Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union
* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo receives Home Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs and party attending to 17th State level meeting of Myanmar-India Civil Authorities

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo received Home Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. R. K. Singh and party of the Republic of India who attended the 17th State level meeting of Myanmar-India Civil Authorities at the Credentials Hall of the President Residence, here, at 5 pm today. Also present at the call together with the Vice-President were Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin and departmental heads.

The Indian Home Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs and party were accompanied by Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr. V. S. Seshadri. They cordially discussed ensuring peace and stability at the border region of the two countries and bilateral cooperation.

MNA

Naga Traditional New Year Festival packed with tourists and guests

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—There were a total of 37 foreigners among partakers in Naga Traditional New Year Festival held in Leshi on 15 January, 2012. They were from France, the United States, Thailand, Germany, Norway, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Australia, Luxembourg and Japan. The foreign tourists and tour guides and 13 photographers of Myanmar Photographic Society and local tourists from 16 local tour companies were comfortably served.—MNA

Crime reduction and anti-human trafficking educative pamphlets distributed

YANGON, 19 Jan—Police Captain Than Naing, Chief of Mogok Township Police Force, and party distributed pamphlets printed with hot line phone numbers of Transnational Crime Department and special anti-Human trafficking squads of Myanmar Police Force and mobile phone numbers of Mogok Township Police Station, the chief of the township police force, and police station commanders to ward/village administrators office in the township on 14 January. They also gave talks on measures for reduction of crimes.—MNA

Significant night temperature (19-1-2012)

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<th>Location</th>
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Captive rhino romance may be last hope for species

Promising a new dimension to the future of robotic surgery in the country, India will soon be getting its first training centre for the technique, a robotic surgery firm said here Saturday...

India to get first robotic training centre for doctors

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan—Promising a new dimension to the future of robotic surgery in the country, India will soon be getting its first training centre for the technique, a robotic surgery firm said here Saturday...

Witneses say Aussie shark attack ‘like Jaws’

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan—Aussie shark attack ‘like Jaws’

Harrington, Els seek big improvements

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan—Harrington, Els seek big improvements
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Friday, 20 January, 2012**

**Prospecting for gold while travelling**

Time is as precious as gold. A lost thing whatever priceless it is can be found back but elapsed time is of no recovery.

Everyone has 24 hours a day. We use this 24 hours for work, sleep, relaxation and odd jobs. Once I made a trip to Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon. I arrived at the express bus terminal at 8 pm, half an hour ahead of the departure time. So I killed the time sitting at a nearby teashop and other travellers were like me. The express bus actually departed at 10.30. It means I wasted two hours of time for which I felt regret.

How beneficial would have been it is if I had read one or two articles while waiting, I thought. Reading can broaden one's horizon. And knowledge is power to reap benefits like gold. So, reading while travelling is indeed like prospecting for gold.

In today's developed nations, most travelers read while travelling. They are using airports, harbors and bus terminals as reading room. Travelling time can be precious in their hands. Most of the people find it difficult to have specific time for reading as they join the work life after leaving the school. Amidst the various struggles and pleasures of life, we hardly ever read books for our intellectual nourishment.

So, reading while travelling is advantageous, making sure that you are not wasting the time. Those who cannot give specific time for reading can find self-improvement knowledge in the books while travelling. So, use your time and read while travelling.

**Multiplier course on enhancing quality assurance opens**

**YANGON, 19 Jan—**Under the arrangements of the ASEAN University Network-AUN, the Training on Enhancing Quality Assurance was conducted at Myanmar Maritime University from 22 to 25 August 2011.

The multiplier course of the training is being opened at Myanmar Maritime University from 18 to 20 January. Altogether 10 faculty members of Cooperative Degree College are attending the multiplier course.

On completion of the training course, the trainees will have higher proficiency for enhancement of higher education of universities and colleges.—MNA

**3rd Japan Cup Karatedo Championship commences**

**YANGON, 19 Jan—**Jointly organized by Myanmar Karatedo Federation and Japanese Embassy to Myanmar, the 3rd Japan Cup Karatedo Championship, sponsored by Japanese Chamber of Commerce (Yangon) (JCCY), kicked off at Aung San Gymnasium, here, this morning.

Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito and President of MKF Dr U Win Zaw cordially greeted the Karate-do teams.

The federation president, the Japanese Ambassador and executive of JCCY Mr Shigeo Hana were presented with gifts and donations were made to the funds of Dagon Basic Education Middle School No. 2, Mingala Taungnyunt BEHS No. 4 and No 3.

Selected Myanmar Karate-do athletes demonstrated their skills. With the aim of promoting bilateral relations between Myanmar and Japan, Mr Fujikiyo Omura (7th Dan, JKA/WF Asia Oceania Director) and party who attended the Karatedo technical seminar course in Myanmar showed off their brilliant skills. Then, the matches went on for the first day.

Also present on the occasion were Patron of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation and General Secretary Daw L Khan Y1 and executives, of the Ministry of Sports and enthusiasts.—NLM

**2nd BIMSTEC member countries adopt PPA**

**NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—**The second BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation was held in Kathmandu of Nepal on 16 January, attended by Myanmar delegation headed by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein.

The opening ceremony of the meeting was held at Soadlar Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kathmandu on 16 January, with an inaugural address by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Nepal Mr Narayan Kaji Shrestha Prekash. On behalf of the delegation leaders of BIMSTEC countries, Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein delivered an address.

During the meeting, the minister endorsed Plan of Action on Poverty Alleviation and agreed to implement eight broad strategies including “accelerated, pro-poor and inclusive growth, social development, and implementation of targeted programmes for poor, increased coverage for social protection, increased preparedness to address adverse effects of climate change, disaster risk management, good governance and periodic progress review. Then the participating delegation issued Kathmandu Declaration.

The Union Minister together with leaders of BIMSTEC delegations paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Nepal on 16 January afternoon. The BIMSTEC members agreed to hold the third ministerial meeting in Sri Lanka.

**Myanmar, India vow to ensure everlasting border stability**

**NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—**The national level meeting between civil authorities of Myanmar-India borders was held at Myat Tawwin Hotel.

The national level coordination of Myanmar-India borders civil authorities was held alternatively since 1994, which have brought cooperation in ensuring stability and enhancing socio-economic status of national of border regions of the two countries with deeper mutual understanding.

In the evening, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint hosted a dinner to Indian Home Secretary and party visited Uppatasanti Pagoda, Gems Museum, Junction Centre and Capital Hyper Market.

**MYANMAR GAZETTE**

**NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—**The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>(a) U Zaw Hein</td>
<td>Managing Director</td>
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<td>(b) U Aye Ko</td>
<td>Ministry of Industry Director-General</td>
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<td>Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development</td>
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The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>(a) Dr Kyaw Zin Thant</td>
<td>Deputy Director-General Medical Research Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) Dr Win Myat Aye</td>
<td>University of Medicine Rector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>University of Medicine (Myagway)</td>
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<td>Child Health Department</td>
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<td>(1) Yangon</td>
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**The 17th national level meeting between civil authorities of Myanmar-India borders in progress at Myat Tawwin Hotel.—MNA**

The 17th national level meeting between civil authorities of Myanmar-India borders in progress at Myat Tawwin Hotel.
Seattle faces unusually strong snowfall

A man from Niger is pictured in his ravaged field due in 2011. More than five million people are going hungry in Niger, the impoverished west African country’s premier said Wednesday. — Reuters

More than 5 mn going hungry in Niger

NAIROBI, 19 Jan—More than five million people are going hungry in Niger, the impoverished west African country’s premier said Wednesday. A survey in December showed that “34.9 percent of Niger households, or over 5.4 million people, are in a situation of food and nutritional insecurity,” Brigi Rafini told national radio. Among them “1.324 million are affected by severe food insecurity,” said the prime minister. “We must act right now,” stressed Rafini during a visit to Tillaberi, a western Niger Region that has been hard hit by the food crisis. Niger is short 519,639 tonnes of cereals — or 14 percent of what it needs to feed 15 million people in 2012, said the agriculture ministry. Poor harvests, drought and cricket attacks have been blamed. European humanitarian aid commissioner Kristalina Georgieva, who is visiting Niger, warned of the situation plaguing the country and the Sahel Region. Some 1.7 million children are in a “vulnerable situation,” she said. Launching an appeal for international aid, Georgieva said the EU “has more than doubled its aid for the Sahel,” contributing 105 million euros to help the region fight the food crisis. — Reuters

Rocket hits Turkish embassy in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Jan—A rocket hit the Turkish embassy compound in Baghdad on Wednesday, striking its perimeter without causing any injuries, Iraqi security and Turkish sources said. At least two rockets were fired from a vehicle at the embassy in northern Baghdad, outside the heavily fortified Green Zone complex, a senior Iraqi security official said. Baghdad summoned Turkey’s ambassador on Monday, complaining that comments made by Turkish officials amounted to meddling in its internal affairs. "There were two Katyusha rockets. The first one hit the embassy blast wall, and the second one hit the second floor of an adjacent bank," the official said. A Turkish embassy source said at least three rockets had been fired at the embassy, but only one hit an outside blast wall without causing injuries. — Reuters

Havana building collapse kills three, injures eight

HAVANA, 19 Jan—At least three people were killed and eight were injured when a residential building here collapsed Tuesday night, local media reported. The old building, located in the Centro Habana neighbourhood, was home to about 30 people, several of whom were trapped in the rubble, official Radio Reloj reported. Rescue workers, firefighters, medical staff and municipal authorities rushed to the site and rescuers were still searching for survivors Wednesday. Some of the injured were hospitalized. Building collapses are common in Cuba, particularly during the rainy season, due to a lack of maintenance spanning decades that has left many, especially in the capital’s old neighbourhoods, in poor condition. Authorities say more than 50 percent of Cuba’s housing is in poor condition and the Cuban government has introduced a programme of subsidies for individuals to build and repair their homes. Authorities expect private construction of at least 23,000 houses in 2012. — Xinhua

