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The New Light of Myanmar

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Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony held in Yangon Region

Commander Brig-Gen Tun Than reads out the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day 2011.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan— State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony on 63rd Anniversary Independence Day was held at People's Square on Pyay Road yesterday.

When the clock struck 4.20 am, State Flag hoisting group of Yangon Command raised the State Flag atop the mast.

The senior military officers, officers and other ranks of the regiments and units, departmental officials and staff, social organizations members, teachers and students, and locals were present at the ceremony.

First, Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than took the salute of the Guard of Honour.

Then the commander together with those present saluted the State Flag.

The Guard of Honour paid tribute to the fallen Tatmadawmen and took the four oaths.

The commander then read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day 2011.

Next, the commander attended the prize-giving ceremony for funfairs and games held at the command and awarded the winners.—*MNA*

True patriotism

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

Rich deposits of oil and gas discovered in Pahtolon Oilfield

Byline: *Yan Gyi Aung;* Photos: *Ministry of Energy*

An aerial view of National 55/6 drilling machine in Pahtolon test oil-well No (2).

The Ministry of Energy is in constant exploration of oil and gas to help fulfill the domestic demand. From 1963 to 1985, it found out onshore oil deposits in Man, Pyay, Myanaung, Shwepyitha, Letpanto, Petpei, Mintegyi, Htauksharbin, Htantapin, Tetma and Kani, and gas deposits in Mottama Offshore Oilfield.

According to Foreign Investment Law enacted in 1988, the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy invited foreign oil companies and started to explore potential regions for oil and gas with joint-venture system with the aim of boosting production of oil and gas. In the process, it systematically designated 49 onshore blocks along with 26 blocks in Rakhine, Mottama and Taninthayi offshore oilfields. The exploration of potential regions led to the discovery of onshore oil and gas deposits in Kyaukkhwet, Aphyauk, Nyaungdon, Thagyidaung, Zabei, Inndaw, Htangaing and Maubin; Yadana, Sein, Padamya and Zawtika gas deposits in Mottama Offshore Oilfield; gas deposits in Yedagun gas field in offshore Taninthayi region; and Shwe Thabarwa gas field in offshore Rakhine region. Production of oil and gas has been launched those fields.

According to the geological conditions, Myanmar has 14 sedimentary geological valleys in inland regions that have potential for oil and gas deposits. Of them,

(See page 8)

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 6 January, 2011

Be dutiful for today's literary world

Literature is a source of national culture. In the successive eras, literati could uplift the prestigious national culture, lineage and religion based on social and religious directives in Myanmar literature.

Today's literati and those of literary world are to disseminate literary knowledge to the people for practising correct ideology on ethics. They have to discharge literary duty with good spirit of preserving national characters and unity.

In the 21st Century, big countries with upper hand in terms of economic might and modern technology are interfering in internal affairs of developing countries though various ways of media. They are performing influential activities in order to dull national ideology, own culture and traditions and national characters of respective countries.

Literati are to discharge bounden duty through literary strength to motivate the further strengthening and enhancement of national culture of the nation. They are to protect against influence and penetration of alien culture through the national culture and literary strength.

Nowadays, the State is giving encouragement for flourishing of literary world. By selecting best literary works, literati are awarded in the ceremony annually. The prize presentation ceremony for winners in the Life-time Achievement for National Literary Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2009 took place in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 December.

The literary works serving the national interest disseminate correct ideology and literary knowledge to the people and broaden their horizons for preservation of national characters through the nationalistic spirit and patriotic spirit. All the literati are to make strenuous efforts to reach their good works which can propagate belief for national interest among the people by taking out their literary duties best.

K Future introduces Automobile & Autoparts Expo to media

YANGON, 5 Jan — K Future Co Ltd held a press conference on Automobile & Autoparts Expo 2011 — to be held at Tatmadaw Convention Hall from 21 to 24 January — at Chatrium Hotel here on 2 January.

Managing Director Dr Kaung Kyaw Swe of K Future Co Ltd extended greetings. General Manager U Tint Lwin of main sponsor Rammar Automobile Manufacturing & Trading Co Ltd and Managing Director U Soe Soe (a) U Soe Soe Than of co-sponsor Ever Smile Co Ltd (Armanthit Automobile Manufacturing) answered the journalists.

The expo will showcase a wide range of vehicles, spare parts, car accessories and automobile technologies, targeting public attention. The expo, with celebrities' participation, will be kept open from 9 am to 6 pm. Detail seekers may dial 400021.

MNA

People's Desire

*** Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views**
*** Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation**
*** Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State**
*** Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy**

Commander inaugurates BEHS in Mongsan, Kunhing Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Hsan Oo attended a ceremony to inaugurate Mongsan Basic Education High School in Mongsan Village in Kunhing Township on 18 December.

The school is upgraded from the basic education primary school.

During the ceremony, the commander and officials concerned presented teaching aids to the school.

On 18 December morning, the commander visited a local battalion in Kunhing and presented cash assistance to officers, other ranks and their families.

During the visit, the commander assisted in the agriculture and livestock farm of the battalion.

He inspected condition of road and bridges along Kunhing-Kali-Mongsan road on his way to Mongsan.

On 20 December, the commander held a meeting with departmental officials at the office of Monghsu Township Peace and Development Council and assisted in the tasks for the regional development.

Afterwards, the commander went to a local battalion in Mongnaung Township and fulfilled the requirements for the farming of the battalion.

MNA

Energy Minister looks into No 5 Fertilizer Plant in Pathein

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan— Minister for Energy U Lun Thi this morning inspected progress of running tasks at the construction project of No 5 Fertilizer Plant in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region.

The minister called the officials for completion of the plant in time through right process and ensuring availability of electricity by cooperating with the Ministry of Electric Power- 2.—*MNA*

Vice-Chairperson of MWEA attends Sustainable Livelihood For Women Through Craft Seminar

YANGON, 5 Jan— A delegation led by Vice-Chairperson Daw Nu Nu Yi from Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association on 3 January evening left here for India to attend Sustainable Livelihood For Women Through Craft Seminar to be held in Delhi of the Republic of India from 4 to 17 January.

***Daw Nu Nu Yi, Vice-Chairperson of MWEA is seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for India.*—MNA**

They were seen off by Adviser to MWEA Professor Daw Yi Yi Myint (Rtd), Vice Chairperson Daw Thet Yi and officials concerned at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

Independence Day commemorative equestrian contest finishes

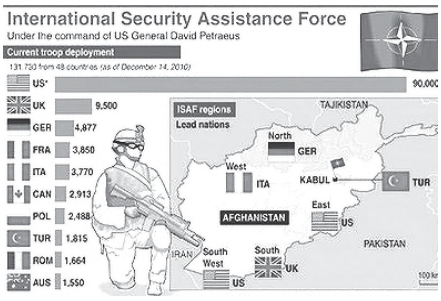
YANGON, 5 Jan— To mark the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day, the final matches of equestrian contest organized by Myanmar Equestrian Federation took place at Yangon Equestrian Club in Dagon Myothit (North) Township here on 4 January.

At the prize-presenting ceremony, President of MEF U Pyone Maung Maung and officials presented awards to the winners.

MNA

All this needs to be known

*** Do not be frightened whenever intimidated**
*** Do not be bolstered whenever flattered**
*** Do not be softened whenever appeased**



***The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops in Afghanistan. There are now 140,000 US-led NATO troops on the ground — two-thirds of them American — and 2010 has proved to be the deadliest year on record with the deaths of at least 707 foreign soldiers, or an average of two a day.—*INTERNET**

Iraqi woman killed, female lawyer seriously wounded in Baghdad violence

BAGHDAD, 5 Jan—An old woman was killed and a female lawyer seriously wounded in bomb and gunfire attacks in Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

An old woman was killed and her son wounded when a bomb exploded at the door of their home in Abu Ghraib area, just west of Baghdad, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, Dhuha Ali, a female lawyer, was critically wounded when gunmen opened fire from silenced weapons at her car in Baghdad's central district of al-Alawi, the source said.

Violence and sporadic high-profile bomb attacks continue in the Iraqi cities despite the decrease of violence over the last three years.—*Xinhua*

Child scavenges for family's survival in Afghanistan

KABUL, 5 Jan—Five-year-old Marjan sniffles from the cold as she struggles under her load. Hoisted on her back is a bag almost as big as she is.

Instead of going to school, Marjan scavenges for hours with her 10-year-old aunt collecting trash. It is a heavy burden for such a small child but a necessary one. The trash she collects is what her family uses as fuel for cooking and, more importantly, to fend off Kabul's bitter winter.

It is a matter of life and death for someone so young.

UNICEF, the UN children's agency, says that Afghanistan is the worst place in the world to be a child. One in five children do not live past the age of five. Afghanistan is second only to Sierra Leone when it comes to child mortality.

Most of those deaths are caused by curable childhood diseases and malnutrition, compounded by the security situation, which means that parents are unable to access proper health care.—*Internet*

US and allies kill, injure Iraqi people

BAGHDAD, 5 Jan— There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

Casualties of Iraqi people

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 5 January reached 704604 and the total number of seriously injured people reached 1275382, according to the news on the Internet.

No.	Subject	Number
1.	Death toll of Iraqi people	704604
2.	The total number of seriously injured people	1275382

Internet

Casualties of Afghan people in invasion of NATO troops led by US

KABUL, 5 Jan—The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and they are there for a long time.

A number of Afghan people are killed and injured due to invasion of the NATO troops led by the US.

Casualties of Afghan people

According to the Internet news, a total of 33551 Afghan people were killed and 40749 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 5 January.

No.	Subject	Number
1.	Number of Afghan people killed	33551
2.	Seriously injured Afghan people	40749

Internet

***Iraqi security forces inspect the scene of two suicide bombers attacks in west of Baghdad, Iraq recently.—*INTERNET**

Iraqi killed, four Iranian pilgrims wounded in Iraq's violence

BAGHDAD, 5 Jan—An Iraqi government employee was shot dead and four Iranian pilgrims were wounded in a gunfire and a bomb attack in Baghdad on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

An employee in the Iraqi Housing Ministry was killed when gunmen using silenced weapons opened fire on him while driving his car in al-Waziriyah District in northern central Baghdad, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, a roadside bomb went off near a bus carrying Iranian pilgrims travelling in Taji area north of Baghdad, wounding four pilgrims, the source said.

