 11 am today.

At the call, they discussed mutual relations, peace and stability of border regions and cooperation between the two countries and exchanged gifts.

Also present at the call together with General Min Aung Hlaing were Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of Commander-in-Chief’s Office, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Myanmar Military Attaché to Thailand Col Win Maung. General Prem Tinsulanonda was accompanied by Deputy Commanding General of Royal Thai Army General Dapong and senior military officers. —MNA

**Upgrade of Commercial City Yangon**

Yangon, being a commercial city, is being upgraded to have city characteristics. As part of its programme, works are being extended by forming sub-committees under Yangon City Beautifying and Upgrading Committee.

In doing so, special emphasis is placed on smooth transportation, drainage system and supply of drinking water, especially road and bridge sector.

The Committee has spent much money on road and bridge department. As much K 20 billion as will be used for construction of roads in the wards, repairing of major roads, upgrading during this financial year. Yangon City Development Committee upgraded major roads and low roads to the concrete ones along with construction of pavements and beautifying.

Cement needed for upgrading and construction of Yangon is imported. And Yangon City Cement Plant of Yangon City Development Committee, located Pyinyaung village, Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, also fulfills domestic demand. The plant was built in 2007 under the leadership of the Yangon City Mayor and put into service at the end of April 2010. The plant is now supplying cement to Nay Pyi Taw construction sites and Yangon City upgrading works.

In addition to the aforesaid works, city areas development special projects, high-rise building projects, market projects and Yangon City development project are under implementation.

Translation: MT

**Union Energy Minister on inspection tour of Minbu Tsp**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and Managing Director of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise U Sein Win, visited Petroleum Liquefied Gas Factory in Minbu Township in Magway Region on 7 January.

The Union Minister heard reports submitted by officials and viewed around the factory. The Union Minister and party attended coordination meeting for increasing petroleum production in 2011-2012 fiscal year at the meeting hall of Mann Oilfield of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in Minbu. He heard reports submitted by general managers of oilfields. The Union Minister and the deputy minister urged them to cut costs that are not directly conducive to the increase in production as all the enterprises under the ministry will have to turn a profit in this tax year.

The Union Minister and party visited new oil well No (1) of MPRL Company exploring in joint venture with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and heard reports submitted by officials. The Union Minister and the deputy minister showed their support for exploring new oil wells. —MNA

**Home Affairs Minister receives US guests**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko received a delegation led by US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell and Ambassador-at-large at the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of United States Mr CdeBaca at the ministry here this evening.

They frankly discussed matters related to improving mutual ties between Myanmar and US and mutual cooperation.

Also present at the call were Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, directors-general, officials, Chargé d’affaires ai Mr Michael E Thurston and delegation members. —MNA

**Stationery, cash donated to orphanage**

TOUNGOO, 9 Jan—Myint Myat Store donated K 500,000, exercise books and stationery, school uniforms and sweaters worth K 1.5 million to 78 students of Zeyarthi Orphanage (Women) Care School in Ward 18 of Toun goo on 8 January.

Moreover, the well wisher donated breakfast to the students. —Myanma Alin
Points to be followed in submitting candidature lists for vacant constituencies

As candidature lists for vacant constituencies of the respective Hluttaws can be submitted from 16-1-2012 to 31-1-2012, a notice has been issued that the points mentioned under are to be followed in accord with the law in submitting the candidature lists.

(a) Citizens, regardless of gender and religion, who are qualified by the respective Hluttaw Election Law Section 8 are eligible to stand for election.

(b) Those who are disqualified by the respective Hluttaw Election Law Section 10 shall not be eligible to stand for election.

(c) Hluttaw candidates are to enlist at Nay Pyi Taw (or) District concerned (or) Self-administered Region/Self-administered Area Sub-commission which is in the areas of the constituencies they wish to compete in. [Rule 18 (a)]

(d) Election admission registration fees are to be paid to Myanmar Economic Bank (Branch) where election sub-commission concerned is seated. Account number is that of sub-commission concerned. [Rule 18 (c)]

(e) The following documents are to be included in submitting name lists of Hluttaw candidates.

