President U Thein Sein receives US Senator Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell and party

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by US Senator Mr Addison Mitchell McConnell at Credentials Hall of the President Residence here this morning.

Also present together with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein were Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin and departmental heads. The US delegation was accompanied by Charge d’ affaires of the US Embassy in Myanmar Mr Michael E Thurston.

At the meeting, they had a frank and cordial discussion on political developments of Myanmar and promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Senior Editor Ms Elizabeth Graham Weymouth of The Washington Post and party

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Senior Editor Ms Elizabeth Graham Weymouth of The Washington Post at the President Residence here at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call together with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi.—MNA
Compete in both self-interest and public interest

There are many contests both in and outside the ring. They are neither underhand machinations nor martial arts. So, what are they?

There are a lot of competitions on earth. But some are necessary while some are unnecessary. Necessary contests can serve the interests of both the mundane and supra-mundane worlds. Unnecessary contests, however, can cause bad effects with sheer waste of time.

Human beings, by nature, are unnecessarily competing with each other. These days, new cars are flooding into Yangon. One who owns a million kyats’ worth of car competes with another who possesses a car valued at K 20 million or 10. Moreover, there are those who show off their cars to others who have not. What’s more, some motorists even compete with others for speeding. And as a result of this, they may end up in hospital or at the death’s door.

Among social conflicts, there are unnecessary, fruitless contests such as pride, wealth and beauty. Indeed, they can cause bad effects rather than good ones.

In reality, we, the Myanmar people, should not vie with each other like this. Instead, we must compete for our capabilities to work hard, to improve the economy, to have knowledge, to have good discipline, to reduce spending and entertainment and to take part in social work. Yet, we still lack such a highly competitive spirit.

We can improve our economy through hard work, be well off through improved economy, be well-known scholars through education, save more money through thrift and develop our whole society through participation in social activities.

Overall, all are urged to compete in their self-interest as well as in the public interest.

Tobacco Kills

YANGON, 17 Jan.—As part of commitments towards conserving wildlife and endangered species in Myanmar, Wildlife Conservation Society has organized the workshop on “Building a Shared Vision for conservation Investment in Myanmar” here today.

The two-day workshop was opened with remarks by U Tin Tun, Director General of the Planning and Statistic Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, and Mr Colin Poole, Director of WCS Asia Program.

In his keynote address, U Tin Tun called on the participants for updating business opportunities in biodiversity conservation and for finding better solution and synergy to move on current biodiversity conservation activities.

Over 50 experts from the government sector and stakeholders have participated in the two-day workshop focusing on wildlife conservation in key biodiversity areas (KBA) in Myanmar.

The number of KBAs in Myanmar has increased from 26 areas in 2005 to 150 areas in 2011, said U Saw Hsun, Deputy Country Director of the WCS.

During the first day session, experts discussed in three groups to categorize the KBAs: 43 in upper Myanmar, 59 in lower Myanmar and 48 aquatic ecosystems.

Experts are from Forest Department of MOECAF, Department of Fishery, WCS, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Authority (BANCA) and other related societies, donors and international invitees.

The first workshop of its kind was held in Myanmar 2005.
**Mastermind of armed robbers gang caught**

**A police officer counts the bullets and guns, including an AK-47 assault rifle, after the suspect was captured on Sunday.—Xinhua**

**Beijing, 17 Jan—**A man suspected in a series of armed robberies in a southern border city in China was killed in a pre-dawn shootout with police on a highway in the city of Pingxiang during last year’s Spring Festival holiday in Sichuan Province.

China’s Fujian Province, on 16 Jan, 2012. The fire was caused by a short circuit in a candle. —Xinhua

**Police kill seven gunmen in central Mexican shootout**

**MEXICO CITY, 17 Jan—**Seven gunmen are dead following a pre-dawn shootout with police on a highway in the city of Cuernavaca, south of Mexico City. A federal police officer is recovering from a gunshot wound to the foot following the confrontation.

The prosecutors office in the central Mexican State of Morelos says the gunmen belonged to an organized crime group, but did not say which gang. “Organized crime” in Mexico generally refers to drug cartels, and remnants of the Beltran Leyva cartel have been fighting for control of Cuernavaca. Prosecutors said the gunmen were traveling in three stolen vehicles when police confronted them early Monday.—Internet

**Explosions damage Italy tax agency - Naples police**

**NAPLES, 17 Jan—**Three explosive devices blew up outside the Naples offices of Equitalia, a state agency that collects overdue taxes and fines, breaking windows but injuring no one on Monday night, a police official told Reuters. Police said no group had claimed responsibility for the attack on the building on Corso Meridionale near Naples central rail station.

Equitalia, whose offices have been attacked before, is deeply unpopular among many Italians who accuse it of using strongarm tactics to collect taxes. Italy’s technocrat government says it wants to increase Equitalia’s powers as part of a war on tax evasion that robs the exchequer of an estimated 120 billion euros (99.12 billion pounds) a year.

Separate members of right wing association Roma Nord said they had dummies outside Equitalia offices in Rome overnight to protest against the agency’s tactics, Italian news agency ANSA reported. Equitalia’s Naples offices were hit by a similar explosion in December. Two letter bombs were also sent to Equitalia’s offices in Rome in December. One was intercepted but the other blew off part of a finger of the agency’s director general. An anarchist group said it carried out those attacks.—Reuters

**Stricken Italian liner shifts, 29 people missing**

**GIULIO, 17 Jan —**A stricken Italian cruise liner shifted on its rocky resting place as worsening weather disrupted an increasingly despairing hunt for survivors and authorities almost doubled their estimate of the number missing to 29 people.

As the Costa Concordia’s owners accused their captain of veering too close to shore in a bravura “salute” to residents of a Tuscan island, the giant ship slid a little on Monday, threatening to plough 2,300 tonnes of fuel below the Mediterranean waters of the surrounding nature reserve.

The slippage forced rescuers to suspend efforts to find anyone still alive after three days in the capsized hull, resting on a jagged slope outside the picturesque harbor on the island of Giglio. Six bodies have been found. Most of the 4,200 passengers and crew survived, despite hours of chaos. Captain Francesco Schettino was arrested a day after the disaster accused of manslaughter and abandoning the ship before all of the people were evacuated. Prosecutors say he also refused to go back on board when requested by the coastguard. Schettino was due to appear before magistrates for questioning on Tuesday morning.

An Italian coastguard official told Reuters late on Monday that the number of people missing had been revised up to 29-25 passengers and four members of staff — from 16, showing how much uncertainty still surrounded the disaster.—Reuters

**Canadian man shot to death in Mexican state of Sinaloa**

**MEXICO CITY, 17 Jan—**Police in Mexico say the body of a Canadian man has been found on a street in the City of Culiacan in Sinaloa State. Sinaloa state police say Salid Abdulcass Sahas had been shot to death. He was carrying a Canadian identification card. His age is not known.—Xinhua

**12 killed, 35 wounded in Iraq car bombings**

**BAGHDAD, 17 Jan—**A total of 12 people were killed and some 35 others wounded in two car bomb attacks in northern and central Iraq on Monday, the police said. The deadliest attack occurred at about 8:00 am local time (0500 GMT) when a car bomb went off at al-Ghadier compound, some 20 km east of Iraq’s northern city of Mosul, which houses residents from the Iraqi Shabak minority, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Women and children were among the victims, the source said, adding that the powerful blast damaged several nearby houses, 12 shops and several civilian cars. The Iraqi Shabak people are an ethnic and Shi’ite minority group living in villages in Iraq’s northern province of Nineveh, particularly, around the provincial capital City of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad. Iraqi security forces cordoned off the scene, while police experts defused another car bomb found in the same area, the source added. Around noon, another car bomb detonated in Nadir District in the center of Hilla City, some 100 km south of Baghdad, killing up to three people and wounding some 15 others, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Earlier the source put the toll at a civilian killed and ten wounded by the blast in Hilla, the capital city of Hilla Province. Iraqi cities have been plagued by several attacks, including suicide bombings, since the US troops pulled out of the country earlier last month.—Xinhua

**KABUL, 17 Jan—**At least 92 armed militants have surrendered to the government last month, a spokes- man for Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS) said here on Monday. “A total of 92 anti-government armed militants have renounced violence and joined the government in Kandahar, Herat, Badghis, Farah, Ghor and Baghlan Provinces last month,” spokesman Lutfullah Mashal told reporters at a Press briefing.