Militants frequently attacked Iranian pilgrims who flock in large numbers to Iraq to visit holy Shiite shrines since the US- led invasion in 2003 that toppled former dictator Saddam Hussein.

Violence and sporadic high-profile bomb attacks continue in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease of violence over the last three years.

Xinhua

***Afghan policemen look for clues in front of a wall, riddled with splinters, near the site of an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan on 4 Jan, 2011.—*INTERNET**

Afghan police detects suicide vest, detain four suspected insurgents

PUL-E-KHUMRI, 5 Jan— Police found a suicide vest in northern Baghlan Province on Tuesday and thus foiled a possible terrorist attack there, provincial police chief said.

"Acting upon a tip off, police stopped a car outside provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri 160 km north of capital city Kabul and found a suicide vest hidden inside a bag of rice," Abdul Rahman Rahimi told newsmen at a Press conference here.

Police by discovering and defusing the suicide vest have thwarted a terrorist attack, he further said. Four persons have been apprehended in this regard, he added. This is the second terrorist attempts of Taleban militants foiled by police in the past couple of weeks there, the police chief Rahimi said, adding police identified and apprehended an explosive-laden car in Baghlan Province about two weeks ago.—*Xinhua*

***Iraqi security forces survey the damage at the scene of a suicide attack in the restive city of Ramadi, west of Baghdad. Fourteen people including six policemen were killed in two attacks.—*INTERNET**

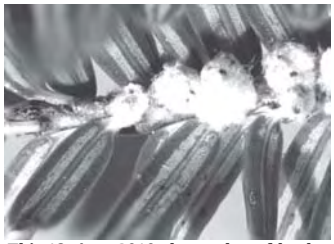
Science

Science, bugs team up to fight hemlock-eating pest

CONCORD, 5 Jan— For nearly 60 years, scientists have watched helplessly as a war of bug vs hemlock played out from Georgia to Maine. Now they've got a new weapon in their arsenal — another bug — and say the tide is turning, at least in New England.

The hemlock woolly adelgid, native to Asia, was discovered in Virginia in 1951. Since then, it has spread to suck up the sap of the stately evergreens in at least 16 Eastern states, including in New England, which hasn't lost large numbers of trees yet.

A beetle that eats the adelgid (pronounced uh-DEL-jid) was found in Idaho and was introduced to forests in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and New York in 2007. Since then, entomologists have determined that the predator, which is able to withstand cold weather better than its cousins, is doing its job.—*Internet*



This 18 Aug, 2010 photo released by the US Forest Service shows a close-up of hemlock woolly adelgid, cottony egg masses on a hemlock twig in the US Forest Service's Durham, NH, field office. For nearly 60 years, scientists have watched helplessly as a war of bug vs. hemlock played out from Georgia to Maine. Now they've got a new weapon in their arsenal — another bug — and say the tide is turning, at least in New England. **INTERNET**

Genes predict hair colour, say scientists

***A man has his hair cut in Washington 2006. Samples of DNA can give a high-probability estimate of someone's hair colour, a finding that will be a boon for forensic scientists, according to a new study published on Tuesday.*—INTERNET**

PARIS, 5 Jan— Samples of DNA can give a high-probability estimate of someone's hair colour, a finding that will be a boon for forensic scientists, according to a new study published on Tuesday.

DNA taken from blood, sperm, saliva or skin cells can determine with more than 90-percent accuracy whether a person has red hair or black hair, and with an accuracy of more than 80 percent as to whether their hair is blond or brown, say its authors.

The technique, published in the *European journal Human Genetics*, can even differentiate between hair colours that are similar, such as red and reddish blond and blond and dark blond.

"That we are now making it possible to predict different hair colours from DNA represents a major breakthrough because, so far, only red hair colour, which is rare, could be estimated from DNA," said Manfred Kayser, a forensic molecular biology professor at Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

The research is based on 13 telltale signatures of DNA in 11 genes, which matched hair colours in hundreds of Europeans. It was based on hair on the head, and further research is needed to predict the colour of body hair.—*Reuters*

NASA wants shuttle fuel tank reinforced

CAPE CANAVERAL, 5 Jan— NASA on Tuesday began modifications to shuttle Discovery's fuel tank, hoping to thwart a potential debris hazard during a planned February launch to the International Space Station.

Managers decided to buttress at least 34 of the tank's 108 metal support structures after cracks were discovered in five beams following a launch attempt on 5 November.

The launch initially was scuttled by an unrelated hydrogen fuel leak, but inspectors also found a 21-inch long crack in the fuel tank's insulating foam, which likewise would have nixed liftoff, said shuttle programme manager John Shannon.

The concern is that bits of cracked foam could break off and hit the shuttle during liftoff, such as what happened during the 2003 launch of shuttle Columbia. The damage caused the shuttle to break apart as it flew through the atmosphere for landing 16 days later, killing seven astronauts aboard.—*Internet*

Technology

***A transgenic cloned buffalo is seen at Guangxi University in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 19 Dec, 2010. Two buffalo were cloned from transgenic embryos here on 19 Dec, 2010 but only one of them survived.*—XINHUA**

Impregnating plastics with carbon dioxide

NEW YORK, 5 Jan—Everyone has heard that carbon dioxide is responsible for global warming. But the gas also has some positive characteristics. Researchers are now impregnating plastics with compressed CO_2 in a process that could lead to new applications ranging from coloured contact lenses to bacteria-resistant door handles.

CO_2 is more than just a waste product. In fact, it has a variety of uses: the chemical industry makes use of this colourless gas to produce urea, methanol and salicylic acid. Urea is a fertilizer, methanol is a fuel additive, and salicylic acid is an ingredient in aspirin.

Researchers at the Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety and Energy Technology UMSICHT in Oberhausen are pursuing a new idea by testing how carbon dioxide can be used to impregnate plastics. At a temperature of 30.1 degrees Celsius and a pressure of 73.8 bar, CO_2 goes into a supercritical state that gives the gas solvent-like properties. In this state, it can be introduced into polymers, or act as a "carrier" in which dyes, additives, medical compounds and other substances can be dissolved.

"We pump liquid carbon dioxide into a high-pressure container with the plastic components that are to be impregnated, then steadily increase the temperature and the pressure until the gas reaches the supercritical state. When that state is reached, we increase the pressure further. At 170 bar, pigment in powder form dissolves completely in the CO_2 and then diffuses with the gas into the plastic. The whole process only takes a few minutes. When the container is opened, the gas escapes through the surface of the polymer but the pigment stays behind and cannot subsequently be wiped off," explains Dipl.-Ing. Manfred Renner, a scientist at Fraunhofer UMSICHT.

In tests, the researchers have even managed to impregnate polycarbonate with nanoparticles that give it antibacterial properties.—*Internet*

Remotes coming to Netflix-streaming devices

LOS GATOS, 5 Jan—Netflix fans will soon be able to use a remote controller to flick through their flicks available for streaming over the Internet on devices such as TV sets, Blu-ray players and others.

Netflix Inc said Tuesday that consumer electronics companies will begin selling remotes with "Netflix" buttons in the spring. The buttons will bring up the Netflix screen on users' TV sets, providing easier access to TV shows and movies. Though the button will likely only save couch potatoes a few seconds of time, its appearance is another sign that Netflix has become a household name.

Netflix says the list of companies that will make the remotes for some new Blu-ray players include Best Buy's in-house Dynex brand, Memorex, Panasonic, Samsung, Sony and Toshiba. Some Blu-ray devices can connect to the Internet, which lets users stream movies.

Sharp, Sony and Toshiba will also place the Netflix button on some new Internet-connected TVs. Netflix, based in Los Gatos, Calif, has been spending heavily to obtain the streaming rights to movies and TV shows to help lure more customers and shift existing subscribers away from DVDs, which cost more to distribute.

Shares of Netflix rose 18 cents to $181.55 in after-hours trading, having closed up $2.96 at $181.37.

Internet

A visor-mounted BHF-2000 DriveNTalk device by Enustech is displayed during a media preview event for the 2011 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada on 4 Jan, 2011. **INTERNET**

Health

Blood test for cancer gets US boost

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan— Pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson said it is partnering with US doctors to improve a blood test that could replace biopsies and transform the field of cancer treatment.

The Circulating Tumor Cell (CTC) technology, which inventors describe as a "liquid biopsy," has been touted as a revolutionary approach to diagnosing cancer since it was first developed several years ago by doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital.

It works by detecting cancer cells that have detached from a tumor and are circulating at very low levels in the blood.

But until now, the technology has been unable to do much more than count cells, giving doctors an idea of what is happening with a patient's cancer but not delivering the precision that the latest version can.

"The new technology allows us to not just count them but to understand the molecular changes that lead to the disease progression that is occurring in the cells," said Nicholas Dracopoli, vice president of Ortho Biotech Oncology Research and Development (ORD), a unit of Johnson & Johnson.

With just a single blood draw, the new technology can find and trap a single cancer cell from among a billion blood cells without the patient having to undergo invasive and often painful surgical biopsy procedures.

"That will then allow us to do sophisticated molecular analysis of those isolated cells so that we can then look and see if there are therapies that are optimally suited to a patient with those particular abnormalities," Dracopoli said.—*Internet*

Health Tip: Try a self-management programme for Osteoarthritis

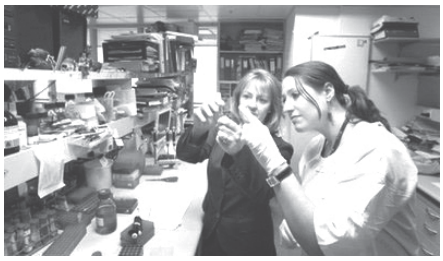
A self-management programme can help people with osteoarthritis learn more about the joint disease and how to better cope with it.

