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President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Mr Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at President Residence here this morning.

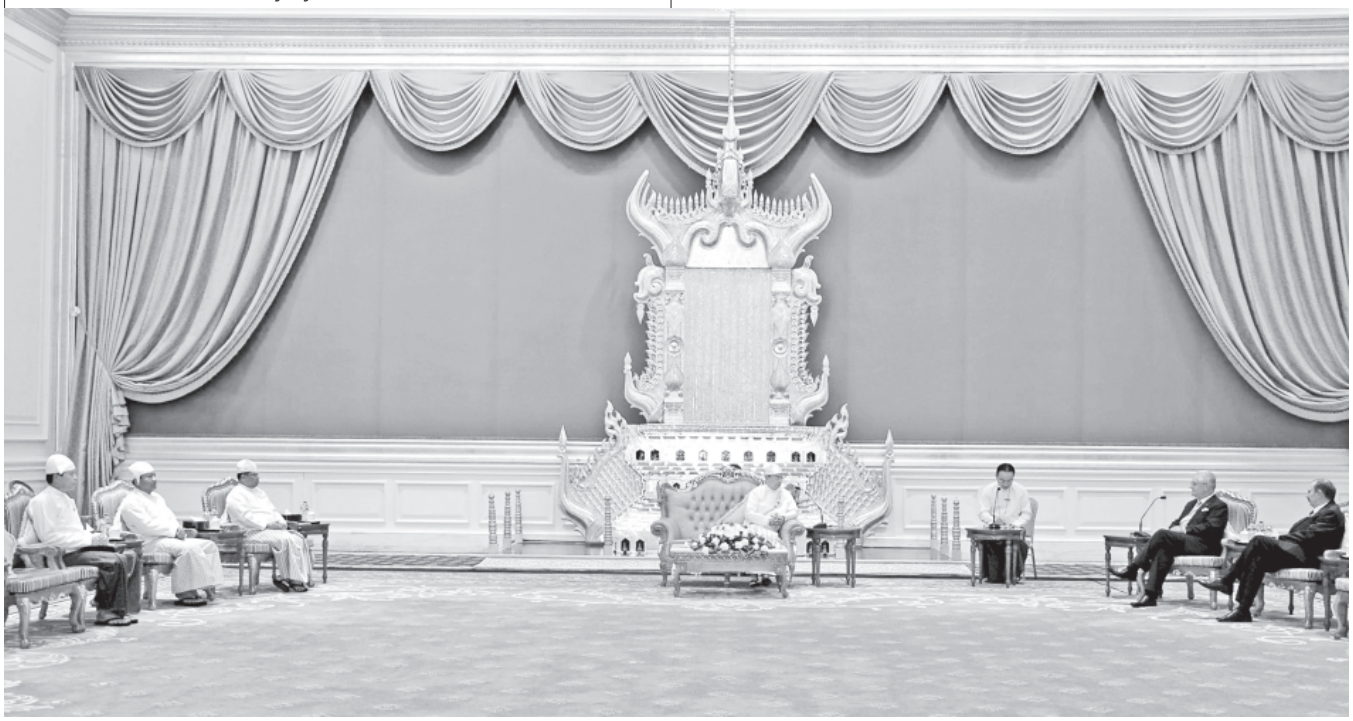
Present on the occasion together with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Aye Thaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—*MNA*

***President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Mr Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, at President Residence in Nay Pyi Taw.*—MNA**

Maintain better foundations

"Hence, I pledge that we will give top priority to the policies on internal affairs to achieve sustainable development with maintenance of better foundations, to build consolidated unity of the Myanmar society, and to guarantee fundamental rights of citizens."