Mashal added that the NDS had detained 18 terrorists loyal to Taliban outfit during manhunt operations in the country’s national reconciliation process last year, a claim rejected by Taliban outfit as groundless.

Mashal added that the NDS had detained 18 terrorists loyal to Taliban outfit during manhunt operations in the country’s national reconciliation process last year, a claim rejected by Taliban outfit as groundless.

Kanduz, Logar, Paktika and Nangarhar Provinces last month. The Taliban stepped up their attacks on Afghan and NATO-led troops since a US military offensive was launched in May 2011 in the war-ravaged country.
Health Tip: What affects blood glucose?

People with diabetes should monitor the amount of glucose (sugar) in their blood. Insulin and certain drugs often are key, but so is understanding what causes blood sugar levels to fluctuate.

The American Diabetes Association mentions these factors:
- The foods you eat.
- How much you exercise, and when.
- Where in the body you inject insulin.
- The time of day that you inject yourself.
- Being sick.
- Being under stress.

Cholesterol meds raise diabetes risk in women

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan—Post-menopausal women who take medication to lower their cholesterol face a higher risk of getting diabetes than women who do not take the popular drugs, known as statins, said a US study on Monday.

The risk was apparent even after researchers adjusted for variables such as age, race/ethnicity and body mass index, said the study in the Archives of Internal Medicine, a publication of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

The link appeared regardless of what type of statin, or what dosage, the women were taking, said the study which included 153,000 women with an average age of 63. The researchers from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota called for more study on the matter but said in the meantime there was no need to revise the guidelines for statin use in non-diabetic people, pointing out that statins aim to fix negative heart consequences of diabetes. “Women who are taking statins should be aware of the need to check their blood sugars, along with their liver function tests,” said Suzanne Steinbaum, director of women and heart disease at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York.

Now, once-a-week jab can end misery of diabetics

LONDON, 17 Jan—A simple weekly jab can now end the torment of millions of diabetics, who at present take injections two times a day, researchers say.

The landmark 18 pounds-a-week treatment is now available on the NHS. The drug, called exenatide, can be given to people with Type 2 diabetes who cannot get their condition under control with currently available pills, the Daily Express reported.

It is a slow-release version of the earlier available version of exenatide, called Byetta, and mimics a hormone found in a lizard from Mexico.

At present, people whose blood glucose levels are not brought under control need to inject their insulin twice a week – two a day – to regulate it. But exenatide, which can be given just once a week, has been found to be just as effective. Exenatide is the first in a new class of medicines known as incretin mimetics, which trigger the pancreas to produce more insulin in response to raised blood sugar and also influence digestion and appetite.

China GDP growth at 2-1/2 year low but tops forecast

BEIJING, 17 Jan—China’s economy grew at its weakest pace in 2-1/2 years in the latest quarter and it appeared headed for an even sharper slowdown in the coming months as export demand fades and the housing market falters.

The fourth-quarter year-on-year growth of 8.9 percent, although slightly stronger than the 8.7 percent that economists polled by Reuters had predicted, may give Beijing yet another reason to gently ease monetary policy, most likely by reducing the amount of reserves that large banks must hold.

The data released on Tuesday may not satisfy investors, who were looking for figures that were either weak enough to provide a clear-cut case for policy easing or strong enough to allay fears that the world’s second-biggest economy might unravel.

“The slowdown is not scary, so we are not going to get massive policy easing,” said Kevin Lai, economist with Daiwa in Hong Kong.

China’s growth ebbs in final quarter of 2011

BEIJING, 17 Jan—China appears on track to avoid an abrupt economic slowdown with possible global repercussions after growth eased to a still robust 8.9 percent in the last quarter of 2011.

The expansion in the world’s second-largest economy was the slowest in 2-1/2 years but December retail sales and factory output accelerated, data showed Tuesday. Growth in the previous quarter was 9.1 percent.

“One day’s outcome seems to confirm a ‘soft landing’ scenario,” said Frances Cheung of Credit Agricole CIB in Hong Kong.

China is one of the biggest importers and slower growth could have global repercussions if it cuts demand for iron ore, industrial components and other goods from Australia, Brazil, Southeast Asia and elsewhere.
Beyonce gets fly with golden

newly discovered insect, scientists recently announced on the

In this 2009 photo released by researcher Bryan

Beyonce gets fly with golden booty named after her

Soil bugs quit sea land later than speculated

WASHINGTION, 17 Jan — Soil bacteria azospirillum quit the sea for land much later than speculated by scientists.

Igor Jouline, joint faculty professor of microbiology at Oak Ridge National Lab’s (ORNL) Institute for Computational Sciences, performed a genome sequence analysis of azospirillum. The analysis indicates the shift may have occurred only 400 million years ago, rather than approximately two billion years earlier, as originally thought.

“Because these bacteria colonize roots of grasses and improve their growth and development, they might be important for bioremediation research,” Jouline said.

Jouline conducted the research with microbiologists Kristin Waichet and Leonid Sukhamikov, molecular biologist Ghylys Alexande and Kirill Borziak, graduate student of genome science at the ORNL.

Some amazing facts about the human body

Hair. While it might sound strange, it shouldn’t come as too much of a surprise that men’s hair should be coarser than that of women.

* Human hair is virtually indestructible. Aside from its flammability, human hair decays at such a slow rate that it is practically non-digestive. Hair cannot be destroyed by cold, change of climate, water, or other natural forces and it is resistant to many kinds of acids and corrosive chemicals.

* Eighty per cent of the brain is water. Your brain isn’t the firm, grey mass you’ve seen on TV. Living brain tissue is a squashy, pink and jelly-like organ thanks to the loads of blood and high water content of the tissue. So the next time you’re feeling dehydrated, get a drink to keep your brain hydrated.

* The human body is estimated to have 60,000 miles of blood vessels. To put that in perspective, the distance around the earth is about 25,000 miles, making the distance your blood vessels could travel if laid end to end more than two times around the earth.

In this 2009 photo released by researcher Bryan Lessard of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), a newly discovered horse fly in Australia with its golden-haired bum is shown at the Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra, Australia.

An ultra-Orthodox Jewish man walks past an El Al Israeli Airlines logo at Ben Gurion International airport near Tel Aviv, in this file picture taken 22 Aug, 2011.

Hackers disrupt Tel Aviv exchange, El Al websites

Jerusalem, 17 Jan — Computer hackers disrupted access to the websites of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) and Israel’s flag carrier El Al Airlines on Monday, officials at both companies said.