(1) Two originals of Hluttaw candidate name list form (6) (Endorsement showing that the signature made before the judge is correct included)

(2) Two CVs written in accord with the instructions of the commission

(3) The original receipt showing that election admission registration fees have been paid

(4) Evidence showing that the applicant is a national citizen, and

(5) Two sets of Form (7) or Form (7-A) saying that a person himself or another has been appointed as an election representative

Remark: A Hluttaw candidate shall not be permitted to enlist in more than one constituency at the same time. [Rule 18 (c)]

Union Electric Power No. 2 Minister inspects power plants

YANGON, 9 Jan—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe visited Ahlon natural gas power plant in Ahlon Township here on 7 January.

While visiting Thakayta natural gas power station and maintenance of Turbine No. 3 of the power plant.—MNA

Defibrillator donated to Health Dept

YANGON, 9 Jan—The donation ceremony of Defibrillator to Health Department of the Ministry of Health was held at the hall of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) here this morning.

Donors Professors Okada and Ujike of Okayama University of Japan presented the defibrillators to Director-General Dr Tun Naing Oo of the Health Department. Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin and departmental heads attended the ceremony.—MNA

District IPRD

Monsoon paddy harvested on model plot

MANDALAY, 9 Jan—A model plot of Manaw Thukha monsoon paddy strain was harvested in field No. 1223 of Legoeygin Village-tract in Taungtha Township on 28 December.

District IPRD and township level officials of Myanmar Agriculture Service and Irrigation Department supervised the harvesting of paddy. Officials disseminated use of microbiological fertilizers to the local farmers.

Township/MAS

Education GEC meets in Yamethin

YAMETHIN, 9 Jan—Yamethin Township Education GEC meeting Government Employee Cooperative Ltd held the annual general meeting at the township education office in Yamethin on 31 December morning.

Chairman of Education GEC Ltd U Tin Ko Ko explained the tasks of the society and future tasks.

Auditor of the township Cooperative Department U Myat Tun read the financial report of the association for 2010-2011 fiscal year, and those present adopted the future tasks and sought approval.—Yamethin Alin

High yield paddy cultivation through GAP

PYAPON, 9 Jan—Cultivation of high yield hybrid Paletthwe paddy strain was held through good agriculture pattern in Kyonta Shankwin Village in Pyapon Township.

Township Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Maung Maung Thwin explained cultivation of high yield paddy through GAP.

The demonstration on cultivation of paddy was attended by departmental officials and local farmers of Kyonta Shankwin, Thalebiky and Chaungdwin villages.

District IPRD

For eligible voters to be able to include ballot lists

As by-elections for 48 constituencies with vacancies for representatives in respective Hluttaws will be held on 1-4-2012 (Sunday), respective ward and village-tract sub-commissions are making correct, up-to-date ballot lists, based on the previous ballot lists.

Citizens who have attained 18 years of age on the election day and who are not disqualified by law, guest citizens, naturalized citizens or those holding temporary identity cards and those who are included in the ballot lists of the constituency concerned shall have the right to vote.

As those who are qualified by law have the right to include in the ballot lists of the constituency concerned, a public notice has been issued for the people to contact the ward or village-tract sub-commissions concerned so that their names can be included in the ballot lists.

Parties on their part are to cooperate in ensuring that the names of voters they have canvassed are included in their respective ballot lists.

Union Election Commission

Indian delegation concludes visit to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Delegation led by Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC wife visited National Defence College on 6 January and Command and General Staff College in Kalaw on the following day.

The delegation also visited famous pagodas in Monywa yesterday morning. They arrived in Yangon by special flight in the afternoon and visited Shwedagon Pagoda.

They paid floral tribute at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum this morning and left Yangon by special flight this evening.

They were seen off by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsun Oo, Indian Military Attaché Colonel Rajesh Kumar and officials at Yangon International Airport.

Union Election Commission

Dy Foreign Affairs Minister receives Danish Development Cooperation Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Mr Christian Friis Bach, Danish Minister for Development Co-operation paid a courtesy call on U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at ministry here at 9 am today. They discussed and exchanged views on bilateral relations and development matters.—MNA

Mon State Chief Judge explained instructions of the Attorney-General of the Union to law officers at his office in Mawlamyine on 29 December, 2011—MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 10 January, 2012
**Russian fishing boat makes safety in New Zealand after Antarctic ordeal**

WELLINGTON, 9 Jan — A Russian-flagged fishing boat that was holed in the icy waters of the Antarctic with 32 crew aboard last month arrived at the New Zealand port of Nelson Monday, Radio New Zealand reported.