The US National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases says self-management programmes may offer these benefits:

* Gain a better understanding of osteoarthritis.
* Stay physically active while still controlling pain.
* Learn ways to deal with osteoarthritis emotionally and physically.
* Learn to feel more self-confident, which can lead to a more independent lifestyle.—*Internet*

Average child may get seven radiation scans by age 18

CHICAGO, 5 Jan— The first large study to examine the use of X-rays, CT scans and other medical radiation in children estimates the average child will get more than seven radiation scans by age 18, a potentially worrisome trend.



***File picture of researchers inspecting a specimen at Australia's Peter MacCullum Cancer Centre, where scientists investigate families with multiple cases of breast cancer.—*INTERNET**

Most of the scans involve X-rays, which use relatively little radiation. But there is growing concern about CT scans, which entail far more radiation and can raise the risk for cancer, particularly in children.

The study found that X-rays of the chest, hand and foot are the most common. Forty-two percent of children had at least one radiation procedure and 25 percent had two or more during the three-year study period. Dental X-rays were not included in the study.

More troubling is that 8 percent of the children got at least one CT scan. And more than 3 percent of children got two or more CT scans.

"That's particularly concerning," said lead author Dr Adam Dorfman of University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor. "Today's children are undoubtedly getting many more of these studies than previous generations."

The rapid growth of CT scans, which provide extremely detailed pictures of the body, and other medical imaging in recent decades has led to big increases in the average American's total radiation exposure.

The new study, published online on Monday in *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine,* is a best-ever snapshot of radiation use in US children. —*Internet*

Business

Facebook deal values it at $50 bil

NEW YORK, 5 Jan—The No 1 visited website in 2010 has raised $500 mil from Goldman Sachs and a Russian investment firm, the *New York Times* said, citing unnamed sources. Goldman invested $450 mil and Digital Sky Technologies $50 mil, the *Times* said.

The SEC is said to be looking into the booming trade in private shares of popular social networking sites. Once a company hits 500 shareholders, it must disclose financial information to the public, even if it hasn't done an IPO.—*Internet*

File photo shows a woman buying dollars at a currency exchange house in Santiago, Chile. Chile's central bank announced plans to buy 12 billion US dollars to soften the effects of exchange rate fluctuations, in its first market intervention since April 2008.
INTERNET

Consumer bankruptcies hit 5-year high in 2010

NEW YORK, 5 Jan— The number of US consumers who filed for bankruptcy protection in 2010 was the highest in five years, and the figure could rise as Americans struggle with excess debt in an uncertain economy, a report issued Monday said.

Roughly 1.53 million consumer bankruptcy petitions were filed in 2010, up 9 percent from 1.41 million in 2009, according to the American Bankruptcy Institute, citing data from the National Bankruptcy Research Centre.

Filings in December totaled 118,146, up 4 percent from a year earlier and 3 percent from November's total.

The full-year total is the highest since the 2.04 million recorded in 2005, when there was a rush to seek bankruptcy protection ahead of a stricter federal law taking effect in October of that year.

Reuters

Two Borders' execs resign; B&N's Nook boosts holidays

NEW YORK, 5 Jan— Barnes & Noble Inc (BKS.N) reported strong preliminary holiday results at its superstores, led by the popularity of its Nook e-readers, and shares of the top US bookseller gained 9 percent on Monday.

Rival Borders Group Inc (BGP.N), which has been seeking financing to fight credit woes, said on Monday that two top executives resigned. Its shares fell 8 percent after-hours. Borders has been hurt by an industry-wide decline in sales of physical books and has not developed an e-reader to compete with Amazon's popular Kindle device. Barnes & Noble said that same-store sales, or sales at superstores open at least 15 months, rose 9.7 percent for the nine-week period ended on 1 January.—*Reuters*

***The Barnes & Noble nook, a Wireless eBook Reader, is seen during a news conference in New York on 20 October, 2009.—*INTERNET**

China's 2010 GDP growth likely 10 percent

BEIJING, 5 Jan — China expects to register a double digit annual economic growth rate in 2010, the country's central bank governor said.

Zhou Xiaochuan, in a speech carried on the Web site of the People's Bank of China, said the country's economy had returned to normal and that the 2010 economic growth was estimated to reach about 10 percent, the state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported. The governor called for prudence in setting macroeconomic policies and the need to conduct counter-cyclical adjustments against "over-expansion."

Zhou said the government would promote a market-oriented reform of the interest rate regime in a gradual and unwavering way. China remains under pressure to control inflation and liquidity. Inflation hit a 28-month high of 5.1 percent in November, against the government's target to keep it far below that level. *Xinhua* reported this week China was "very likely" to announce interest rate hikes in the New Year to cool the property market. Any such step would follow similar increases in October and December.—*Internet*

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Mr Akihito, His Majesty King of Japan

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in sending Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and sincere good wishes for Your happiness and for the prosperity of the people of Your country.

From Takashi SAITO, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan

Excellency,

On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence of the Union of Myanmar, I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency sincere felicitations and best wishers for the progress, the success in the efforts of new nation-building and prosperity of your country.

On this happy occasion, I would like to express my sincere wish that the friendly relations, which exist between our two countries, will be maintained and further strengthened for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

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

From Mr D.Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation

Esteemed Mr Chairman,

I congratulate You on the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar—the Independence Day.

I consider the general elections held in Your country in November, 2010 as an important step on the way of building the modern civil society and democratic state.

I am satisfied with the development of the Russia-Myanmar relations of friendship and cooperation. I expect that the bilateral ties will be further strengthened and deepened for the sake of the peoples of Russia and Myanmar, in the interests of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

I wish You health and success, and to the friendly people of Myanmar—well-being and prosperity.

From Mr. S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore

Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the Republic of Singapore, I convey my warmest wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Union of Myanmar on the 63rd anniversary of the Independence of Myanmar.

We hope that Myanmar's transition towards parliamentary government following the November 2010 General Elections will lay a strong foundation for Myanmar's growth, stability and development, and help Myanmar achieve national reconciliation. Singapore looks forward to continue working closely with Myanmar, to further strengthen our bilateral ties and achieve our common goal of building an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.

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

From Nguyen Minh Triet, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the State and people of Viet Nam and in my own name, I have the great honour to extend to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations.

May the country and people of Myanmar continue to record greater achievements in their cause of building a Myanmar of peace, stability and prosperity.

May the traditional relations of friendship and the fine cooperation between Viet Nam and Myanmar be further strengthened and broadened for the interests of our two peoples, for the sake of peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world over.

On this occasion, I wish Your Excellency the best of health, happiness and many successes in your noble position.

From Dr H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia

Your Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to convey to you and to the government and people of Myanmar my warmest felicitations and best wishes on the auspicious occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

The historical ties and longstanding friendship between our two countries have served as the foundation of our close cooperation both on a bilateral basis and in the context of ASEAN Community building.

May I take this opportunity to reiterate Indonesia's appreciation of recent positive developments in Myanmar as well as our firm support for your efforts to implement your Government's Road Map to Democracy.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest esteem.

From Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India

Excellency,

I extend to you my warm greetings and felicitations on the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Our strong bonds of friendship and cooperation are rooted in centuries of shared history and culture. Your visit to India in July this year helped bring our countries even closer. I am confident that our friendly relations will be further strengthened in the coming years, for the peace and prosperity of our peoples.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your personal well-being and for the continued prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

From Mr Lee Myung-Bak, President of the Republic of Korea

Excellency,

On behalf of the Korean People, I have the great pleasure to convey to Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my satisfaction with the steady development of bilateral relations between our two countries. I am fully convinced that the co-operation based on common interests, mutual respect and friendship of the peoples of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Korea will be further strengthened in the coming years.

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

From Mr Kim Yong Nam, President of Presidium of Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

I warmly congratulate you and your people on the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence of Myanmar.

Convinced that friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries will further strengthen and develop by our common efforts. I take this opportunity to sincerely wish you and your people greater successes in the work for independent development and prosperity of the country.

From Ms. Quentin, Bryce, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the 63rd anniversary of the Union of Myanmar's Independence Day on 4 January 2011, I wish to convey to the people of Myanmar my congratulations and those of the Government and the people of Australia.

From Prof Dr Ivo Josipovic, President of the Republic of Croatia

Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I am pleased to extend to you my most cordial congratulations and those of the citizens of the Republic of Croatia as well as best wishes for the prosperity of your country and its citizens.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Christian Wulff, President of the Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Chairman,

On the occasion of Independence Day in the Union of Myanmar I offer you and the people of Myanmar my good wishes, together with those of my fellow Germans.

Allow me to express my hope that your country will find its way towards national reconciliation and a democratic order. I wish all those in Myanmar who are committed to these goals, good fortune and every success.

From Mr Mohamed Hosny Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

It is with immense pleasure that I extend to Your Excellency heartfelt congratulations on the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I wish you all the best of health and happiness and your friendly people evermore progress and prosperity.

Highest consideration and appreciation.

From Mr Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

I would like sincerely to congratulate Your Excellency, the Government and the Nation of Myanmar on the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am hopeful that existing friendly relations will further be expanded and promoted beneficial to our nations.

I wish good health, success and prosperity for Your Excellency, government and the people of the Union of Myanmar.

Foreign Heads of Government send felicitations to Prime Minister U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of Govenment sent to U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China

Excellency,

Upon the auspicious occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the Government of Union of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

I am very glad to see that great achievements were made in the China-Myanmar good-neighbourly and friendly cooperative relations in the past Year. In 2010, the two countries jointly hosted a series of activities to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar, the political mutual trusts were consolidated, the pragmatic cooperation were deepened, the peoples contacts were close, and the China-Myanmar friendship was more deeply rooted among the two peoples. China is willing to work with Myanmar to further deepen all areas cooperation, promote the China-Myanmar good-neighbourly and friendly cooperative relations developing continuously.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the prosperity to Myanmar and well-being to the Myanmar peoples as well as for Your Excellency's good health and personal well-being.

