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Monday, 2 January, 2012

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo visits Bagan Cultural Region

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—Accompanied by Union ministers, the Mandalay Region Chief Minister, the Magway Region Chief Minister, deputy ministers, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council and departmental heads, Vice-President of the Republic of

gion yesterday to pay homage to ancient pagodas.

At Shwezigon Pagoda in NyaungU, the Vice-President and party offered flowers, water, joss sticks and lights to the Buddha image and presented cash donations to the Pagoda Board

funds after paying homage to the Buddha image.

They also paid obeisance to the Buddha image at Thabbinnyu Pagoda and made cash donations.

After paying homage to Hsinmyarshin Pagoda and Lawkananda Pagoda, they

Strengthened national consolidation

Although land and water resources of the states and regions may vary according to their topography, measures will be taken to improve the various sectors of those regions such as economy, social affairs, education, health and transport. Only if development tasks are carried out to improve the transport, economy, health and education standards of those regions, will national consolidation be strengthened and Union Spirit be forged.

(Excerpts from President U Thein Sein's speech delivered at Meeting (1/2011) of Central Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races on 23-4-2011)



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo paying homage to Lawkananda Pagoda.

MNA

the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo visited Bagan Cultural Re-

of Trustees.

At Ananda Pagoda, they donated cash to the

donated cash to the funds of pagodas.

The Vice-President

inspected measures being taken for prevention against bank erosion of Ayeyawady

River at Lawkananda Pagoda.

At Pagoda No. 1625, the Vice-President and

party offered flowers and water to the Buddha image.

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets district/township administrators, senior citizens, ward/village administrators in Pakokku District

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, accompanied by Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Electric Power No (1) U Zaw Min, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Aung, Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Lwin, Deputy Home Affairs

(See page 6)

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo comforts flood victims in Aungchantha Ward of Pakokku.—MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 2 January, 2012

Liberty, unity, prosperity

Myanmar is a nation constituted with Union national races. It is a human society on a basis of family spirit. National brethren have been residing in Myanmar in unity and amity through thick and thin up to now.

In reviewing the history of the nation, Myanmar has been standing tall as an independent and sovereign nation and people on a grander scale among the global countries. Although Myanmar had lost its sovereignty due to aggressive wars of colonialists in the history, she can stand again as an independent and sovereign nation with the concerted efforts of the entire national people who bravely fought back the imperialists at the risk of their lives.

Based on historical experiences, all the national brethren are to firmly uphold the significant points: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. As it is the aspiration of all citizens, it is necessary to constantly focus on the duties to be handed down to new generations.

While marching towards the new democratic nation, the united strength of all national brethren of the Union is essential for perpetuity of the independence. Thus, all national races are to live in the Union forever through thick and thin.

All the people are to bear in mind that non-disintegration of the Union is a dire need for Myanmar established as a Union state; non-disintegration of national solidarity is an essential point for the nation; and perpetuation of sovereignty is valuable lifeblood of all citizens. Only then will the independent nation and citizens fully enjoy the essence of peace, prosperity and liberty.

All national people are to join hands with the government in building new democratic nation. Emphasis is to be placed on flourishing of right democratic practices on a wider scale, prevalence of law and order, national reconciliation and ensuring perpetual peace. In fact, successful realizing of these main factors depends on strengthening of unity and prosperity.

The Excellent Yangon Expo 2012 opened

YANGON, 1 Jan—The opening ceremony of The Excellent Yangon Expo 2012 with Mobile & IT Zone was held at Tatmadaw Convention Hall here this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Mayor Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint, Chairperson of Anawrahta Enterprise Daw Khin Hnin Hsi and Chairman of Great Father Land Construction & Decoration Co Ltd U Kyaw Myint formally opened the expo and viewed round the showrooms.

The exhibition will be displayed from 9 am to 5 pm till 4 January.

The Yangon mayor also attended the opening of Orchid Junction in front of Orchid Hotel in Pazundaung Township.

MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Union Sports Minister watches Inter-BES sports competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan this morning watched inter basic education school sports competitions for 2011-2012 academic year.

First, the Union Minister watched the third-place match of Sepak Takraw tourney held at Nay Pyi Taw volleyball ground. In the match, Ayeyawady Region played against Mandalay Region.

After viewing the track and field tournament at No.1 Nay

Pyi Taw sports ground, he awarded the winners. Then, the Union Minister inspected the construction site of futsal football stadium and viewed the training of sportsmen at the Billiards Hall of Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee and left necessary instructions.

Later, the Union Minister inspected extension of stand at Ngalaik Dam and recreation centre for sports athletes. He then visited BMX bike race ground and inspected training.

MNA

Ygn Chief Minister among congregation at 17th Sasana Taxila Maha convocation

YANGON, 1 Jan—137 monks were conferred degrees at 17th Sasana Taxila Maha convocation which took place at State Pariyati Sasana University Convocation Hall in Mayangon Township in

Yangon Region this afternoon.

Chancellor of State Pariyati Sasana Universities, Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharagtaguru Abhidhaja Agga Maha

Saddhamma Jotika Bharmo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Sangha members, graduating monks, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Deputy Minister for

Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay, officials and guests attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, the Sayadaws gave sermons, the deputy minister supplicated on religious affairs, degrees were conferred on graduating monks and the congregation presented offertories.

MNA

8,221 jade lots sold at mid-year gems emporium



Local and foreign gems merchants buying lots of jade through competitive bidding system at Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2011.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2011 continued the 8th day today at Mani Yadana Jade Hall here.

Beginning 8 am, local and foreign merchants studied and purchased jade lots through competitive bidding system and Managing Director U Thein Swe of Myanmar Gems Enterprise, central committee members and officials supervised and fulfilled the requirements.

At 10 am, Patron of the central committee for organizing

the emporium Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik visited the emporium and looked round the sales of jade lots. A total of 8221 lots of jade were sold today.

As permission has been granted to export jewellery items and finished products by paying taxes after opening a one-stop service centre in Mandalay, local merchants are buying the products in competition with foreign merchants.

The emporium continues up to 3 January and jade lots will be on sale through competitive bidding system.—MNA

LOCAL SPORTS

Ayeyawady United FC holds up Community Shield

YANGON, 1 Jan—The MFF Community Shield Football Match to mark the opening of the 2012 MNL League Cup was held at Aung San Stadium in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

Ayeyawady United FC routed Yangon United FC 7-5 in the match.

After the match, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe presented trophy to Ayeyawady United FC. After that, the Chief Minister accepted K 4 million as the entrance fee for the match, K 42 million from 14 football clubs of Myanmar National League and K 4 million by MRTV-4, amounting to K 50 million for fire victims of Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Kyemon

U-16 Futsal invitational tournament held in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 1 Jan—In commemoration of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the U-16 Futsal invitational tournament was held at Hline Mingala Sports Ground on Hline Mingala Road in Ward 13 of Hlinethaya Township on 24 December.

Local authorities formally opened the tournament.

Altogether 39 futsal teams are taking part in the tournament. The prizes will be awarded on 4 January.—Township IPRD



Obama calls for efforts to bolster economy, enhance social fairness



US President Barack Obama.

WASHINGTON, 1 Jan—After rounds of contentious debates on economic issues with Republican lawmakers this year, US President

Barack Obama on Saturday called for joint efforts to boost the US economic growth and improve social fairness in 2012.

"The last year has been a time of great challenge and great progress for our country," Obama said in his weekly address, adding that "we began to see signs of economic recovery here at home, even as too many Americans are still struggling to get ahead."

"There's no doubt that 2012 will bring even more change."

And as we head into the New Year, I'm hopeful that we have what it takes to face that change and come out even stronger—to grow our economy, create more jobs,

and strengthen the middle class," said Obama while enjoying his vacation in Hawaii.

"As President, I promise to do everything I can to make America a place where hard work and responsibility are rewarded — one where everyone has a fair shot and everyone does their fair share," he added.

Before joining his family in Hawaii for holiday, Obama signed on 23 Dec a bipartisan two-month compromise stopgap measure to extend the payroll tax cut and federal jobless benefits into law, after wrapping up the latest chapter of partisan wrangling this year.

Xinhua

Fireworks explode around the London Eye by the River Thames in London during New Year celebrations on 1 Jan, 2012. Around 250,000 revellers have been expected to gather along the River Thames from Saturday evening to Sunday morning to welcome the year 2012 amid spectacular fireworks displays.

XINHUA



Taleban commander detained in Kabul

KABUL, 1 Jan—Police arrested a Taleban commander in Afghan capital Kabul on Friday, a statement released by Kabul police said here on Saturday.

"With the hectic effort of police in the capital city Kabul, a Taleban commander namely Mawlawi Almas was captured in Kabul on Friday," the statement emphasized.

The detained commander Almas was active in the northern Baghlan province, the short statement added.

Taliban militants fighting Afghan and NATO-led forces have yet to make comment. Xinhua



Fireworks explode over the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany, on 1 Jan, 2012. Berlin celebrated the New Year in front of the Brandenburg Gate, where some 400,000 spectators attended the party to usher in the new year of 2012.—XINHUA

Six bombs recovered from Pakistan blast site

ISLAMABAD, 1 Jan—Six bombs have been recovered from the site in Pakistan's Quetta city where a car bombing took place Friday night killing at least 13 people, a media report said Saturday.

At least 21 other people were injured in the deadly blast that occurred around 7 pm on Arbab Karam Khan Road. The Balochistan Liberation Army took responsibility for the

bombing.

A bomb disposal squad has reached the site to defuse the bombs, sources told Geo News Saturday.

While the Associated Press of Pakistan and Dawn News put the toll at 13, Geo News said 10 people were killed.

The explosion in the capital city of Balochistan province occurred outside the house of the son of former federal minister Naseer

Mengal.

Mengal had served as oil minister during the tenure of former president Pervez Musharraf.

Intelligence sources put the number of the dead at 15. Seven among the dead were said to be guards of Shafique Mengal, son of Naseer Mengal.

Security officials said Shafique might have been the target of the attack.

Internet

Roadside bomb kills Pakistani soldier

ISLAMABAD, 1 Jan—A roadside bomb killed a Pakistani soldier in the troubled North Waziristan tribal region on Saturday, security sources said.

Another soldier was injured when a convoy of the security forces came under bomb attack in Datta Khel area of North Waziristan bordering Afghanistan, local TV Geo quoted security forces as saying.

Reports said the Improvised Explosive Device was detonated through a remote control when the convoy of the security forces was passing through the area.

The security forces imposed a curfew in the area after the attack and also launched a search operation to apprehend the perpetrators.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

The government has a peace deal with the main Taleban group in North Waziristan led by Hafiz Gul Bahar, under which both sides will not attack each other.

Security sources say that there are splinter militant groups in North Waziristan who routinely carry out attacks on the security forces.

They say that fighters of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) are also taking shelter in parts of North Waziristan, who have fled the neighboring South Waziristan in the wake of major operations by the security forces in 2009.

Xinhua

Play Taleban ringtones or you'll be killed in Afghanistan!

KABUL, 1 Jan—Travellers in Afghanistan will face death if they do not have mobile phones playing Taleban ringtones and messages.

Taleban ringtones include the titles 'Teenager', 'Doomsday' and 'Suicide Bomber'.

Lyrics for Doomsday include, 'Its Judgment Day for the Satan of the West... the evening is blazing, blazing ...'

For Suicide Bomber, the song includes the words, 'You went up into flames... You burned like a moth, young hero, martyrdom seeker...'

You are the Muslims' atomic bomb.'

Taleban are killing people at clandestine checkpoints if they don't hear their messages on someone's phone, *The Daily Mail* reports. The prevalence of checkpoints just an hour from the capital of Kabul, has forced many Afghans to cleanse their mobiles of all apparent Western songs and ringtones.