Argentine rejects British PM’s claim over territorial dispute

HAVANA, 19 Jan—Argentina rejected British Prime Minister David Cameron’s claim that his government had engaged in “colonialism” toward the islands, which are at the center of the decades-old feud between the two countries. Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timmerman said instead of calling its National Security Council to discuss the issue, Britain should call United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and accept UN resolutions calling for dialogue to resolve the dispute peacefully. Argentine Interior Minister Florencio Randazzo described Cameron’s comment as “particularly offensive.” Britain should respect the UN resolution “to discuss the Malvinas’ sovereignty”, although for Argentina there won’t be such discussions because “the Malvinas belongs to Argentina,” Randazzo said. Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota said Wednesday Latin America and the Caribbean back Argentina over the dispute. Meeting with visiting British Foreign Secretary William Hague, Patriota said Hague knew “Brazil and Unauur (Union of South American Nations) support Argentinean sovereignty over the Malvinas.” Brazil also supported UN resolutions calling for two countries to discuss the issue, Patriota said. Argentina was defeated by Britain in the 1982- day war in 1982 over the sovereignty of the South Atlantic islands, which are close to Argentine coasts and far away from Britain. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the conflict. Tensions over the islands escalated recently when the Mercour South American trade bloc and Chile backed Argentina by banning Malvinas-flagged ships from docking at their ports. — Reuters

US navy rescues Iranian fishermen from sinking boat

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—The US Navy announced it led a rescue operation to assist the crew of an Iranian fishing vessel in distress in the Gulf of Oman, the third in 10 days in an area marked by tension between Washington and Tehran. A Seahawk helicopter from the guided missile destroyer USS Dewey spotted an Iranian fishing dhow, on 18 January, 2012 in the Arabian Sea.— Xinhua

Residents look out from a balcony next to an apartment building that collapsed in Havana, Cuba, on 18 Jan. 2012. — Internet

The US Navy rescued two Iranian fishermen from their sinking vessel off the coast of Oman. The two fishermen were rescued by the guided-missile destroyer USS ARLEIGH BURKE earlier this month. The rescued fishermen said they were held hostage by Somali pirates. The guided missile destroyer USS KIDD made the rescue after one of the kidnapped fishermen revealed in a radio communication that pirates held their vessel’s crew captive. — Internet

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 20 January, 2012

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Asia stocks up as Wall Street cheers housing data

Bankok, 19 Jan—Asian markets rose Thursday, helped by a rally on Wall Street after surprisingly strong US housing figures and a pledge by the IMF to help stave off a financial crisis.

Benchmark oil rose above $101 per barrel while the dollar fell against the euro and the yen. Japan’s Nikkei 225 index jumped 1.2 percent to 8,651.14. South Korea’s Kospi rebounded 1 percent to 1,911.15 after a losing session Wednesday. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng rose 1.1 percent at 19,906.39. Australia’s S&P ASX 200 gained 0.2 percent to 4,422.34. Benchmarks in Singapore and mainland China also rose. Markets in Taipei were closed for Chinese New Year.

Analysts said investors were becoming more comfortable with taking on risk despite multiple headwinds — including a likely recession in Europe, a possible debt default by Greece and a warning from the World Bank on Wednesday of a possible slump in global economic growth. “Evidence that markets are becoming increasingly resilient to bad news emerged from the muted reaction to sharp downgrades in growth forecasts by the World Bank,” Credit Agricole CIB in Hong Kong said in a research note. Fears that the euro common currency might implode amid a mountain of sovereign debt eased Wednesday after the International Monetary Fund said it was looking at ways to raise another $500 billion for loans to struggling countries.—Reuters

Rio clear to take over Mongolia project after Ivanhoe relents

London, 19 Jan—Global miner Rio Tinto is clear to take over Mongolia’s coveted Oyu Tolgoi project, which promises to be one of the world’s largest copper-gold mines, after project owner Ivanhoe Mines decided to scrap a controversial “poison pill”. Ivanhoe said on Wednesday it would ditch its shareholder rights plan, originally aimed at blocking Rio Tinto from raising its stake in the Canadian firm, as a separate agreement capping the global miner’s holding at 49 percent expired. Rio, which has built its stake in the miner as it has helped fund construction of Oyu Tolgoi, welcomed the decision.

“As the 49 percent cap on Rio Tinto’s ownership of Ivanhoe expires today, we are free to increase our shareholding as we see fit,” a Rio spokesman said. Ivanhoe said Rio had recently told Ivanhoe’s board that it intends to buy additional shares to raise its stake to more than 50 percent. Ivanhoe’s rights plan, backed by shareholders in 2010 and due to expire next year, was dealt a fatal blow in December when a court ruled it could not be used to dilute Rio’s stake.—Reuters

US airline traffic down 1.5% in October

Washingto, 19 Jan—US airline system traffic lost its momentum in October that was seen in the previous month, according to the preliminary data released by US Transportation Department on Wednesday. US airlines carried 62.1 million scheduled domestic and international passengers in total in October, down 1.5 percent from the same period of 2010, said the department.

The fresh number of passengers was 4.1 percent above that of two years ago in October 2009. There were 1.3 percent fewer domestic passengers this October than in the same month of 2010. International passengers edged down 3.0 percent over the same period.

Delta Airlines carried more total passengers than any other US airlines in October, reaching 9.571 million. Southwest Airlines carried the most domestic passengers, reaching 9.522 million. American Airlines took the first place in international passengers with as many as 6.66 million, according to the data. In the first 10 months of 2011, US airlines carried 613.0 million passengers, up 1.5 percent from the same period in 2010. It was also the best January-October performance since 2008.—Xinhua

No safe time to drink while pregnant

San Diego, 19 Jan—US researchers say they have found new links between the timing of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and certain characteristics of fetal alcohol syndrome.

Researchers at the California Teratogen Information Service Pregnancy Health Information Line — a state non-profit organization based at the University of California, San Diego — used data from its toll-free service offering information about alcohol exposure during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

The study involved 992 California women who contacted the information line from 1978 to 2005 with questions about a wide variety of exposures and, after being counseled, agreed to participate in a follow-up study of their pregnancy outcome.

The results, published online ahead the April print edition of Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research, found every pattern of higher prenatal alcohol consumption — no matter the timing in pregnancy — was associated with an increased risk of having an underweight infant or reduced birth length.

“For every one drink increase in the average number of drinks consumed daily, there was a 25 percent increased risk for smooth upper lip, a 22 percent increased risk for thin red portion of the upper lip border, a 12 percent increased risk for small head size,” said lead author Haruna Sawada Feldman, postdoctoral student at UCSD.

INTERNET

Breast milk courier helps Indonesian mums cope

Jakarta, 19 Jan—Febby Kemala Dewi returned to work at a Jakarta accounting firm after three months of maternity leave but struggled, like many new mums, to balance her home and work lives—especially keeping her infant daughter fed.

Unwilling to stop breastfeeding, unable to pump enough for a whole day in the morning before work and leery of giving her baby anything but the freshest milk, she finally turned to a unique Jakarta service — a breastfeeding motorbike courier. “I have to work, but at the same time I can’t still feed my baby,” said Dewi, the wall by her desk plastered with pictures of her smiling daughter, eight-month-old Ashalou Patru. Now, the 29-year-old IT consultant pumps breast milk at her office in central Jakarta and a courier comes to pick up the bottles around lunchtime. Placing them in a padded cooler box whose strap he then slings over his shoulder, the courier rides 45 minutes to an hour on a motorbike through choked Jakarta streets to deliver the milk to Dewi’s mother, who cares for the baby.

Indonesia’s economy has the fastest growth rate in Asia outside of China and India, with the number of working women estimated at 40 million in 2009 by the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment. This has risen, as has the number of working mums. The service was launched in 2010 by Fikri Nauval, owner of a cargo and document shipping business, who said he was inspired by his wife’s using one of his motorcycle riders to send her breast milk home to their baby after she had to return to work. He charges 30,000 to 40,000 rupiah ($3.30 to $4.40) a trip, keeping track of traffic conditions and the best routes for drivers to take using a GPS map on a computer.

“I would like to help this nation build a better generation by helping working mothers deliver breast milk to their babies at home,” said the 40-year-old Nauval, who feels the nutrients in breast milk can’t be replicated by the powdered variety.—Reuters

Many women can skip frequent bone scans

Atlanta, 19 Jan—New research could mean millions of older women can skip frequent screening tests for osteoporosis if their initial bone scan shows no big problems, many can safely wait 15 years to have another one, the study suggests.

Government advisers and leading doctor groups urge osteoporosis screening, but no one knows how often that should happen. The findings offer the best information to date on that question, experts said.

“This is landmark, in the sense that it could allow us to move on to more precise guidelines,” said Dr. Heidi Nelson, a researcher at the Oregon Health & Science University who is an expert on the topic. At issues are bone mineral density tests, which usually are done through X-rays and cost around $250. It takes about 10 minutes and involves less radiation than what’s emitted during a chest X-ray. Medicare pays for testing every two years.—Internet

An aerial view of traditional Mongolian tents, or gers, which will house workers at Mongolia’s Oyu Tolgoi copper and gold deposit being developed by Rio Tinto and Ivanhoe Mines on 10 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET
Captive rhino romance may be last hope for species

LAHAD DATU, (Malaysia), 19 Jan— Puntung a Sumatran rhino, one of two hundred left in the world. Captured in a Borneo forest on Christmas Day, she is the latest addition to Malaysia’s Borneo Rhino Sanctuary. Veterans want to introduce Puntung to Tam, a 20-year-old male rhino in the enclosure next door, in the hopes that they will breed — although this cannot take place for a number of months yet, until Puntung is deemed ready. Estimated to be 10 to 12 years old, she was airfled to the sanctuary in the Tabin Forest Reserve after her capture and has since been adjusting to her new home, eating more than 60 kg (132 lb) of leaves each day.

“She doesn’t look stressed, she’s eating well … but the stress (of a new environment) is enough to offset her cycle, her normal cycle,” said Zainal Zahari Zainuddin, a veterinarian with the Borneo Rhino Alliance.

“So she may not have a cycle now. That’s why we’re monitoring her.