Stock trading and flights operated normally despite the cyber assaults, which occurred as Israeli media reported that pro-Palestinian hackers had threatened at the weekend to shut down both these websites.

“There has been an attack by hackers on the access routes to the (TASE) website. The stock exchange’s trading activities are operating normally,” said Orna Goren, deputy manager of the exchange’s marketing and communications unit.

The bourse’s website could be accessed intermittently.

The site of El Al Israel Airlines was also crashed, and the company said it was busy trying to overcome the problem. “El Al is aware that for the past two weeks cyber warfare has targeted Israel,” El Al said in a statement. “The company is closely monitoring the Saudi hacker’s activity.”

A hacker who identified himself as coming from Saudi Arabia had earlier this month published thousands of personal and credit card details of Israelis apparently gleaned from commercial websites in one of the worst cases of mass cyber identity theft experienced by Israel.

There was no claim of responsibility for Monday’s cyber incidents. El Al said it had taken “precautions in operating the company’s site. As a result there may be disruptions in the site’s activity.” Israel opened an agency to tackle cyber attacks earlier this month. A founding member of the public has alerted him that he was recently bitten by what’s locally called the “gold bum fly.”

Robots to replace human labour in China

Beijing, 17 Jan — Technology firm Foxconn will employ one million robots to replace human labour in China in the next three years.

“Robots are more accurate and adaptive than workers,” China Daily reported Monday quoting a senior vice-president at the School of Information Engineering, Taiyuan University of Technology.

Foxconn is one of the largest corporations in the electronic equipment industry in China.

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Samsung’s Bada goes boom, gets integrated into Tizen

San Francisco, 17 Jan — Samsung made a big deal of its Bada mobile operating system when it was launched back in 2009, using words such as “ground-breaking” and “iconic” when describing it. But since then it has achieved around 2% market share and several phones using it have been released, including the Wave 3, and several phones using it around the world.

The project, but they currently do not have plans to make it their main mobile operating system.

The company said it was being based on Linux, Tizen will be backwards compatible with Bada and the SDK will be almost identical, allowing existing developers to start working on Tizen apps straight away.

An ultra-Orthodox Jewish man walks past an El Al Israeli Airlines logo at Ben Gurion International airport near Tel Aviv, in this file picture taken 22 Aug, 2011.

Beyonce gets fly with golden booty named after her

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An ultra-Orthodox Jewish man walks past an El Al Israeli Airlines logo at Ben Gurion International airport near Tel Aviv, in this file picture taken 22 Aug, 2011.
China's Xi says to push forward Sino-US cooperation

BEIJING, 17 Jan.—China’s Vice President Xi Jinping said on Monday that China is willing to work with the US to steadily promote their cooperative partnership under the new situation, so as to benefit the two peoples and world peace.

Xi and former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger attended a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of former US President Richard Nixon’s visit to China and the release of the Shanghai Communiqué.

In his speech, Xi reviewed the US-China relations and expressed his wish for the continuation of bilateral cooperation. The vice president said that China and the US have gained a lot of experiences from the 40-year history of bilateral ties, one of which is that both sides should always adhere to the three Sino-US joint communiques. The two countries should constantly enhance mutual understanding and cultivate and deepen strategic trust, Xi said. “Under the new situation, we should unswervingly develop our cooperative partnership based on mutual respect and mutual benefit, in accordance with the important consensus reached by President Hu Jintao and President Obama,” he said. The vice president urged the two sides to respect each other’s core and major interests, as well as properly handle their differences, in order to keep the proper direction of bilateral ties. He also urged the two sides to strengthen contact at all levels, promote cooperation in the economic and trade fields, and enhance coordination on international and regional issues.—Xinhua

China seeks Gulf partnership to push renewable energy

ABU DHABI, 17 Jan.—At the 5th World Future Energy Summit (WFES) which opened in Abu Dhabi on Monday, Chinese firms are looking to sell their innovative products to the sun-rich, but dry and hot Gulf Arab region. For the sun-rich, but dry and hot Gulf Arab region. For the sun-rich, but dry and hot region.

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping (R) meets with former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who is here to attend the third China-US-Track Two High-level Dialogue, before an event marking the 40th anniversary of former US President Richard Nixon’s visit to China and the release of the Shanghai Communiqué, in Beijing, capital of China, on 16 Jan, 2012.—Xinhua

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao addresses the opening ceremony of the fifth World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, on 16 Jan, 2012.—Xinhua

Uncertainties cloud China’s economy in 2012

BEIJING, 17 Jan.—A slowdown is expected for China’s growth engine in 2012 as uncertainties continue to cast clouds over the world’s second-largest economy amid festering European debt woes and painstaking macro-control policies. The country’s release of economic data for the fourth quarter of 2011 will take the spotlight on Tuesday, with many analysts expecting economic growth below 9 percent, the slowest in 10 quarters.

A slowing Chinese economy is inevitable due to weak exports and fixed-asset investment, said Lu Zhongyan, Deputy Director of the Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council, or China’s Cabinet. “We should no longer be obsessed with the speed of growth,” said Lu, who predicted the expansion of China’s gross domestic product (GDP) would decelerate to around 8.5 percent in 2012. While short-term demands shrink, China’s mid- and long-term growth potential will decrease because of factors such as an aging population, rising labor costs and less room for infrastructure improvement, said Yu Bin, director of the DRC’s Macroeconomic Research Department. Yu also estimated the 2012 GDP growth will slow to around 8.5 percent, based on an overall stable domestic property market and barring another global financial crisis.—Xinhua

Children play at an expo on tourism and vacation in Vienna, Austria, on 15 Jan, 2012. The four-day expo, with the participation of some 750 tourism service agencies from over 70 countries and regions, concluded on Sunday.—Xinhua

“Merry-go-rounds” become powerful investment tools in Kenya

Nairobi, 17 Jan.—They were once dismissed as “dens of gossip”, but “merry-go-rounds”, as they are popularly known in Kenya, are turning out to be powerful investment tools. The groups are economically empowering Kenyans as many turn to them to pool resources together and invest in various sectors.

Merry-go-rounds, which are micro-finance schemes, work as the name suggests. Members contribute money weekly, fortnightly or every month. The collection is then pooled at the end of every month. The collection is then pooled at the end of every month. The group will allocate funds to members on a rotation basis.

Kenyan society, including children, men, the youth and rich and poor. Kenyans are now using them to invest in the public service, transport sector, real estate, stock market, among others. Contributions, depending on the group, range from as low as 0.6 US dollars to 2,352 dollars, which is pooled together and given to one member, thus the term “merry-go-round”.

Outpatient shocked by $45m bill error from New York hospital

NEW YORK, 17 Jan.—An outpatient is recovering from shock after being billed $44.8m (£29m) in error by a New York hospital. Alexis Rodriguez, 28, was one of a number of patients charged astronomical amounts because of a computer glitch, the New York Daily News reports. The Brom-Lebanon Hospital treated him for pneumonia, but the actual cost was no more than $300. Billing firm PHY Services said it had mistakenly printed the patient invoice number where the amount should go.

Mr Rodriguez told the New York Daily News he could not believe his eyes when he opened the envelope last week. “I think they should have somebody look over the bills before they send them out,” said the unemployed doorman.

“To send out a lot of bills with numbers that big - someone could have had a heart attack.” PHY Services requested that patients ignore the bills, adding that new ones would be sent out.