(Excerpts from the inaugural address delivered by President U Thein Sein at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30-3-2011)



President grants amnesty

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—*The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Order No.1/2012 today.*

The translation of the order is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Order No. 1/2012
9th Waxing of Pyatho 1373 ME
(2nd January, 2012)

Amnesty granted

As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day and for the sake of State peace and stability, the rule of law, national consolidation and on grounds of humanitarian, the President has granted an amnesty for the prisoners who have served their prison terms for the crimes they committed before 9th Waxing of Pyatho 1373 ME (2nd January, 2012) in accord with Section 204(b) of the Constitution as follows:-

(a) Death sentences shall be commuted to life imprisonment (Unlimited jail terms).
(b) Those sentenced to over 30 years (Those sentenced to unlimited prison terms and life imprisonment excluded) shall get reduction to 30 years in prison.
(c) Those serving prison terms between 20 and 30 years shall get reduction to 20 years in prison.
(d) Those sentenced to less than 20 years shall get reduction by a quarter of their prison terms.

Sd/
Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Flag-hoisting ceremony to be broadcast live

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—State flag-hoisting of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day to be held on 4 January will be broadcast live on Myanma Radio and Television from Nay Pyi Taw City Hall Square, starting from 6.45 am on that day.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 3 January, 2012

Show your respect for Independence Day pledges

Independence means freedom from being ruled by others. It is synonymous with standing in equality and justice under national leadership. Depending on others is standing on their feet.

In retrospect, Myanmar was annexed in a series of wars in 1824, 1852 and 1885. The difference between national leaders and imperialists is the knowledge of all the people of that time.

We have lived in our independent country for 64 years, standing on our own initiative. The country was once under colonialist rule and hegemony. The entire citizens have learnt how independent they are under the national administration. In paddling our own canoe, we are to work harmoniously and try hard to keep abreast of other countries.

Independence in the shade of other countries is not independence. We just need to do work, rather than hoping the outside help. The concerted effort of all the national people is the very essence of the independent country.

Here comes nationalist fervour. Prosperity of the nation is to be shaped up in harmony. Given the history, the nation was once under the yoke of imperialism following the widening split. With no unity, the country was not safeguarded against the alien foes. Plus, it will never be developed due to instability. Taking lessons of the past, we need to safeguard and develop the country in perfect harmony.

Two from nine pledges inscribed on Independence Monument say, "We as of today not only enjoy noble opportunities of citizens of an independent country but also assume responsibilities of citizens of an independent country," and, "We as of today accept every citizen of our country, though in any status, in equity". By doing their bits, let's show our respect for the Independence Day pledges.

Two new stamps to be sold to mark Independence Day

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—To mark the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, two new postage stamps—K 500 and K1200 postage stamps — will be sold by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications of Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, on 4 January.

The stamps are available at Communication Stations (post offices) across the country. As a special programme, date will be inked on the stamps for those who buy at Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office on that day.

MNA

Ambassador U Kyaw Zwar Minn concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Spain

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Zwar Minn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the French Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Spain.—*MNA*

Six special appeal cases heard

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Special Appellate Court comprising Chief Justic of the Union U Tun Tun Oo and judges of the Supermen Court of the Union U Myint Aung and U Aung Zaw Thein heard six special civil appeal cases at Room No.1 of the Supreme Court of the Union this morning.

MNA

Union A&I Minister on tour of Ayeyawady Region

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing on 31 December visited Pantai village in Htantabin Township in Yangon Region.

He heard reports on installing new Pantai sluice gate and irrigating farmlands in Shweyinma region in Twantay Township submitted by officials. He gave the green light to the tasks as these will profit local farmers.

The Union minister attended ceremony to sow high-yield paddy strain (Palethwal) in Thegon village in Kyaunggon Township in Ayeyawady Region and urged farmers to apply post harvest technology.

On arrival at repair site of Ngawun Dam in Ngathaing Chaung Sub-Township, he heard reports on progress of repair works submitted by an official.

He underscored the need to grow trees to prevent inundation.

The Union minister attended the ceremony to sow Palethwal high-yield hybrid paddy strain in Bwatgyi village-tract in irrigation area of Nankathu Dam in Ingapu Township and presented publications and Palethwal rice.—*MNA*

LOCAL SPORTS

Winners awarded in inter-basic education sports competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—The prize presentation for the inter-basic education sports competitions for 2011-2012 academic year was held at Paunglaung Sports Ground, here, yesterday afternoon.