From Mr. V.Putin, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation

Esteemed Mr. Prime Minister,

Please accept my sincere greetings on the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar—the Independence Day.

I am confident that the traditionally friendly bilateral relations, mutually beneficial cooperation in the trade and economic sphere, science and technology, cultural and the other fields will be further successfully developed for the sake of the peoples of our countries, in the interests of stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

I wish You, Mr Prime Minister, strong health, happiness and success, and to the people of Myanmar—well-being and prosperity.

From Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan

Excellency,

On the 63rd anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, my warm congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity of your country.

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

From Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India

Excellency,

On behalf of the people of India and on my own behalf I have the pleasure to extend my best wishes to Your Excellency on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

India-Myanmar relations have become multi-faceted, encompassing a wide range of areas of cooperation. It will be our mutual endeavour to ensure that this close cooperation is strengthened further and diversified in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency best wishes for your personal well-being and for the continued prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

With the assurance of my highest consideration.

From Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

Excellency,

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the Thai people, I have the honour to extend my sincere congratulations and warmest wishes for the progress and prosperity of the Union of Myanmar and her people on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day.

It is well noted that our two countries have enjoyed a long lasting friendship, deeply rooted in our shared cultural heritage and geographical proximity. Consequently, our cooperation has continuously expanded, covering all dimensions of mutual interests. I recall our fruitful discuss on during my recent visit to Nay Pyi Taw last October which illustrated our unwavering determination to promote wider spectrum of our political, socio-economic development cooperation and to enhance regional and sub-regional cooperation frameworks, in particularly on issue of regional connectivity for the prosperity of two countries and the region as a whole. I wish, therefore, to reiterate my earnest desire to continue to work closely with Your Excellency to further enhance our existing friendly relations for the greater benefit of our two countries, people and beyond. Looking ahead, I believe that, with our concerted efforts, we will ultimately achieve the realization of ASEAN Community by 2015 in all aspects as well as peace and stability for our region.

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

From Mr. Nguyen Tan Dzung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Government and people of Viet Nam and in my own name, I have the honour to convey to Your Excellency, the Government and people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations.

The Government and people of Viet Nam warmly congratulate great achievements which have been gained by the Government and people of Myanmar in the cause of building and developing the Union of Myanmar over the past 63 years. I believe that the people of Myanmar will gain greater achievements in the coming years, successfully build a Myanmar of peace, stability and prosperous development.

I am pleased to see that the traditional relations of friendship and multi-faceted cooperation between Viet Nam and Myanmar have been continuously developed finely, particularly the economic, trade and investment cooperation have had positive progress. I am confident that with the joint efforts of our two Governments and peoples, the fine cooperation between the two countries will be unceasingly strengthened and developed in the coming time for the interests of the two peoples and for peace, stability, cooperation and prosperous development in Southeast Asia and the world over.

I wish Your Excellency the best of health, happiness and many successes in your noble duty.

From Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia

Your Excellency,

I am delighted to convey my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to you and to the government and people of Myanmar on the happy occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

It heartens me that our friendship and cooperation, both on a bilateral basis and in the context of ASEAN community building, have remained strong and mutually beneficial.

I wish also to take this opportunity to assure of Indonesia's appreciation of recent positive developments in Myanmar and our firm support for the implementation of your Government's Road Map to Democracy.

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

From Mr. Choe Yong Rim, Premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

I warmly congratulate you and your government on the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence of Myanmar. I take this opportunity to wish you great success in your work for stability and prosperity of the country.

I also express my conviction that excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries will further expand and develop across several fields in future, too.

From Mr. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in extending to Your Excellency our sincere greetings and warm felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy cordial and cooperative relation. I am confident that the friendly ties existing between our two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

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

From Mr. Mirko Cvetkovic, Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I extend you, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and myself, my sincere felicitations and best wishes for the further progress and prosperity of your country and people.

I am convinced that in the coming period the friendly relations existing between the Republic of Serbia and the Union of Myanmar will be further developed and promoted for the benefit of our peoples.

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

From Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia, Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

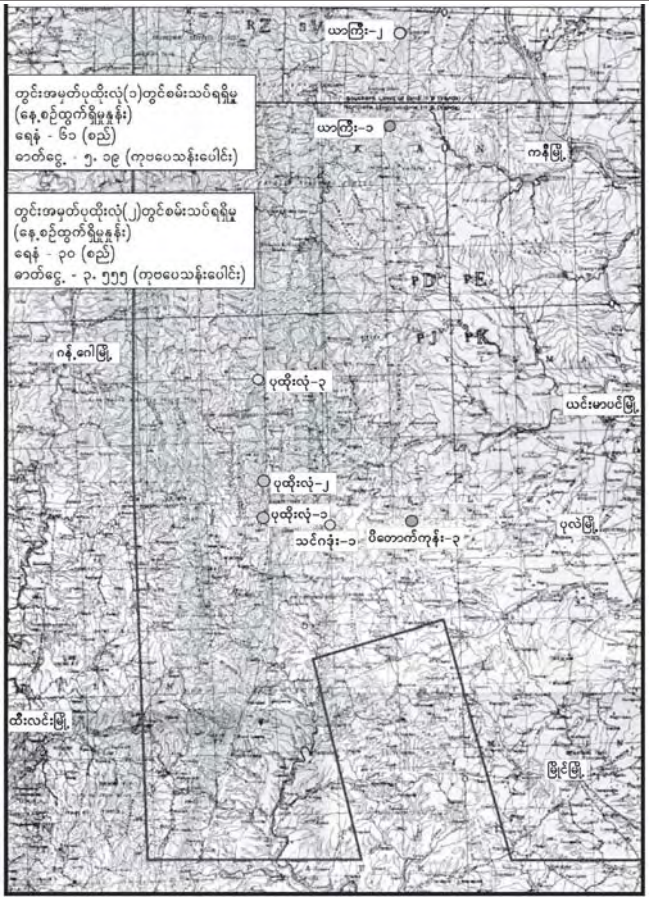
The celebration of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar gives me the agreeable occasion to present my warm and sincere felicitations and my best wishes for your health and happiness to you and the progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

I take this joyous opportunity to express my entire commitment to work together with you for the consolidation and reinforcement of the ties of friendship and cooperation which exist between our two countries.

Accept, Mr. Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration

From Mr. George A Papandreou, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

On the occasion of the National Day of your country, I would like to convey to you my warmest congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity, progress and well-being of the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar.



The map showing Pahtolon test oil-well Nos (1) and (2).

Rich deposits of oil and gas discovered…

(from page 1)

those in central Myanmar, Pyay and Delta are also under exploration now.

Recent test running of the oil-wells in Pahtolon, one of the oil blocks in central Myanmar, shows that the oilfield has rich oil and gas deposits.

Pahtolon test oil-wells in Onshore Oil Exploration Block D covering Gangaw Township in Magway Region, and Pale Township and Kani Township in Monywa District, Sagaing Region. Standing at an altitude of 4000 feet with an area of 3,048,320 acres, the block is situated on Pontaung Ponnya mountain range. The Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and SIPC Myanmar Petroleum Co Ltd from the People's Republic of China signed Production Sharing Contract-PSC on 3 September 2004, and since then they have been exploring regions for oil and gas deposits.

SIPC Myanmar Petroleum Co Ltd launched 2D Seismic work in 2007. Up to 2009, it has measured 2918 2D Seismic line kilometers. According to the 2D Seismic lines, four test oil-wells were sunk in Pahtolon and Yagyi oilfields; and two test oil-wells in Thingadone and Padauk oilfields.

Pahtolon test oil-well No (1) is about 10 miles northeast of Kyaw Village, Gangaw Township, Magway Region. It was sunk on 2 September 2007. On 2 June 2008, it had been sunk as deep as 12,461. Tests were carried out in the sand layer as deep as between 7813 feet and 7895 feet, and the sand layer between 7878 feet and 7906 feet. Then, 61 barrels of condensate and 5.19 million cubic feet of gas were produced per day.

The company sank Pahtolon test oil-well No (2), 14 miles northeast of Kyaw Village as deep as 12,307 feet on 1 August 2009. Tests carried out in the sand layer as deep as between 7743 feet and 7766 feet on 27 July 2010, and it produced 30 barrels of condensate and 3.555 million cubic feet of gas per day.

In the estimation of the company, the deposit stored as many as 909 billion cubic feet of gas, and 7.16 million barrels of condensate in Pahtolon oilfield. More oil-wells will soon be sunk in the areas of test oil-well Nos (1) and (2). Pahtolon Region is expected to produce gas and condensate for many years.

SIPC discovered 42 traps of oil and gas in Gangaw, Pahtolon, Mahutaung, Kani and Thingadone oilfields in Block D, and in the boundary of Letpanto and Kyaukkhwet blocks being undertaken by MOGE. It sank potential oil-wells in three hopeful traps in Pahtolon, Mahutaung and Thingadone. For the time being, it is sinking test oil-wells with two drilling machines that can penetrate the ground as deep as more than 20,000 feet.

Now, it is sinking test oil-well No (3) in Padaukkone, about 16 miles west of Pale, Pale Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region, and test oil-well No (1) in Thingadone, 10 miles east of Kyaw Village. The test oil-wells were found potential for oil and gas. Now, the company keeps sinking the oil-wells as deep as the targeted site. When those test oil-wells have been sunk, test oil-well Nos (3) and (1-1) in Pahtolon. When the sinking of the test oil-wells is completed and volumes of potential oil and gas can be estimated more exactly, the Development Plan will be put into action to produce gas on a commercial scale in Pahtolon Region.

While the Development Plan is ongoing, more test oil-wells will be sunk according to the geological results in the potential areas in Block D, and 3D Seismic work will be carried out thoroughly in Pahtolon oilfield.

Based on the geological and geophysical results, the number of test oil-wells to be sunk and volumes of oil and gas will be estimated down to the smallest detail.