La Nina brings US drought

PAASADENA, 19 Jan— The La Nina weather, dubbed “the diva of drought,” is peaking and increasing the odds that southern and southwestern United States will be dry, NASA says.

The space agency said sea surface height data from its Jason-1 and -2 satellites show the milder repeat of last year’s strong La Nina has recently intensified.

This is the second consecutive year the satellites have measured lower-than-normal sea surface heights in the equatorial Pacific and unusually high sea surface heights in the western Pacific, Southern California, release said Wednesday.

The height of the sea surface in a given area is an indicator of ocean temperature and other factors that influence climate, it said.

“Conditions are ripe for a streaky winter in the Pacific Northwest and a dry, relatively rainless winter in Southern California,” climatologist Bill Patzert of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., said.

“This La Nina could deepen the drought in the already parched Southwest and could also worsen conditions that have fueled recent deadly wildfires,” he said.

No Wikipedia? What if the Internet went down?

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan— Launching nearly ten months after the Nintendo 3DS hit North American shores, Nintendo is rolling out support for demos that can be downloaded through the Nintendo eShop. As of 19 January, Nintendo 3DS owners can download a trial version of Capcom’s Resident Evil: Revelations, a title that’s been announced in North America for approximately three weeks. During the following week, 3DS owners will be able to check out Sega’s Sonic & All-Stars Racing Transformed. Other demos included on the docket are Konami’s Metal Gear Solid: Snake Eater 3D and Ubisoft’s Rayman Origins, however both potential demos for upcoming Nintendo 3DS titles such as Kid Icarus: Uprising and Animal Crossing. With the launch of demos support, Nintendo could potentially branch short demos for some of the previous Legend of Zelda titles.
Death toll in Haiti truck crash climbs to 29

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 19 Jan — A truck’s brakes failed and it crashed a small bus that then careened onto the sidewalk of one Port-au-Prince’s busiest streets, killing 29 people and injuring 67, a Haitian official said on Tuesday.

Nadia Lockard of Haiti’s Civil Protection Office said the accident happened on Route Delmas in the capital when the driver lost control of his dump truck.

The Press office of President Michel Martelly issued a statement saying the leader went to the site of the crash, which was in front of the national television headquarters.

The sidewalk outside the news station is often crowded with street vendors who sell their goods and motorcycle cabbies awaiting customers. The incident happened before midnight Monday.

Tornadoes touch down in Indiana, Kentucky and Mississippi

JACKSON, 19 Jan — Tornadoes struck parts of Mississippi, Indiana and Kentucky on Tuesday, including one that hit a home in Mississippi and injured at least one person, meteorologists said. The Indiana and Kentucky twisters knocked out power lines, downed trees and caused property damage, while a Sheriff’s Department dispatcher said the Mississippi tornado struck a home in south Marion County, and a person who was inside suffered a possible broken arm.

Tornadoes are unusual for this part of the year in Indiana and neighbouring Kentucky, although twisters occasionally hit Mississippi during the current season, said Dan Pydynowski, senior meteorologist at AccuWeather.com, whose company provides forecasting services.

A cold front combined with a warm and humid air mass contributed to the latest twisters, but those conditions were dissipating, he said.

“The threat’s pretty much come to an end everywhere, so I don’t think there’s any more tornadoic activity to worry about anywhere at this point,” Pydynowski said.

In the area of Louisville, Kentucky, a twister knocked down trees and power lines along roadways, the National Weather Service said. To the north in Clark County, Indiana, a twister touched down in the parking lot of a Wal-Mart, the Weather Service added. When the twister moved, a vehicle was turned over on nearby Interstate 65, the agency said.

At Madison Municipal Airport in southeast Indiana, a twister also damaged a Beechcraft King Air when it moved the small plane and broke its nose gear, the Weather Service said.

Avalanches kill 29 in northeastern Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Jan — Avalanches have killed at least 29 people in Afghanistan’s mountainous northeast as runners struggled to reach the worst-hit areas cut off by heavy snows, officials said.

The Afghan National Disaster Management Agency said Thursday that at least 40 people have been injured in a series of avalanches since Monday in Badakhshan Province.

Roads outside the provincial capital of Faizabad are blocked by at least 6 feet (2 metres) of snow, the agency said. Afghanistan’s harsh winters and mountainous terrain in the north make avalanches a danger each year.

In February 2010, an avalanche killed at least 171 people near the Salang Pass, a major route through the Hindu Kush mountains that connects the capital of Kabul to the north of the country.

The NATO security force in Afghanistan said Wednesday that one of its service members died after an explosion in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday. An condolation statement did not provide the nationality of the service member, nor any details of the attack. On Wednesday, dozens of civilians, coalition troops and Afghan security forces were killed and wounded when a suicide attacker blew himself up in a bazaar.

Daud Ahmadzi, a provincial spokesman, said a bomber on a motorcycle killed 12 Afghans, including two policemen, and wounded at least 23 others. The bomber drove to the Kajaki District of Helmand Province.

A statement released late Wednesday by NATO said the Kajaki explosion killed and wounded dozens of Afghan civilians, Afghan national security forces and coalition troops.

US, Singapore hold 1st Strategic Partners Dialogue

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan — The United States and Singapore held here Wednesday their first Strategic Partners Dialogue, seeking to expand cooperation in bilateral, regional and global matters of joint interest.

The one-day talks, co-chaired by US Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Singapore’s permanent secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bifahari Kanankan, served to “enhance further” bilateral relations and marked a new development in the countries’ strategic partnership, the two countries said in a joint statement.

“The co-chairs, in the spirit of equal partnership, mutual respect and desire to promote close cooperation, reviewed an already robust array of initiatives undertaken between the two countries and sought new areas to create and expand cooperation in bilateral, regional, and global matters of joint interest,” it said.

In addition to a review of bilateral areas of engagement including security, defence, education, trade and environment, the co-chairs discussed recent developments in Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia and regional institutions such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum, and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

The pair reviewed regional initiatives as well, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership, where they renewed their commitment to complete “a high standard, 21st century agreement” with the other participating countries, said the joint statement.

Battle for control of Asia’s seas goes underwater

YOKOHULA, 19 Jan — It’s getting a bit more crowded under the sea in Asia, where Andrew Peterson commands one of the world’s mightiest weapons: a $2 billion nuclear submarine with unrivalled stealth and missiles that can devastate targets hundreds of miles (kilometres) away.

Super high-tech submarines like Cmdr. Peterson’s USS Oklahoma City have long been the envy of navies all over the globe — and a key component of US military strategy.

But America’s submarine dominance in the Pacific is facing its biggest challenge since the Cold War.

Nearly every Asian country with a coastline is fortifying its submarine fleet amid territorial disputes stirred up by an increasingly assertive China and the promise of bountiful natural resources.

In this 10 Nov, 2011 photo, Cmdr. Andrew Peterson stands by his USS Oklahoma City during the super high-tech submarine’s port call in Yokohama near Tokyo.

Bird flu kills two in Cambodia, Vietnam

PHNOM PENH, 19 Jan — Vietnam on Thursday reported its first human death from bird flu in nearly two years, as the virus also claimed the life of a toddler in Cambodia.

Concerns about avian influenza have risen in the region after China in late December reported its first fatality from the H5N1 virus in 18 months, but Vietnamese authorities said there was no need to be alarmed.

“The bird flu situation is still under control,” said Le Minh Hung, a doctor from the Health Department of Ho Chi Minh City. “Some healthcare teams have been sent to check on the situation in southern provinces.”

The Vietnamese victims, who died on 11 January, was a duck farmer from the southern Mekong delta Province of Hau Giang, and experts were investigating whether the infection came from his flock.

It was Vietnam’s first human death from the disease since April 2010. In a neighbouring Cambodia, a two-year-old boy has died from bird flu, the World Health Organization (WHO) said.

The H5N1 strain of avian influenza has killed more than 340 people worldwide since 2003, according to WHO statistics.

Vietnam has recorded one of the highest numbers of fatalities from bird flu in southeast Asia, with 59 deaths since 2003, according to the WHO.
Witnesses say Aussie shark attack ‘like Jaws’

SYDNEY, 19 Jan—An Australian surfer was recovering after being dragged under the water by a shark that sliced his leg open then circled him as he screamed for help in a scene witnesses said was “like Jaws.” —Internet

Witnesses said the shark took a large chunk out of Folkard’s thigh as well as his board before dragging him under.

He managed to shake himself free and with the help of fellow surfers paddled back to shore trailing blood as the shark circled and was Thursday stable in hospital after surgery.

“It was kind of Jaws, you know, the scene at the start... where everybody’s pulled out of the water and it’s a hot day and the water’s inviting,” a witness, named only as Peter, told the Sydney Morning Herald.

“My son actually said he saw the shark leap out of the water and grab a fish. The word is it was a bull shark.”

His (Folkard’s) skin was really grey, he obviously lost quite a lot of blood.”

Bull sharks are a medium-sized species known for their aggression and tendency to attack humans.

Around 500 people were on the popular family beach at the time, with about 100 in the water, reports said.

Another witness, Tony James, said: “It’s just hit him and took him under for a bit. “He’s managed to get to the surface but I saw it start to follow him.”

Rescue helicopters began air patrols after the attack and spotted several large groups of sharks nearby with beaches in the area closed.

But they reopened less than 24 hours later, although jet ski and helicopter patrols were continuing, as the schools of baitfish that are thought to have drawn the sharks close to shore moved further out to sea.—Internet

Strong earthquake strikes off New Zealand

INVERCARGILL, 19 Jan—A strong earthquake has struck off the coast of New Zealand’s South Island, but there are no reports of damage or injuries and no tsunami warning has been issued.

The 6.1-magnitude quake struck Thursday (126 miles (203 kilometres) west of New Zealand’s southernmost city, Invercargill, at a depth of 11 miles (18 kilometres).

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre did not issue an alert.