According to the paper, some offenders have been forced to eat SIM cards and have had phones broken on their heads.

Travellers often pop out their real SIM cards and replace them with ones containing insurgent-produced jingles.

Shopkeepers are doing roaring trade in rebel ringtones at 2 dollars an upload for 'emotional' songs sung by children with 'beautiful voices' the most popular, the paper said.

A spokesperson for the group told the Wall Street Journal, that the Taleban have 40 singers that produce on average of one 12-song album every month.

Internet



Afghanistan's acting Minister of Public Health Suraya Dalil (L) and Afghanistan's caretaker Minister for Women's Affairs Dr Husn Banu Ghazanfar visit an Afghan girl, who was tortured for months after refusing prostitution, as she lies on a hospital bed in Kabul on 31 December, 2011.

REUTERS

Chinese, S Korean Presidents exchange new year greetings

BEIJING, 1 Jan—Chinese President Hu Jintao and his South Korean counterpart Lee Myung-bak exchanged new year greetings Sunday and announced the start of the "China-South Korea Friendly Exchange Year".

In his message, Hu spoke positively of the relations between the two countries. Seizing the opportunity of

the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the China-South Korea diplomatic relations, China is willing to work together with South Korea, by launching various exchange programmes, to further promote mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples, deepen communication and cooperation in all sectors, and

push for constant progress of the bilateral relationship, Hu said. For his part, Lee said on the basis of the accomplishments achieved over the two decades of the bilateral diplomatic ties, South Korea looks forward to joining hands with China to build a better future for the bilateral relationship.

Xinhua



Tourists take photos of the rime and iced waterfall scenery at Jingpo Lake Scenic Park in Mudanjiang City, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 1 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

MS may not be autoimmune disease

NEW YORK, 1 Jan—Multiple sclerosis, long viewed as primarily an autoimmune disease, is not actually a disease of the immune system, a US researcher says.

Dr Angelique of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York suggests instead that MS is caused by faulty lipid metabolism—in many ways more similar to coronary atherosclerosis—hardening of the arteries—than to other autoimmune diseases.

Considering MS as a

metabolic disorder helps to explain many puzzling aspects of the disease, particularly why it strikes women more than men and why cases are on the rise worldwide, Corthals said.

Multiple sclerosis is mainly characterized by inflammation followed by scarring of tissue called myelin, which insulates nerve tissue in the brain and spinal cord. Over time, this scarring can lead to profound neurological damage, but medical researchers have theorized that a runaway immune system is at fault, but

no one has been able to fully explain what triggers the onset of the disease.

Corthals said the primary cause of MS can be traced to transcription factors in cell nuclei that control the uptake, breakdown, and release of lipids — fats and similar compounds — throughout the body. Disruption of these proteins, known as peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors, causes a toxic byproduct of “bad” low-density lipoprotein cholesterol to form plaque on the affected tissue. The accumulation of plaque in turn

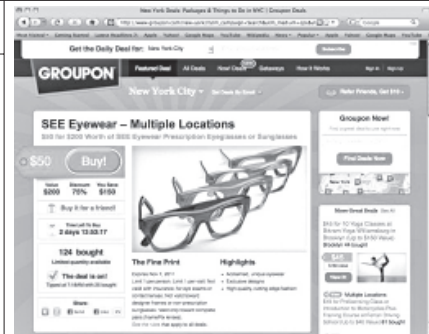


triggers an immune response, which ultimately leads to scarring. Corthals’ framework explains why MS is more prevalent in women.

“Men and women metabolize fats differently,” Corthals said. “In men, problems are more likely to occur in vascular tissue, which is why atherosclerosis is more prevalent in men. But women metabolize fat differently in relation to their reproductive role.”

The findings are published in The Quarterly Review of Biology.

Internet



This screen shot shows eyewear coupons for the New York City area offered by Groupon.com. Daily deal sites such as Groupon and LivingSocial, best known for discounts at local restaurants and spas, are helping some people fill holes in health insurance coverage.

INTERNET

Diet may help prevent brain shrinkage

CORVALLIS, 1 Jan—Elderly people with higher levels of vitamins B, C, D and E, and omega-3 fatty acids in their blood are mentally sharper, US researchers say.

The study, published in the journal *Neurology*, also found the higher levels of vitamins and fish body oils resulted in less brain shrinkage typical of Alzheimer’s disease, while “junk food” diets—trans-fats found in baked and fried foods, margarine, fast-food and other less-healthy dietary choices—

produced just the opposite result.

Study co-author Maret Traber, a principal investigator with the Linus Pauling Institute at Oregon State University, and scientists from the Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Ore, said the study involved 104 people, at an average age of 87, with no special risk factors for poor memory or mental acuity.

The researchers tested for 30 different nutrient biomarkers in their blood, and 42 participants also had

magnetic resonance imaging scans to measure their brain volume.

“The vitamins and nutrients you get from eating a wide range of fruits, vegetables and fish can be measured in blood biomarkers,” Traber said in a statement. “These findings are based on average people eating average American diets. If anyone right now is considering a New Year’s resolution to improve their diet, this would certainly give them another reason to eat more fruits and vegetables.”

Internet

Vitamin B12 may still help reduce stroke

LONDON, (Ontario), 1 Jan—Vitamin B therapy still has a role to play in reducing the risk of stroke, US and Canadian researchers suggest. Dr David Spence of The University of Western Ontario and Dr Meir Stampfer of the Harvard School of Public Health said vitamin B therapy was once widely used to lower homocysteine levels.

Too much of this amino acid in the bloodstream was linked to increased risk of stroke and heart attack, but several randomized trials found lowering homocysteine levels with B vitamins did not result in a cardiovascular benefit.

In fact, Spence, a scientist with the Roberts Research Institute at Western’s Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, found vitamin B therapy actually increased cardiovascular risk in patients with diabetic nephropathy.

In an commentary published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Spence and Stampfer said two key issues have been overlooked in the interpretation of the clinical trials — the key role of vitamin B12, and the newly recognized role of renal failure.

“It is now clear that the large trials showing no benefit of vitamin therapy obscured the benefit of vitamin therapy because they lumped together patients with renal failure and those with good renal function,” Spence said in the commentary. “The vitamins are harmful in renal failure, and beneficial in patients with good renal function, and they cancel each other out,” said Spence, the author of “How to Prevent Your Stroke.” The commentary authors also contend most of the trials did not use a high enough dose of vitamin B12.—Internet

IMF: Greece will miss financial targets

ATHENS, (Greece), 1 Jan—The International Monetary Fund in an official report said Greece’s financial situation is worse than previously thought.

With a new estimate on the country’s economic growth, the IMF said even a 50 percent write-off on Greek debt would be insufficient for Greece to avoid default, Ekathimerini reported Saturday.

To dig Greece out of its financial trough “requires either a deeper

haircut or additional loans from Europe,” an IMF official said. While the Greek economy stumbles, tax revenues have dropped. The previous goal was for Athens to collect \$9 billion in taxes in December, January and February.

Without hitting its target on tax collection, the budget deficit is projected to reach 10 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product, missing another target, that of keeping the deficit below 9 percent of GDP.

Internet



Vehicles on display at an international rental and leasing industry exposition in Nanjing, Jiangsu province. Business analysts and company officials said the car rental industry must focus more on individual customers.—INTERNET

GM recalls Sonics to inspect brake pads

DETROIT, 1 Jan—GM has announced the recall of 4,296 Chevrolet Sonics sold in the United States because of a potential problem with brake pads.

Company officials said they expect only a few of the vehicles to have defective brake pads, the Detroit Free Press reported. GM decided on the recall after a Sonic was found to have a missing pad during routine service.

There have been no reports of crashes, deaths or injuries, the company said.

The recall involves 2012 Sonics produced at the Orion, Mich., assembly plant between 2 June and 21 Nov, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration said on its Web site.

Internet

Companies can foster or destroy innovation

NASHVILLE, 1 Jan—AUS researcher says innovation may mean less “thinking out of the box” and more setting up a company structure that overcomes constraints.

David Owens of Vanderbilt University’s Owen Graduate School of Management said business and other leaders need to understand exactly which constraints work against them in order to help create conditions that foster innovation rather than kill creativity.

“Constraints are the parameters within which you must work,” Owens said in a statement. “And for a creative person that’s actually a blessing.”

Owens identified the six most common hurdles to innovation that companies encounter:

— Failures of innovation are failures of ideas, and to meet this challenge companies need to train people to use the tools and processes that help them “think differently” and

enable them to become better at generating and recognizing good ideas.

— A company’s social climate will determine whether an innovation succeeds.

— The company or organization needs a strategy for innovation.

— Innovation fails when a firm competing among a group of rivals in an industry fails to produce something

customers want.

— For an innovation to succeed, it has to be technologically feasible.

“By learning to analyze these constraints in advance, turning from retrospective analysis to proactive strategy development, you can dramatically improve your chances of innovation success,” Owens said.

Internet



A cement equipment manufacturing plant in Jiangsu province. Flagging manufacturing conditions signal that weakening external demand is starting to bite, says Qu Hongbin, chief China economist and co-head of Asian Economic Research at HSBC.—INTERNET

Business

India unveils statue of cosmonaut Gagarin



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks, as he presents to the Museum of Cosmonauts in Star City, just on the outside of Moscow, the portrait of the first Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, on 12 April, 2001.—INTERNET

Science

MUMBAI, 1 Jan—A statue of the world's first cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, was unveiled Friday in Mumbai on the grounds of the Nehru Science Centre, centre officials said.

Dignitaries attending the unveiling ceremony Friday included Russian Ambassador to India Alexander Kadakin, Russian General Consul in Mumbai Alexei Novikov and Mumbai Mayor Shradha Jadhav.

"Gagarin is a man who is known and loved around the world, including India. He visited India and was in Bombay, as Mumbai was called then. Mumbai's older generation still remembers his visit," Anil Manekar, the director of the Nehru Science Centre, told RIA Novosti.

About 700,000 people visit the Science Centre each year, he said. "Interest in science, in space research, is very high in India. We are confident this bust of Gagarin will be an important attraction for our centre," he said. The bust of Gagarin has been placed near the Science Centre's main entrance. India already has another monument to Gagarin, located on the grounds of the Russian Science and Culture Centre in the southern city of Trivandrum.—INTERNET



An aerial photograph shows the Cleveland Volcano during the time a small lava flow, or dome, was accumulating in the summit crater as the 660 foot wide summit crater emits a white, largely steam condensate cloud in this 8 August, 2011 file photo. The remote volcano in Alaska's Aleutian islands erupted early on 29 December, 2011 spouting an ash cloud 15,000 feet into the sky and prompting an air-traffic alert, scientists said.—INTERNET

NASA probe circling the moon on New Year's Eve

PASADENA, 1 Jan—As planet Earth rang in the new year, a different kind of countdown was happening at the moon. After a 3½-month journey, a NASA spacecraft flew over the moon's south pole, fired its engine and dropped into orbit Saturday in the first of two back-to-back arrivals over the New Year's weekend. Mission control at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory erupted in cheers and applause after receiving confirmation that the probe was healthy and circling the moon. An engineer was seen on closed-circuit television blowing a noisemaker to herald the New Year's Eve arrival. "Everything went

just as we hoped. The burn was spot-on," chief scientist Maria Zuber of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said in a post-mission interview with *The Associated Press*.

The team toasted sparkling cider, but the celebration was brief. Despite the successful maneuver, the work was not over. Its twin still had to enter lunar orbit on New Year's Day.

The Grail probes — short for Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory — have been cruising independently toward their destination since launching in September aboard the same rocket on a mission to measure lunar gravity.

Hours before revelers in

Times Square celebrated the New Year, Grail-A approached the moon and fired its engine for about 40 minutes to get captured into orbit. Deep space antennas in the California desert and Madrid tracked every move and fed real-time updates to ground controllers.