In-dept survey reveals that oil and gas can be produced on a commercial scale only in the oil-wells of Pahtolon Region. Geological positions have been discovered that oil and gas can be produced on a large scale in Block D. If the test oil-wells in Block D are found successful, the block can be a large deposit of oil and gas.

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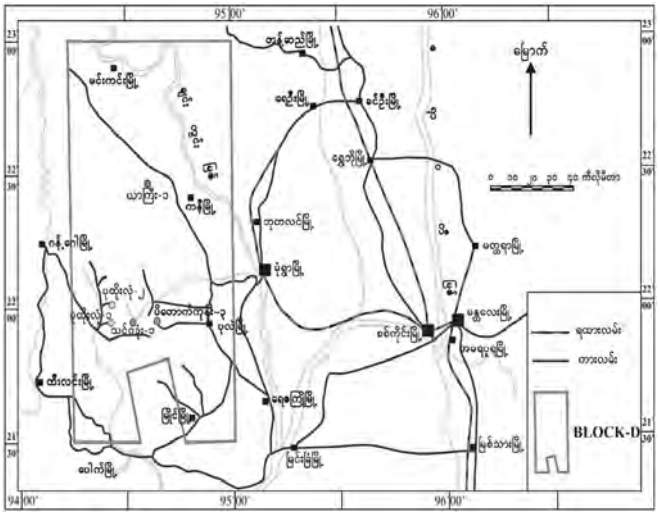
Translation: MS



The map shows the location of Block D.

PUBLICATIONS DONATED: ***A ceremony to donate books and media items to village libraries in Twantay Township in progress at township IPRD Office on 23 December.***

TOWNSHIP IPRD

Talks on Myanmar 2020 and Beyond on 8 Jan

YANGON, 5 Jan — Jointly organized by Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association under the sponsorship of Yuzana Group, U Tin Maung Than, Vice-President of MFF, Writer U Kyaw Win, U Hla Maung Shwe, Senior Vice-President of MFF and Dr Nay Win Maung of Living Colour Magazine and Myanmar Egress will give talks on Myanmar 2020 and Beyond at Thiri Annawah Hall of MFF Building on Bayintnaung Road in West Gyotkon ward of Insein Township, Yangon Region at 2 pm on 8 January.—*MNA*

Information Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan received Mr Li Junhua, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar at the ministry, here, this moring.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of Myanma Radio and Television, Director-General U Ye Htut of Information and Public Relations Department, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Acting Managing Director U Ye Tint of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and Head of Office U Myint Htwe. Both sides cordially discussed matters relating to news and information between the two countries.—*MNA*

Foreign Affairs Ministry opens archive and library

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan— The Ministry of Foreign Affairs held an opening ceremony of an archive and a library at the ministry here on 3 January morning.

On the occasion, the Deputy Minister and the director-general formally opened the ceremony after an opening speech given by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win.

MNA

Mayor attends opening of new concrete roads in Insein Tsp

YANGON, 5 Jan—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Aung Thein Lin attended the opening ceremonies of concrete roads in Insein Township, here, this morning.

The mayor and officials opened the concrete roads in Sawbwargyigon and Taungthugon wards in Insein Township.—*MNA*

A section of Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road is being tarred.

Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road to give impetus…

(from page 16)

Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road Project is being implemented under the aegis of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction and the supervision of Chief Engineer U Win Pe. In that regard, the project is divided into parts: the section between mile post Nos 12/0 and 14/0 which has been completed by over 80 percent; between 14/0 and 16/0; and between 16/0 and 17/4 and Kyweshin Bridge at mile post No 17/4.

Deputy Superintending Engineer (Civil) U Than Toe Aung of Road Group (5) said that the road section between mile post Nos 12/0 and 14/0 they were undertaking was divided into five parts; that in some parts, bad soil was replaced with selected soil; that they had to construct three medium bridges in the section; that the 18 feet wide two-lane Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road Section was being upgraded to a 48 feet wide four-lane one; that they were working day in, day out for high quality of the road; and that on completion, the road would also become the beginning part of Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Taungdwingyi road section and Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Kanbya-Magway Road.

Upon completion, Kyweshin Road will be five miles and furlongs long and 48 feet wide. And Kyweshin Bridge at the end of the road section will be 180 feet long with two five-foot-wide pedestrian walkways on it. The bridge lies at mile post No 17/4 near Kyweshin Village, Nay Pyi Taw District. It will be able to withstand 60 tons of loads. Its clearance area will be 60 feet wide and 12 feet high. The broad crest type facility is being undertaken by Bridge Group (3).

Now, both urban and border areas are enjoying development owing to the benevolent attitude the government shows to the nation by building roads and bridges everywhere necessary throughout the nation.

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Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 27-12-2010

Kyweshin Bridge Project (180 feet long) is nearing completion.

Israel arrests staff from British consulate

LONDON, 5 Jan—Israeli authorities have arrested two locally hired workers at the British consulate general in Jerusalem who were reportedly linked to a plot to attack a stadium, the Foreign Office in London said.

"I can confirm that two members of the local staff at the consulate general in Jerusalem have been arrested by Israeli authorities," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

"We understand from reports that they have been charged with the illegal sale of weapons and we are seeking confirmation of these charges. It is an ongoing legal process."

The *BBC* reported the two men, who were maintenance workers at the consulate, were arrested over their alleged links to a plan to fire a rocket at Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium.

The two men — one an Israeli citizen, the other a resident of East Jerusalem — had allegedly obtained weapons for two other men accused of planning the attack, said the broadcaster.—*Internet*

Photo taken on 3 Jan, 2011 shows trees coated with rime along the Songhua River in Jilin City, of northeast China's Jilin Province.—XINHUA

France orders 200 air-to-air missile to equip Rafale

Rafale fighters

PARIS, 5 Jan — France has ordered 200 air-to-air Meteor missiles to equip its Rafale fighters serving in the air force and navy, the defence ministry said on Monday in a statement.

Defence Minister Alain Juppe welcomed the order of the long-range missile designed for French jet Rafale under the cooperation between France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Spain and Britain, according to the ministry.

The French General Direction for Ordnance (DGA) has awarded the order to multinational missile producer MBDA.

"The first Meteor missile will be delivered to the French Air Force in 2018," the statement said.

The Meteor missile, to be designed with a ramjet, can " intercept targets at ranges of several tens of kilometres," the statement added.

With over 9,750 employees in Europe and the United States, the stake of MBDA group is shared by Britain's BAE System (37.5 percent), European EADS (37.5 percent) and Italy's Finmeccanica (25 percent).—*Xinhua*

Fiji receives machines from China for development projects

SUVA, 5 Jan—Fiji has received 24 pieces of new machinery worth 4.1 million Fiji dollars (2.2 million US dollars) , which is expected to assist the island nation's rural development programmes, according to Fiji's prime minister's office on Wednesday.

Eliki Bomani, deputy secretary of the Development Cooperation and Facilitation in the prime minister's office, told local media that the construction and civil engineering equipment shipment comprises the Chinese government's direct aid grant project.

He said formal delivery of the equipment, which arrived in a ship from China last week, will be done next week.

Xinhua

Vienna witnesses solar eclipse

VIENNA, 5 Jan—A partial solar eclipse was visible on Tuesday morning in Austria. Under perfect weather conditions, spectators in Vienna watched the moon shadow covering the sun by 78 percent.

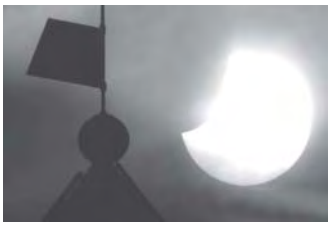


Photo taken on 4 Jan, 2011, shows a partial solar eclipse in Moscow, capital of Russia.—XINHUA

Although not being as spectacular as the total eclipse visible from Vienna in 1999, a large number of professional astronomers and hobby watchers observed the natural phenomenon with interest.

In Vienna the partial darkening of the sun started at 8:30 am, reaching the climax of a darkening by 78 percent at 9:15 am. In the western regions of Austria, the course of the eclipse differed slightly, with only 75 percent of the sun covered, reaching the climax at 9:25 am.

Due to the earth rotation, the moon crossed the sun from right to left, leaving a gleaming crescent-shaped sun with both tips pointing upwards during maximum occultation.

However, even at the climax of the partial eclipse, there was no significant darkening as it happened during total solar eclipses.—*Xinhua*

Korea's Samsung to invest record 43.1 trillion won in 2011

SEOUL, 5 Jan— Samsung Group, South Korea's largest business group that includes Samsung Electronics, said Wednesday that it will invest a record 43.1 trillion won (38 billion US dollars) this year, up 18 percent from last year.

The group has earmarked 29.9 trillion won for capital expenditures, including 10.3 trillion won for semiconductors, 5.4 trillion won for liquid-crystal displays and 5.4 trillion won for new displays called OLED. It will also invest additional 12.1 trillion won on research and development.

The group also said in a statement that it will increase hiring by 11 percent to 25,000 people this year.

Xinhua

An emergency personnel boat drives past a street sign partially covered by floodwaters 6 km south of Rockhampton on 3 Jan, 2011. Military aircraft flew supplies to an Australian town slowly disappearing beneath floodwaters on Monday, as record flooding in the country's northeast continues to cut coal exports and devastate wheat production.—XINHUA

Rain created in Abu Dhabi desert

ABU DHABI, 5 Jan—Scientists working for the ruler of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates say they've used weather technology to create rain in the desert.

Most of the artificially created storms were at the height of the summer in July and August when there is historically no rain at all, *Britain's Daily Mail* reported Monday.

Scientists working for United Arab Emirates President Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan have been using giant ionizers, metal antennas on steel poles, to generate fields of negatively charged particles.

The particles attract tiny specks of dust ever-present in the atmosphere in desert regions, and are carried up from the particle emitter by rising air over the hot desert.

Once the dust particles reach the right height for cloud formation, the charged particles attract water molecules present in the air, which then start to condense around them.