A devastating quake ravaged the New Zealand City of Christchurch last year, killing 182 people.—Internet

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Five Europeans die in Ethiopia attack, two abducted

ADDIS ABABA, 19 Jan—Gunmen killed five Europeans trekking near Ethiopia’s famed Erta Ale volcano and kidnapped two others, officials said Wednesday, in the region’s worst attack on tourists in years.

The volcano is one of Africa’s most spectacular and lies in the Afar depression — reputedly one of the least hospitable places on the planet — where local rebels have claimed attacks and kidnappings in the past.

Ethiopia blamed Eritrea but Asmara denied involvement in the attack, which occurred before dawn on Tuesday and dealt another blow to regional tourism after recent kidnappings in Kenyan resorts and attacks on yachts by Somali pirates.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban’s spokesman Peter Szijjarto, in an emailed statement, provided the nationalities of all the tourists involved in Monday’s incident, citing information he said was obtained from Interpol.

“Two Hungarians were killed in Ethiopia and another lightly wounded... In total, five people were killed: two Germans, two Hungarians and an Austrian,” the spokesman said.

“Two Italians were able to escape, two Belgians were lightly wounded. Two Germans and two Ethiopians were abducted,” he added.

Belgium said one of its nationals was wounded in the attack, as was a British friend she was travelling with.

Ethiopia’s foreign ministry said that a total of 22 tourists were on the trip to the remote destination.—Internet

200 flights delayed by heavy fog at Delhi airport

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan—Fog continued to haunt the Indian capital early Thursday morning, disrupting air and rail traffic, with over 200 flights delayed and 11 flights canceled at the Indira Gandhi International airport, said civil aviation officials.

Visibility plunged below 50 meters at the airport early Thursday when international departures were in full swing.

Some aircraft waited for a few hours at the holding point on the taxiways and had to return to the parking bays due to low visibility. Mass congestion caused by runway closure further worsened the delay, which lasted from one to six hours. —Xinhua

Seven injured in Australia’s Brisbane tunnel crash

BRISBANE, 19 Jan—Seven people were injured in a serious traffic crash in the Nundah Tunnel on Brisbane’s north-side in Australia’s Queensland, police said on Thursday.

Two vehicles, a blue dual cab Triton utility and a silver Nissan X-trail, collided on Sandgate Road in the Nundah Tunnel around 2 am local time on Thursday, Queensland police said.

Seven people in the two vehicles were injured and sent to hospital, three of them in serious conditions, police said.

While police investigations are continuing, initial probe has indicated one vehicle may have been traveling the wrong way.—Xinhua

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Ministry of Culture to play a main role in resurrecting, preserving and promoting cultural heritages: Union Information and Culture Minister

YANGON, 19 Jan—The workshop on child and human rights educative measures, conducted by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) with the sponsorship of UNICEF, concluded at the Traders Hotel here yesterday, attended by commission Chairman U Win Mya. UNICEF deputy resident representative Ms Juanita Vasquez made a concluding remark.

At the workshop that started on 16 January, scholars from MNHRC, UNICEF and Education Planning and Training Department set out background history of UN charter on child and human rights measures, human rights activities of the UN, role of MNHRC on promotion and protection of child and human rights, teaching experience of human rights syllabus in school, and media might to motivate public human rights awakening. Representatives from Myanmar Police Force, General Administration Department, Social Welfare Department, Supreme Court and Labour Ministry shared knowledge of promotion and protection of child and human rights in Myanmar; and Save the Children, World Vision and Myanmar Red Cross Society experienced of educative measures for child and human rights among the people.

Those present at the workshop could set down work procedures and advices helpful to such measures to be taken next in Myanmar.

Farmers from Magway Region visit farmer educative farms in capital

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Farmers from Magway Region round 500-acre farmer educative mechanized farm in Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township this morning. The farmers observed cultivation methods of hybrid Palethwe rice plants and high yield sugarcane plantation there. They also observed good agricultural pattern at farmer educative farms in Dekkhinathiri Township and Pyinmana Township.

Mandalay fire burns down 26 houses, renders 28 households homeless

Mandalay, 19 Jan—A fire broke out at the house of Daw Mon Mon Zin of Block-428 in East Thanletmaw, Mahaungmye Township, Mandalay at 2 am today. The fire which started from amber destroyed 26 houses and rendered 106 people of 28 households homeless, and it was put under control by 250 fire brigade members using 53 fire engines at 3.20 am.

Fire victims are being accommodated at a relief camp opened at Pyilon-ant Dhammayon in Block-429 and being provided with necessary assistance by social organizations, region, district and township Maternal and Child Welfare Associations and officials concerned.

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects construction of Sittway University

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin made an inspection tour of the construction site of the multi-purpose three-storey main building of University of Sittway yesterday. There he left necessary instructions after hearing reports presented by project manager U Htay Win. He proceeded his construction site tour to the construction site of underground water tank with 30000 gallons of capacity and building Nos (7) and (8) of University of Sittway, where he urged the officials concerned to meet the standards of the construction real in time.

New school buildings handed over in Myaung Township

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—A ceremony to hand over Thallawady new building to Basic Education Middle School (Branch) was held in Myyion Village of Myaung Township on 14 January afternoon.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ohn Ngwe of Myaung Township, Deputy Commissioner U Myint Wai of Sagaying District and an official of Sagaying Region Education Office formally opened the new building. Region Minister for Forestry, Mines and Energy U Than Hlaik unveiled the signboard of the building.

The new building, 120 feet long, 30 feet wide and 15 feet high, was built at a cost of K 16 million.

Likewise, the handing over of Ayeyein Thayar new building was held at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Nanwaiingaing Village. The facility, 120 feet long, 30 feet wide and 15 feet high, was constructed at a cost of K 8 million by the State. The region minister inspected construction of new buildings at Shwetachaung Village BEPS and Kyauktan Village BEPS.
Union Commerce Minister on field trip of YeU

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint on 15 January met departmental personnel, entrepreneurs and town elders at the office of General Administration Department in YeU Township.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister explained that the State is implementing the five-year plan from 2010 to 2015 for rural development and poverty alleviation, and he urged departmental personnel to cooperate with local people in undertaking regional development tasks.

Shwe Naga Min Co donated K 8.9 million for upgrading of YeU-Tamadrw-Kanhtuma Road, K 2 million each for YeU Basic Education High School No 1 and No 2, K 500,000 each for two students admitted to University of Medicine, one set of Sky Net receiver to YeU Township GAD and 20 ampoules of anti-snake venom for Township People’s Hospital.

He met teachers and students at YeU BEHS No 2 and observed the winkwer industry in Aung Zeya Ward. He also met local people in Tinteyian Model Village.

On 16 January, the Union Minister explained arrangements for keeping Thiri Lake clean and pleasant in Taze. While in Taze, he met departmental personnel, entrepreneurs and local people and attended the donation ceremony for development tasks.

The Union minister met local people in Nabegyi and Inokkoka villages after inspecting construction of new building at Nabegyi Village BEHS.

Meeting with Dr Manam Tuja who will stand for by-election

MOYNTON, 19 Jan—Dr Manam Tuja who is to stand for the by-election to be held on 1 April for the vacancy of Mogu township constituency in Kachin State as an independent representative presented his candidate list to Mohnyin District Election Sub-commission Office on 18 January.

Dr Manam Tuja in an interview with a correspondent of The New Light of Myanmar daily said that his seal for election is a white dove carrying the Eugenia branch (olive branch) in its mouth, and that it is the symbol of peace. Dr Manam Tuja had attended the National Convention and resigned from KIA as one of the top leaders of the group.

Theidpan Market to be upgraded by secret voting system

Byline & Photo: Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindaing)

Theidpan Market formerly called Hsinmin Market at the junction of Hsinmin Road and Strand Road in Ahlon Township entering its aging time is due to be upgraded soon through free secret voting system in consideration of the desires of sellers.

The market is a one-story building and cannot catch proper light due to its low roofing structure. To upgrade the market, responsible persons asked shopkeepers for their desire by secret voting system at the in-charge office from 9 am to 4 pm on 13 January. Deputy Head U Maung Maung Aye of Markets Department of the Yangon City Develop-

ment Committee, district heads, township admin-
istrators, the township police head and members of market supervisory committee took charge of the voting process.

The UDLC is going to upgrade the market as there were 470 vote in favour and 185 against.

It was learnt that during construction period, temporary stalls will be put up in Thiri Mingala playground. But, no information about the exact place of hundreds of vendors is coming out yet, by all accounts.

Translation: ZZS

Photo shows old Theidpan Market in Ahlon Township.

MINDAT, 18 Jan—Manawthukha strain monsoon paddy on the model plot was harvested in Lalawnghti Village tract of Mindat Township on 16 January.

Deputy Commissioner U Nay Aung of Mindat District General Administration Department and officials supervised the harvesting of paddy. The local farmers harvested the paddy that produced 118.33 baskets of dried paddy per acre.

MINDAT harvests model monsoon paddy

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Cultivation of Palethwe rice plants demonstrated in Kyaiklat Township

KYAIKLAT, 18 Jan—A demonstration on transplanting of high yield Palethwe hybrid rice plants was held in Tapaytamawt Village of Kyaiklat Township on 13 January morning.

District and township level officials of Myanma Agriculture Service explained the purpose of growing Palethwe paddy strain and applying good agriculture pattern.

The paddy cultivation demonstration was attended by local authorities and local farmers.

Take Fire Preventive Measures

District News

School buildings handed over

MAGWAY, 18 Jan—School buildings of Affiliated Basic Education Middle School and Primary School were handed over to Ministry of Education in Jatkson Village of Magway Township on 12 January.

Deputy Speaker of Magway Region Hluttaw U Saw Win Maung handed over documents related to Magway Region Education Officer U Myat Hnin.

Two buildings, 120 feet long, 24 feet wide and 12 feet high each, were constructed at a cost of over K 30 million in total amount.

Mindat harvests model monsoon paddy

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Myanma Alin

District News

MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 20 January, 2012

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Dy Tourism minister attends 15th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting and related meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister U Htay Aung on behalf of Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan attended 15th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting and related meetings along with 12th ASEAN Tourism Fair held in Manado of Indonesia from 8 to 12 January.