The boat set sail from the Ross Sea after a make-shift repair with an icebreaker escort on 26 Dec.

The South Korean icebreaker had transferred fuel from the vessel so it could be raised in the water and plates could be welded over the 10 cm by 40 cm hole.

The Nelson marine pilot told Radio New Zealand the vessel arrived Monday morning.

The agent for the vessel was reported as saying the Spart would likely be at Port Nelson for a week or more, but no further repairs would be done there.

The 48-metre vessel was stranded in the Ross Sea when ice pierced its hull 1.5 metres below the water line on 16 Dec.

The New Zealand air force was twice asked to drop pumps and other equipment to the Sparta, which had been taking on water and listing 13 degrees.

At one stage some of the crew took to the liferaft.

Other vessels in the area were unable to reach the vessel because of the ice, so the icebreaker Aran was commissioned to reach the Sparta, which had 32 crew aboard 15 Russians, 16 Indonesians and one Ukrainian. — Xinhua

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**Police say Colo bomb that hurt two was in paper bag**

LAFAYETTE, 9 Jan — A bomb that seriously injured a Colorado couple was left beside their car in a paper bag with their names written on it, and the woman’s ex-husband is seen as the prime suspect in the case, police said Sunday.

Allyson Stone, 44, and her current husband, 56-year-old Christopher Stone, were hospitalized with burns after the explosion Saturday in Lafayette.

The couple found the bag as they were preparing to drive to Boulder, and put it in the car with them, police said.

Christopher Stone told investigators it exploded as his wife began to open it when they had driven around a block.

About 20 homes were evacuated as police investigated. Residents were allowed to return about eight hours later when no other explosives were found.

Lafayette Police Chief Gene McCausey said Sunday that Allyson Stone’s former husband, 55-year-old Michael Anthony Brittain, is considered a person of interest in the case.

McCausey said police and FBI agents seized a car ‘‘in a home in the Denver suburb of Thornton on Saturday night. However, Britain is not in custody and has not been charged.

A phone listing for Britain could not immediately be found.

Neighbours told KMKG-TV that Britain is nice and said they couldn’t ‘‘imagine him being involved in the attack.

Britain and Allyson Stone have had friction in the past, the station reported.

Court records show Britain was charged in a domestic violence case involving his wife and children in August 2003. However, the Boulder County district attorney dismissed all of the charges in February 2004, and Britain was found not guilty on a remaining assault charge in January 2004, according to a state court summary. — Internet

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**Search for Vietnam’s sunken ship missing sailors stopped in vain**

HANOI, 9 Jan — All operations to search for missing sailors of Vietnam’s sunken ship Vinh Long Queen by planes and ships were stepped from Sunday, reported local VNPExpress quoting Nguyen Anh Vu, general director of Vietnam Maritime Rescue Centre (MRC) as saying.

According to MRC, after the searching flight of Japan Coast Guard on Saturday that brought in no result and was seen as the final search to look for the missing sailors, the search and rescue forces of Japan, China, China’s Taiwan and the Philippines issued announcement that they would see all searching drives by specialized means. What they could only do now was to inform boats and ships operating in the area that it was not necessary to carry out searching drives any more.

‘‘We previously found the way around the time of the Spring Festival. Every member on the policeman squad head Guangzhou High-Speed Railway. Starting from Sunday, the squad is the first of its kind to undertake a 60,000-kilometer railway journey during the Spring Festival travel rush. — Xinhua

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**Court upholds charges in ‘co-sleeping’ baby death**

SALT LAKE CITY, 9 Jan — The Utah Court of Appeals has refused to dismiss charges against a couple accused of murdering their baby in 2006 by sleeping with him — their second child to die in bed with them.

The appeals judges sided with a lower court in a pair of opinions released Friday concerning the death of 3-month-old Kayson Merrill.

The infant died while in bed between his father, Trevor Merrill, and mother, Echo Nielsen, both 28, of South Jordan. The judges said that while a state medical examiner listed the official cause of death as ‘‘undetermined,’’ there was enough evidence that ‘‘co-sleeping’’ caused the baby to suffocate to put the parents on trial, the Salt Lake Tribune reported (http://bit.ly/ApQaq).