First, All Star men's teams and women's teams of upper and local Myanmar demonstrated football skills.

Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu presented championship trophies to Yangon Region B women's team and A men's team in football event, Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe, Mon State women's team and Shan State B men's team in basketball event, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, Ayeyawady Region women's team and Shan State A men's team in volleyball event, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, Mandalay Region women's and men's teams in table tennis event and departmental heads, prize winning teams in other sports events.

Altogether 3064 athletes of Regions and States participated in the competitions with sporting spirit.

MNA

Cash and kind donated to deceased and injured firefighters of FSD

YANGON, 2 Jan—A ceremony to donate cash and kind to the firefighters who were killed and injured in the warehouse explosion in Kutoseik Street in Kutoseik Ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Town-ship was held at Fire Services Department (Headquarters) in Mayangon Township here this morning.

Head of Mobilization Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation wife of the Deputy Minister for Socil Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Daw San San Wei and Head of National Races Department Daw Than Nwe donated items worth K 0.3 million, U Nay Win Hlaing-Daw Khin Htwe Yi and family K 1.6 million and Delight Engineering Co Ltd 1 million through Director-General of Fire Services Department U Tin Moe.

On 31 December, Daw San San Wai, presented K 0.5 million—K 0.1 million each for five deceased firefighters, so did Daw Myo Myo and Daw Khin Mya Win cash and foodstuffs.

MNA

***Deputy Commander of Dalla Township Police Force Police Inspector Aung Than Oo held a meeting with members of township anti-trafficking in persons campaign in the township in Yangon Region on 15 December. He also met village administrators on the next day.*—KYEMON**

DISTRICT NEWS

Assistance provided to TB patients

BAGO, 2 Jan—Bago Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association gave a talk on facts about TB disease and treatment of DOTS at Basic Education High School in Indagaw Station of Bago Township on 7 December.

The chairperson of Bago Township MCWA, Chairman of Township School Health Committee Dr Khin Su, officials and Red Cross members donated nutritious aids to TB patients. They also provided assistance to Htongyi Village BEHS.—*Myanma Alin*

Loans disbursed to vendors, pony-cart drivers

THAZI, 2Jan—To be able to alleviate poverty in Thazi Township, Township Development Affairs Committee disbursed loans to vendors and pony-cart drivers at the office of Myoma Market in the township on 1 December.

The executive officer of the committee presented K 7.5 million to 120 vendors and 12 pony-cart drivers.

Myanma Alin

ASEAN welcomes US re-engagement in the region

BEIJING, 2 Jan—After years of neglect, the United States has again made its presence felt in the region, even reaching out to and building bridges with Myanmar. And ASEAN has welcomed this re-engagement and renewed interest.

Dr Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN Secretary-General, said: "The re-engagement of the US in the region through ASEAN on many issues will be helpful to the region.

"I think the US has also seen that that is beneficial to them because this is the market, this is the where the consumers are, (and) if they want to export, if they want to sell, this is where they have to focus on So I think the absence of the US in the past has been an anomaly."

Dr Surin noted that despite differences and disagreements, both China and ASEAN are identifying strengths that can be complementary to co-operation. "We have to develop a better integrated market... The more the West is going down in their economic difficulties, the more important it becomes for us to create our own regional market," said Dr Surin. On the South China Sea issue, Dr Surin said both China and ASEAN are working on a more legally binding code of conduct.

It will serve as a framework to prevent accidental flare ups and incidents. However, there are concerns that America's deepening military presence in the region might antagonise China.

The US had recently reached an agreement with Australia to deploy forces in the country.

But Chinese analysts have openly said that there's no need for China to worry about the re-engagement of the US in the region.

They've said that even though the US has the will to contain China, it does not have the economic means, given the sluggish American economy. They've also argued that perceptions of US strategic influence are greatly exaggerated.