Tourism ministers and deputy ministers from ASEAN countries, Director Mr Somsak Pipoppinyo of ASEAN Secretariat and high-ranking officials of tourism industry also attended the 15th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting on 11 January.

At the 11th tourism ministers meeting from ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held on 12 January, the ministers, deputy ministers and officials held discussion on tourism cooperation among ASEAN, China, Japan and ROK and follow-up plan.

At the 3rd ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers Meeting, the MoU on tourism industry cooperation between ASEAN and India was signed.

Indonesian Vice President Prof Dr Budi Boeddono opened the 12th ASEAN Tourism Fair-2012 at Grand Kawana Convention Centre.

Deputy Minister U Htay Aung viewed displays of Myanmar tourism booth at 12th ASEAN Tourism Fair in Golden Kawana Exhibition Hall on 13 January.

MNA

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Weather turns bad as back-home travel peaks

BEIJING, 19 Jan—This year’s annual travel rush, which will go into full swing in the next three days, will encounter bad weather, and the road home could be a tough one for many heading to Spring Festival family reunions.

Heavy fog on Wednesday stranded more than 14,000 passengers at the Xi’an Xianyang International Airport in Northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, where visibility was reduced to less than 100 metres.

Airport authorities said the dense fog grounded more than 200 flights since Wednesday morning. By 6 pm, 47 flights in and out of Xi’an had been canceled. With air tickets sold out during the travel rush, many passengers whose flights were canceled found themselves in a predicament.

Xu Ning, a 30-year-old Xi’an native trapped in Shanghai Pudong International Airport since noon, said if he could not find a ticket to Xi’an, he would not be able to spend Spring Festival eve with his family.

“People ride on top of a commuter train in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 17 Jan, 2012. Indonesia has gone to imaginative extremes to try to stop commuters from illegally riding the roofs of trains, hosing down the scufflaws with red paint, threatening them with dogs and appealing for help from religious leaders. 

The airport staff told us that we could choose between endlessly waiting in the airport or rescheduling our flight for one of the next couple of days. But I just found out that tickets to flights to Xi’an later this week were all booked,” he said.

Zhang Yao, 28, who arrived with her husband at Beijing Capital International Airport at 3 pm from Belgium, found the flight she planned to take to Xi’an had been canceled.

“We were told we could reschedule, but the earliest flight with available seats is on 23 Jan,” she said.

That the airport did not make arrangements for stranded passengers, such as free accommodation, made her feel even more frustrated, she said.

Zhang and about 30 other passengers were still waiting for a solution at 6 pm.

The Keystone Oil Pipeline is pictured under construction in North Dakota in this undated photograph released on 18 January, 2012. Internet

Keyes strike no judgment on pipeline merit

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—President Barack Obama on Wednesday blamed his Republican opponents for imposing an “arbitrary” deadline on his review of TransCanada Corp’s plan to build the Keystone XL Canada-to-Texas crude oil pipeline, which led to its rejection.

“This announcement is not a judgment on the merits of the pipeline, but the arbitrary nature of a deadline that prevented the State Department from gathering the information necessary to approve the project and protect the American people,” Obama said in a statement.

“I’m disappointed that Republicans in Congress forced this decision.”

The number of people living “double up” with friends, relatives or others jumped 13 percent to 6.8 million. "Doubling up" is the usual step before people move into shelters, Witte said.

Rocky Rector, a senior researcher with the Heritage Foundation, called the slight decline in homelessness “pretty startling” in light of the worst US economic downturn since the Great Depression.

He said the federal aid, although worthwhile, had played only a small part in easing homelessness.

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—US homelessness slipped 1 percent from 2009 to 2011, but the sluggish economy left more poor people struggling to pay for housing and just a step away from shelters, an advocacy group said in a new study on Wednesday.

The drop to 366,017 homeless people last year could prove short-lived since it was likely due to $1.5 billion in federal aid that will run out this year, the National Alliance to End Homelessness said in its report.

The fact that homelessness dropped in the middle of a downturn is "counter-intuitive," said Roman, the Alliance’s president and chief executive, told a news conference.

Internet

Women removed from plane after bringing gun aboard

FORT WORTH, 19 Jan—A 65-year-old lawyer was arrested Wednesday for carrying a loaded handgun aboard an American Airlines jet at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Judith Kenney was released later Wednesday on her own recognizance, said her attorney, Dallas lawyer David Finn.

Kenney carries a handgun for protection but had forgotten that it was in a computer bag she carried on board the plane, he said. She has no criminal history, he said.

Screeners at a security checkpoint had detected a gun in a woman’s carry-on bag but she “picked up the bag and left the checkpoint before the screening process was over,” said Greg Soule, a spokesman for the Transportation Security Administration, which operates the checkpoints.

When TSA screeners spot a gun in a bag, they are supposed to seize the bag and notify police, he said.

Internet

Armed conflict linked to low birth weight

DENVER, 19 Jan— Pregnant women exposed to armed conflict have a higher risk than others of giving birth to babies who are under weight, US researchers say.

Hani Mansour and Daniel Rees of the University of Colorado Denver and Daniel Rees said the Second Intifada, which began in September 2000, claimed more than 4,000 Palestinians by 2005.

Mansour and Rees used data from the Palestinian Demographic and Health Survey, collected by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics approximately four years after the start of the uprising. The data were matched with data on Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank collected by B’Tselem, an Israeli human rights organization.

The researchers examined a sample of 1,224 births to women living in the West Bank. Conflict exposure was measured by the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces in the district where the mother lived. The authors controlled for a variety of potentially confounding variables — including education of the mother and father, mother’s age when she gave birth, father’s occupation, birth order, gender of the baby, number of prenatal care visits, whether a curfew was in place and self-reported anemia.

Internet

Homlessness down but seen rising anew

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The fact that homelessness dropped in the middle of a downturn is “counter-intuitive,” said Roman, the Alliance’s president and chief executive, told a news conference.

The federal aid, part of an economic stimulus package, “seems to have worked,” she said.

The Alliance, which groups public, private and non-profit organizations, said the biggest decrease in homelessness was among veterans, with the number falling 11 percent to 67,495 in 2011.

The overall decline in homelessness, however, small, may not last long.

Current trends point to the number of homeless people rising about 5 percent through 2013, Peter Witte, a researcher who compiled the study, told reporters.

In an indicator of possible trouble, the number of poor households that spent more than half their incomes on rent — defined as “severely housing cost burdened” — rose 6 percent to 6.2 million, the report said.

Internet

Indonesia tries to deter train ‘surfers’ _ again

JAKARTA, 19 Jan —Indonesia has gone to imaginative extremes to try to stop commuters from illegally riding the roofs of trains — hosing down the scufflaws with red paint, threatening them with dogs and appealing for help from religious leaders.

Some ride high to avoid paying for a ticket.

Others do so because — despite the dangers, with dozens killed or injured every year — “rail surfing” is fun.

Hundreds seeking to escape the overcrowded carriages clamber to the top.

Some ride high to avoid paying for a ticket.

Indonesia, on 17 Jan, 2012. Indonesia has gone to imaginative extremes to try to stop commuters from illegally riding the roofs of trains, hosing down the scufflaws with red paint, threatening them with dogs and appealing for help from religious leaders.

The first iron or so balls were installed Tuesday hundreds of yards (metres) from the entrance of a train station just outside the capital, Jakarta. Painted silver, the balls hung by chains from what looked like the frame of a giant soccer goal.

Internet

Xinhua
Russian tanker near finishing Nome fuel delivery

ANCHORAGE, 19 Jan— A Russian tanker was expected to finish offloading 1.3 million gallons of fuel in Nome as early as Wednesday night, officials said, easing an energy shortage in the ice-bound Alaskan port city. The Renda, a 370-foot ice-class tanker sent to Nome from its home port in Vladivostok, has already pumped its gasoline cargo to shore and is now finishing the delivery of diesel, said Jason Evans, board chairman of the Sitnasuak Native Corp, the company that arranged for the unusual icebreaking mission.

The Renda, escorted by a US Coast Guard icebreaker, is making the first-ever winter marine delivery of fuel to Nome, which lacks a US Coast Guard icebreaker, threatening to upend the territory's largest private employer, the US territory’s largest private oil company, has totaled $1.3 billion over the past three years.—

Major oil refinery to close in US Virgin Islands

ST CROIX, (US Virgin Islands), 19 Jan— One of the world’s largest oil refineries will close next month, the company announced Wednesday, stunning nearly 2,000 workers and threatening to upset the refining economy of the US Virgin Islands.

Industry analysts said the closure is unlikely to have a major effect on the global oil market, but Gov. John de Jongh described the loss of the territory’s largest private employer as “a complete body blow” for the US territory of about 108,000 people. He said Hovensa generated a minimum of $60 million a year in revenue for the government, which recently laid off hundreds of public workers due to a budget crisis.

“Given what we’re going through right now, this is the last bit of news that I wanted to hear,” he said in a teleconference with reporters.

Losses at Hovensa, a joint venture of US-based Hess Corp and Venezuela’s state-owned oil company, have totaled $1.3 billion over the past three years and were projected to continue due to reduced demand caused by the global economic slowdown and increased refining capacity in emerging markets, said Brian K. Lever, president and chief operating officer of Hovensa LLC.

“We deeply regret the closure of the Hovensa refinery and the impact on our dedicated people,” Lever said in a statement. “We explored all available options to avoid this outcome, but severe financial losses left us with no other choice.”

Hess announced in New York that it will take a $255 million after-tax charge against its fourth-quarter 2011 earnings due to the shutdown.—

Unemployment in Britain hits 8.4 percent

LONDON, 19 Jan— The unemployment rate in Britain reached 8.4 percent from September to November with a record number of dissatisfied part-time workers, national data shows. The unemployment rate climbed higher than the 8.3 percent predicted by economists as the number of unemployed persons rose by 118,000 in the three-month stretch, The Daily Telegraph reported on Wednesday.