The parents, whose first child also died while sleeping with them in 2003, have been charged with child-abuse homicide and reckless endangerment. They have pleaded not guilty. Defence attorneys argued there wasn’t enough certainty to go to trial after the medical examiner also cited illness and low birth weight in his report. — Internet

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**One climber dead during cold spell across Greece**

ATHENS, 9 Jan — The cold weather in Greece caused the death of one climber and some material damage, as the country was gripped by a cold front this weekend. The local authorities and media said on Sunday.

Rescue teams retrieved the body of a young Greek mountaineer who went missing when the group of alpinists climbing the northern mainland mountain Beles was caught in a snow storm.

His death was attributed to hypothermia as temperatures plunged to near zero degree Celsius. A large part of northern Greece has been hit by the past few hours by heavy snowfall that has affected travellers in national highways, while authorities are on alert over possible floods at the country’s border with Bulgaria due to torrential rains.

Strong winds registering up to nine on the Beaufort scale blowing in the Aegean Sea and the Ionian Sea partially disrupted sea travel and caused material damage to dozens of sailing ships and cars parked at certain ports. — Xinhua
World’s ‘most expensive’ tea grown in Chinese panda poo

CHENGDU, 9 Jan—Chinese entrepreneur An Yansi is convinced he has found the key ingredient to produce the world’s most expensive tea — panda poo.

The former calligraphy teacher has purchased 1 tonne of excrement from a panda breeding centre to fertilise a tea crop in the mountains of Sichuan Province in southwestern China, home to the black and white bears.

An says he will harvest the first batch of tea leaves this spring and it will be the “world’s most expensive tea” at almost $200,000 yuan (500 grammes, 18 ounces).

Chinese tea drinkers regard the first batch of tea to be harvested in the early spring as the best and successive batches, regarded as inferior, will sell for around 20,000 yuan.

The 41-year-old, who is so passionate about his new project he dressed in a panda suit for an interview with AFP, has been ridiculed by some in China for his extravagant claims of the potential health benefits of the tea.

But he insists he is deadly serious, saying he quit his job at Sichuan University to throw himself “heart and soul” into his company, Panda Tea, whose logo features a smiling panda wearing a bow tie and holding a steaming glass of green tea.

Internet

Singapore to need 11,000 elder care workers by 2020

SINGAPORE, 9 Jan—Singapore now has about 4,000 workers in the elder care sector, but it will need another 11,000 workers by 2020, Minister of State for Health Amy Khor has said.

It is said that the jobs in the sector is “unenviable task.”

Many more workers will be needed to provide services to the elderly, be it running day-care centres or providing food for those who are too frail to do their own cooking.

Many more workers will be needed to provide services to the elderly, be it running day-care centres or providing food for those who are too frail to do their own cooking.

It is difficult to attract enough people to work in a sector where salaries are about 20% to 30 percent below those of healthcare institutions.

Internet

Russian child in stroller swept into sewage system

MOSCOW, 9 Jan—Police in a Russian regional city say an 18-month-old child was swept into the underground municipal sewage system when a sidewalk collapsed because of a ruptured pipe.

The mother, a 26-year-old policeman’s wife, was pushing the child in a stroller in the city of Bryansk when the ground caved in underneath them.

Police say the woman was rescued, but the child was swept away by the current into a collecting tank for the sewage system and was presumed dead.

Investigators say they are working to determine the cause of Sunday’s accident, but suspect faulty construction of the system may be to blame.

Underground pipes carrying hot water occasionally burst in Russia, causing the ground above them to suddenly collapse to the peril of those walking above.

INTERNET

Qatar Airways to fly Doha-Kigali route from next March

KIGALI, 9 Jan—The Qatar Airways will from March 2012 launch the Doha-Kigali flight route.

In a statement issued in Kigali, the RwandaCapital, the company and the flights would be run on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays with one stop over in Entebbe, Uganda.

Currently, Brussels Airlines, Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways and the Dutch company KLM serve the Kigali route.

A schedule would allow maximum connectivity over Kigali for flights from East and Central Africa, the news release added.

The Rwandan minister of Infrastructure, Albert Nsengiyumva, has confirmed that negotiations with Qatar Airways were complete and that all being well with paper work a new route between Doha and Kigali will open this coming March.—Xinhua

Hollywood high-rise plan has some up in arms

LOS ANGELES, 9 Jan—Hollywood, that mythical land where movie drama was invented, suddenly finds itself caught up in its own real-life drama, one involving high-priced real estate and people taking on City Hall.