Outpatient shocked by $45m bill error from New York hospital

New York, 17 Jan.—Cyber-attackers have struck Zappos, the Amazon-owned fashion e-retailer. The company has reset the passwords of 24 million customers and asked them to choose new ones. It said names, email addresses and other personal information may have been exposed, but not full credit-card numbers. Though significant other attacks have been larger. In 2010 a US court convicted a hacker of stealing details from more than 130 million credit cards, Zappos, which was founded in 1999 by Nick Swinmurn, started out as an online shoe retailer but now sells clothing and accessories.

It was sold to Amazon for more than $1bn (£650m) in 2009. In an email to staff sent on Sunday and posted on the company website, Zappos chief executive Tony Hsieh said: “We were notified of a cyber attack by a criminal who gained access to parts of our internal network and systems through one of our servers in Kentucky.

“We are co-operating with law enforcement to undergo an exhaustive investigation.” Mr Hsieh added: “We’ve spent over 12 years building our reputation, brand, and trust with our customers. It’s painful for us to see us take so many steps back due to a single incident.” Following the attack the company wrote to its 24 million customers asking them to choose new passwords for zappos.com and any other site where they may have used the same or similar password.

Internet

The billing company has said the error is a simple mistake but will send apology letters to all affected. Internet

Amazon-owned Zappos warns users after cyber-attack

Zappos says credit card and payment data was not exposed.—Internet

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“Our co-operating with law enforcement to undergo an exhaustive investigation.” Mr Hsieh added: “We’ve spent over 12 years building our reputation, brand, and trust with our customers. It’s painful for us to see us take so many steps back due to a single incident.” Following the attack the company wrote to its 24 million customers asking them to choose new passwords for zappos.com and any other site where they may have used the same or similar password.

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Online patient shocked by $45m bill error from New York hospital
**Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign heads of State to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Lucas Papademos, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

On the national day of your country, I would like to convey to you my warmest congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity, progress and welfare of the friendly people of the Republic of Myanmar.

From Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa

On the auspicious occasion of the celebration of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 04 January 2012 the Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa join me in conveying to His Excellency, the Government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, our warmest greetings and sincere congratulations. May I take this opportunity to express the wish for His Excellency’s good health and also reaffirm our desire to further enhance and consolidate the bond of friendship that exists between our countries.

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

From Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Republic of Maldives

Our Government and the people of the Maldives and on my own behalf, I wish to extend warm greetings and sincere good wishes to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of Myanmar, on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of Myanmar. Please also accept my best wishes for the progress, welfare and harmony of the people of Myanmar.

**Myanmar, France to further strengthen cooperation in cultural sector**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—A delegation led by Ambassador at large for cooperation in Asia Mr. Jacques Valade of French Republic called on Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan at the latter’s office here at 8.30 today. They discussed matters on preservation of cultural heritage, upgrading and preservation of museums, human resources development and granting of scholarship for departments under the Ministry of Culture, inking of MoU on cooperation in cultural sectors between the two nations and potentials for cooperation in the information sector.

Both sides also cordially discussed assistance of France for preservation of cultural heritage in Bagan and other historical regions, technical assistance of France for National Museum under construction in Nay Pyi Taw and other sectors.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Culture U Htay Oo, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Oo, Japanese former Prime Minister Mr Shinzou Abe and Mr Toshiaki Endo, former Japanese MPs Mr Ikuzo Sakurai and Mr Yoshitsugu Harada, Ayeyawady Region Social Affairs Minister U San Maung, Region Forestry and Mines Minister U Soe Myint and others.

Mr Shinzou Abe spoke on the occasion and handed over relevant documents to the township education officer.

U Htay Oo provided funds for remaining 33 schools out of 315 primary schools in Hinthada Township.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htay Oo, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Oo, Region Social Affairs Minister U San Maung, Region Forestry and Mines Minister U Soe Myint and others.

The new building cost was contributed by U Htay Oo jointly with the former Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzou Abe, and Japanese MP’s Mr Toshiaki Endo and Mr Yasuhiro Shimizaki, former Japanese MPs Mr Ikuzo Sakurai and Mr Yoshitsugu Harada, Ayeyawady Region Social Affairs Minister U San Maung, Region Forestry and Mines Minister U Soe Myint and others.

The new building was formally opened by Mr Toshiaki Endo.
NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—A ceremony to present offertories to members of the Sangha of monasteries in Leshi Township, Sagaing Region was held at the Therevada Buddhist Missionary Centre of the Hill Missionary in Leshi yesterday morning, attended by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha from monasteries in Leshi Township led by Presiding Sayadaw of Therevada Buddhist Missionary Centre Bhaddanta Sudassana, union ministers, the chief minister of Sagaing Region and wife, the commander of North-West Command, deputy ministers and departmental officials.

The ceremony was opened with the recitation of Namo Tassa three times, and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ottama of Therevada Buddhist Missionary Centre.

Afterwards, members of the Sangha recited religious verses.

Next, Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife presented offertories to Presiding Sayadaw of Therevada Buddhist Missionary Centre Bhaddanta Sudassana.

Later, Union ministers, region chief minister, the commander and deputy ministers presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo supplicated on the purpose of cash donation for promotion and propagation of the Sasana and hill missionary to the Presiding Sayadaw.

Next, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ottama of Therevada Buddhist Missionary Centre delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits gained, which brought the ceremony to a close with the recitation of Buddha Sasanam Cirantitthatu three times.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin present offertories to members of the Sangha of monasteries in Leshi Township.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental personnel...

Naga national chieftains from Lahe, Nanyun and Leshi.

The township administrator reported to the Vice-President on facts about the township, administrative matters, education, health, social and economy and requirements of the region. Next, the chairman of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body explained measures for accuracy of farmland data, boosting target production of paddy and other crops, extended cultivation of perennial crops, plans for construction of inter-village roads and needs of Leshi.

Next, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye briefed on measures for ensuring smooth transportation in the region, reclamation of terraced farms, cultivation of tea, orange, coffee and cardamom on industrial scale, trial growing of rubber, extended breeding of mynah and goats and electricity supply on self-reliant basis.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than explained possible assistance of the ministry for agriculture sector of Leshi and its economic prospects through agriculture according to its water, land and natural resources.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that they were there to fulfill the needs for development of Hkamti District and Naga Self-Administered Zone. He said that he sympathizes with Naga nationals for he has travelled throughout Naga Region while assigning duties there for years.

He added that the population of the region is sparse in comparison with the area of the region and thus he has made coordination necessary to upgrade Swammara Village into sub-township level so that effective security and administrative measures can be taken closely for Naga Region which is a border region. This would provide better grounds for effectiveness of defence, security, administration and rule of law and improvement of education, health and regional development as well.

He then fulfilled the educational health and regional development requirements presented by townelders and personnel. The Vice-President added that Union Solidarity and Development Party donated K 100 million and entrepreneurs K 400 million during Naga Traditional New Year Festival to be able to use in education, health, social works and rural development and poverty alleviation tasks in

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets students at Basic Education High School in Leshi.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo greets trainees at Border Areas and National Races training School in Leshi.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo greets students at Basic Education High School in Leshi.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife attend ceremony to present offertories to members of the Sangha in Leshi Township

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental personnel...

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets students at Basic Education High School in Leshi.—MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo greets trainees at Border Areas and National Races training School in Leshi.—MNA
Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental personnel…

(from page 8)
Naga Region. Of the contribution, K 200 million to be used mainly on health and social works, and K 300 million on rural development and poverty alleviation tasks as the departmental personnel…

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo…

(from page 16)
for the hospital fund by Max Myanmar Co Chairman U Zaw Zaw.