The number of unemployed, 2.68 million, is a 17-year high. The number of workers listed as “underemployed,” which means they are working part time because no full-time job is available, rose by 44,000 in September to November to 1.31 million, the highest figure since 1992.

IMF seeks up to $500 billion in new funds

BRUSSELS, 19 Jan— The International Monetary Fund said Wednesday that it’s aiming to increase its financial firepower by around $500 billion so it can issue new loans to help ease a worsening financial crisis. Responding to speculation surrounding its funding options to avoid this crisis in the 17-nation eurozone.

The Renda, a 370-foot ice-class tanker reached Nome on Friday, Evans said, Sitnasuak subsidiary Bonanza Fuel had run out of diesel and was buying supplies from Nome’s only other distributor. The company was two weeks from running out of gasoline, he said.—

Two hoses used to transfer fuel from the Russian-flagged tanker Renda are seen in Nome, Alaska, in this 16 Jan, 2012 handout picture. Renda, the Russian tanker escorted by the US Coast Guard cutter Healy, reached the frozen Alaskan port of Nome with emergency fuel supplies on 13 Jan after a 16-day voyage through ice-choked seas, the company that owns the vessel said.—

IMF

In this photo taken on 14 Jan, 2012, and made available on 18 Jan, 2012, Francesco Schettino, right, the captain of the luxury cruise ship Costa Concordia, which ran aground Friday off the tiny Tuscan island of Isola del Giglio, is taken into custody by Carabinieri in Porto Santo Stefano, Italy, —

Two hoses used to transfer fuel from the Russian-flagged tanker Renda are seen in Nome, Alaska, in this 16 Jan, 2012 handout picture. Renda, the Russian tanker escorted by the US Coast Guard cutter Healy, reached the frozen Alaskan port of Nome with emergency fuel supplies on 13 Jan after a 16-day voyage through ice-choked seas, the company that owns the vessel said.—

Tales emerge of missing and dead in ship disaster

ROME, 19 Jan— A retired American couple treating themselves after putting four children through college. A Hungarian musician who helped crying children into lifejackets, then disappeared while trying to retrieve his beloved violin from his cabin. As details emerged Wednesday about the missing and the dead in the grounding of the Costa Concordia, the captain was quoted as saying he tripped and fell into the water from the listing vessel and never intended to abandon his passengers.

The search for the 21 people still unaccounted for in the disaster ground to a halt after the cruise liner shifted again on its rocky perch off the Tuscan island of Giglio, making it too dangerous for divers to continue. Rough seas were forecast for the next few days.

The bad weather also postponed the start of the weeklong operation to extract the half-million gallons of fuel on board the vessel, as Italy’s environment minister warned Parliament of the ecological implications if the ship sinks.
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (053)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (053) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: MS INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Oprah Winfrey parties in Mumbai with Bollywood stars**

MUMBAI, 19 Jan — US chat show queen Oprah Winfrey has kicked off her week-long visit to India by partying with Bollywood stars. Winfrey is on her first visit to the country to film a documentary and is expected to attend the literary festival in Jaipur City. She arrived in Mumbai on Monday and attended a party held in her honour. She is expected to visit the city’s slums on Tuesday and is also expected to have dinner with a traditional family of four generations. On Monday evening, Winfrey was seen wearing a red sari as she travelled in a car with Bollywood acting legend Amitabh Bachchan to a glitzy event, hosted by billionaire Parmeshwar Godrej. They were accompanied by actors Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai, Mr Bachchan’s son and daughter-in-law. Other actors who attended the party included Shah Rukh Khan, Hrithik Roshan, and Preity Zinta. Zinta tweeted from the event: “Tonight was dinner at the Godrej House with Oprah Winfrey. Nice to see her wearing a beautiful sari.” Winfrey, who is one of America’s most famous women, left one of India’s biggest personalities star-struck.

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**Boa constrictor snakes prey’s fading heartbeat**

LONDON , 19 Jan — Scientists have now discovered that snakes sense exactly how long they need to squeeze; the predators can sense their victim’s heartbeat, and only stop when it stops. The findings are reported in the Royal Society journal Biology Letters. They reveal how snakes evolved to take physical “cues” from their prey. This allows the animals to sense when they have successfully incapacitated their quarry. It is crucial for a predator that has to balance its need for food with its other demands, such as constricting its muscles tightly enough — and for long enough — to suffocate an animal.

The research team, led by Dr Scott Boback from the University of Pennsylvania, wanted to find out if the snakes were able to “measure” the amount of time they needed to keep squeezing. The scientists used rats to entice their captive Boa constrictor to attack. But the team did not subject the rodents to death by constriction, instead implanting dead rats with “simulated hearts” — water-filled bulbs connected to a pump, which replicated the blood-pumping action of a live rat’s heart. The research team hoped the imitation hearts would “trigger” the Boa constrictor to strike.

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**Public request for climate hedgehog study**

LONDON , 19 Jan — UK wildlife charities are asking for people’s help in examining if hedgehogs are being affected by climate change. Retired hedgehog expert Dr Pat Morris conducted a survey 40 years ago showing that temperature affects when the animals emerge from hibernation. With the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and People’s Trust for Endangered Species, he found that the temperature increased with the date of the disease, and is also expected to have dinner with a traditional family of four generations. On Monday evening, Winfrey was seen wearing a red sari as she travelled in a car with Bollywood acting legend Amitabh Bachchan to a glitzy event, hosted by billionaire Parmeshwar Godrej. They were accompanied by actors Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai, Mr Bachchan’s son and daughter-in-law. Other actors who attended the party included Shah Rukh Khan, Hrithik Roshan, and Preity Zinta. Zinta tweeted from the event: “Tonight was dinner at the Godrej House with Oprah Winfrey. Nice to see her wearing a beautiful sari.” Winfrey, who is one of America’s most famous women, left one of India’s biggest personalities star-struck.

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**Rise in number of ‘younger’ knee replacements**

UK experts believe the nation’s growing obesity problem is partly to blame for the rise, putting strain on the knees. A report in Arthritis & Rheumatism suggests ways work is urgently needed to check that replacements in this age group are wise given the product’s unknown shelf life. The durability of the knee replacement joints has only been assessed in patients in their 60s, 70s and 80s, not in their 50s.

Best estimates suggest the joints last for about 15 years in these “older” and often less physically active recipients. Surgeons say it is possible younger patients might wear out their replacements even faster than this.

Arthritis Research UK is currently investigating the success rate of knee replacement surgery in this younger age group. The charity wants to ensure anyone who has had surgery to replace a knee joint is satisfied with the results, and that the procedure lasts at least 10 years.

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**Kraft to cut 1,600 jobs in split**

Kraft Foods Inc said that splitting into two companies would lead it to cut about 1,600 jobs in North America this year and that its 2011 profit should be slightly higher than it had previously forecast. About 40 percent of this year’s cost-cutting will come from North America. Kraft also said its 2011 net revenue would be up by about 10 percent, as it ended the year with strong momentum around the world despite a tough operating environment.

Kraft said it expected its 2011 net revenue would be $43.4 billion, up from $44.3 billion. Its profit should be slightly higher than it had previously forecast. About 1,600 of the total 3,500 job cuts would come from Kraft’s North American operations.

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**White-nose syndrome ravages North America bat populations**

NEW YORK, 19 Jan — At least 5.7 million bats across 16 US states and Canada have died from White-nose syndrome, an infectious disease that causes the animals to hibernate in winter. The spread of urban landscapes and industrial landscapes is also expected to have dinner with a traditional family of four generations. On Monday evening, Winfrey was seen wearing a red sari as she travelled in a car with Bollywood acting legend Amitabh Bachchan to a glitzy event, hosted by billionaire Parmeshwar Godrej. They were accompanied by actors Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai, Mr Bachchan’s son and daughter-in-law. Other actors who attended the party included Shah Rukh Khan, Hrithik Roshan, and Preity Zinta. Zinta tweeted from the event: “Tonight was dinner at the Godrej House with Oprah Winfrey. Nice to see her wearing a beautiful sari.” Winfrey, who is one of America’s most famous women, left one of India’s biggest personalities star-struck.

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Coming in at No 2 on this week’s Billboard 200 is the David Crowder Band’s “Give Us Rest,” followed by Black Keys’ “El Camino” at No 3, Drake’s “Take Care” at No 4 and Snow Patrol’s “Fallen Empire” at No 5.

Rounding out the top tier are Young Jeezy’s “TM:103 Hustlers Ambition” at No 6, Rihanna’s “Talk That Talk” at No 7, Coldplay’s “Mylo Xyloto” at No 8, Nickelback’s “Here and Now” at No 9 and the “Now:60” compilation CD at No 10.

**Country music great Haggard hospitalized with pneumonia**

NASHVILLE, 19 Jan— Country music great Merle Haggard has been admitted to Georgia hospital suffering from pneumonia and postponed the rest of his concert dates in January, his spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Haggard, 74, entered the Macon hospital on Tuesday night after he canceled a show in that Georgia City seven minutes before he was to take the stage because he was too ill to perform, said Frank Mull, his tour manager and close friend.

A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Haggard is best known for songs including “Mama Tried,” “Okie from Muskogee” and “The Fightin’ Side of Me.”

Haggard had been scheduled to perform again on a Wednesday night in Columbus, Georgia, but that show and the rest of the January slate will be rescheduled for April, according to Haggard’s Los Angeles-based publicist Trea Redburn.

“I will take time off to recover and resume his tour in February,” Redburn said. Haggard lives in Northern California.

**LL Cool J to host Grammy Awards show**

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan— Rapper and actor LL Cool J is to serve as host of the 54th annual Grammy Awards show in Los Angeles, organizers said Wednesday. This will mark the first time in seven years that the music industry event will have an official host. Queen Latifah was the last celebrity to preside over the show.

This year’s prize presentation at the Staples Centre is to air 12 Feb on CBS. “I’m thrilled to be a part of music’s biggest night,” LL Cool J said in a statement. “I will always have fond memories of my first Grammy Awards, and to now be hosting the Grammy show, in the company of so many other incredible artists, is a dream come true. Great performances and great music — it’s going to be a great night.”