In this storyline, the issue is whether it is time for a famously spread-out, freeway-centric city’s best known tourist destination to begin looking a little more like New York City by adding a towering skyline and pedestrian-friendly sidewalks.

The city Planning Commission recently gave its unanimous blessing to a new Hollywood Community Plan that would allow buildings of 50 stories or more in some areas. The skyscrapers, which planners see someday dotting what they call the Hollywood Corridor, would be linked by a “Little Rock, Ark., construction site,” a burst of building in December pushed the unemployment rate to its lowest level in nearly three years, giving the economy a boost at the end of 2011.
Mexico suffered drought, freeze, floods in 2011

MEXICO CITY, 9 Jan — Mexico’s social development secretary says an estimated 600,000 households suffered property damage or crop losses due to an unusual combination of floods, drought and freezing weather in 2011. Heriberto Felix Guerra says the drought had been so bad that about 2.6 million people in about 1,650 villages and towns in northern Mexico do not even have drinking water.

Felix Guerra’s agency has helped truck water in to those communities.

He said that hundreds of other communities in the country’s southeast had suffered persistent flooding.

He said in an interview Sunday that the extreme weather appeared to be caused by climate change, and predicted that such natural disasters will become worse in coming years. — Internet

Taxi driver Manganese Bronze warns of 2011 loss

LONDON, 9 Jan — Manganese Bronze, the maker of London’s traditional black cabs, said it had failed to make a profit in 2011 and could miss market expectations for 2012, blaming deteriorating economic conditions and the delay of an Azerbaijan order.

The company said trading had continued to be impacted by the weakening UK economy while the unresolved eurozone sovereign debt crisis and its potential impact on banks had undermined confidence within the global banking community and made it more difficult to secure finance for international trade.

Manganese Bronze said an order of 500 vehicles from Azerbaijan which was originally due to be shipped in October had been delayed until 30 January.

“The overall impact of lower UK sales and the delay of this Azerbaijan order will prevent the group from achieving a profitable result for the year ended 31 December,” the company said in a statement Monday.

Manganese Bronze said that the results would be “materially lower” than expected, with orders pending from Azerbaijan.

“Whilst a proportion of this shortfall should be recovered when the delayed Azerbaijan sales are recorded in 2012, any continued softening of global economic conditions would mean the group is likely to fall short of meeting expectations for the current year.”

Reuters

Hawking turns 70 with “a brief history of mine”

CAMBRIDGE, 9 Jan — The world’s best known living scientist, Stephen Hawking, was too ill to attend his 70th birthday celebrations Sunday but in a recorded speech urged others to seek out the same enthusiasm for his subject as he had had two years to live.

Hawking had recently been in hospital and was discharged on 6 January, Cambridge’s Vice-Chancellor Leszek Borysiewicz said.

“Unfortunately ... his recovery has not been fast enough for him to be with us today,” Borysiewicz told a disappointed audience of scientists, students and celebrities at the event.

Reuters

Theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking speaks at his official welcoming ceremony at Perimeter Institute For Theoretical Physics in Kitchener on 20 June, 2010. — [Intranet]
**Fish versus science, in “How the World Began”**

New York, 9 Jan—A thoughtless remark by a pregnant science teacher transplanted from New York infuriates a doggedly religious teenage student in a shattered rural community, and their arguments about faith and evolution escalate in tune with their passionately held but incompatible viewpoints. This is the premise of Gwydir’s “How the World Began,” a thought-provoking drama performed off-Broadway at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater. The increasingly tense, 90-minute drama is set in the fictional town of “New Hope,” a place whose inhabitants minimum fees for an already pocket of the jacket.

**New York City Opera announces musician lockout**

New York, 9 Jan—A bitter contract dispute has led to a lockout of musicians at the New York City Opera, a possible “death knell” for a company that’s nurtured such singers as Renée Fleming, Plácido Domingo and Beverly Sills. On Sunday, hours after talks broke down, the cash-strapped company canceled on Monday rehearsals for a 12 February opening production of Verdi’s “La Traviata” in Brooklyn.

“Time is always short,” said Alan Gordon, a lawyer representing the Guild of Musical Artists representing the City Opera at New York’s Lincoln Centre after her final performance in New York, after her final performance in **Police: Holdups were for girlfriend’s rent**

A 49-year-old Florida man admitted he robbed two banks to pay his girlfriend’s rent, police say.

Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office investigators say they identified Raymond A. Schafer of St Petersburg by lifting fingerprints from a demand note used to rob Cornerstone Community Bank in Seminole Wednesday, the Tampa Bay Times reported. He implied he had a gun and fled with an undisclosed amount of cash, police said.

After witnesses saw the suspect fleeing, detectives found in a trash bin an orange jacket and baseball cap the robber had been wearing, and found the demand note in a pocket of the jacket.

Authorities tracked down Schafer at a substance abuse treatment facility in St Petersburg, and he was arrested. Detectives noticed he matched the description of the suspect in a 6 Dec robbery of Achieva Federal Credit Union in Largo.

Police allege he admitted committing that robbery, as well, saying he needed money to pay his girlfriend’s rent, WTSF-TV, Tampa, reported.

**Missing Dallas teen accidentally deported to Colombia**

A Dallas teen missing for more than a year has been found living in Colombia. Lorene Turner tells WFAA that her granddaughter Jakadrien Turner ran away from home in the fall of 2010 when she was 12. Jakadrien made her way to Houston, where she was arrested by police.

That’s when things took a turn toward the Kafka-esque. Jakadrien gave the police a false name and her new alias just happened to match up with the name of a 22-year-old Colombian citizen who had been in the United States illegally. And to compound Turner’s plight further, the Colombian national had a warrant out for her arrest.

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) then deported Jakadrien in April 2011.

“They didn’t do their work,” Lorene Turner said. “How do you deport a teenager and send her to Colombia without a passport, without anything?”

Turner said she’d been looking on her computer every night for clues to her granddaughter’s location, and has been cooperating with Dallas police as she carries on her search. It turns out that after Jakadrien was deported, she was given a work card in Colombia and released onto the streets.

**Forest Gump’ actor Sinise to raise money for vet**

Temecula, 9 Jan—Gary Sinise, known for playing a soldier who loses his legs in the film “Forest Gump,” wants to stage a benefit concert to raise money to build a home in Temecula, California, for a Marine who lost his limbs in Afghanistan. The Los Angeles Times reports that Sinise, now starring in TV’s “CSI New York,” is expected to ask the Temecula City Council on Tuesday if he can hold a concert tentatively on 1 March.

Sinise’s Lt Dan Band, named for his movie character, would perform and raise money for Marine Lance Cpl Juan Dominguez, who lost his legs and right arm in 2010. The Gary Sinise Foundation and the Stephen Kanner Foundation have built several such homes for wounded veterans.

For Hanks, the release of “Electric City” caps the actor’s efforts to find the right avenue for the project. He first tried to make the series using puppets. He earlier announced it would be released in early 2011. The series is set in a seemingly peaceful city situated in a post-apocalyptic world. Many of its themes are socially conscious topics relevant to today, including energy consumption.

“It was always our intent to have this project live and breathe online, and we felt

Tom Hanks’ Web series to stream on Yahoo

New York, 9 Jan—Tom Hanks’ long gestating Web series is coming to Yahoo.

“Electric City,” an animated futuristic series Hanks has been developing for years, will premiere on Yahoo this spring. The series includes 20 episodes, each three- or four-minutes long.

Yahoo, along with Hanks and production partners Playtone and Reliance Entertainment, are set to formally announce plans for the series Tuesday at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

**Marine biologist could get 20 years in prison for feeding whales**

A California marine biologist is facing up to 20 years in prison and half a million dollars in fines for allegedly feeding a group of killer whales and then altering footage of the incident and lying to authorities.

In addition to her carrying out maritime research, Nancy Black operates the popular Monterey Bay Whale Watch tours and has been featured on PBS, National Geographic and Animal Planet. But on Wednesday, Black was charged with four violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Black’s attorneys say she was only doing scientific research.

If she’s convicted, Black could face up to 20 years in prison and a half million dollars in fines. She could also be fined up to $100,000 for each whale feeding charge, which also carries a year in prison sentencing term.