After the meeting, the Vice-President cordially greeted those present. Then, the Vice-President and party helicoptered to Homalin. At Homalin Airport, they were welcomed by departmental officials, members of social organizations, town elders and local nationals.

The Vice-President attended a meeting held at the gymnasium of the Homalin Township. The township administrator reported on data of the township, management, education, health, economic and social matters and requirements of the region. Homalin Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aye, Region Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Swe and local U Mya Than reported on regional requirements.

Sagaying Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye reported on measures being taken for increasing per capita income, reaching the target high yield of groundnuts and environmental conservation and smooth transport in the region; Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than reported on regional requirements.

Aye, Region Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Swe and local U Mya Than reported on regional requirements.

The contribution of K 500 million is to be used mainly for children to be able to go to school and continue their learning to high education despite financial difficulties and health care services. He said that the leading body of Naga Self-Administered Zone and town elders are to jointly manage the fund by forming a committee to ensure that this fund is saved systematically and used properly.

In disbursing loans from the fund, the interest rate should not be more than two per cent, and the 50 per cent of the interest is to be used for education, health and regional development undertakings. And the remaining 50 per cent is to be saved to the fund. He in conclusion called for collaboration of the all for effective use of the fund.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets those present at Homalin Township Gymnasium.—MNA
Italian Government to provide Euro 400,000 for preservation of Myanmar cultural heritage

Project for preservation of the cultural heritage is the first of its kind to be launched with the assistance of UNESCO in a decade

Nav Pyi Taw, 17 Jan—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan met Italian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Paolo Andera Bartorelli at the latter’s office, here today.

Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, the directors-general and managing directors from the departments under the ministry also attended the meeting.

They had a cordial discussion matters on promotion of cultural and media cooperation, preservation of cultural heritage and exchange of information and technology.

UNESCO will launch a work capacity building project for preservation of Myanmar cultural heritage, and Italian government will contribute Euro 400,000 to the project. With the participation of UNESCO, foreign experts will actively engage in the preservation of Stukita Pyu city which is home to rich Myanmar cultural heritage and Bagan region which is home to Buddha religious edifices. The project is aimed at developing of management and imparting of knowledge.

It will take 12 months for Archaeological, National Museum and Library Department of the Ministry of Culture to complete the tasks.

UNESCO Culture Assistant Director-General Mr Francesco Bandarin said that as the tasks for preservation of rich Myanmar cultural heritage is huge, it is to be carried out with great care. And the task is a great step as it is of paramount importance.

The project is the first of its kind to be launched with the assistance of UNESCO in a decade.

In line with the principles of World Cultural Heritage Convention, the project will cover three spheres—protection and management of cultural heritage region, adopting of Myanmar cultural heritage management and presenting its name to the list of World Culture.—MNA

Zaykabar Myanmar Open Golf Tournament

2012 on 2-5 Feb

Yangon, 17 Jan—A coordination meeting on holding Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2012 international invitational golf tournament at Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club from 2 to 5 February 2012 took place at the Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club today.

It was attended by Joint-Secretary of Myanmar National Sports committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Hnaik and officials, Vice-President of Myanmar Golf Federation U Aung Kyi and guests.

A total of over 100 golfers from 20 countries are reported to take part in the tournament.—MNA

Special Refresher Course No 45 for basic education teachers opened

Nav Pyi Taw, 17 Jan—Special Refresher Course No 45 for basic education teachers was opened this morning at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar), with an address by Member of Union Civil Service Board Dr Win Myint.

It was attended by Mandalay Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Hlaing, Personnel and 1510 trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Win Myint confirmed government’s financial assistance for those in education sector to be able to pursue higher education abroad, calling the trainees to devote in their work with all seriousness, playing an active part in human resources development drive of the government.

He stressed the need for cooperation between parent-teacher associations and school boards of trustees apart from government’s fulfillment of school necessities, noting the importance of basic education sector in producing intellectuals and intelligentsia to enhance national socio-economy.

MNA
London seeks major slice of offshore yuan market

LONDON, 17 Jan—The government said Monday it will partner with Hong Kong to develop the City of London as a major offshore centre of trade in China’s yuan currency.

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said Britain and Hong Kong had agreed to launch a joint private-sector forum to enhance cooperation and support China’s efforts to develop the offshore market for the yuan (renminbi).

Osborne told a meeting of Asian finance officials and executives in Hong Kong the intention was to “establish London as a new hub” for the yuan (RMB).

“It’s clear that there is scope for the substantial expansion of the RMB market in the coming years,” he told the Asian Financial Forum in the southern Chinese banking centre.

“I think London is perfectly placed to act as a gateway for Asian investment and banking to Europe and as a bridge to the United States,” he added.

“Hong Kong is currently the only officially designated offshore yuan trading centre, and we are keen to expand the currency’s use in international transactions as an alternative to the greenback and the euro.

China and Britain agreed in September to work towards the development of an offshore yuan market in London, the heart of European banking.

Osborne said establishing London as an offshore centre for yuan-denominated settlements, in partnership with Hong Kong, would benefit China’s economic development as well as Britain’s.—Internet

Egypt tourism earnings fall 30% in 2011

CAIRO, 17 Jan—Revenues from Egypt’s lucrative tourist industry dropped by 30 percent in 2011.

Munir Fakhti Abdel Nur told reporters that tourism revenues in 2011 dropped to $8.8 billion compared to $12.5 billion in 2010, with tourist arrivals falling and their daily expenditures also dropping.

“The significant drop in revenues last year was expected in a country where millions revolved in all main cities and where the political situation has been developing for the past 12 months,” Abdel Nur said.

“The security circumstances in the country have affected tourism,” he added, stressing however that he was not affected tourism, he added, stressing that he was not a passenger in Egypt, which has been suffering from terrorism for many years.

Abdel Nur said the number of tourist arrivals fell by 33 percent in 2011 with tourists spending fewer nights in Egypt than in the previous year and spending on average about $13 each less per day.

Tourists spent 114 million nights in Egypt in 2011 compared to 141 million nights in 2010, he said, each spending about $72 per day instead of $85 the previous year.—Internet

Thai police raid warehouse in terror probe

BANGKOK, 17 Jan—A Thai television station is reporting that a Lebanese suspect with alleged links to Hezbollah militants has led police to a warehouse housing materials that could be used to make explosives.

Thai PBS television showed police confiscating boxes of urea fertilizer and liquid ammonium nitrate in Monday’s raid.

The raid comes after the US and Israel warned Friday of a terror threat targeting their citizens in Bangkok.

Officials say that threats have now been thwarted.

The Lebanese suspect was detained Thursday. He helped police to the warehouse, where police also found three beds, matching accounts that the man was travelling with two companions.

Internet

S Korea couple tell of 30-hour nightmare in sinking ship

SEOUL, 17 Jan.—A South Korean honeymoon couple have described their 30-hour nightmare trapped in a wrecked Italian cruise ship, saying they screamed for help for hours after waking up too late to evacuate the vessel.

The couple were rescued Sunday morning after being stranded in the half-submerged ship, where a search for people still missing out of more than 4,200 originally on board was underway.

Five people have been confirmed dead and more than a dozen are still missing after the Costa Concordia hit rocks off Italy’s west coast on the evening of Friday the 13th.

Prosecutors have arrested the captain and first officer for alleged mishandling of the incident and negligence of duty.

Han Ki-Deok and his wife Jeong Hye-Cin, both 29-year-old schoolteachers, said in an interview with South Korea’s Yonhap news agency published Monday that they had been sleeping after dinner, oblivious to the disaster outside.