About 270 family members and friends of the mission team descended on the NASA campus to watch the drama unfold on a live feed.

"This is great, a big relief," deputy project scientist Sami Asmar told the jubilant crowd.

Grail is the 110th mission to target the moon since the dawn of the Space Age including the six Apollo moon landings that put 12 astronauts on the surface. Despite the attention the moon has



This undated artist rendering provided by NASA on 21 Dec, 2011 shows the twin Grail spacecraft mapping the lunar gravity field. The two probes are scheduled to enter orbit around the moon over New Year's weekend.

INTERNET

received, scientists don't know everything about Earth's nearest neighbour.

Internet

Apes willing to gamble like humans

NUMEGEN, 1 Jan—Apes appear to gamble, like humans, by calculating odds of rewards vs. risks in performing tasks, European researchers say.

Scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in the Netherlands observed apes as they "gambled" on overturning cups concealing pieces of chopped banana, Britain's *Daily Telegraph* reported Friday.

Faced with the choice of a guaranteed small piece of banana or a larger chunk of fruit hidden beneath one of a number of shuffled cups, the apes chose to gamble more than 50 per cent of the time, researchers said.

The apes were able to identify when the odds were stacked against them and when it was wiser to go with the safe bet, so when more cups were added and the odds of a bigger reward worsened, they became more cautious.

The research team said the ability is shared by chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas and orangutans, although chimps and orangutans were found to be more prolific risk-takers. "Our study adds to the growing evidence that the mental life of the other great apes is much more sophisticated than is often assumed," study leader Daniel Haun said.

Internet

Google Plus to have over 400 million users by the end of 2012

WASHINGTON, 1 Jan—Google's social networking site, Google Plus will have over 400 million users by the end of 2012, an American researcher has predicted.

"Based on the accelerated growth I'm seeing and all the dials and levers Google can still utilize, and the developer ecosystem that will be developed, I predict that 2012 is going to be a breakout year for Google Plus and that it will end next year with more than 400 million users," *The Daily Mail* quoted Paul Allen, as saying.

Though Facebook users outnumber Google Plus subscribers by 400 million, the figure comes as a setback to CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

Allen pointed out that Google already has 62 million users, with a quarter

of them signing up in December.

He said 625,000 members are signing up to Google Plus daily partly due to Android devices, which facilitate registration and through power of word of mouth. According to Allen, "it may be the holidays, the TV commercials, the Android 4signups, celebrity and brand appeal, or positive word of mouth, or a combination of all these factors" that led to large number of users subscribing to the site in December. His research

methodology is, however, not based on actual figures and is only a 'guestimate'.

He arrived at the data by tracking a list of unusual names

in the US on the recruitment site Elance and noting the number of those people being Google Plus users as well.—INTERNET

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Internet

Tech

Google+



Google Plus

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Internet

Designer behind Apple's products knighted in UK

LOS ANGELES, 1 Jan—Fans of the clean, inviting look of the iPhone, iPad and other blockbuster Apple products are legion, and that includes Queen Elizabeth II.

The British monarch has awarded a knighthood to Jonathan Paul Ive, a British citizen and head of Apple Inc.'s design team since the mid-'90s.

Ive received an Order of the British Empire for services to design and enterprise.

Ive is credited with helping the late Steve Jobs bring the consumer-electronics company back from the brink of financial ruin in the late 1990s with his whimsical design for the iMac computer, which originally came in bright colors at a time bland shades dominated the PC world. He later helped transform Apple into the envy of Silicon Valley with the designs for the iPod, the iPhone and, most recently, the iPad.—INTERNET

Verizon reverses on \$2 fee for one-time payments

NEW YORK, 1 Jan—After a customer backlash, Verizon Wireless on Friday dropped a plan to start charging \$2 for every payment subscribers make over the phone or online with their credit or debit cards.

In a statement on its website Friday, the company said "customer feedback" prompted the decision to drop the "convenience fee" it wanted to introduce on 15 Jan.

Verizon wanted to steer people to electronic check payments, which are cheaper, and automatic credit card payments, which are more reliable.

A petition on Change.org against the fees had gathered more than 95,000 names by Friday afternoon, a day after Verizon, the country's largest cellphone company, announced the fees.

The petition was set up by Molly Katchpole, who earlier this year started a successful campaign to make Bank of America drop a \$5-per-month fee for debit-card use.

Payment processors for power companies usually charge "convenience fees" of up to \$5 for every payment made by phone or online, but cellphone companies haven't taken the step yet.

The furor against Verizon hints that they may have to wait further.

Verizon Wireless serves 91 million phones and other devices on accounts that pay the company directly, and more who pay indirectly through other companies.

It's a joint venture of Verizon Communications Inc. of New York and Vodafone Group PLC of Britain.

Internet



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo greets departmental officials, townselders, local authorities and members of social organizations.—MNA

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

(from page 1)

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, Deputy Education Minister U Ba Shwe, Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Saw Hla and departmental heads, inspected the 340-ft long temporary bailey bridge in place of Shwechaung Bridge which was damaged due to natural disaster and site chosen for construction of 900-ft long new Shwechaung Bridge across Shwe Creek in Pakokku on 30 December evening.

The Union Construction Minister briefed the Vice-President on progress in construction of the bridge. Head of Magway Region Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems under the Ministry of Transport U Ohn Han reported on works for measuring water way at the chosen site and the Vice-Presi-



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo visits Pakokku General Hospital.—MNA

dent left necessary instructions.

The Vice-President and party then inspected resettlement of flood victims at Aungchantha Ward and spoke words of encouragement to them.

The Vice-President met departmental personnel at district and township levels, townselders, ward/village administrators and members of social organizations at Pyithaya Hall.

The Pakokku Township administrator and the deputy commissioner gave an account on area, location, population, amount of rain-

fall, land resource, irrigation system and irrigated areas of farmland, target production of monsoon and summer paddy, cultivation and production of rice, cultivation of 10 major crops, rice sufficiency, livestock farming, meat and fish production, net production, service, export and trade value, per capita income, standard of basic and higher education, number of health care facilities and provision of health care service, supply of water to rural and urban regions by development affairs committees, social welfare programmes of social organizations in their

township and district.

Next, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe made a supplementary report on rescue and rehabilitation of flood victims in Pakokku District, health care services, re-growing of flood-swept farms, progress in construction of new houses and opening of domestic science courses for female youths.

U Tint Swe, a senior citizen, requested to assign a kidney specialist to Pakokku General Hospital.

Union Minister for Electric Power No (1) U Zaw Min explained develop-

ments in education, health, agriculture, and transportation sectors in Magway Region, and stressed the public role in government-led rural development and poverty alleviation project for its success.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe mentioned rural disaster prevention and rehabilitation works being undertaken by the SWRR Ministry and highlighted the need for wide issuance of advance warning of natural disasters and the people's cooperation.

The Vice-President fulfilled the needs in education and health sectors and delivered an address, saying that he and his entourage were there to inau-

quirements for regional development and emphasizing the accuracy of statistics.

The Vice-President noted that the global countries including Myanmar was facing climate change and natural disasters small or large, calling for awareness of climate change process and coordination with personnel and townselders of regions concerned in taking preventive measures.

Looking at the urban-rural population ratio of today's Myanmar, it could be seen that 70 per cent of the people were residing in rural areas, said the Vice-President, adding that the President himself was playing a leading role in rural development and poverty alleviation works launched all over the country.



gurate Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) which would set the record of longest bridge in Myanmar. On his tour, he inspected the site chosen for construction of new Shwechaung Bridge in place of flood-swept old one and new houses for flood victims.

He added that he was there to learn the conditions of the region from personnel and townselders and to fulfill the requirements. He then revealed targets of education, health, agriculture, transportation, and economic plans and progress in implementation of them, pointing out the further re-

The Vice-President continued to say that in so doing, eight-point work programme was adopted depending on the fundamental needs suggested by the workshops of local and foreign experts and it was a project being implemented under the guidance of the government with the assistance of private sector, UN and international social organizations. It was also the Millennium Development Goals of the UN, added the Vice-President urging the people to play a part for the success of the project.

(See page 7)



Houses relocated for flood victims of Aungchantha Ward in Pakokku.—MNA

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

(from page 6)

Observing Pakokku District, it could be seen that education, health and transportation sectors were improving and businesses and industries developing, leading to an increase in job opportunities, noted the Vice-President, calling for focus on reduction of poverty and enhancement of socio-economy of rural people with the assistance, encouragement and correct guidance of regional authorities and civil servants.

The Vice-President continued to say that for rural development and poverty alleviation, the President had instructed to seek means to put the motto "one district, one product" into practice even if every village could not produce one particular product on industrial scale according to the motto "one village, one product". Mainly, it should be targeted for increase of per capita income of individual, underpinned the Vice-President.

In addition, the Vice-President said that, it was targeted to produce 1500



Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental officials, townselders, local authorities and members of social organizations at Pyithaya Hall in Pakokku.—MNA

million baskets of rice per year for food sufficiency of 60 million citizens of the country and even surplus can be produced today. However, the population would keep on growing and thus the target of 2000 million baskets of rice per acre was to be set for food security of about 100 million people.

Marching towards the goal of modern, developed nation, stability of the State plus economic growth is a must, stressed the Vice-President.

To achieve the stability of the State, the government had been focusing all its attention on creating eternal

peace, endeavoring to bring armed conflicts among national brethren conceived with the independence to an end.

The people were to lend a hand in ensuring stability and eternal peace in their home regions and the entire nation as well, urged the Vice-President.

The Vice-President added that the government had been constructing infrastructures necessary for socio-economic development and high living standard of the nation and the infrastructural development so far had been satisfactory. The government was also creating jobs for

people and encouraging establishment of small and medium enterprises to reduce the poverty rate of the rural people.

The Vice-President then urged the people to cooperate with the government for rapid achievement of national stability and economic development, adding that Hluttaw representatives elected by the people were discharging their respective duties in legislative, executive and judicial pillars in accordance with the constitution.

The Vice-President then called regional administrators and all the civil servants to exert efforts for the interests

of the State and people in line with the new administrative mechanism.

The Vice-President then cordially conversed with district/township level departmental personnel and townselders.

The Vice-President and party then visited Pakokku General Hospital where Union Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint contributed cash to the medical fund of the hospital and provided patients with cash and kind.

The Vice-President in meeting with the medical superintendent, doctors and nurses of the hospital in-

structed provision of haemodialysis by the government and donors depending on the number of patients who are bitten snakes and who suffer kidney failure at Region/State and district level hospitals and assigned the Ministry of Health to turn out specialists.

The Vice-President and party then proceeded to Thihoshin Pagoda where the Vice-President offered flowers to the Buddha image and donated cash to the pagoda board of trustees. They then visited Shwegu Pagoda and presented cash to the pagoda board of trustees.

MNA

Kanyin Dam in Ingapu Township inaugurated as 10th facility in Ayeyawady Region

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—A ceremony to inaugurate Kanyin Dam, built by Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, was held at the dam in Ingapu Township this morning, attended by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw U Hsan Hsint, region ministers, officials and local people.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Ministers said that as only when farmers can earn increased incomes, will the whole nation develop in harmony, the government is building a large number of dams and reservoirs for agricultural purpose. From 1988 to date, the nation has built 233 dams to irrigate 2.82 million acres of arable lands. It was the 10th facility of its kind in Ayeyawady Region, he added.

He said that the new government is undertaking

eight tasks of rural development and poverty alleviation as a national duty. Ministries concerned, local authorities and entrepreneurs are seeking the strong market for crops produced by farmers. Likewise, farmers are to use quality strains and agricultural inputs, apply good agriculture pattern and save cost of cultivation harmoniously.

He urged the local people to maintain the dam for its durability and to carry out poverty alleviation.