If there is sufficient moisture in the air, it induces billions of droplets to form that can create clouds and rain, the researchers say.

The founder of the Swiss company in charge of the project, Metro Systems International, says they've had success creating rainstorms in Abu Dhabi's eastern Al Ain region.

"We have achieved a number of rainfalls," Helmut Fluhrer says.

Some scientists are viewing the results with caution because Abu Dhabi is a coastal state and can experience natural summer rainfall when air picks up moisture from the warm ocean before dropping it on land.

Internet

Rescued Chile miners mulling future

***Chilean miner Mario Sepulveda (C) watches a short film with fellow miners about their escape during a visit to Manchester United's Old Trafford Stadium.—*INTERNET**

SANTIAGO, 5 Jan—Some of the 33 miners who spent a record 69-days trapped undergr-ound want to change jobs and are thinking of becoming fruit sellers or motivational speakers, while others say they have no choice but to go back to the pits.

Global media stars after their 13 October rescue, the miners are running out of disability pay and spoke with El Mercurio newspaper about their plans for the future. Dario Segovia said he is thinking of selling fruit at a market.

"I've got to move quickly on this, because they've canceled my sick leave and I've got to get back to work. I think I'll start with peaches and grapes," he said in an interview published Sunday.

Omar Reygadas and Mario Sepulveda have been busy giving moti-vational speeches and plan to take their new occupation outside Chile.—*Internet*

No treatment for some cancers

WELLINGTON, 5 Jan—New Zealand says a shortage of oncologists means patients with certain kinds of cancers will not be referred to specialists or be eligible for chemotherapy.

Hospitals in the central North Island have been instructed not to send people suffering a range of 14 cancers to oncologists, *the Wellington Dominion Post* reported Monday.

MidCentral District Health Board says it does not have enough oncologists, and doctors at local hospitals should not refer patients suffering particular cancers "unless there are active relevant clinical trials or overriding individual circumst-ance," it said in a letter to physicians.

Patients suffering relapses of some cancers, including cervical and esophagus, are on the list, as are those with melanoma.

"Of course, in a perfect world people would be able to get the very best of everything, but if we have to have a list, this is a good list," Cancer Society chief executive Dalton Kelly said. Making the list public was a step toward identifying where real treatment shortages were and where in the country there was spare treatment capacity, he said.

"It might not be what we want to hear, but it is honest. It is good to know they will not be hiding patients on waiting lists," he said. The letter, though not confidential, had been intended for clinicians, not the general public, MidCentral operations director Nicholas Glubb said.

Peter Foley, Hawke's Bay District Health Board chief medical officer of primary care, said it was time to be "open and honest" with patients who would not benefit from intensive treatment.—*Internet*

***A member of the Edo Civilian Firefighters' Association performs on the top of a bamboo ladder following the New Year's holiday at Mitsukoshi department store in Tokyo on 4 January, 2011.—*XINHUA**

Pedometer can result in more walking

BANNOCKBURN, 5 Jan—Using a pedometer can increase physical activity by about 2,000 steps daily that can make all the difference in weight loss, a US pedometer maker says.

Jill Person, product manager at Omron Healthcare Inc, says the company's pocket pedometer uses dual-accelerometre technology to accurately counts steps when placed horizontally or vertically at the hip, in a pocket, handbag or backpack.

The Omron HJ-112 GOsmart Pocket pedometer not only tracks steps but time, distance and calories as well as fat grams burned, Person says.

The pedometer also stores seven days of historical data, which allows for tracking a full week of exercise, Person says.

"At Omron, we want to empower Americans to achieve and maintain personal fitness goals by providing easy-to-use and accurate fitness products," Person says in a statement. "The fresh start of a new year serves as the perfect time to set goals, start tracking steps and stay motivated with the HJ-112 so you can achieve your personal best." A 2007 study by the Stanford School of Medicine showed that using a pedometer can increase physical activity by about 2,000 steps about 1 mile showing it can be a motivational tool that can push people to reach their exercise goals, Person says.—*Internet*

Australian elderly pilot killed in ultralight plane crash

CANBERRA, 5 Jan—An elderly pilot died on Tuesday, after his ultralight plane crashed to the ground in Victoria's north-west of Australia.

According to Victorian police, it is believed the aircraft crashed into a paddock about 3:30 pm local time at Cullulleraine off the Sturt Highway in Victoria.

Inspector Simon Clemence said the 72 years old man was the sole occupant of the plane.

"Sometime shortly before 4:00 pm we got a call that a light plane had crashed," he told *ABC* News on Tuesday. "We sent a unit down here from Werrimull and a short time later confirmed there was one deceased."

An Ambulance spokesman said there was no other person on board the plane.

Xinhua

***Li Kengqiang, boss of "Dr Sweet Potato" sells grilled sweet potato at campus in Changsha, capital of Central China's Hunan Province, on 4 Jan, 2011.* INTERNET**

Oil price retreats as investors take profits

New York, 5 Jan—US crude oil futures price dropped broadly on Tuesday as investors took profits after it rose to a 27-month high on Monday.

Investors began to feel unsafe when oil, which hit 27-month high on Monday, and other commodities surged rapidly in recent days, deciding to trim their long bets and took profits, despite a report on Tuesday showing that the US factory orders increased in November.

Not only the oil, but also some other commodities were hurt by profit-taking actions, as well as a stronger dollar on Tuesday. Copper fell about 2 percent in Tuesday's trading, while soybean dipped almost 1 percent, which hit its highest level since mid-2008 recently.

Also, the Fed's comment on the economic situation hurt the market's confidence and pressured the oil price. The Fed minutes of December meeting released on Tuesday said the economy wasn't improving fast enough to make a noticeable dent in unemployment, and reiterated it would stick to its 600-billion bond-buying programme to stimulate the economy.—*Xinhua*

Airbus launches air traffic management firm ProSky

PARIS, 5 Jan—Airbus has launched a new subsidiary company called "Airbus ProSky," aiming to enhance development and support of modern air traffic management (ATM) systems in Europe and other regions, the French company said Tuesday. Airbus ProSky will function to interact and develop ATM programmes such as "Single European Sky ATM Research" (SESAR) in Europe, resembling what NextGen does in the United States, the European leading aircraft maker said in a statement. The Airbus subsidiary will also work to implement air traffic management cooperation between the European and the United States by "capitalizing on the technological, operational and commercial synergies," it added.—*Xinhua*

***File photo of miniature handmade models of the Commonwealth Games mascot "Shera", baton and flags of the participating nations as well as egg shells with a map of India (L) and the Commonwealth Games logo (R) are shown in October 2010.—*INTERNET**

Israeli PM wants nonstop talks with Palestinians

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, second right, convenes the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, on 2 Jan, 2011.

INTERNET

JERUSALEM, 5 Jan—Israel's prime minister on Sunday proposed nonstop, face-to-face talks with the Palestinian president until a peace agreement is reached — offering a possible way to advance talks that have stalled over the construction of Jewish settlements.

Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal offers the appeal of leaders working together to make history, and it comes in response to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' latest claim — made over the weekend in South America — that genuine talks could yield a deal within months. But the Palestinians showed little enthusiasm for Netanyahu's offer.

Reached by *The Associated Press* in Brazil on Sunday, Abbas reiterated his call for a settlement freeze. "If he does so, we can reach an agreement not in six months, but in two months," he said. Abbas' chief negotiator, Saeb Erekat, said Netanyahu's offer amounted to little more than an empty declaration. He called on the Israeli leader to spell out a vision of peace, and specifically to commit to a near-complete withdrawal from the West Bank and east Jerusalem.—*Internet*

Sightseeing boats cruise on moat in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, on 29 Dec, 2010. The moat which links Jinan's four main springs was opened to navigation on Wednesday.

XINHUA

Oil hovers below $92 as global equities rally

SINGAPORE, 5 Jan—Oil prices hovered below $92 a barrel Tuesday in Asia near a two-year high as a stock market rally to start 2011 boosted crude trader optimism.

Benchmark oil for February delivery rose 2 cents to $91.57 a barrel late afternoon Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 17 cents to settle at $91.55 on Monday.

US stock markets advanced the first trading day of the year as data showed recent manufacturing activity and construction spending rose more than analysts were predicting.

The S&P 500 stock index gained 1.1 percent Monday and major Asia equity markets rose Tuesday, led by a 1.7 percent jump in Japan's Nikkei 225 index.

Oil investors often look to equities as a barometer of overall investor sentiment.

"This ongoing burst of economic optimism is enhancing the oil market's attractiveness as an asset class," Ritterbusch and Associates said in a report. "We look for this momentum to be sustained as long as the stock market maintains a northerly course."

Internet

Iran to let countries visit nuclear sites, not US

TEHERAN, 5 Jan—Iran said on Tuesday it had invited the European Union and some other world powers — but apparently not chief critic the United States — to tour nuclear sites before the next round of international talks in late January on its disputed nuclear programme.

The Associated Press reported the invitation to tour the facilities on Monday, citing a letter from a senior Iranian envoy that suggested 15-16 Jan for the visit. A diplomat familiar with the letter said Iran invited Russia, China, Egypt, the group of nonaligned nations at the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency, Cuba, Arab League members at the IAEA, and Hungary, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency.

Iran's economy appears to be struggling under the weight of four rounds of international sanctions over its nuclear programme, which the West suspects is aimed at producing weapons though Tehean denies that. Iran returned last month to nuclear talks with the so-called 5+1 countries — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, plus Germany — which hold sway over the sanctions. And the invitation to visit nuclear sites may also be a sign that Teheran is looking for ways to ease its financial pain.—*Internet*

A general view of the Bushehr main nuclear reactor, 1,200 km less (746 miles) south of Teheran.—INTERNET

Pharmacy employees check medicine supplies in a drugstore in Caracas on 4 Jan, 2011.