“By the time we woke up, the ship was tilting,” Yonhap quoted Han as saying in a hotel in Rome.

The couple ventured out to the corridor, which was already inclined so steeply that they couldn’t walk on it, he added.

“We ended up slipping towards the end of the corridor and even got ourselves injured,” said Han.

Internet

China, India face golden period to grow bilateral ties

BEIJING, 17 Jan.—Chinese State Councillor Dai Bingguo said China and India face a golden period to grow bilateral relations, in a bylined article published on the Indian mainstream daily The Hindu on Monday.

Dai, who is visiting India to attend the 15th meeting between special representatives on China-India border issues, said China-India relations have huge potential and broad space for cooperation.

In the mid-1990s, China and India, in response to the call of the world’s two ancient civilizations and major developing countries whose combined population accounts for nearly two-fifths of the world’s total, once again responded to the call of our time.

The two countries have seized the historic opportunity of economic globalization and achieved fast development, he said, noting that they are now the two largest emerging countries in the world and play increasingly important roles in regional and international affairs.

Mount Rainier rangers search for missing snowshoer

SEATTLE, 17 Jan.—Park rangers and volunteer mountaineers searched Mount Rainier National Park with snowshoes, skis and dogs for a second day on Sunday looking for a missing 66-year-old snowshoe hiker.

Yong Chun Kim was leading a Tacoma hiking club on a snowshoe walk near the park’s 5,400-foot-high Paradise region on Sunday afternoon when he slipped and fell down a steep incline, park spokesman Lee Taylor said.

Kim was well-equipped for a day hike, but not for overnight blizzard conditions, with icy winds whipping up to 50 mph, temperatures at 10 degrees Fahrenheit and up to 30 inches of fresh snow falling in parts of the park on Saturday night.

“We’re still hopeful but as the time goes by, it’s less likely he’s alive and well,” Taylor said.

Kim radioed his group to continue the hike, telling them he would traverse the area where he fell, but rangers began the search about 30 minutes after he failed to show up, Taylor said. Back-country campers had spotted fresh tracks believed to be those of Kim, who is an experienced 10-year snowshoe hiker.—Reuters

Chinese military forces to cross into India to end border row

NEW DELHI, 17 Jan.—China and India are set to end their crucial border row with decisive military action, New Delhi sources said, days after Beijing turned down a Chinese request to resume talks in an effort to resolve the decade-old dispute.

State Councilor Dai Bingguo has been dispatched to the border region, sources said, adding that the Chinese side would not hold talks until India withdraws its forces.

Sources in New Delhi said talks had failed after Chinese negotiators demanded a withdrawal to the border as it stood two decades ago.

“China is capable of doing what needs to be done,” one source said.

If Chinese forces cross into India, it will be the first such action since a 1962 war.

A senior Indian official said India was prepared to face any Chinese move.

“The Indian army is capable of facing any situation,” the official said.

The tension has left both sides vulnerable to misinterpretations that could trigger a bigger conflict.

The border issue has been a source of tension between the two Asian powers for decades and has escalated several times in recent years, with both sides blaming the other for incursions.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, however, on Friday welcomed the renewed diplomatic efforts by both sides.

Internet

China’s efforts to expand yuan internationalization: Osborne

LONDON, 17 Jan.—Britain’s Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne on Monday said London seeks major slice of offshore yuan market.

Osborne told a meeting of finance officials and executives in Hong Kong that London is perfectly placed to act as a gateway for Asian investment and banking to Europe and as a bridge to the United States.

“Hong Kong is currently the only officially designated offshore yuan trading centre, and we are keen to expand the currency’s use in international transactions as an alternative to the greenback and the euro.

China and Britain agreed in September to work towards the development of an offshore yuan market in London, the heart of European banking.

Osborne said establishing London as a new offshore centre for yuan-denominated settlements, in partnership with Hong Kong, would benefit China’s economic development as well as Britain’s.—Internet

A volunteer pastes poster about wild animal protection regulation on the wall of a house in a forest farm of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 11 Jan., 2012. Xinhua

China’s bilateral trade with Russia grows

BEIJING, 17 Jan.—China’s bilateral trade volume with Russia grew 11.2 percent in 2011, logging a total of $62.96 billion, the country’s customs authority said Monday.

China’s total imports from Russia have also jumped 16.5 percent to $38.64 billion, while exports to Russia have increased 5.6 percent to $24.32 billion.

Internet
China’s Internet population hits 513 million

China’s online population — the world’s largest — hit 513 million in 2011, a 12.2 percent increase on the previous year, the China Internet Network Information Centre (CNNIC) said in a statement on Monday.

Of these, 48.7 percent — or nearly 250 million people — now used weibos, compared to just 6.1 million at the end of 2010, posing a huge challenge to government attempts to control information in the country of 1.3 billion. The weibos — hugely popular microblogging services similar to Twitter, which China bans — have become the most popular medium for web users to vent their anger over corruption, scandals and disasters, orlets others about protests or riots.

The number of people using more traditional communication tools such as emails, web forums or blogs was falling, the CNNIC said.

The government blocks web content it deems about the power of the government. The government blocks web content it deems about the power of the government.

Drink makers look to cut waste, emissions

BANGKOK, 17 Jan— Drink makers are investing heavily to make better use of resources and lower carbon emissions in China to achieve sustainable development. There should be a systematic government plan to support the companies executing environmental protection plans, experts said. The Belt and Road international beverage manufacturing giant Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) has signed a strategic partnership agreement with United States-based General Electronic Co (GE) to undertake a series of activities to improve the efficiency of energy usage and reduce carbon emissions from its Chinese factories.

The company said the first phase of the plan will be complete in 2013. It will help to reduce emissions of carbon dioxygen by about 100,000 tons a year. Water consumption will also be reduced significantly for every unit of beer produced in China.

"If this project succeeds and is promoted throughout the entire drinks industry, it will greatly help businesses lower energy consumption and can help the country to develop into a low carbon economy," said Wang Yanei, director of the China Alcoholic Drinks Industry Association.

ABInBev said it has done everything possible to reduce the production of waste and improve the efficiency of resources over past years in China. The company said it needs to strengthen cooperation with technology service companies to make better use of resources. "We did everything we could. Now we have reached a point at which if we want to achieve our dream to live in a better world, we need GE to help us," said Ricardo Dias, vice-president of procure-ment for ABInBev.

Two giant pandas from China find new home in France

PARIS, 17 Jan— Two giant pandas from China’s southwest Sichuan Province arrived Sunday at Paris’ Charles de Gaulle airport to start their new life in France.

The two giant pandas, Huan Huan and Yuan Zi, both 3 years old, will be directly delivered to the Beauval Zoo near the city of Tours in central France, where they will settled down in an area of 2.5 hectares as their new home in France. "The arrival of Huan Huan and Yuan Zi is a historic event for the Beauval Zoo. It reflects our excellent cooperation with China and our long-standing involvement in the protection of endangered species," said Francis Delord, President and Founder of the Beauval Zoo.

The two pandas’ arrival marks the number of people in rural areas using the Internet also rose last year — up 8.9 percent to 136 million in 2011 — but huge disparities still exist between rich and poor regions.

Italy’s unemployment rate forecast to rise in 2012

SYDNEY, 17 Jan—Australia is expected to have a higher jobless rate in 2012, the nation’s major bank ANZ Bank said on Monday. The total number of job advertisements on Australia’s Internet and in newspapers dropped 0.9 percent in December compared with the previous month, contributing to a 2.6 percent annual fall, ANZ said.