The Region Chief Minister also made a speech. A local spoke words of thanks.

The Region Chief Minister and the Region Hluttaw Speaker formally opened the dam. The Union Minister unveiled the stone inscription.

The dam will irrigate 8000 acres of summer paddy and it was installed with two 2.5 megawatt generators to supply electricity to the region.

Kanyin Dam is of earthen type, and its embankment is 194 feet high and 3750 feet long. The saddle dyke is 2850 feet long. The dam can store 148800 acre-feet of water at full brim. Three conduits, four feet by six feet, is of RC oggee type for benefiting 25000 acres of farmlands. Construction of the dam started in 2002-2003.

The Union Minister and party participated in seeding of Palethwe hybrid paddy strain on 20-acre farmland in Kywezin Village in Ingapu Township.—MNA

UCSB Chairman attends course concluding ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—Chairman of Union Civil Services Board U Kyaw Thu addressed concluding ceremony of refresher course No (44) for basic education teachers at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper

Myanmar) yesterday morning.

UCSB Member Dr Myint Aung, Mandalay Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Hlaing, officials and trainees attended the ceremony.

The chairman presented prizes to outstanding trainees and completion certificates to each company.

The course was completed by 1500 basic education teachers.

MNA

BEHS branch gets archway gate

HOPIN, 1 Jan—The archway gate of Ywathitgyi Basic Education High School branch was opened in Hopin Township, Mohnyin District, on 18 December.

Officials and the wellwisher opened the archway.

The archway was built at a cost of K 5 million by wellwisher U Pay Tu Lay and family.—Township IPRD

District News

New asphalt road opened

PINLAUNG, 1 Jan—As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the self-reliant new asphalt Shwetaunggyar Road was opened in Pinlaunggyi Village of Pinlaung Township on 28 December.

The new facility is 12 feet wide and 2800 feet long constructed at a cost of K 4,624,600 by local people and K 3.3 million by Township Development Affairs Committee.

Township IPRD

Vocalist donates cash to orphanage

MEIKTILA, 1 Jan—A ceremony to donate cash to funds of Orphanage Youth Development Parahita School in Nyaunggaing region of Meiktila was held at the school on 16 December.

Vocalist Dun donated K 2.8 million from his profession to the school. The vocalist wandered villages of Meiktila Township in performing singing entertainments. Among cash earned from the entertainments, he donated K 2.2 million to fund for construction of Kokkagon Village Pre-Primary School in Meiktila Township on 30 December.

Myanma Alin



Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day Independence Day and present duty

Kyaw Ye Min



President U Thein Sein meets UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon at Nikko Bali Hotel and Resort in Bali of the Republic of Indonesia on 19 November, 2011.

With the mists of January, Independence Day which is the day of great significance for Myanmar and its people has again reached its anniversary.

Independence is priceless for a nation and its people. It is indeed lifeblood of a nation. It is a thing that cannot be lost anyway and anyhow. So, it should not be forgotten that every citizen is duty-bound to safeguard the nation till the doomsday and independence so long as the nation exists.

Independence is concerned with the past, present and future as well. In the past, lots of lives were sacrificed to claim back independence. At present, it is to be solidified and it is to be safeguarded in the future for its perpetuity.

Of the three times, the present time is of most important. At the present time, solidification of independence is of most important. So, whatever the government and the people are collaboratively endeavouring today can be interpreted as strengthening independence at the present time and safeguarding it for all eternity in the future.

Today, our country is marching towards the goal of modern, developed new nation exercising democracy and market economy in accordance with the new constitution. The democratically-elected government with its all seriousness is undertaking reforms, restoring stability and spurring development as desired by the people.

In legal affairs, a total of 15 laws have been enacted including promulgation of new laws and amending the old ones. Systematic plans are underway to be able to formulate new laws and amend old ones in accordance with changing conditions. Thanks to such legal reforms, people now can play bigger role in politics, economy, investment, trade, education, health and agricultural sector of the nation.

Likewise, in administration, the doctrine of Good Governance and Clean Government which places public interests at the fore is being put into practice step by step. As the administrative organs have direct contact with the people, the administrative mechanism is being built to be transparent, showing respect for the people. In addition, multi-faceted reforms have been made in judicial system, lending credibility to judicature.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has been formed with the aim of effectively protecting and promoting human rights of the people. Trustworthy experts for various social classes constituted the independent commission which will work cooperatively with international community including the United Nations Human Rights Commission and regional organizations, creating historic human rights records of the future nation and its people.

For two times, general amnesty has been granted for the prisoners who are serving

their time for breach of existing laws, releasing over 20,000 prisoners. These prisoners now have a chance to play a part in building the new nation. Furthermore, there were over 40,000 prisoners who were commuted to life imprisonment from death sentence and released one year ahead of regular prison term. It is indeed a turning point not only for them but also for their family and friends.

The government is also endeavouring to make peace with ethnic armed groups for peace and stability of the nation. To be able to attain eternal peace, it has adopted different strategies based on objective conditions of the nation today and historical events, taking the different views of ethnic groups into full consideration. Of the 10 remaining ethnic armed groups big and small that still refuse to make peace, two groups have signed peace agreements at state level and are entering Union level peace negotiations. Two other groups also have reached state level peace agreement and are preparing for Union level peace talks. In addition, there have been contacts with other six groups, moving a step closer to eternal peace nationwide. It is obvious that the government is exerting efforts to create win-win situation through coordination and by building mutual trust and understanding for internal and external political stability.

Moreover, the government has been focusing its attention on social and economic reforms for

incentives to attract foreign direct investment, it is striving to stimulate the economy. Consequently, FDI are about to come flooding in from Europe, Japan, Singapore, Korea, China and India. As FDI will bring in opportunities for domestic businesses and jobs, we will be able to overcome the hardship of working illegally abroad.

Likewise, the government is relaxing export/import procedures and taxation regulations to grease the wheels of importation and exportation processes. The smooth and swift commercial activities and export/import process will then strengthen the national economy. Moreover, old pension rate of retirees and political pension rate have been adjusted in line with enacted laws. The increased pension rate has created broad smiles on over 815,000 retired civil servants and their families and relatives. Previously, the retirees had to tighten their belts living on a small amount of pension but now can lead a pleasant life even with affordability to donate due to increased pension rate.

Moreover, in accordance with the prescription in the constitution that says every possible assistance is to be given to people, farmers and workers to enhance their socio-economic status, the government is implementing rural development and poverty alleviation scheme across the nation. The poverty rate of the nation has declined to 26 per cent from 32 per cent in around 2005 and it is targeted to decrease to 16 per cent in 2015, for which 8-point rural

development and poverty alleviation plan is being widely implemented for rural people who constitute the 70 per cent of the population, setting the time frame from July, 2011 to 31 December, 2015. Works are in effective operation on the ground in cooperation with the rural people in 82 sub-townships of 330 townships all over the country. It is learnt that micro-credit union laws in the process of formulation to help accelerate the works.

The government has initiated assistance for farmers in cooperation with the private sector to help them overcome such difficulties as need for agricultural input, production at a loss and slashed price for farm products. In addition, the government will make certain arrangements for farmers to be able to hand down permitted farms generation after generation in accordance with the laws.

Industrialization is a must on the road to prosperous future. Development of small and medium lies at the heart of industrialization process. Therefore, the government is introducing adjustment measures to facilitate the investment procedures for different scales of industries to gear up SME development.

National level workshop was organized to reform economic policies inclusive of currency exchange rate in line with the constitution and current time. The government has meticulously assessed the resolutions and suggestions and is seeking advice from international

(See page 9)



Prisoners released by amnesty of the President.

Independence Day...

(from page 8)

monetary organizations for the change. It is so obvious that the government is carefully undertaking the reforms step by step in order not to harm the daily economic life of the nation and its people both in short and long run.

Currently, with the support of the public, the new government is doing what should be done in real time in accordance with international economic and monetary conditions and domestic economic climate. The government therefore is concentrating all its efforts on creating fair competitiveness in the market, equal rights for each individual, reduction of transactional costs, elimination of red-tape

and amendment of old ones in accordance with objective conditions of the nation in such programmes like environmental conservation.

Today, Myanmar is entering into a new era and new system. The government and people are joining hands in building the modern, developed, new democratic nation. Relatively distinct reforms can be seen in political, economic and social areas, highlighting the democratization process of the nation. Especially, the nation and its people are making changes every single time and these changes are definitely of positive ones.

However, transitional period is prone to challenges and transitional process of Myanmar is no exception. Some challenges, we have

single joint effort of the government and the people for building democratic new nation today means solidifying independence at the present time and safeguarding independence and sovereignty for their perpetual existence in the future.

Our country has mass ground for wealth if only we are united. Myanmar belongs to all Myanmar peoples. Every citizen has a responsibility to give a hand in protecting the nation in order not to lose the country in other words not to lose the independence and sovereignty.

Every citizen loves his own nation and his own land and wants his own nation and people to be able to enjoy prosperity. Every citizen wants to live in unity, harmony and amity. Every citizen adores his own land and community and aspires to a peaceful and

64th Anniversary Independence Day Objectives

- * All the national people to live together in the Union forever in weal or woe
- * All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- * All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for development of socio-economic life of the people, reducing of poverty rate and ensuring the firm and clean executive pillar in building up a modern, developed democratic new nation
- * All the national people to consciously cooperate in promoting genuine democratic practice and ensuring the rule of law, national reconsolidation and eternal peace.



National level workshop on rural development and poverty alleviation in progress.

system, activation and solid foundation of market economy mechanism and adaption of new procedures aimed to develop industries and businesses.

The government is shaping public-private partnership stronger and stronger by reciprocally assisting private-sector-led organizations which are key drivers of the national economy. Meanwhile, it is encouraging private sector to play a significant role in creating secured jobs, driving GDP growth and increasingly manufacturing products of quality standard in regional and global competitive market.

It has been focusing straight on promotion of fundamental rights of citizens in conformity with provisions of the constitution, re-formulation of out-of-date farming rights laws, adequate provision of public health care and social security programmes, promotion of education and health standards, reformation of media in accord with the constitution, and enactment of new laws

overcome, some, we are dealing with and some, we will encounter in the future. Nevertheless, it should not be forgotten challenges go hand in hand with opportunities. It is important to surmount the challenges and grasp the opportunities.

In reality, our nation already has the constitution massively supported by the people, the government formed in accordance with the constitution, and interrelated parliaments acting as reciprocally monitoring bodies with judicial pillar standing separately as well. The fourth estate of the country, media have gradually become mature and developed. At such time, what is of most important is unity plus cooperation for common interests actually beneficial to the nation and its people setting aside the diversities. If so, it is not difficult to solve the challenges and seize the opportunities.

To repeat the introduction, independence is concerned with the present, past and future, of which the present time is the most important. Therefore, every

prosperous society. This is the same wish of each and every citizen. So, all the people, taking it as present duty sharing the same wish, are to safeguard the independence in unison as from this year's

Independence Day to the last day of the world so that the nation can stand tall among global countries now and forever.

Translation: TKK

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

POEM:

For greater progress of Union

Now in tranquility our country
We have unity without any divisions
Blood's thicker than water
Patriotism our noble foundation
Overtures we've made with sincerity
All towards the right path
Our brethren in harmony and unison
We brave high winds and drive out enemies
Safeguarding nation our priority
Always in unity we are
For everlasting of independence
We join hands eternally
Cementing unity every moment
Let's try our best friends
So that our Union be safe
And enjoying greater progress
All along its future course

Maung Hla Thein (Thaye Thanmain) (Trs)

Photo shows Dawei deep-sea port project.





Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views provision of health care services to fire victims at No. 7 BEHS in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.
MNA

Fire Brigade members who sacrificed...

(from page 16)

funds of the monastery through Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jatila of Maha Wizayayama Monastery.