**Faith versus science, in ‘How the World Began’**

New York, 9 Jan—A thoughtless remark by a pregnant science teacher transplanted from New York infuriates a doggedly religious teenage student in a shattered rural community, and their arguments about faith and evolution escalate in tune with their passionately held but incompatible viewpoints. This is the premise of Gwydir’s “How the World Began,” presented off-Broadway at Women’s Project Theater at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater. The increasingly tense, 90-minute drama is set in the fictional town of “New Hope,” a place whose inhabitants minimum fees for an already
**Football star Cannavaro says size doesn’t matter**

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by FIFA. Asked his advice for Cambodian footballers who are often shorter than their rivals, Cannavaro, who at 1.76 metres (5 foot 9) is small for a defender, said it was a question of mentality rather than height. “I was strong inside my head,” the 2006 World Player of the Year said. “Big or short, for me what was important was to win the game with my team. The dream when you start playing football is to win something special and we won something special.”

Cannavaro retired last July following a nagging knee injury, but remains on the management staff with current club Al-Ahli in Dubai. His four-day stay in Cambodia, which ends on Wednesday, will see him host coaching sessions with young local players and visit a charity to hand out football kits to street children. Cannavaro started his career in 1992 with home club Naples, before moving to AC Milan to Inter, to River Milan, Juventius, Real Madrid, and then back to Juve for one season before joining Al-Ahli.—Internet

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Cambodia beefs up security ahead of ASEAN FM meeting

PRINOS PINTO, 9 Jan—Some 1,450 security forces have been deployed in Siem Reap Province ahead of the ASEAN foreign ministers’ retreat meeting which will be held on 10-12 Jan, the provincial police chief Sath Nady said Monday.

“We have been deploying the forces from 8-12 Jan in order to ensure security and safety for the ASEAN delegates,” he told Xinhua over telephone. “The security has been tightened from the airport to the meeting venues and around the provincial town.” The ASEAN foreign ministers’ retreat meeting will be chaired by Cambodia’s Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong, who is also the country’s minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation.

It would be the first foreign ministers’ meeting in a form of retreat in Cambodia. During the meeting, the ministers will discuss regional and international issues the ASEAN has interest in. Also, they will also discuss progress in the context of ASEAN Community building.—Xinhua

Tarred town ringroad inaugurated

KUTKAI, 9 Jan—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the town ringroad was opened in Ward 2 of Kutkai on 31 December.

Chairman of Pyuthu Hlutaw Bill Committee U T Khun Myat, Kutkai Township Administrator U Myat Thein Tin and Township DAC Executive Officer U Nan Zein Hla Aung formally opened the road.

The 2200x12 feet facility was built at a cost of K 1,528,800.

Township DAC

Seeding of high yield paddy strain demonstrated

KANGYIDAUNT, 9 Jan—A demonstration on seeding of high yield hybrid Palethwe paddy strain on 10 acres of farmland was held in Apin Hnahse Village of Kangyidaunt Township on 1 January.

Dr Township Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service U Kyi Thein explained cultivation and production of hybrid Palethwe paddy strain. The seeding demonstration was attended by departmental personnel and local farmers.

Township IPRD

Sri Lanka to establish embassy in Ukraine

COLOMBO, 9 Jan—Sri Lanka is to establish a Resident Diplomatic Mission in Ukraine, the government said in its official website here Monday.

This decision was made following the approval of a proposal made by Minister of External Affairs GL Peiris to the Cabinet, and was duly approved at the last meeting.

The government of Ukraine, on a reciprocal basis, will establish a Resident Mission in Colombo.—Xinhua

U Kyaw Khin (Danuphyu) (96 Year)

Donor of pagoda, Buddhist ordination hall and monetary

U Kyaw Khin (Danuphyu), son of (U Tha San and Daw Lon Ma Lay), husband of Daw Khin Yi (Myo Nyunt Yatana Jewellery Shop, Bogyoke Market), brother of U Soe Hla-Haw Thin Htwe), Daw Hla Thein, Daw Nyunt Tin (U Hla Yi), father of U Soe Win (Myanma Railways)-Dr Khin Myo Myint, U Ye Myint-Daw Nwe Nwe Han, U Zaw Win-Daw Khin Myo Win, Daw Khin San Aye, Daw Khin Myo Thwe, Daw Khin Nan Nwe, Daw Thet Maw Htwe, grandfather of Dr Phyu Pya Soe, Dr Mu Ya Soe, Kyaw Lin Soe-Chaw Chaw Su, Dr Thanda Soe, Thuya Kyaw- Barani, Ngu War Kyaw, Captain Myo Thi Ha Zaw, Dr Su Yi Moe Zaw, Dr Su Yi: Hgyo Zaw, Dr Su Yi Moe Zaw, grand-grandfather of May Myat Noe Kyaw, passed away at the house of No. 16, Panchan Street, Sanchaung Township, Yangon on 8 January, 2012 and funeral ceremony was held at 4 pm, on 9 January, 2012.