ANZ head of Australian economics Katie Dean said the figures point to modest employment gains for the Australian economy over the coming months.

"Indeed, the current trend rate of employment growth is unlikely to be fast enough to absorb the forecast growth in the labor force in the short term," Dean said.

"As a result, ANZ forecasts the unemployment rate to rise to 5.5 percent by mid-2012," Dean predicted that the unemployment rate would remain at this elevated level in 2012, before declining modestly in 2013 as economic activity started to rise, in response to strong mining and infrastructure investment and a possible prolonged period of low interest rates.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is due to release official employment figures for the month of December on Thursday. —Xinhua
**Chinese songstress Tiffany Hwang is threatened that she now has a list of “red flags” under the watchful eyes of her new husband No 1, Daniel Silber, after the couple signed the prenuptial agreement. The agreement would reportedly be quite generous to the singer, who is well known for her charity work and for her own business ventures.**

**A New York woman who wound up with two husbands at the same time can keep the support payments from her first husband, court records show.**

**A recent court decision said husband No 1, Daniel Silber, can stop paying $60,000 in annual support, but Eda Silber, 37, of Long Island can keep the $300,000 she’s already been paid, the New York Post reported Monday.**

**Even though Eda Silber married husband No 2, George Frenkel, before her divorce from Daniel Silber became final, she’s not a bigamist under law because there was no sham marriage license issued in her second wedding, the court said.**

**Eda and Daniel Silber married in 1995 and had four children. In 2006, she left the family to move in with Frenkel, a wealthy 51-year-old pillow manufacturer who showered her with expensive gifts and vacations, court papers say.**

**Silber sued for divorce but Eda kept stalling all the while “she was being piled with lavish gifts by her male companion,” hearing officer Stanley Gartenstein said.**

**Eda Silber, claiming to be an Orthodox Jew, allegedly married Frenkel last April in a religious service but without benefit of a state marriage, the Post reported.**

**News Album**

**Swift teases songs about heartbreak on next album**

**NEW YORK, 17 Jan— Should Jake Gyllenhaal be worried? Taylor Swift graces the cover of Vogue’s February issue and tells the magazine her next album will be about an “absolute, crash-and-burn heartbreak” she experienced. The 22-year-old singer doesn’t name names, but she did date Gyllenhaal for a few months in 2010, and he broke up with her.**

**Christie’s to sell Elizabeth Taylor art collection**

**LONDON, 17 Jan— A Vincent van Gogh landscape and other paintings from the collection of Elizabeth Taylor are up for auction in London next month. Christie’s auction house says 38 works belonging to the late actress will be included in Impressions and Modern sales 7 and 8 Feb. They include van Gogh’s autumn landscape “Vue de l’Asile et de la Chapelle de Saint-Remy,” estimated at 5 million to 7 million pounds ($7.6 million to $11 million) when auctioned in February 2012.—INTERNET**

**50 years of James Bond cars on show**

**LONDON, 17 Jan— The largest collection of James Bond vehicles in the world opens to the public on Tuesday in Britain featuring classics such as the Aston Martin DBS from “Quantum of Solace.”**

**From earlier Bond films, the Phantom III Rolls-Royce from “Goldfinger” and the Lotus Esprit S1, which takes a trip into the sea with Roger Moore at the wheel in “The Spy Who Loved Me,” are also among the 50 vehicles on show. The “Bond in Motion” show at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu, southeast England, marks half a century of 007 films.**

**Also featured are the vintage 1962 Rolls-Royce from “A View To A Kill” which was pushed into a lake by Bond’s foes Zorin and May Day, played by singer Grace Jones, with Bond still inside.—INTERNET**

**Mickey’s next stop is China**

**NEW YORK, 17 Jan— Mickey Mouse and Winnie the Pooh are setting up shop in China.**

**Walt Disney Co is on track to open its first store in China in Fall 2012, and is committed to opening 25 to 40 stores in the world’s most populous country over the next three years, a top company executive told Reuters.**

**The news comes as the world’s largest media conglomerate, home to iconic brands such as Mickey Mouse and Winnie the Pooh, is looking to expansion in China and mature markets such as the United States and Europe for new sources of revenue.**

**“China is very important to overall Disney company plans, obviously with the launch of the Shanghai Disney resort and our China operations rapidly expanding,” Jim Fielding, president of Disney Stores Worldwide, said in an exclusive interview.**

**Disney broke ground on the Shanghai Disneyland theme park in April 2011. Also, the Chinese are not new to the Disney brand.**

**“Because the licensing division has had a presence in China already, there is affinity for the brand and affinity for characters,” he said. “The market is ready.”**

**Disney has signed a lease for its first store in Shanghai and is looking at sites in other top tier cities such as Beijing, Fielding said.**

**“We are focusing on tier-one cities in very high population and tourist locations, very similar to what we look at around the world,” Fielding explained.**

**The difference will be in Disney’s strategy to woo the Chinese.**

**“The product assortment is definitely localized to Chinese consumers and Chinese knowledge because they don’t know all the Disney characters that people know in America and in Europe,” he said.**
Djokovic dazzles Lorenzi to storm into the 2nd round

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—
Novak Djokovic of Serbia made a scintillating start to his title defence campaign in the 2012 Australian Open on Monday, as he subdued world No.108 Paolo Lorenzi of Italy comprehensively in straight sets with a 6-2 6-0 6-0 scoreline and stormed into the second-round of this Grand Slam tournament.

The Serbian finished the match in 1 hour and 32 minutes, as he mustered 73% points on his first serve, fired in 14 aces and hammered 22 winners as compared to Lorenzi’s 10. On the other hand, Djokovic also kept a check on unforced errors and committed only as 13 as compared to Lorenzi’s 30 – which allowed him to win a 6-0 victory with this lop-sided duel. In the end, Djokovic converted 9 out of 13 break points to win this match.—Internet

Australian Open: Sharapova demolishes Dulko in Rd 1

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—
Maria Sharapova marched into the second round of the Australian Open on Tuesday with a ruthless 6-0 6-1 victory over Agnete’s Gisele Dulko in just 58 minutes.

The 24-year-old Russian had been heading for a ‘doublebagel’ 6-0 6-0 victory until she temporarily lost control of her serve in the third game of the second set and was broken.

Dulko, who had beaten Sharapova in the 2009 Open in their only other meeting, punched the air in delight after winning the third game while the crowd on the second show court of Hisense Arena gave her a massive cheer and sustained applause.

Sharapova, however, was not prepared to stay on court any longer than she had to in the intense heat, breaking Dulko’s serve in the opening set and taking the second 6-0 6-1.

Two players traded a series of booming groundstrokes. However the Chinese star always looked the more threatening and she drew first blood with a 6-4 victory to go 4-0, only to surrender a break in the next game. But Dulko stopped up to break Dulko straight back, winning the next five games to take the first set and open a 3-0 lead in the second set.

Wozniacki advances to 2nd round

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—
Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki made light of concerns over a wrist injury to beat Anastasia Rodionova of Australia 6-2, 6-1 in the first round of the Australian Open on Monday.

Wozniacki hurt her left wrist in the quarterfinals at the Sydney International last week, but the injury didn’t appear to trouble her against Rodionova.