At the Dhammayon, he presented K 200,000 each to 63 households.

At Bawzana Thukhakari Refectory, the Vice-President donated K 1 million each to the funds of Maha Wizayayama Monastery through Assistant Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññinda and Khemathiwin Monastery through Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññavamsa.

In meeting with families of five members of the Fire Brigade who sacrificed lives in the fire explosion, he said that he took pride in performance of five members of Fire Brigade who sacrificed lives for the sake of the people. He expressed his condolence for demise of those members. He said that the Fire Brigade members who sacrificed live in fire fighting will be honoured deservedly. The State will provide assistance to the remaining families for their life as much as possible. He presented K 200,000 each to their families of five dead Fire Brigade members and 13 people.

At the donation ceremony, the Vice-President accepted K 5.2 million to be shared as K 50,000 each for 104 damaged houses, 5500 corrugated iron sheets worth K 6,350,245, 208 plain iron sheets worth K 240,154 and 77 viss of CI nails worth K 231,000, amounting to K 12,021,399 donated by Union Minister for SWRR U Aung Kyi.

Max Myanmar Co Ltd U Zaw Zaw donated K 50 million for reconstruction of Khemathiwin Monastery, Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association K 40.5 million, Myanmar Football Federation K 4 million, 14 MNL football clubs K 3 million each, Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co Ltd K 3 million for auxiliary Fire Brigade, K 3 million for Red Cross Brigade, K 2.5 million for five sacrificed Fire Brigade members and K 3 million for 30 members of Fire Brigade who are under treatment at the hospital and K 10 million for fire victims and Chairman

of Tawwin Co Ltd U Ko Ko Htwe K 20 million to the Vice-President.

He also accepted K 335 million donated by wellwishers including K 15 million each by Chairman of A-1 Construction Co Ltd, Chairman of Golden Flower Co Ltd U Aung Htwe, Chairman of Shwedaung Development Co Ltd U Aung Zaw Niang, Chairman of ACE Construction Group U San Ko Ko Tint Hsan, Chairman of Original Group Co Ltd U Sai Tha Htay, Chairman of TZTM Construction Co Ltd U Thein Lin and Chairman of PMG Co Ltd U Thein Win, K 10 million each by Chairman of Carrier Aircon U Han Kyi, Chairman of Myanmar Base Net Co Ltd U Kyaw Moe Naing and Chairman of WEG Co Ltd U Win Naing, K 5 million by Shwe Thabye Co Ltd U Thein Win and K 4 million by Forever Group.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham comforts fire victims at Yangon General Hospital.
MNA



At Yangon General Hospital, the Vice-President and party heard reports on medical treatment provided to the injured patients from fire explosion at the hospital and giving health care services to them presented by Medical Superintendent Dr Than Win and specialists. The Vice-President gave instructions on special care for the patients.

At Hall Nos. 5 and 6 of Yangon General Hospital, intensive care unit, hall Nos 9 and 10, the Vice-President comforted Fire Brigade members and people injured in the fire explosion and one woman who injured in bomb blast at the public toilet in Kamayut Township and presented K 100,000 each to them.

On arrival at Neurosurgical Department, the Vice-President asked after Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandiçca from Khemathewun Monastery injured in the fire explosion and donated K 100,000 to his fund. Then, he comforted wounded members of Fire Brigade and people and gave K 100,000 each to them.

At Kamayut BEHS No. 2, the Vice-President viewed cleaning of debris from the damaged school building by servicemen of regiments and units under Yangon Command and loss and damages. Later, he gave words of encouragement to teachers.

Headmistress Daw May Hla Yi reported on number of students and classrooms, arrangements for reopening of the school and loss and damages in the fire. Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Director-General U Aung Win of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development gave supplementary reports on reconstruction of school building. The Vice-President gave instructions on continuous learning of students and soonest reconstruction of the school building.

Patron of the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint handed over K 300 million donated by MCEA for reconstruction of school building to the Vice-President.

The association will take responsibilities for completion of construction tasks for school buildings.—MNA



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham at site of burnt-down Mittamon group of warehouses in Kutohseik Ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.
MNA



Tachilek's new roads hauled Independence Day

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—Tachilek hailed 64th Independence Day with the opening of a number of tarred roads on 27 December.

Officials explained about road works in this tax year.

Shan State Development Affairs Minister U Tu Maung and officials formally opened the roads.

The length of roads is 800 feet in total and its width 12 feet. These were implemented by the fund of K 32 million.—MNA



People attend New Year celebrations in Shanghai, east China, on 1 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

Beer drinkers likelier to be in drunk driving deaths

WASHINGTON, 1 Jan—Beer drinkers are most likely to drive drunk and get involved in driving fatalities than wine or scotch drinkers, a new study has found.

In fact, the study found that states with higher wine consumption actually have fewer drunk driving deaths, *Discovery News* reported.

“Beer has the strongest link to traffic fatalities, then spirits, while wine has a negative impact on traffic fatalities,” said Bradley Rickard, assistant professor of economics and applied management at Cornell

University.

“Wine is more likely to be consumed with food. That has an impact. We also suspect that there are different demographic groups that consume this alcohol.

“May be the audience that consumes wine is less likely to drink and drive and be in a traffic accident,” he said. Rickard said he and his colleagues at Cornell were motivated by recent efforts to block the sale of wine in grocery stores.

Opponents said the greater availability of wine would actually result in more

youth drinking, health problems and traffic deaths. Rickard says his study actually counters that final argument.

“Our results suggest that arguments against legislation that proposes to introduce wine into grocery stores for reasons related to traffic fatalities may be misguided,” the study stated.

“Specifically, the conventional wisdom that alcoholic beverages with higher ethanol content are more dangerous in terms of traffic fatalities is not obvious in our simulation results,” he

NEW DELHI, 1 Jan—The Indian authorities Saturday launched relief operations on a war-footing to bring back normalcy of life in the southern state of Tamil Nadu’s cyclone-battered Cuddalore district and adjacent Pudukcherry, a national territory, reported local media.

Meanwhile, the death toll from the severe storm Thane has mounted to 42,

according to the *Press Trust of India*.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalitha said nine more people have died in rain related incidents, taking the toll to 42, following the severe cyclonic storm Thane that crossed the Tamil Nadu coast on Friday, according to the news agency.

She said five people were killed in the worst-affected

Cuddalore district, three in Kancheepuram and one in Theni. She also announced a solatium of 200,000 rupees (4,000 US dollars) each to those killed.

Thane, packed with wind speeds of about 135 kmph, killed 33 in Cuddalore and the Union territory of Pudukcherry, while leaving around 20,000 people homeless on Friday.

Xinhua

stated.

Rickard said restricting alcohol sales after 10 pm has the strongest negative pressure on drunk driving deaths. “We’re not advocating that people drink wine and then they are fine to drive. We’re just saying look over the last 25 years, it has been those states with higher rate of beer consumption have higher traffic fatalities,” Rickard added.

The study was published in this month’s *Journal of the American Association of Wine Economists*.

Internet



A boy poses with an ant-shaped artwork created by Chen Zhiguang during an exhibition in Fuzhou, southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 31 Dec, 2011. The artwork exhibit here are made of stainless steel. XINHUA

US airport evacuated after serviceman found carrying explosives in bag

HOUSTON, 1 Jan—An airport terminal in the US state of Texas was evacuated Saturday morning after a serviceman was found carrying explosives in his bag.

The man, a member of the US Armed Forces, was stopped at Midland International Airport when explosives were found in his

carry-on baggage as it went through an X-ray machine.

The man was heading to a military base in North Carolina with his family, according to US media reports.

The US Transportation Security Administration said in a statement that one of its officers found a suspicious item in the man’s carry-on

bag during an X-ray screening.

The checkpoint was closed for about one hour while officers investigated and removed the item, the statement said.

The man was detained by the FBI and was cooperating with investigators, according to reports.—Xinhua

Bed tester to insure her butt for 4 million pounds

LONDON, 1 Jan—A hotel worker is all set to insure her derriere for 4 million pounds after landing a job to test the softness of guests’ beds.

Natalie Thomas, will check about 24 beds each day after being appointed director of bed bouncing for a hotel chain, Premier Inn’s.

The 39-year-old was offered the job after she impressed with her ability to feel even the smallest lump

or bump in a mattress.

She takes care of her prized bottom with regular moisturising and does not wear materials, such as denim jeans, which lessen sensitivity.

So important is her bottom that the firm is in talks to insure it for 4 million pounds.

“I absolutely love my new job—it’s a dream come true,” the *Daily Express*

quoted her as saying.

“While it can be fun bouncing on beds, I take my job very seriously as making sure every guest gets a good night’s sleep is of paramount importance to the hotel,” she added. Thomas and her team of helpers will travel thousands of miles a year across the UK, visiting the chain’s 602 hotels to test how comfortable the Inn’s 46,000 beds are.—Internet



Accountants for New Year are on sale at Times Square in New York, the United States, on 31 Dec, 2011. Celebrations for New Year’s Eve at Times Square is one of the biggest New Year party in the world. XINHUA



Photo taken on 31 Dec, 2011 shows the Erqi Yangtze River Bridge in Wuhan, the capital of central China’s Hubei Province. The Erqi Yangtze River Bridge, the seventh Yangtze River Bridge, was completed and opened to traffic on Saturday. The bridge, 6,507 meters in total length with two main 616-meter spans, was both the three-bridgehead cable-stayed and composite-beam cable-stayed bridge with the world’s largest span.—XINHUA

Hijacked Italian crew ‘fine’

ROME, 1 Jan—The captain of an Italian ship hijacked off the coast of Somalia said the 18-member crew is “fine.”

“We are anchored off the Somali coast and the crew is fine,” Captain Agostino Musumeci said Friday.

The oil tanker, the Enrico Levioli, was captured near the coast of Oman, Italy’s ANSA news Agency reported.

Last week, another Italian oil tanker, the Savina Caylyn, was freed after being hijacked by Somali pirates in February.

Officials estimate pirates in the region made \$80 million from ransom money in 2010. Earlier this year, governments reached an agreement that they would no longer pay ransoms.

Internet

Fish with razor-sharp teeth bites off fishermen’s genitals

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 Jan—A river fish in the waters of Papua New Guinea has been targeting fishermen’s penises. According to *Sin Chew Daily*, two local fishermen bled to death after having their private organs bitten off by the piranha-like river fish’s razor-sharp teeth, *Star Online* reported.

An experienced angler from Britain said it was believed the killer fish had started biting humans due to a lack of “naturally occurring food”.

Marine biologist Ian Middleton said the fish had the most human-like teeth on the bottom jaw he had ever seen.

He also said that the fish could have possibly fed on insects and might have detected a chemical change in the water before swimming up the urine trail and biting human genitals.

Internet

ENGAGEMENT

Steve Batu (a) Maung Lu Min
(Actron Engineering, Australia)

son of Mr Terry Batu+Daw Nyo Nyo Aung,
residing at Sydney, Australia engage to

Ma Pan Myat Phyu (a)
Academy Pan Phyu, B.A (Hist)

daughter of U Kyee Myint+
Daw Myint Myint Yee
residing at Yangon, on 1st January, 2012
at Sedona Hotel, presence of
both sided of parents.

Both sided of parents and

Steve Batu (a) Maung Lu Min+
Ma Pan Myat Phyu (a) Academy Pan Phyu

Thinking of you on your birthday with
good wishes for a year filled with
happiness!!!