Bereaved family

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 10 January, 2012

District News

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Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa meets Japanese and Danish guests separately

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received a Japanese delegation led by Member of House of Councillors Mr Hirohiko Nakamura at the No (1) Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Building of Hluttaw Complex here at 10.30 am.

Also present at the call together with the deputy speaker were chairmen, secretaries and members of committees and together with the Japanese delegation were officials of Japanese mission in Myanmar.

Amicable cooperation between parliaments of the two countries and political developments in Myanmar were discussed at the meeting.

The deputy speaker also met a delegation led by Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Mr Christian Friis Bach at 11.30 am.

They exchanged views on cooperation between Myanmar and EU in development sectors.

Microfinance service plays an important role in reducing poverty of rural people

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—“Microfinance service plays an important role in reducing poverty of rural people and establishment credit unions would contribute to socio-economic growth of the poor in rural areas as well as basic strata in urban areas”, said Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun at the meeting No. 1/2012 of Microfinance Service Supervisory Committee at the ministry here this morning.

The Union Minister added that currently banks, cooperative societies, private companies, local and transnational non-governmental organizations, and social organizations were running microfinance service in some regions for peoples living on low income; that such organizations were running with their own rules and regulations and procedures as there was still no officially adopted system for the whole microfinance service industry; that the private micro-credit union development support committee therefore had implemented four-phase plan to systematically supervise the micro-finance service.

Next, committee member Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyen elaborated on functions of the committee and committee secretary Managing Director of Myanmar Small Loans Supervisory Enterprise U Hein Lin on works in progress, followed by suggestions of the attendees.

Next, chairpersons of region/State and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area microfinance service supervisory committees reported on ongoing works, future plans and needs.

The Committee Chairman Union Minister in his concluding remarks called for collaborative efforts for systematic establishment of monetary services contributing to fighting poverty and enhancing socio-economy of ordinary people.

Fergie defends Rooney reaction

Man Utd striker backed by manager in Kompany red card row

MANCHESTER, 9 Jan—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has insisted he has no concerns over Wayne Rooney’s ‘natural reaction’ to Vincent Kompany’s tackle on Nani.

Company was sent off for the challenge in Sunday’s FA Cup tie and the ten men of Manchester City went on to lose 3-2 despite a rousing second-half comeback.

City boss Roberto Mancini later claimed that Rooney influenced referee Chris Foy’s decision to show Kompany a red card, an accusation which the United striker has rejected.

Ferguson has now backed Rooney in the row over what happened, highlighting his view that such appeals are now part of the game and that it was a bad tackle.

“I have no concerns about the behaviour in that respect because to my mind it was a reckless challenge and Nani is a very lucky boy because he didn’t get a bad injury,” said Ferguson.

“I have no complaints about Wayne. I don’t think it was unacceptably what he did. I think it was a natural reaction to a bad challenge from an opponent.

“But I can understand it was a reckless challenge and Nani is a very lucky boy. I think it was a bad tackle.”

Ferguson also said he was relishing a fight to the end of the season with City for Premier League honours.

He added: “We have a big challenge from Manchester City but that’s not a problem for Manchester United, we have faced these challenges for many years. It doesn’t matter where it comes from, Chelsea, Arsenal, Liverpool or Tottenham, and Manchester City are a very good team.

“We know it’s going to be a big, big fight towards the end of the season.”

Ferguson was speaking at the FIFA Ballon d’Or gala in Zurich, where he has been shortlisted for the Coach of the Year award along with Barcelona’s Pep Guardiola and Jose Mourinho of Real Madrid. —Internet

Workers collectively donate blood

MYINTINT, 9 Jan—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, workers and staff of the various workshops from Couch and Wagon Shed (Myintint) of Myanmar Railways of Amarapura Township donated blood at the fire brigade (private) of MR on 3 January.

General Manager U Nyi Hlut of MR donated 123 bags of blood to in-charge of the blood bank Dr Daw Khin Sein Win who gave certificate of honour.

Myanmar, US to promote bilateral relations and cooperation

‘Couch potato pill’ may also prevent heatstroke

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Page 2

Page 4

Page 14

Page 14