INTERNET

Probe of Egypt church bomb focuses on local group

ALEXANDRIA, 5 Jan—Egyptian police are focusing their investigation into the New Year's suicide bombing of a church on a group of Islamic hard-liners inspired by al-Qaeda and based in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria where the attack killed 21 people, security officials said Sunday.

The bombing touched off riots and protests by Egypt's Christian minority, who feel they are targeted and discriminated against and do not get adequate protection from authorities.

There were signs of beefed up security outside churches nationwide and dozens returned to pray Sunday in the bombed, blood-spattered Saints Church — many of them sobbing, screaming in anger and slapping themselves in grief.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack on Coptic Christians leaving a midnight Mass about a half hour into the new year Saturday, the worst attack on Egyptian Christians in a decade.

In the immediate aftermath, President Hosni Mubarak blamed foreigners and the Alexandria governor accused al-Qaeda, pointing to threats against Christians by the terror network's branch in Iraq.

But on Sunday, security officials said police are looking at the possibility that homegrown Islamic extremists were behind it, and perhaps were inspired by al-Qaeda though not directly under foreign command.

Internet

Actress Brooke Shields and actor Brendan Fraser talk to co-star Matt Prokop via Skype at the premiere of their film "Furry Vengeance" in Westwood, California, in April. Skype has made its first foray into video calls on mobile telephones, launching a new application for users of Apple's iPhone as well as the iPod music player and the iPad tablet computer.— INTERNET

Depression, diabetes, heart disease linked

BOSTON, 5 — Women with depression and diabetes have a higher risk than others of death from heart disease, a six-year study found, US researchers say. Study leader An Pan of the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston and colleagues said the study indicated women with depression had a 44 percent increased risk of death, those with diabetes had a 35 percent increased risk of death and those with both conditions had approximately twice the risk of death — vs. women who had neither condition.

The study, published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*, found when considering only deaths from cardiovascular disease, women with diabetes had a 67 percent increased risk, women with depression had a 37 percent increased risk and women with both had a 2.7-fold increased risk.

"The underlying mechanisms of the increased mortality risk associated with depression in patients with diabetes remains to be elucidated," the study authors say in a statement.

However, the researchers suggest diabetes and depression links to unhealthy behaviors such as smoking, poor diet and a sedentary lifestyle and noted depression could trigger changes in the nervous system that affect the heart adversely.

Internet

Python newlyweds draw crowds in Cambodia

A Cambodian man holds Chamreun, his female pet python (left), as a woman holds Krong Pich, her male python, in Kandal Province, Cambodia.

Hundreds of Cambodians on Monday celebrated an unusual wedding ceremony for a pair of pythons who they believe will bring good luck to their villages.

The marriage of serpent bride Chamreun to groom, Krong Pich, was held in Village One in Kandal Province, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of the Capital Phnom Penh, and attracted nearly 1,000 people, according to witnesses.

"We organized the wedding ceremony for the pythons in order to oust bad things and bring good luck and happiness for our villages," said 41-year-old Neth Vy, Chamreun's owner.

Neth Vy said his family had raised Chamreun in their home since 1994, after the then finger-sized snake got caught in his fishing net in a lake.

He said Chamreun had gone missing for over a month but was found a week ago, at the same time people in his neighbouring village caught a male python, which they named Krong Pich.

Old villagers decided to wed the two pythons after a boy, who was believed to be spirit-possessed, said Krong Pich wanted to marry Chamreun, or "people in the villages will suffer illnesses and bad luck," Neth Vy told *AFP*.

He said some fortune tellers had also appealed for the marriage between the pythons in order to bring "good luck and harmony for the people in the villages".

"So we held the wedding ceremony for the pythons with blessings from Buddhist monks, in accordance with our tradition," he said.

A citizen walks past a building with a painting decoration on the outside wall in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 4 Jan, 2011. The painting work costed a young artist two months to finish and attracted many visitors.

Fla man says he'll live in lions' den for 30 days

A Florida man says he's going to spend the next month living in a fenced enclosure with two African lions.

James Jablon of Spring Hill hopes the stunt will raise money for his wildlife centre, Wildlife Rehabilitation of Hernando.

Jablon entered the lions' den Saturday. He says he's going to sleep on hay near the lions named Lea and Ed and eat when they eat.

He says he's also going to build a place to sleep and hide in the trees in the enclosure, in case the lions fight with each other. His adventure is being streamed live online through 31 January.

About 100 animals live at the centre about 40 miles north of Tampa. It was started for native wildlife needing medical treatment, but Jablon says he's now being asked to provide homes for exotic pets.

News Album

Vince Neil's DUI trial pushed back in Las Vegas

***A 26 June, 2010 file photo shows Vince Neil as he poses for a portrait in New York.—*INTERNET**

LAS VEGAS, 5 Jan—Rocker Vince Neil's trial on misdemeanor drunken driving and speeding charges has been changed, thanks to a change in the judge in the case.

The *Las Vegas Sun* reports that the 49-year-old Motley Crue singer's case will now be heard by a newly elected judge who is assigned to DUI trials. A Clark County District Attorney's office spokeswoman said Monday that Neil will go before Justice of the Peace William Kephart on 26 Jan. His original court date was 6 Jan.

Neil has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Internet

Taylor Swift and Jake Gyllenhaal split

Singer Taylor Swift

NEW YORK, 5 Jan—Taylor Swift and Jake Gyllenhaal's short-lived relationship has come to an end, reports *People*.

Get more of today's news.

"They're over," a source tells the magazine. "It ended last month."

Both Swift, 21, and Gyllenhaal, 30, spent New Year's solo, with the country starlet at a party in Nashville and the Oscar-nominated actor in New York.

The two, who were first spotted together in October, spent Thanksgiving weekend together and were last seen together publicly in early December in Los Angeles.—*Internet*

Country singer and former 'American Idol' contestant Kellie Pickler .

INTERNET

Country singer Kellie Pickler marries songwriter

NASHVILLE, 5 Jan—Country singer Kellie Pickler has gotten married.

Her label, BNA Records, says in a statement that she wed songwriter Kyle Jacobs on New Year's Day. They held a small ceremony on a private island in the Caribbean.

Pickler finished in the top six on "American Idol" in 2005.

Her songs include the top 10 hit she co-wrote with Taylor Swift, "Best Days of Your Life," as well as "Red High Heels," "Don't You Know You're Beautiful," and her most recent single, "Makin' Me Fall in Love Again."

Internet

Comic book legend Stan Lee gets Hollywood star

LOS ANGELES, 5 Jan—There's a new superhero on Hollywood Boulevard.

Comic book legend Stan Lee, creator or co-creator of such Marvel Comics characters as Spider-Man, the Incredible Hulk, X-Men, The Fantastic Four and Iron Man, has now been enshrined in concrete.

The 88-year-old Lee unveiled his Walk of Fame sidewalk star on Tuesday in front of the Live Nation Building on Hollywood Boulevard. It's the 2,428th star dedicated on the famous avenue of dreams. Lee is founder, chairman and chief creative officer of POW! Entertainment. More than 2 million of Lee's comic books have been published in 75 nations and in 25 languages. His characters have been featured in 24 animated television series and several live-action movies.—*Internet*

***Comic book creator Stan Lee poses with his wife Joan after he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, on 4 Jan, 2011.—*INTERNET**

United subdue Stoke as leaders push on

MANCHESTER, 5 Jan—Javier Hernandez and Nani scored either side of Dean Whitehead's effort as Manchester United moved three points clear at the top of the English Premier League with a 2-1 victory over Stoke at Old Trafford here on Tuesday.

A much-changed United made hard work of defeating a team they had beaten in 10 of their previous 13 matches.

Hernandez gave the hosts the lead midway through the first half with his ninth goal of the season.

Midfielder Whitehead equalised for the visitors five minutes after the interval, engulfing Old Trafford with tension.

But Nani, back in the side after a hip injury, found the corner of the net just after the hour to earn United the victory.—*Internet*

***Manchester United's midfielder Nani celebrates after scoring the second goal during their English.*—INTERNET**

Macheda nearing Samp switch

***Manchester United forward Federico Macheda.*—INTERNET**

ROME, 5 Jan—Manchester United forward Federico Macheda is close to completing a loan switch to Sampdoria, his agent Giovanni Bia told reporters on Tuesday.

United manager Sir Alex Ferguson revealed recently that he would let the teenager go out on loan in order to get more first team football and Sampdoria have emerged as the front-runners to land his signature having released Antonio Cassano to join AC Milan. The success of the deal apparently rests on guarantees Ferguson is looking for that 19-year-old Macheda will play regularly.

"There was a late morning meeting to conclude the loan transfer of Federico Macheda to Sampdoria," said Bia. "Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson wanted to talk to the blucerchiati managers and so I believe the deal will be completed today and Macheda could arrive in Genoa tomorrow."

Internet

Kaka feared he would never be able to play again

MADRID, 5 Jan—Real Madrid's Brazilian midfielder Kaka, who returned to action on Monday for the first time since he underwent knee surgery in August, says he feared he would never be able to play again. "I am very happy for playing a game again and for stepping onto a pitch. Coming back with a victory is the best thing that could have happened to me," he said in comments published on Tuesday on the club's website.

"At times, I was afraid when I thought about when I was going to come back, or if I ever would. I must now earn a spot because the team is in great form. Competition is always good for the team," he added.

Real's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho sent Kaka, the winner of the 2007 Ballon d'Or, on the pitch in the 75th minute of Real's 3-2 Spanish league win at Getafe on Monday.

Internet

Real Madrid's Brazilian midfielder Kaka

Real's Higuain to undergo surgery

MADRID, 5 Jan—Real Madrid's Argentine striker Gonzalo Higuain is to undergo surgery to fix a slipped disc that has already kept him out of action since late November, the club said on Tuesday.

It said a new MRI showed "some improvement" and a "reduction of the inflammation."

But "the persistance of pain and of the slipped disc moved experts to advise surgery as the next step. This decision has been accepted by the player, his family and the club."

It said a decision will be made in the next 48 hours on where the operation will be carried out.