Happy Birthday
To
Capt. Aung Thein Myint (Listar)

From

Your Loved Ones

Ohn Mar Kyi Win, Thiri Kyi Win (MDIS)
(Pharmacy) & Moe Hein Aung (U.S.A)

2nd Jan' 2012

THANKS TO ALL FOR ENCOURAGING OUR WEDDING CEREMONY

MANG KHAWM PAU (a) PATRICK

younger son of (Dr. Cope Ya Pome),
State Health Officer,
Department of Health (Retd)-Daw Ciin Niang,
living at No. 6-A, Bld No. 37/41,
50th Street,
Botataung Township, Yangon,
married to

AYE MAY WAR (a) LIAN THIAN CING
(RTAD)

second daughter of (U Mang Kim), Custom
Officer (Retd), Daw Hau Za Cing living at First
Floor (left)

Bld No. 52, 43rd Street, Botataung Township,
Yangon.

We both sides of parents take pleasure to say our
heartfelt thanks to all honourable dignitaries and
esteem gentlemen, all relative and friends,
presented personally at the ceremony and those
earnestly extended assistance in everything at the
Wedding Reception and Signing Ceremony by the
bride and bridegroom signifying their marriage held
at Yangon Siyin Baptist Church and Panda Hotel
(Pearl Hall) on 12.10.2011 (Saturday).

Both sided of Parents and

MAUNG KHAWM PAU (a)PATRICK
AYE MAY WAR (a) LIAN THIAN CING

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed
on 4th January (Wednesday)
2012, Independence Day,
being Public holiday Under
the Negotiable Instruments
Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

Could hypersonic flight become a reality?

LONDON, 1 Jan — When
Concorde was
decommissioned in 2003,
supersonic air travel became
a thing of the past. But work
has begun on a passenger
aircraft that could go further
and faster - flying from Eu-

rope to Australia in four hours.
Will it ever become a reality?
The European Space
Agency's goal is to create a
hypersonic passenger plane,
one that flies more than five
times faster than the speed of
sound and six times faster
than a standard airliner.

It's not the first time hy-
perersonic flight has been at-
tempted. In 1960, tests took
place on the X-15 — half
plane, half missile — which
carried one pilot and flew for
90 seconds before its rocket
fuel burnt out. Its creators
thought it would herald a new
era of high-speed civil avia-
tion but more than 50 years
later, a hypersonic passen-
ger plane has yet to be tested
or even built. Now a team
led by the European Space
Agency, known as Lapcat,
are working on an aircraft

called the A2, which could
take up where the X-15 left
off.

The technology involved
in exceeding the speed of
sound — Mach 1 — is ex-
tremely complex. "Mach
number is the key," says
aerodynamics expert at Im-
perial College London, Paul
Bruce. "When you go below
Mach 1 — so flying slower
than the speed of sound —
and then transition to above
Mach 1, the flow of physics
completely changes. When
you go to Mach 5 or 6 the
laws start changing once
again." At hypersonic
speeds, gasses and metals
behave very differently. Air-
liner engines that work at
subsonic speeds — about
Mach 0.85 or 913km per hour
— won't work.

Internet

Mach numbers

* Mach number is the speed of an aircraft relative to the
speed of sound passing through the air

* Mach 1 is the speed of sound - approximately 1,236
km/h, depending on various factors including tempera-
ture and altitude

* Mach 2 is twice the speed of sound, Mach 3 is three
times the speed of sound and so on

China's quality watchdog warns of safety risks of some Subaru vehicles

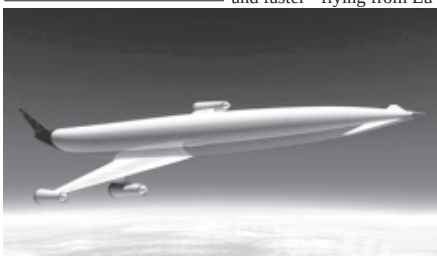
BEIJING, 1 Jan — China's
top quality regulator warned
Friday of safety risks due to

design flaws in the brake
master cylinders of the im-
ported Subaru Legacy and
Outback vehicles produced
by Japanese automaker Fuji
Heavy Industries Ltd.

The problem, which in-
volved 7,133 imported vehi-
cles on the Chinese main-
land, could potentially re-
sult in traffic accidents as it
prolongs cars' stopping dis-
tance, the General Adminis-
tration of Quality Supervi-
sion, Inspection and Quar-
antine said in a statement on
its website.

The statement added the
flaw has led to accidents
shortly after the problematic
vehicles were put on the
market.

Xinhua

**4,000-year-old cypress tree survives move**

Xi'AN, 1 Jan — An an-
cient cypress tree has shown
signs of growth after it was
transplanted during the
spring in northwest China's
Shaanxi Province, according
to local gardening experts.
New branches of the tree
have emerged after nine
months of preservation and
maintenance. The tree, which
is said to have a history of
over 4,000 years according
to local villagers of
Huangling county, had to be
removed in order for the con-
struction of a water-control
project, or else it would have
been submerged.

In November 2009, the
preliminary process of the
transplantation began, ac-

cording to Wang Chunmei,
head of the county's public-
ity department. About nine
months later, the experts con-
sidered it an appropriate time
to transplant when the newly-
grown capillary roots, which
are vital to the root system
and determine how much
water and minerals a plant
can absorb, had formed. On
28 March, with the help of
giant cranes, trucks, and a
soil ball to protect its roots,
the ancient tree, which
weighs 450 tonnes, was
moved to its new home 2.5
km away from its original
location. —Xinhua

An ice statue is seen at the
opening ceremony of the
first Zhangbei ice and
snow festival in Zhangbei
County of north China's
Hebei Province, on 30
Dec, 2011. The first
Zhangbei ice and snow
festival kicked off here on
Friday. The festival is
scheduled to open until
March 10, 2012 and a
series of ice and snow
related games and events
will be held during the
festival. — Xinhua

Seven dead, one injured in NE China car crash

HARBIN, 1 Jan — Seven people died and one was injured
when two sedans collided around noon on Saturday in
northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, local police said.

Two cars with a total of eight people on board hit head-
on in the city of Zhaodong at around 12:30 pm Saturday,
leaving six dead at the scene.

Another person died on the way to hospital and one
person was injured, municipal traffic police said.

Police are looking into the cause of the accident.

Xinhua

Peru holds mass end-of-year wedding for 92 couples

LIMA, 1 Jan — Peru's capital, Lima, has held a mass
wedding for 92 couples, the last group ceremony of the
year. The brides and grooms, ranging in age from 18 to 74,
were married in a ceremony conducted by the city's
mayor.

Mass weddings are becoming more popular in Peru -
not least because they are far cheaper than individual
ceremonies. "We fulfilled our desire to get married after
living together for 34 years," said Carmen Mercado, 64,
who wed her partner, 74-year-old Jorge de la Cruz.

The couples paid some \$10 (£6) for the joint cer-
emony, instead of the usual \$142 (£95) fee in Lima.

The group took their vows and exchanged rings at the
same time during Tuesday's wedding.

Among the newly-weds were Edger Pasapera, 19, and
Luisa Viera, 18, who met in school.

People had tried to keep them apart, Edger told Reuters.
"Thanks to God and the love we have for each other,
we are still together. We already have a beautiful baby
who was born a fortnight ago." Lima Mayor Susana
Villaran presided over the event.

"This is part of the city's celebration of the end of the
year," said official Eva Revoredo who assisted with the
ceremony. — Internet

List of likely 2012 'top words' released

A US language group has released its annual global survey of words and phrases it says are likely to dominate word usage and creation in 2012.

In its 12th annual global survey of the English language, Global Language Monitor said terms such as CERN, Kate, China, the Olympics and those relating to the US elections and end-of-world scenarios will be foremost next year.

"The year 2012 looks to be a vibrant year for the English language with word creation again driven by events both scheduled and unanticipated," Paul JJ Payack, president and chief word analyst of GLM, said.

"Typically there is an 'end-of-the-world' scenario every few years that impacts the English language; this year we will see no fewer than three including the Maya Apocalypse and the Solar Max," he said.

Austin, Texas-based GLM ranked words from throughout the English-

speaking world, with an estimated 1.83 billion speakers, analyzing the Internet, blogosphere, the top 75,000 print and electronic global media and social media sources.

Global Language Monitor determined "occupy" was the Top Word, "Arab Spring" the Top Phrase, and Steve Jobs the Top Name of 2011 in its survey. "Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, will

compete with the London Olympics, the economic surge of China, various activities involving the CERN atom smasher, and the US presidential election for Top Word honors, though we always allow for word creation generated from unexpected events such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005 or the Japanese 'triple disaster' of 2011," Payack said.



Photo shows Pygmy Chimpanzee cooking for itself.

News Album



Selena Gomez

Selena Gomez paid parents' rent with first TV wages

LONDON, 1 Jan—Selena Gomez has revealed that she had used her first wages from 'Wizards of Waverly Place' to pay her parents' rent.

The Disney actress' family had moved from their native Texas to Los Angeles to support her blossoming showbiz career.

The 19-year-old revealed that when she landed her first starring role in the hit children's TV show, she handed the money to her family to pay its living expenses.

"I think (my first pay cheque) went into living (in Los Angeles) because we had to move from Texas, so I think we just had to pay for it," The Daily Express quoted her as telling Access Hollywood.

Internet

Jennifer Lopez sets sail in luxurious yacht with toyboy lover for New Year in Miami

LONDON, 1 Jan—Jennifer Lopez, who whisked away her toyboy lover Casper Smart on several trips around the world in the past two months, has now set sail with him on a luxurious yacht in Miami.

The 42-year-old singer looked ready for a relaxing break, showing off her famous curves in a green halterneck dress, the Daily Mail reported.

She appeared to have pared down her usually made-up look in favour of a bare-faced complexion and tied



Jennifer Lopez,

her brunette locks back into a casual bun.

The 24-year-old back-up dancer looked like the cat that cream as he boarded the vessel, looking around the new digs with a smile upon his face. He wore a black tank top and a fitted short sleeve

shirt, which showed off his bulging muscles and array of tattoos. He also carried a back pack on his shoulders and wore an expensive looking watch on his wrist.

While 'The Back-Up Plan' star made her way around the ship, Smart looked more interested in the conversation he was having on the phone. Lopez's twins Max and Emme also appeared to have joined the couple, with the nanny seen holding the singer's three-year-old daughter.

Internet

Bradley Cooper dating Zoe Saldana?

LONDON, 1 Jan—Actor Bradley Cooper is reportedly dating actress Zoe Saldana.

The 36-year-old, who was recently named Sexiest Man Alive by People

magazine, is said to have grown close to the "Avatar" actress while working together in upcoming movie "The Words".

"They are very happy. They are totally dating,"

contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying.

Cooper was previously linked to Renee Zellweger, Jennifer Lopez and Olivia Wilde.

Internet

Robin Williams would love to play Albert Einstein or Theodore Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, 1 Jan—Robin Williams has expressed his desire to play Albert Einstein or former US president Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt in a movie.

The 'Dead Poets Society' actor revealed that he finds the former US President 'fascinating'.

"At some point I would love to play Einstein. I would love to play him at some place, some how.

Or Teddy Roosevelt

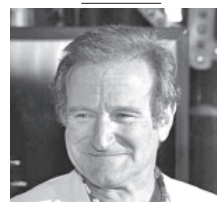
because he's so fascinating, a really interesting guy. He shot every animal he saw!" Contact-music quoted Williams as telling BANG Showbiz.

The 60-year-old comedian also asserted that he does not intend to slow down his acting career and wants to stay on the big screen for "as long as possible".

"I just want to keep acting for as long as possible, I'm still enjoying it. I don't

have any plans to retire at all," he added.