Wozniacki is seeking her first Grand Slam title and must reach the at least the fourth round at Melbourne Park to hold on to her top ranking.—Internet

Petkovic (backs) out of the Open

Nemanja Petkovic

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—
World No.10 Andrea Petkovic has withdrawn from the Australian Open following her match against Agnieszka Radwanska at the Sydney International.

Romeu says Torres close to top form

Romeu argues that the 27-year-old Spaniard, who scored 65 goals in 102 League appearances for Liverpool, makes an important contribution even when he is not among the goals.

People used to say that if he doesn’t score he is not playing good, but that is not true,” said Romeu. “He is playing good and he helped us to get the goals. He played very good in the game at Wolves and he played another big game for us [against Sunderland]. Every ball he fights for and he is big player for us.”

If he is enjoying it on the pitch, then he is going to play better and he helps us much more than if he is not enjoying it on the pitch.”

Petrina Kvitova of the Czech Republic serves to Russia’s Vera Dushevina during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, on 17 Jan, 2012.—Internet

Kvitoa advances to 2nd round

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—
After surrendering her opening service game with a double-fault, Wimbleded champion Petra Kvitova won 12 consecutive games in a 6-2 6-0 win on Tuesday over Russia’s Vera Dushevin to move into the second round of the Australian Open.

Wearing the purple color synonymous with Wimbledon, the No.2-ranked Kvitova underlined her growing stature on the women’s tour by not giving Dushevina a second chance.

The 21-year-old Czech broke her Russian rival’s serve three times in each set and finished off Tuesday’s opening match on Rod Laver Arena in an hour. Kvitova reached the quarterfinals here last year at the start of a season in which she surged up the rankings.

Last week, she missed a chance to overhaul Caroline Wozniacki’s No 1 ranking when she lost in the Sydney International semifinal. She needed to win the Sydney tournament to take the top ranking, but she gets another chance at Melbourne Park, where she’s one of six women who can finish No 1.—Internet

CanadiansFreestyle skier Sarah Burke

SALT LAKE CITY, 17 Jan—
Canadian freestyle skier Sarah Burke’s agent and her publicist were teary-eyed at a hospital on Monday as they tried to explain the lack of any prognosis report for the Olympic favourite. Burke, 29, was seriously injured on 10 January in a training accident at the superpipe in Park City, Utah, and six days later remained sedated on a breathing tube as doctors tested her brain functions.

Perte Kvitova of the Czech Republic serves to Russia’s Vera Dushevin during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, on 17 Jan, 2012.—Internet

Uncertainty clouds recovery of skier Burke in Utah

Canadian freestyle skier Sarah Burke

SALT LAKE CITY, 17 Jan—
Canadian freestyle skier Sarah Burke’s agent and her publicist were teary-eyed at a hospital on Monday as they tried to explain the lack of any prognosis report for the Olympic favourite. Burke, 29, was seriously injured on 10 January in a training accident at the superpipe in Park City, Utah, and six days later remained sedated on a breathing tube as doctors tested her brain functions.

Dzeko sends Man City three points clear

LONDON, 17 Jan—
Wigan Athletic 0 Manchester City 1.

Manchester City re-established their three-point lead at the top of the Barclays Premier League courtesy of victory at bottom club Wigan. City striker Edin Dzeko scored the only goal of the match halfway through the first half, glancing in a header from David Silva’s stealthy left-wing free-kick. Dzeko and Sergio Aguero both went close to scoring a second and after Joe Hart saved brilliantly from Wigan’s James McCarthy, City held on for a crucial victory.—Internet

Haye insists he will be world champion again

LONDON, 17 Jan—David Haye believes he will become world heavyweight champion once again, despite having retired from boxing.

The ex-WBA champion retired in October after losing to Wladimir Klitschko, whose brother Vitali owns the WBC belt. “My people

Haye was beaten on points by Wladimir Klitschko in July. "It’s been a tough year," Haye said. "I’ve been talking to fans on social media and they have a keen interest in a potential fight," Haye told BBC Sport. “I’m going to stay in shape and when the call comes, and if it does come I will be heavyweight champion again.”

The 31-year-old was talking about his future after a training session in his south London gym, having paid tribute to Muhammad Ali, who turns 70 on Tuesday. London-born Haye, who moved up from cruiserweight to win the world title in 2007, is trying to make it back to world level. "It’s been a tough year," Haye said. "I’ve been talking to fans on social media and they have a keen interest in a potential fight," Haye told BBC Sport. “I’m going to stay in shape and when the call comes, and if it does come I will be heavyweight champion again.”

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**Reds to develop ruthless streak**

**Just 24 goals in 21 league matches. Suarez, half way through his ban for racially abusing Patrice Evra, is top scorer with only five league goals this season, veteran Craig Bellamy has notched four, but no other player has managed more than two. “Deliveries into the box have got to be a lot better than what they were and we have to be more decisive when we get them,” said Dalglish.**

**Dalglish wants**

**Liverpool, 17 Jan —**

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish has demanded his shot-shy squad develop a ruthless streak in front of goal after losing more ground in the race for a top four finish in Saturday’s goalless home draw with Stoke. A seventh draw in 11 games at Anfield has left Liverpool seventh in the table, five points behind fourth-placed Chelsea, and facing up to another season without Champions League football. Attacking weaknesses, with Luis Suarez suspended and Andy Carroll having thus far failed to deliver a year on from his big money move from Newcastle, has been the key failing with the Reds scoring just two goals in three league matches.

**Napoli frustrated again as Bologna claim point**

**NAPLES, 17 Jan —**

Napoli’s Uruguayan forward Edison Cavani kicks to score on a penalty kick during their Italian Serie A football match SSC Napoli vs Bologna FC in San Paolo stadium in Naples.—Internet

**Taungdwingyi boosts production of pigeon**

**TAUNGDWINGYI, 17 Jan —**

Thanks to storm Theim, there rained in Taungdwingyi, Myothit, Magway and Natmauk townships of Magway Region in the last week of November 2012. Pigeon pea mixed in sesame and bean plantations met better production than that of last year and farmers got higher prices, said a local farmer. Pigeon pea plantations are being harvested beginning second week of January 2012. It was reported that a basket of pigeon pea fetched K12,000 to K15,000.—Kyemon
Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental personnel, Naga national chieftains of Leshi Tsp

The Vice-President and party attended a meeting with departmental officials, members of Naga nationalist organizations, townselders and local nationals. After the meeting, the Vice-President and party then proceeded to Leshi Border Region. The region is the next step in the regional development as there can be systematic implementation of the tasks for State defence, security, administration, rule of law, health, social affairs and transportation. The next step is needed to have convenience in the region and it therefore needed to have coordination with the neighbouring country and it therefore needed to have convenience in bilateral contacts. The Vice-President and party then proceeded to Leshi Border Region for a meeting with departmental officials, Naga nationalist organizations and townselders.

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Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets officials, social organizations, townselders, locals from Homalin, Mopainglut of Sagaing Region

The Vice-President and party attended a meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders at the hall of the sub-township. The sub-township administrator reported on data of the sub-township, management, education, health, economic and social matters. For his part, the Vice-President said sub-townships have been formed for systematic implementation of the tasks for State defence, security, administration, rule of law and regional development as there can be gaps between townships if the administrative machinery cannot be reached out to them. Then he called for the extension of the region’s area in order to further develop the education, health and transport sectors of the sub-townships.

Next, the sub-township administrator and townselders accepted exercise books presented by Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, solar lanterns by Deputy Home Affairs Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, DTH Sky Net receiver, TV and portable generator by Shwe Thanlwin Company Chairman U Kyaw Win and K 2 million.