Higuain, who normally started in attack for Real alongside Cristiano Ronaldo, has been unable to play since the end of November.

Real revealed at the beginning of December that the 23-year-old had sustained a slipped disc that could require an operation.

Real coach Jose Mourinho said on Sunday that he will have to re-construct his team in the absence of Higuain, who was signed from River Plate in 2007.

Internet

***Real Madrid's Argentinian forward Gonzalo Higuain.*—INTERNET**

Iraq eye unlikely Asian Cup title defence

***The Iraq squad for the Asian Cup train in Doha last week.*—INTERNET**

DOHA, 5 Jan—Iraq stormed to shock Asian Cup glory in 2007 against the backdrop of war, but they will have to spring another major upset if they are to repeat the emotional feat in Qatar.

The Iraqi team made headlines worldwide and were welcomed home as heroes after they defeated Saudi Arabia 1-0 in Jakarta four years ago to momentarily take the spotlight off the violence in their war-ravaged country.

But they face a stiff task to even make it to the knock-out stages this time after they were drawn in a highly competitive Group D that also includes arch rivals Iran, World Cup finalists North Korea and United Arab Emirates.

Experienced coach Wolfgang Sidka, who has only been in the job since the summer, has kept the bulk of the squad that brought Iraq its greatest ever football triumph, complemented by a sprinkling of young prospects.

However, it remains to be seen if the former Werder Bremen coach has had enough time to get his footballing philosophy across to his charges and they are not among the favourites in Qatar.

Internet

Results on 4 January

International - Club Friendlies

Al-Wasl	2 - 3	Hamburger SV

England - Premier League

Blackpool	1 - 2	Birmingham C.
Fulham	3 - 0	West Bromwich A.
Manchester U.	2 - 1	Stoke C.

SPORTS

Berdych makes perfect start to new tennis season

***Czech Republic's tennis player Tomas Berdych.*—INTERNET**

CHENNAI, 5 Jan—Top seed Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic opened his campaign in the 450,000-dollar ATP Chennai Open with a fluent win over Frederico Gil of Portugal on Tuesday.

The world number six needed just 45 minutes to defeat the 101st-ranked Gil 6-0, 6-1 in a first round match at the Nungambakkam Tennis stadium in the southern Indian city. Gil was facing a total rout when he trailed 5-0 in the second set, but managed to hold his serve at that stage to win his only game in the match.

"It was important to start well in the new season and I am happy I was able to do that tonight," said 25-year-old Berdych.

Internet

Redknapp wants Beckham decision soon from Galaxy

David Beckham

LONDON, 5 Jan—Tottenham Hotspur manager Harry Redknapp has insisted he must know soon if the LA Galaxy are willing to let David Beckham join the Premier League high-flyers on loan otherwise the deal has no future.

For the former England captain, a stint with Spurs would signal to national manager Fabio Capello that he is still ready to represent his country.

The Galaxy would want the 35-year-old midfielder back in time for their Major League Soccer (MLS) season opener against Seattle Sounders on 15 March.

And with Redknapp wanting Beckham, who enjoyed loan spells with Italian giants AC Milan in 2008 and 2009, for "at least three months", time is running out for the Galaxy and Spurs to reach an agreement.

Internet

Ronaldinho signs for Gremio

ROME, 5 Jan—Former twice world player of the year Ronaldinho has signed a deal to join Brazilians Gremio from AC Milan, according to the *Gazzetta dello Sport* on Tuesday.

***Former twice world player of the year Ronaldinho.*—INTERNET**

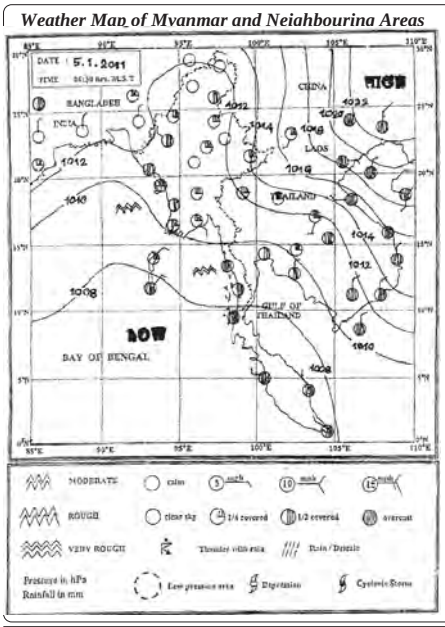
The sports newspaper claims Ronaldinho's brother and agent Roberto de Assis has reached an agreement with Gremio, where the 30-year-old began his career in 1998 in his home town of Porto Alegre.

Gazzetta claims the official news will be announced in a few hours.

Should that be the case it will scupper Blackburn's bid to bring the former Barcelona and Paris St Germain forward to the Premier League.

Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neiahbourina Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 5th January, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy over Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below January average temperatures in Kachin State, (6°C) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions and about January average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Pinlaung and Haka (2°C) each, Putao, Namhsan and Katha (4°C) each.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 4-1-2011 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 5-1-2011 was 59°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 5-1-2011 was (82%). Rainfall on 5-1-2011 was (Nil) .

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 4-1-2011 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 5-1-2011 was 65°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 5-1-2011 was (67%). Total sunshine hours on 4-1-2011 was (9.6) hours.

Rainfall on 5-1-2011 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (10:30) hours MST on 4-1-2011.

Bay Inference: Weather is cloudy over the South Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 6th January 2011: Light rain are possible to be isolated in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, Taninthayi Region, weather will be partly cloudy over Mon State, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 6-1-2011: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-1-2011: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-1-2011: Partly cloudy.

Asleep in Jesus

Lt.Col Maung Maung Kyan (Retd)

B.C. 6041, O.T.S.5

Aged-88 Years

31st Street, Leikpyagan Qr, Bago

Son of Mr. Ghose and Mrs. Mary, husband of Daw Kyi Htet, father of Daw Aye Oo Kyan-U Bynnyarr Aung, Daw Khine Myat Kyan-U Tin Maung Thein, U Htet Kyan-Daw Aye Aye Swe, Dr. May Htet Kyan-U Hla Aye, grandfather of Swe Swe Htet Kyan, Lin Htet Kyan, Han Thi Ni Ni, Thinzar Ni Ni, Myint Maung Kyan, great grandfather of Jonah, passed away peacefully at 126, Aye Theik Di Street, East Ywama, Insein on 5th January, 2011, and will be entombed at Yayway Christian Cemetery at 3.30 pm on 7th January 2011.

Bereaved Family

Team Europe's Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark plays against Team Asia-Pacific's Li Na of China at the Tennis Classic 2011 in Hong Kong on 5 January, 2011. Wozniacki beat Li 6-4, 6-3 in the exhibition contest.

INTERNET

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

Programme Schedule

(6-1-2011) (Thursday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	**- (09:00am~11:00am MST**
Oversea Transmission	**- (6-1-11 09:30 am ~ 7-1-11 09:30 am MST**

Local Transmission

* Opening
* News
* Charming Myanmar Silk Fabric
* Exquisite Silver Jewellery
* News
* Floral Lovers' Paradise (National Kandawgyi Gardens)
* News
* VCD Centre
* Artist Hla Tun Aung's Milestone
* News
* ''Myanmar's Traditions and Culture'' Myanmar Pottery

Oversea Transmission

* Opening
* News
* Charming Myanmar Silk Fabric
* Exquisite Silver Jewellery
* News
* Floral Lovers' Paradise (National Kandawgyi Gardens)
* Straw Embossed Painting
* News
* VCD Centre
* Artist Hla Tun Aung's Milestone
* News
* ''Myanmar's Traditions and Culture'' Myanmar Pottery
* News
* Brilliant Youngsters (I)
* News
* A Bridge To The Ultimate Realities
* Music Gallery
* News
* Mandalay Cultural Museum
* News
* A Visit to A Laungdaw Kassapa in Modern Days
* Monywa...Picturesque City
* Myanmar Movie "Good-Hearted Bad Guy"

Myanmar TV

Thursday, 6 January
View on today

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning News

7:40 am
4. Dhamma Puja Song

7:50 am
5. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am
6. Dance Of National Races

8:05 am
7. Dance Variety

8:15 am
8. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition

8:25 am
9. Teleplay (Forest)

8:40 am
10. International News

8:45 am
11. Musical Programme

4:00 pm
1. Martial Song

4:10 pm
2. Musical Programme

4:25 pm
3. Cute Little Dancers

4:35 pm
4. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition

4:50 pm
5. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Zoology)

5:10 pm
6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:05 pm
7. One village and one Product

5:30 pm
9. Musical Programme

5:45 pm
9. Science And Envoriment (Fresh) (A Ripple Effect Production)

6:00 pm
10. Evening News

6:15 pm
11. Weather Report

6:20 pm
12. Myanmar Series

6:40 pm
13. Approaching Science Discovery World

7:00 pm
14. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
15. News
16. International News
17. Weather Report
18. Documentary
19. TV Drama Series
20. TV Drama Series

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★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road to give impetus to regional development

Byline & photos: **Po Thaw Zin**

Today, there has been smooth transport between one region and any other region else owing to the roads and bridges the government has built across the nation for equitable development of all parts of the nation including border areas.

Smooth transport has also brought great benefits to the economic, social and health sectors and put an end to only distant, rare relations among regions stemming from poor transport.

Quality control is one of the top priorities in implementing four-lane Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road Project.

As part of the plan to complete the nationwide network of transport facilities, with Nay Pyi Taw in the centre of it, four-lane Kyweshin section of Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road has been built since on 16 March 2010, which is now nearing completion.

The road is designed to be linked with Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State for convenience of local and foreign tourists to Ngalaik Resort near mile post No 116 of the expressway. It is also because some games of XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in 2013 by Myanmar will take place at the resort.

(See page 9)

Significant night temperatures (5-1-2011)

Pinlaung	**(2°C) each**
Haka	**(2°C) each**
Putao	**(4°C) each**
Namhsan	**(4°C) each**
Katha	**(4°C) each**