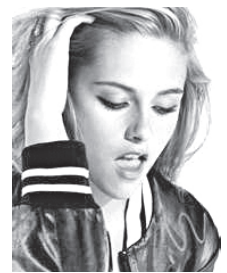
Internet



Robin Williams

Kristen Stewart buys two guitars for Robert Pattinson

LOS ANGELES, 1 Jan—Actress Kristen Stewart has bought two vintage guitars worth USD 12,000 for her boyfriend, actor Robert Pattinson. The 21-year-old actress bought the instruments from Norman's Rare Guitars in Los Angeles, reports femalefirst.co.uk. Shop owner Norman Harris revealed that Stewart picked up a 1959 Fender Jazzmaster and a 1947 K and F Lap Steel for Pattinson, who is a keen



Actress Kristen Stewart musician.—Internet

Christmas card travels for 61 years

A Christmas card sent back and forth between friends has crisscrossed the country for 61 years, says the Texas man who first mailed it to a friend.

In 1950, Acker Hanks, now 89, sent the card to Lee Kelley, a neighbor in New Waverley, Texas. Kelly sent the same card back to Hanks in 1951.

"I probably didn't even read what was on the card," Hanks said. "We were constantly pulling jokes on one another."

Since then, the card has changed places every year, even as Kelly, who worked for the US Forest Service, moved all over the United States, the Tyler (Texas) Morning Telegraph reported.

Inside the card is a list of years and where the card was sent that year, along with short notes as the friends updated each other on the happenings in their lives.



Photo shows two-faced kitty born in Australia.

Santa's sleigh tangles with jet fighter

A Maryland couple say a tableau showing a crash between Santa's sleigh and a Cold War-era plane piloted by Scrooge is on display at their St Michaels farm.

The scene depicts the aftereffects of a midair collision between Santa's sleigh and a Lockheed F-104 Starfighter from the fictitious St Michaels Air National Guard piloted by "Captain Scrooge," The Baltimore Sun reported.

Santa's sleigh full of toys has been impaled by the jet's

nose, with presents strewn all over the place. Rudolf is stuck in the fuselage, the other reindeer linger nearby and the pilot is off to one side tinkering with a broken Radio Flyer wagon.

There's a sign on a fence proclaiming, "Oops!" "It's a happy thing," Tom Blair said. "I meant for it to be humorous and non-offensive. I've probably got 99 extremely positive comments and one slightly critical comment."

Tom and Alice Blair say this is the latest in a series of

unconventional displays they put up throughout the year, including Halloween and Memorial Day.

Tom, a businessman and author who collects and flies vintage World War II planes, said he wanted to bring in one of his planes for this season's tableaux, the Sun reported.

"I was thinking, 'What could I do with this?' and I had the idea of it impaling Santa's sleigh and Santa pulling Rudolph from the air intake," he said.

Jennifer Aniston's beauty secrets revealed!

WELLINGTON, 1 Jan—Jennifer Aniston has always been an example of impeccable style and hardly ever gets it wrong with her looks, both on and off screen.

Turns out, the actress has a range of beauty products that help her maintain her sweetheart looks.

Being a hair straightener devotee, Aniston relies on Kerastase Ciment Thermique to protect her hair. The therm-o-a-t-i-v-e reconstruction milk has been designed specifically for

hair subjected to heat styling.

Taking special care of that famous face, she uses the oil free Chantecaille Future Skin Foundation, which contains 60 per cent charged water and seaweed extracts, Stuff.co.nz reports.

Any blemish or dark circle is covered with the



Jennifer Aniston

moisture-rich and light reflecting Laura Mercier Secret Concealer.

The actress is also a fan of Dr Hauschka products and uses mascara and lip balm from this brand.—Internet

Jimenez replaces sacked Aguirre as Zaragoza boss

MADRID, 1 Jan—Real Zaragoza have appointed former Sevilla coach Manuel 'Manolo' Jimenez to replace Javier Aguirre, who was sacked this week following a poor run that left them bottom of La Liga.

"Real Zaragoza have concluded the hiring of Manuel Jimenez until the end of the season," Zaragoza said on their website (www.realzaragoza.com) on



Manuel 'Manolo' Jimenez

Saturday. Jimenez, who coached Sevilla from 2007-2010 and was also a player with the Andalusian side, will be presented to the media on Sunday, the club added.

Former Mexico boss Aguirre was appointed in November 2010 and helped Zaragoza avoid relegation last season. With 16 of 38 matches played this season, they have just 10 points, and the club's board decided on Thursday "an urgent change of course" was needed. Jimenez was sacked by Sevilla in March 2010 and moved to Greece, where he led AEK Athens to third place in the Super League and victory in the Greek Cup.

Internet

Clarke, McIlroy honoured by Queen after major wins

LONDON, 1 Jan—Northern Irish golf stars Darren Clarke and Rory McIlroy are among the sports figures honoured by Queen Elizabeth II in her New Year list, after claiming their first major titles. The 43-year-old Clarke was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire after ending his long wait for a major victory by winning the British Open at Royal St George's.

"It is a great honour and a fantastic way to end a great year. I am very proud for me and my family," Clarke said. "It was a life-changing moment really and in many ways my feet have not touched the

floor since. And now this." Clarke lifted the claret jug weeks after the 22-year-old McIlroy's eight-shot victory in the U.S. Open at Congressional. The second-youngest major winner since 1934, McIlroy was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

"It is quite humbling to be included in such a list of worthy recipients," McIlroy said. "Many people on the honors list have made huge personal sacrifices and contributed significantly to society during their lives. I feel very fortunate to be in their company."

Internet

Andy Murray appoints Ivan Lendl as his new coach



Murray pulled out of December's ATP World Tour Finals with a groin injury

LONDON, 1 Jan—Britain's Andy Murray has appointed former world number one Ivan Lendl as his new full-time coach. Lendl, the winner of eight Grand Slam titles, will start work immediately. Murray said: "Ivan's impact on the game is unquestionable and he brings experience and knowledge that few others have, particularly in major tournaments." The Scot starts 2012 with a first-round match against Mikhail Kukushkin at the Brisbane International on Tuesday.

Now 51, Lendl is rated as one of the world's greatest players, having won 94 ATP

Tour titles in a career that spanned 16 years. He came from two sets to love down to win the French Open final against John McEnroe in 1984 to claim his first Grand Slam and, after winning the 1985 US Open, he remained as the world's top ranked player for 156 consecutive weeks.

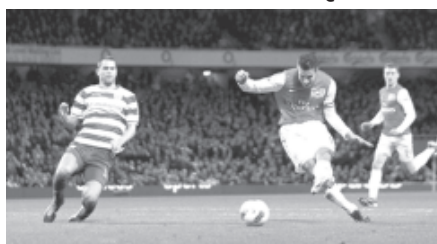
On becoming Murray's coach, Lendl said: "I am really excited to have the opportunity to work with Andy. He is a unique talent and I look forward to trying to help him reach his goals." Top seed Murray will begin his bid for a 22nd ATP World Tour title at the Brisbane hard court tournament.—Internet



Van Persie sends Arsenal back to 4th with QPR win

LONDON, 1 Jan—Robin van Persie lifted Arsenal back into the Premier League's top four on Saturday by clinching a 1-0 victory over Queens Park Rangers. Having squandered several chances to score in the first half, the Netherlands striker finally broke the deadlock on the hour at the Emirates Stadium.

He darted through the QPR defense to meet Andrei Arshavin's through ball before slotting past QPR goalkeeper Radek Cerny. The victory dislodged Chelsea from fourth place after Arsenal's west London rival lost 3-1 at home to Aston Villa. How Arsenal failed to score



Arsenal's Robin Van Persie shoots and scores his goal against Queens Park Rangers during their English Premier League soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London.—INTERNET

in the first half will have bewildered more than 60,000 inside Emirates Stadium.

The lack of ruthlessness provided a reminder of why manager Arsene Wenger has

turned to signing former striker Thierry Henry on a two-month loan from the New York Red Bulls. The striker, who scored a club-record 226 goals in eight years at Arsenal between 1999-2007, was in the ground to assess the players who he will soon be rejoining. Van Persie's goal was his 35th league goal of 2011, leaving him just one shy of Alan Shearer's record haul for Blackburn in 1995.

Internet

Mavericks sign Chinese star Yi for one year

BEIJING, 1 Jan—The Dallas Mavericks is set to sign free agent forward Yi Jianlian on a one-year deal, according to an ESPN report on Sunday.

The 24-year-old Chinese averaged 5.6 points and 3.9 rebounds with Washington last season. Yi's best season came in 2009-2010 when Yi averaged 12.0 points and 7.2 rebounds with New Jersey.

Xinhua

International Sports

Drogba's 150th goal in vain for Chelsea



Didier Drogba

LONDON, 1 Jan—Didier Drogba cemented his name in Chelsea folklore with his 150th goal for the club on Saturday but it was not enough to prevent a 3-1 home defeat by Aston Villa in the Premier League. The 33-year-old striker's 23rd-minute spot kick helped the Ivory Coast international join Stamford Bridge greats Peter Osgood and Roy Bentley on 150 goals.

Drogba scored from the penalty spot where the late Osgood's ashes are buried and after converting his kick he pointed to the spot, waved at the crowd and blew a kiss. Only Frank Lampard (178), Kerry Dixon (193) and Bobby Tambling (202) have scored more goals for the Londoners. "It was an emotional goal for Didier and might be his last home appearance before next month's African Nations Cup," manager Andre Villas-Boas told reporters. "We

Lendl won 94 ATP Tour titles in a career that spanned 16 years.

will try our hardest for him to be available for the Portsmouth game (in the FA Cup on Jan. 8)."

Before the match with Villa, the superstitious Drogba said his 150th goal could be a late "Christmas present for the fans" but defeat left Chelsea supporters fuming, with jeers echoing around Stamford Bridge after the final whistle. Chelsea's title hopes now seem over after they dropped to fifth in the table, 11 points adrift of leaders Manchester City. Drogba's future at Stamford Bridge is also uncertain after Villas-Boas said talks over a contract extension had not been resolved.

Internet

Ed Moses backs Dai Greene for gold at London 2012



Greene wins gold at the World Championships in South Korea

LONDON, 1 Jan—Ed Moses says he sees no reason world 400m hurdles champion Dai Greene cannot win Olympic gold in London if he is not distracted from his preparations.

But double Olympic champion Moses added that Greene, who won world gold in September, needs to gain "more power" if he is to break 48 seconds regularly.

"People will put the medal around your neck before you even finish train-

ing," the American told BBC Radio 5 live. "My advice is just to say 'look we'll wait and see'." Moses, who won the second of his two Olympic 400m hurdle golds in his hometown Games in Los Angeles in 1984, was speaking to Greene in a BBC Radio 5 live special, which will air on New Year's Day.

Greene, 25, ran a brilliant race to win Britain's first gold of the World Championships in Daegu, South Korea in a time of 48.26 seconds, adding the world crown to his European and Commonwealth titles.

However, the race was one of the slowest in World Championship history and Moses warned Welshman Greene, who has a personal best of 47.88 seconds, that conditions will be very different in London next summer.

Internet

Novak Djokovic beats David Ferrer to win Abu Dhabi exhibition

ABU DHABI, 1 Jan—Novak Djokovic beat David Ferrer 6-2 6-1 to win the World Tennis Championship exhibition in Abu Dhabi. World number one Djokovic followed up his semi-final win over Roger Federer to claim the \$250,000 (£161,000) prize.

Djokovic will now prepare for the defence of his Australian Open title. The tournament starts in Melbourne on 16 January. Earlier, Spain's world number

two Rafael Nadal beat Federer 6-1 7-5 in the third-fourth place play-off.

Ferrer, who beat Nadal in the semi-finals, had his serve broken five times by Djokovic and went 3-0 down in each set before succumbing to defeat. Djokovic finished the match with consecutive aces and said it was not impossible to repeat his tremendous feats from 2011 in the coming twelve months. "I think, yes. Nothing is impossible, if you believe. I think the cru-



Djokovic won 10 tournaments in 2011 including three Grand Slam titles

cial couple of weeks is now, for me to prepare for Australia. We'll see. It's a long year and a difficult task, but I'm looking forward to it."