LL Cool J has served as host of The Grammy Nominations Concert Live since its inception in December 2008, but this will be his first time as emcee of the annual Grammy Awards broadcast.

**Ken Ishii, out of dance clubs and into daydreams**

TOKYO, 19 Jan— Japan’s trail-blazing techno king Ken Ishii has rocked massive crowds the world over with his dance floor beats, but for his latest album he drew inspiration from what some may think an odd choice much closer to home — a luxury Tokyo shopping mall.

Ishii, 41, is nothing if not unconventional and even as his popularity has grown — he has risen from playing clubs to the MTV Video Music Awards, made the cover of Newsweek magazine and composed the theme song for the 1998 Winter Olympics — the master music mixer has tried to remain true to his roots even as his songs make their way into spaces as common as elevators.

“I didn’t want to become commercial but music always does,” Ishii told Reuters. “I’m an old-school techno kind of guy.”

His new project “Music for Daydreams” has the formal title “Ken Ishii presents Metropolitan Harmonic Formulas” and is released in February, almost 20 years after Ishii cut his first track.

**Man on final leg of worldwide run**

A Danish man on a mission to run across the world said in Florida he is only 3,284 miles from finishing his 24,854-mile journey in Canada.

Jesper Olsen, 40, who is running this week along US 1 in Florida’s Miami-Dade and Broward counties, said his four-year trek, which he calls World Run II, hastaken him running through Siberia, the Sahara, the Arctic Circle, Egypt, the Andes Mountains and hundreds of other locations, The Miami Herald reported Wednesday.

Olsen said he is planning to complete his run January 31, exactly four years after the start of his run, in Newfoundland.

“One lap around the world, it’s the biggest challenge you can give yourself as a long-distance runner,” Olsen said Tuesday in Fort Lauderdale.

**Over 30 films nominated at 6th Asian Film Awards**

HONG KONG, 19 Jan— A total of 32 movies were nominated to compete for 14 prizes at the 6th Asian Film Awards, the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) announced here Tuesday.

Organized by the HKIFFS and funded by CreateHK and the city’s Film Development Fund, the Asian Film Awards aimed to commend outstanding films in Asia.

The FlyingSwords ofDragon Gate, jointly produced by Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong was a nominee of the Best Film, the Best Director, the Best Actor, and four other categories, becoming the film most frequently appeared on the nomination list.

Mainland’s production The Flowers of War andTaiwan’s Warriors of the Rainbow: Seeding Bale got six nominations each of them, including the Best Film and the Best Director.

Also running for the Best Film and Best Director awards was Iranian drama Nader and Simin: A Separation, which has won tremendous critical acclaim. —Xinhua

**White whales and their trainers present a show for visitors, celebrating the upcoming Chinese New Year in the Harbin Polarland, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 18 Jan, 2012.**

**British Airways has an “oops” moment.**

Another passenger, Michelle Lord, told The Telegraph: “People were terrified, we all thought we were going to die. They said the pilot hit the wrong button because they were so close together.”

**Japanese techno DJ Ken Ishii speaks at an interview with Reuters in Tokyo on 14 January, 2012.**

**Music legends Merle Haggard (L) and Willie Nelson perform together at the Wiltern Theatre in Los Angeles on 5 May, 2004.—Reuters**

**SIMIN: A SEPARATION NAMED BEST FILM AT 6TH ASIAN FILM AWARDS.**

**A young woman named Megan is bitten by a zebra during Texas safari visit**

Woman ok after bite from zebra during Texas safari visit

A young woman named Megan is bitten by a zebra while on a visit to a Texas wildlife safari. Obviously caught off guard, Megan screams and appears very upset over the attack. Thankfully, Megan doesn’t appear seriously injured and can even be seen laughing during the final seconds of the video. Zebras are herbivores, so it appears that the zebra was going for Megan’s potato chips, not Megan herself. Still it’s a good reminder that you shouldn’t leave your windows open while on a wildlife safari, particularly when you’re looking away from the window and eating food.

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**Plane passengers accidentally told they are about to crash into ocean**

Passengers aboard a trans-Atlantic British Airways flight were startled when a recorded message was accidentally triggered at 3am, telling them their flight was about to crash into the ocean.

“We were about three hours into the flight when an automated message came over saying, ‘This is an emergency. We will shortly be making an emergency landing on water,’” flight passenger Duncan Farquharson told the Daily Mail.

The automated message, which began while the plane was about 35,000 feet in the air during its journey from Miami to London, apparently was triggered when one of the plane’s pilots accidentally bumped it in the cockpit’s tight quarters.

Farquharson says the passengers then braced for the worst, assuming they were all about to die. “We looked at each other and figured we were both about to die,” Farquharson said.

“Families with children were distraught and people were in tears. It was very distressing.”

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Haggard had been scheduled to perform again on a Wednesday night in Columbus, Georgia, but that show and the rest of the January slate will be rescheduled for April, according to Haggard’s Los Angeles-based publicist Trea Redburn.

Redburn said the singer was receiving fluids intravenously. She said she spoke with Haggard by telephone “and he sounded pretty good.”

Haggard will take time off to recover and resume his tour in February, Redburn said.

**Music legends Merle Haggard (L) and Willie Nelson perform together at the Wiltern Theatre in Los Angeles on 5 May, 2004.—Reuters**

**Japanese techno DJ Ken Ishii speaks at an interview with Reuters in Tokyo on 14 January, 2012.**

**Japan’s techno DJ Ken Ishii speaks at an interview with Reuters in Tokyo on 14 January, 2012.**
Pato sinks Novara as Milan reach quarters

MILAN, 19 Jan.—AC Milan ran the changes and managed hard work of reaching the half of Serie A through beating Novara 2-1 after extra-time at the San Siro on Wednesday night. Teenager Stephan El Shaarawy opened the scoring midway through the first half but had Rivadaveno equalised two minutes from time.

In the extra period Brazilian pair Robinho and Alexandre Pato combined for the latter to score the winner and secure a clash with Lazio in the next round.

Coach Massimiliano Allegri rested star performers such as Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Thiago Silva and Mark van Bommel while Kevin-Prince Boateng has been ruled out for a month with a hamstring injury. It meant veteran Filippo Inzaghi was given a starting berth alongside youngsters such as El Shaarawy and Alexander Merkel, while France centre-back Philippe Mexes was afforded a rare start. In fact Merkel was thrust straight into the team despite only re-joining the club from Genoa 24 hours earlier.

Allegri was relieved to have made it through. "We presented a good option Wednesday as he trained within Flamengo teammates ahead of next week's Copa Libertadores match against Bolivia's Real Potosi," Bolivian fans flocked to see the 2002 world champion as the Brazilians trained at Sucre where Flamengo were enduring a second day of altitude training ahead of the 25 January match up.

Ronaldinho was thrilled to be presented with a decorative woolen poncho as a token to the local indigenous Tarabuco people who hail from the southwest of the country. "I feel great here," said the star as fans chanted "Ronaldinho is from Bolivia" and "you are better than (former Barcelona teammate Lionel) Messi." Ronadinho travelled with the squad after reportedly reaching an agreement with Flamengo officials over some two million dollars of unpaid salary stretching back five months.

Harrington, Els seek big improvements

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan.—Padraig Harrington and Ernie Els combined to make the Volvo Champions at The Links at Fancourt on Thursday on what they hope will be a most important year.

Last year was well below average, said Harrington, who won back-to-back British Opens in 2007 and 2008, adding the US PGA Championship in 2008, but who has slipped to 89 in the world rankings.

“I’d like to get my sense of humour back,” said three-time Major winner Els, acknowledging that his putting woes in recent years had taken the smile off his face as well as sending him plummeting to a world ranking of 71. Harrington, 40, said a measure of how his golf had declined was that in his peak year of 2008 he had improved his position in every final round he had played. “In 2011 I went backwards every Sunday,” he said. Although it had been a poor year, Harrington said it had ended on a positive note. “I sorted out a recurring neck injury that had been bothering me for 10 years.”

Djokovic rebounds from early break at Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan.—It was early in Novak Djokovic’s second-round match at the Australian Open and the world’s top-ranked player was looking to make a journeyman. Playing against Santiago Giraldo, ranked 55 places behind him, Djokovic made four straight unforced errors in the fifth and final game to hand the Colombian the first service break of the match. But Djokovic quickly broke Giraldo to love in the next game and went on to win the next seven on his way on to a 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 victory at Melbourne Park, playing much more like the man who won three Grand Slam singles titles and 41 matches in a row last year.

“I maybe started a little too defensive because he was hitting the ball very strong,” Djokovic said. “But then after that, it was the other way around.”

A title this month would put him in select company. Only four players — Laver, Pete Sampras, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal — have won three Grand Slam singles tournaments, and Djokovic could join them following his wins at last year’s Wimbledon and US Open. Second-seeded Nadal and third-seeded Federer, who are in the other half of the draw here, play back-to-back matches at Rod Laver Arena on Friday. Fourth-seeded Andy Murray, who lost to Djokovic in the final here last year, also advanced Thursday, beating Edouard Roger-Vasselin of France 6-1, 6-4, 6-4. Later, players who could give both Djokovic and Murray some competition in their half of the draw — former finalist Lleyton Hewitt and American Andy Roddick — had a night match at Rod Laver Arena.

Murray is playing his first Grand Slam tournament since hiring eight-time major champion Ivan Lendl as his coach. “It’s been good, he’s obviously one of the greatest players ever,” Murray said.

Serbia’s Novak Djokovic during the Australian Open match against Santiago Giraldo on 19 Jan. — AP

Kvitova struggles as main rivals cruise into Open third round

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan.—Second seed Petra Kvitova battled her way into the Australian Open third round on Thursday after Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova steamrolled their respective opponents. Russia’s Vera Zvonareva and Serbian glamour girl Ana Ivanovic also won in straight sets as the cream continued to rise to the top of the women’s draw.