Internet



Cash assistance provided to students

ZALUN, 1 Jan—A ceremony to donate cash assistance to the funds of monastic education schools was held at the meeting hall of township education officer on 17 December. Cetana Education Fund Chairman U Kyaw Myint presented cash assistance to students of monastic education schools.

Township IPRD

Rural development discussed

MANAUNG, 1 Jan—A meeting on rural development and poverty alleviation was held at the hall of Manaung Township General Administration Department on 1 December.

Work committee for township rural development and poverty alleviation participated in their respective sectors. The Rakhine State Minister for Finance and Revenue gave instructions on rural development.

Township IPRD

Blood donated collectively

KYAUKSE, 1 Jan—The blood donation ceremony headed by the medical superintendent was held at Kyaukse General Hospital in Kyaukse on 19 December.

A total of 80 persons donated blood. Kyaukse District General Administration Department, Township GAD and Shwemintha Foundation provided necessary assistance to blood donors.—Myanna Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

Condolence Message

The Myanmar Scholars Group would like to convey its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of their dear colleague Dr. Nay Win Maung from Myanmar Egress. We have had the pleasure of working alongside Dr. Nay Win Maung in helping to mould and train the future leaders of the country. We will all miss his foresight and energetic presence that continues to guide us.

Prof. Robert Taylor-ISEAS, Singapore
Dr. Tin Maung Maung Than - ISEAS, Singapore
Dr. Michael Montesaro-ISEAS, Singapore
Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing- City University of Hong Kong
Prof. N. Ganesan- Hiroshima Peace Institute, Japan

Condolence Message

It is with deep regret that the Board of Directors of Myanmar Egress announces the sudden expiry of Dr. Nay Win Maung, founder member and General Secretary of the Board. He was called to rest on the morning of 1st January 2012. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere condolences to Dr. Nay's family and friends. He was steadfast and dedicated to the process of political reconciliation and national peace. We will truly miss a visionary leader who offered his time and energies selflessly. May he inspire future leaders of the country and rest in peace.

Myanmar Egress, Board of Directors

Sonny Nyunt Thein
Hla Maung Shwe
Kyaw Ni Khin

Tin Maung Thann
Kyaw Yin Hlaing
Ye Myat Thu

Dr. Nay Win Maung (Aung Htut)

Aged 50
1962-2012

CEO of Living Color Media and The Voice Weekly, Program Director, General Secretary, and Founder of Myanmar Egress, beloved son of (Prof Lt Col Thang Maung, Retd DSA) and Yin Yin (Asst Lecture, Red. DSA), lived in No. 74, Arzani Lane, 5 Ward, Mayangone Township, Yangon, son-in-law of Lt Col Myint Swe (Retd) and Khin Khin Win, younger brother of Zani Maung and Thandar, elder brother of Dr Nay Linn Maung, beloved husband of Win Kalayar Swe (Hnint Thit Oo Press) and beloved father of Khaymar Maung (ISM), Sandy Maung (ISM), Eindra Maung (SM), and Nandi Aung (ISM), Dr Nay Win Maung, Pen name of Aung Htut passed away at 1:10 am on January 1st, 2012 due to a sudden heart-attack at Yangon General Hospital and the body was cremated at 2:00 pm of the same day.

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(2-1-12 09:30 am ~ 3-1-12 09:30 am) MST Oversea Transmission

- * News
- * Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation (Infrastructures)
- * News
- * Spring of Upcountry
- * News
- * Myanmar Movie Impact "Truth and Bravery"
- * News
- * A Pilgrimage to Prominent in Minbu
- * News
- * Paragu Shantini-kean Library
- * News
- * Songs for you
- * Traveling in Shan Mountain Ranges "Shan Traditional Food"
- * News
- * The Heart Love influenced (U Hla Tun Cancer Foundation)
- * News
- * Myanmar Traditional Identity "The Culture Pennant Pillar"
- * Myanmar Movies "Love Triangle"

MYANMAR TV

(2-1-2012) (Monday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:50 am
- 2. Nice and Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:10 am
- 4. Song Of National Races
- 8:20 am
- 5. Cute Little Dancers
- 4:10 pm
- 6. Dance Variety
- 4:20 pm
- 7. Musical Programme
- 4:45 pm
- 8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:00 pm
- 9. Myanmar Language
- 5:15 pm
- 10. (64)th Anniversary Independence Day
- 6:20 pm
- 11. Sing & Enjoy
- 7:00 pm
- 12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. Independence Day Programme
- 15. World's Stars
- 16. TV Drama Series
- 17. India Drama Series

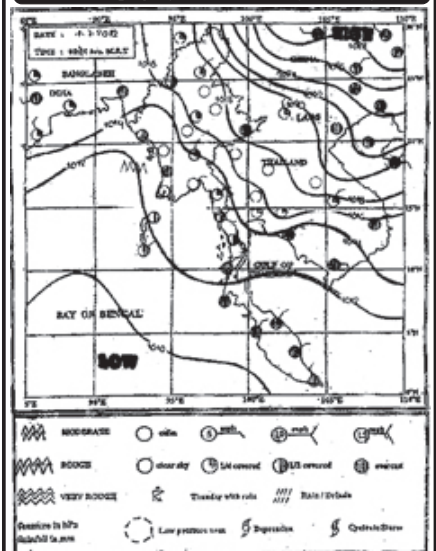
Important Announcement

Myanmar Egress would like to announce that it has arranged for a Condolence Book in memory of Dr. Nay Win Maung. Those interested in penning messages are kindly requested to do so at the Myanmar Egress office located in the Thamada Hotel Signatories are also welcome to contribute towards the Dr. Nay Win Maung Trust Fund that will be used to support his immediate family. Thank you.

Board of Directors
Myanmar Egress



Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 2nd January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent (60%)
1	Kachin	29/84	13/55	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	27/81	12/54	Generally Fair	
3	Kayin	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	21/70	07/45	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	27/81	14/57	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	30/86	18/64	Generally Fair	
7	Tanintharyi	31/88	22/72	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	31/88	19/66	Generally Fair	
9	Magway	31/88	19/66	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	29/84	17/63	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	34/93	21/70	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	33/91	20/68	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	32/90	19/66	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	26/79	14/57	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	29/84	08/46	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	28/82	14/57	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	31/88	21/70	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	32/90	18/64	Generally Fair	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	20/68	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	29/84	17/63	Generally Fair	

During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (7°C) to (4°C) above January averages temperatures in Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Regions, Chin and Kayah States, (5°C) to (6°C) above January averages temperatures in Ayeyawady Region, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States and (7°C) above January averages temperatures in Magway Region and about January averages temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Putao and Katha (6°C) each, Hakha and Hkamti (7°C) each, Lashio, Pindagun and An (8°C) each.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman sea and South Bay and generally fair in the elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar Areas.

Premier League-Last-gasp Sunderland Stun Man City

SUNDERLAND, 1 Jan—Ji Dong-Won scored with the last kick of the game as Sunderland grabbed an astonishing 1-0 Premier League win against Manchester City at the Stadium of Light. The home side had withstood a second-half battering, before catching City on the break in the 93rd minute.

Ji, who was offside, rounded Joe Hart before coolly slotting into the empty net to deliver a mighty sucker punch and send manager Martin O'Neill into a wild, leaping celebration. The result means City failed to extend their lead at the top of the table - they remain level on points with Manchester United, who were shocked 3-2 by Blackburn on New Year's Eve.

It has been a miserable week for City, who were held to a goalless draw by West Bromwich Albion on Boxing Day. Sunderland have won three of their five games under O'Neill's stewardship, all thanks to late winners, and are up to 13th in the table. Roberto Mancini made six changes from the side that drew at The Hawthorns, naming David Silva and Sergio Aguero among the substitutes and leaving Mario Balotelli out of the squad altogether.—Internet

Fire Brigade members who sacrificed lives in fire fighting will be awarded deservedly

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects loss and damages in fire outbreak in Mingala Taungnyunt Township

YANGON, 1 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham this morning inspected loss and damages in outbreak of fire in Kutohseik Ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, and comforted fire victims at the relief camp and patients injured in explosion at the hospital. He presented cash assistance to them and inspected loss in the fire at Basic Education High School No. 2 in Kamayut Township.

Accompanied by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers and officials, the Vice-President arrived at the land razed by fire at Myittamon warehouse group on Kutohseik Road in Kutohseik Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt Township. Union Minister for SWRR U Aung Kyi and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe reported on outbreak of fire and loss and damages.

Managing Director U Cho Than Maung of Myanma Port Authority reported on layout of the warehouses and their explosion in fire with the use of charts and Commander of Lower Myanmar Criminal Investigation Department Police Col Maung Nyein of Myanmar Police Force on explosion and blazing of warehouses. The Vice-President gave necessary instructions.

At the relief camp in Mingala



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents school stationery and cash assistance to fire victim students at Mingala Taungnyunt BEHS No. 7.—MNA

Taungnyunt BEHS No. 7, the Vice-President and party comforted the fire victims and provided necessary assistance for them. He presented K 200,000 each to 161 households.

The Vice-President, the Union ministers and officials also gave rucksack, school textbooks, two school uniforms and K 20,000 each to 171 students of fire victim

families.

At Maha Wizayayama Monastery in Yagaw Monastery of Patheingyi Ward where the relief camp is being opened, they inspected rice, edible oil, blankets, garments and foodstuffs to be provided to the fire victims.

Next, the Vice-President inspected cash

donation and relief supplies donated by wellwishers and health care services provided by the special medical team of Directorate of Medical Services, specialist team of Ministry of Health and Phyto Cetana health care group.

At Aungmya Theikdi Dhammayon, the Vice-President donated K 1 million to the (See page 10)

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

Independence Day and present duty

Every citizen loves his own nation and his own land and wants his own nation and people to be able to enjoy prosperity. Every citizen wants to live in unity, harmony and amity. Every citizen adores his own land and community and aspires to a peaceful and prosperous society.

Kyaw Ye Min

PAGE 8

POEM:

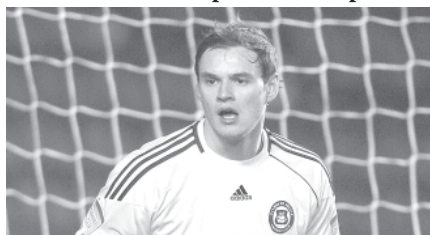
For greater progress of Union

Now in tranquility our country
We have unity without any divisions
Blood's thicker than water
Patriotism our noble foundation

Maung Hla Thein (Thaye Thanmain) (Trs)
PAGE 9

Rovers bring in Button

Saunders thanks Spurs for keeper deal



David Button: Joining Doncaster on loan for a month from Tottenham.—INTERNET

LONDON, 1 Jan—Doncaster have secured a one-month loan deal for promising young Tottenham goalkeeper

David Button.

The 22-year-old had been on loan with League One side Leyton Orient but was recalled to White Hart Lane and will now be stepping up to Championship level with Rovers.

It will be the 12th loan spell of Button's career, having previously spent time with the likes of Crewe, Shrewsbury and Plymouth Argyle.

Rovers boss Dean Saunders has moved to bring in Button after losing Carl Ikeme and Neil Sullivan to injury.

"With Carl Ikeme and Neil Sullivan both injured and having operations, we have been looking to bring in a keeper for the last month," Saunders told the club's official website.

"David is a good 6'3" experienced, young keeper who has played up to England U20 level and in the Football League. I would like to thank Daniel Levy, Harry Redknapp and Tony Parks for allowing him to come here for the next month on loan, for free."—Internet

8,221 jade lots sold at mid-year gems emporium



PAGE 2

Vitamin B12 may still help reduce stroke

PAGE 4

India unveils statue of cosmonaut Gagarin



PAGE 5