However, Wimbledon champion Kvitova had to survive a second-set meltdown against Carla Suarez Navarro, who handled Venus Williams from the tournament in 2009. Kvitova won the first set easily but grew visibly frustrated as she lost the second and had to come from a break down in the third to win 6-2, 6-2, 6-4. The reigning Wimbledon champion was in great touch in the first set, serving well and breaking the Spaniard twice in a commanding display. But at the start of the second Kvitova seemed to lose focus, missing easy shots and allowing Suarez Navarro to dictate the points.

The Spaniard, one of only seven players in the top 100 with a one-handed backhand, used that to devastating effect to move Kvitova around the court.

Britain’s Andy Murray serves to France’s Edouard Roger-Vasselin during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship, on 19 Jan., 2012.—INTERNET

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FIFA tells Brazil it must have beer at World Cup

REUTERS, 19 Jan—Beer will be sold at the 12 venues of the 2014 World Cup finals, FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke said on Wednesday as he attempted to close all further discussion on a controversial issue in Brazil.

Voting on the bill for the World Cup Law has been held up over differences between the tournament hosts and world soccer’s governing body, notably on the sale of alcoholic drinks at sports venues which is banned in Brazil.

The bill was scheduled to have been voted on by the chamber of deputies at the end of last year but it has been delayed by several issues including the sale of beer, with FIFA demanding protection of sponsors’ trademarks.

“Alcoholic drinks are part of the FIFA World Cup, so we’re going to have them. Excuse me if I sound a bit arrogant but that’s something we won’t negotiate,” Valcke said. “The fact that we have the right to sell beer has to be a part of the Law,” he told the foreign press corps in an interview in Rio de Janeiro, where on Thursday he will hold a meeting with the World Cup local organizing committee (LOC).

Alcoholic drinks have been banned in Brazil’s stadiums since 2003 as part of the Supporters’ Statutes, aimed at preventing violence among hardcore fans at football matches.

Alexandre Padilha, Health Minister in President Dilma Rousseff’s government, and other members of parliament linked to health matters have put pressure on Congress to maintain the ban in the World Cup Law.— Reuters

Abidal grabs Cup winner for Barca at Real

MADRID, 19 Jan—Eric Abidal netted a rare but superbly-taken goal to give Barcelona a 2-1 comeback win at holders Real Madrid in a King’s Cup quarter-final first leg on Wednesday as Pep Guardiola’s side tightened their stranglehold over their rivals.

Real forward Cristiano Ronaldo had put the home side ahead with a breakaway goal in the 11th minute before Barca captain Carles Puyol flung himself at Xavi’s corner to power Spanish and European champions on Monday, galloped on to a floated Lionel Messi pass 13 minutes from time and calmly slotted past Iker Casillas to give the 2011 runners-up the advantage for next week’s second leg in Barcelona.

Real forward forward Cristian Ronaldo had put the home side ahead with a breakaway goal in the 11th minute before Barca captain Carles Payol flung himself at Xavi’s corner to power

Beckham to re-join Galaxy on two-year deal

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan—Former England captain David Beckham will be returning to the LA Galaxy on a fresh two-year contract, the Major League Soccer (MLS) team said on Wednesday.

Beckham’s initial five-year deal ended after the Galaxy won the 2011 MLS Cup and there had been speculation the former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder was considering offers from Paris St. Germain and a number of English clubs.

However, Paris St Germain said earlier this month the Englishman would not be joining the big-spending Ligue 1 soccer club due to family reasons.

“This was an important decision for me,” Beckham, 36, said in a statement. “I had many offers from clubs from around the world, however, I’m still passionate about playing in America and winning trophies with the Galaxy.— Reuters

**Weather forcast 20th January, 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region/State</th>
<th>Temperature (°C/°F)</th>
<th>Weather</th>
<th>Likelihood of night temperatures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>22/72 12/54</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay</td>
<td>31/88 14/57</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magway</td>
<td>33/91 13/55</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Sagaing</td>
<td>33/91 15/59</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Sagaing</td>
<td>22/72 12/54</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanlyin</td>
<td>33/91 14/57</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw</td>
<td>33/91 14/57</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Yangon</td>
<td>33/91 14/57</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbouring Mandalay</td>
<td>31/88 14/57</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Shan</td>
<td>27/81 2/36</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taninthayi 34/93</td>
<td>18/64</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hlaing</td>
<td>31/88 14/57</td>
<td>Generally fair weather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likelihood of isolated light rain</td>
<td>(60%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

MYANMAR INTERNAIIONAL TV

(20-1-12 09:30 am - 21-1-12 09:30 am) MST

**Oversea Transmission**

* News
* One Asia in Film
* News
* Myanmar Beauty and His Creation (Episode-2)
* The Way of Life Influenced by the Environment
* News
* Sakura Car Sale Centre
* Music Gallery
* News
* A Night of Dancing with Phoe Chit
* News
* Kid’s Talent
* Yangon-Mandalay
* Expressway saves Time
* News
* Record Album
* 2012, A Banner Year in the Making
* "Truths of Success" A Glory of Myanmar
* News
* "Me N My Travel" Pyaw (Part-2) Shwe San Taw Pagoda
* Myanmar Movies
* "Essence of Devotion"

MYANMAR TV

(20-1-2012) (Friday)

4:00 pm
1. Martial Song
4:10 pm
2. Dance Of National Races
4:20 pm
3. Teleplay
4:35 pm
4. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
4:40 pm
5. Songs Of Yester Years
5:10 pm
6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
5:15 pm
7. Myanmar Language
5:30 pm
8. Musical Programme
5:45 pm
9. Sports Highlight
6:20 pm
10. Internet Garden
7:00 pm
11. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
12. News
13. Just For Laughs (Gags Asia)
14. TV Drama Series
15. Song Lovers

**Outlook for sub-Burma**

Inference
Bay
Myanmar

**Likelihood of decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar Areas.**

Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

During the past (24) hours, isolated light rain in Kachin State and weather has been cloudy (2°C), Lashio (3°C), PyinOoLwin and Mogok (4°C) each.

Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

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Union level peace-making group meets representatives of KIO
Both sides issue statement on peace process

NAV PVT TAR, 19 Jan—Leader of the Union level peace-making group U Aung Thaung and party arrived in Ruili of the People’s Republic of China on 18 January to hold peace talks with the KIO representative group.

On 18 and 19 January, leader of the Union level peace-making group U Aung Thaung, deputy leader U Thein Zaw, members Union Minister U Aung Kyi, Union Minister U Ohn Myint, Union Minister U Win Tun, Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Haai, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Kachin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Than Aung, Pyithu Hlutaw representative U Tun Tun of Mansi Township, Amyotha Hlutaw representative U Khet Hein Nan, Li-Col Zaw Naung Co of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Command Staff Colonel of North-East Command Col Win Thein, Command Staff Colonel of Northern Command Col Myint Swe and Director-General U Soe Aung of Relief and Resettlement Department had a cordial discussion on realization of peace process in the region with leader of representatives of KIO U Swam Luk Gam and members U La Phi La, U Joe Nawng, U La Jaung Khong Lwam, U N Gan Zaw Khwam, U Khan Nawng, U La Phi Zaw Raw and U Manar Zaw Tawng together with a group of U Sao Aung Myat, U N Nov Bo, U Hein Khaw and U N Wah Three of the workshop in Ruili of the People’s Republic of China. After the discussion, they exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photo.

On 18 January, members of both peace-making groups cordially had a dinner.

After the completion of meeting on 19 January, the Union level peace-making group and the representatives of KIO issued a statement for holding the continuous meeting through political means to realize the eternal peace and to decline military acceleration. The translation of the statement is as follows:

(1) The Union level peace-making group and the KIO representatives held a meeting in Ruili of the People’s Republic of China on 18 and 19 January 2012 with the aim of ensuring stability and eternal peace of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

(2) The Government and KIO will continue the negotiation between them through political means.

(3) They will issue correct information of the meeting to the public.

(4) They will coordinate matters related to military units of both sides in the hot spots, to control military activities and building trusts.

Coyle’s backing for Carroll
Misfiring Liverpool striker “is an outstanding young player”

LONDON, 19 Jan—Bolton manager Owen Coyle is convinced it is only a matter of time before Andy Carroll finds the sort of form that made him such a huge favourite at Newcastle.

Carroll has struggled to live up to his £35million price tag - which makes him the most expensive British footballer in history - in the 12 months since he left Tyneside to join Liverpool.

Far from leading the line, the 23-year-old could not even make the Reds’ starting line-up for last weekend’s draw at Stoke, even though Luis Suarez is in the middle of an eight-match suspension. Carroll is hoping to be recalled for Saturday’s trip to Bolton but Coyle, for one, would not welcome that news as he believes the big number nine is a class act.

"I don’t think there is any doubt he will reproduce that form," said Coyle. "He is an outstanding young player.

"The thing is, when you get that kind of criticism you have to come through it with a smile on your face. It will serve him well. His quality is unquestioned. We have to make sure he doesn’t show it against us.”

Owen Coyle on Andy Carroll Quotes of the week

Plan to mark World Wetland Day 27-29 Jan

YANGON, 19 Jan—The ceremony to mark the World Wetland Day which falls on 2 February and photo show, organized by Myanmar Bird Lovers Association, will be held at Thiri Hall of Royal Rose on Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township, here, from 28 to 29 January.

The association and photographers will display over 140 photos on wetlands and distribute the book on Myanmar wetlands and CDs free of charge.

Vendors in Nattalin joyful with loans disbursed
NATTLIN, 19 Jan—As part of efforts to alleviate poverty of the people, the ceremony to disburse loans to vendors was held in Shwelin Hall in Nattalin on 1 January.

Executive Officer U Tin Maw Than of Township Development Affairs Committee explained the purpose of disbursing the loans and then presented K 4 million loans to 80 vendors.—Township IPRD

Child and human rights educative measures workshop produces valuable advices for Myanmar

Dy Tourism minister attends 15th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting and related meetings

Ministry of Culture to play a main role in resurrecting, preserving and promoting cultural heritages: Union Information and Culture Minister

Breast milk courier helps Indonesian mums cope

Sharapova, Ivanovic into 3rd round in Australia