Internet

Dragons lights are seen in a street of Singapore's Chinatown, on 1 Jan, 2012. Singapore's Chinatown held a lightup ceremony in preparation for the upcoming Chinese lunar new year.
XINHUA

Former Colombian guerrilla member takes office as Bogota mayor

BOGOTA, 2 Jan—Former Colombian guerrilla member Gustavo Petro took office on Sunday as Bogota mayor to replace Clara Lopez, local Press reported.

Petro, 51, took office at a ceremony in Bolivar Square in Bogota, which was attended by about 5,000 people, including former officials, new cabinet members, federal government representatives and citizens.

In his inauguration speech, Petro, economist and former member of the demobilized 19th of April Movement (M-19) guerrilla group, said he would not follow "a security policy based on killing" and promised to "guarantee the lives" of the citizens of the Colombian capital, where 1,500 homicides were reported during 2011.

He said he would emphasize issues like education, health and access to public services and would lower clean water fees.

Petro, whose term will last until 2015, has been a representative in the congress, senator and presidential candidate in 2010 elections.

Xinhua

***An Iranian warship launches a missile during Iranian naval maneuvers dubbed Velayat 90 on the Sea of Oman, Iran, on 1 Jan, 2012.—*XINHUA**

Iran hails US withdrawal from Iraq

TEHERAN, 2 Jan —Iran has welcomed withdrawal of the US forces' from Iraq, describing it a "great success and political and security achievement" of Iraqis.

The exit of US forces from Iraq was a "great success and political and security achievement" for the Iraqi people, government, religious scholars, the lawmakers and political groups, *Xinhua* quoted the Iranian Foreign Ministry as saying in a statement. Iran also said that it would continue its "constructive role" in Iraq by offering its support to the country's development. Nearly nine years after the US-led invasion, the US troops withdrew from Iraq in December 2011 as per schedule agreed upon in a security pact between the two countries.—*Internet*

Iran tests first sample of nuclear fuel bar "successfully"

TEHERAN, 2 Jan— The scientists and researchers of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) succeeded in producing and testing the first sample of nuclear fuel bar "successfully," the state IRIB TV website reported on Sunday.

The nuclear fuel bar is made of natural uranium, the report said.

After all the preliminary tests including the physical and dimensional tests were conducted successfully, the nuclear fuel bar was fed into the core of Teheran Research Reactor to further study the performance of the produced sample.

The performability of the sample in the long run will be tested in the core of the research reactor by exposing it to radiations, according to IRIB.

Iran said Teheran Research Reactor uses the nuclear fuel bar to produce medicines for cancer treatments.—*Xinhua*

380 militants lay down arms in Afghan's Badghis province in 2011

KABUL, 2 Jan—About 380 anti-government militants have laid down arms and joined the government-backed peace process in Afghanistan's Badghis Province, 555 km northwest of Capital Kabul, last year, local media reported Sunday. "Twenty anti-government armed opposition groups composed of 380 people have given up fighting and laid down their arms in Badghis Province over the past year," Tolo television quoted spy agency spokesman Lutfullah Mashal as saying.

Several commanders were among those who handed over their weapons to the authorities in Badghis Province, Mashal added. According to Afghan and NATO-led forces, more than 3,000 anti-government militants have given up fighting and joined the government-initiated national reconciliation and peace process over the past year in the war-torn country. However, the Taleban outfit fighting Afghan and NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has rejected the claim as baseless.—*Xinhua*

***Three terrorists captured by Afghan security forces are seen in Herat Province, Afghanistan, on 1 Jan, 2012. Afghan security forces captured three terrorists with explosive device during their operations in Herat Province.—*XINHUA**

Vehicles damaged in an arson are seen on N Kings Road in West Hollywood, the United States, on 1 Jan, 2012. Los Angeles firefighters remained on arson alert Sunday after the Holly-wood District celebrated the New Year under the cloud of a string of some 40 deliberately-set fires. Seven new fires were reported overnight, including one in an underground parking lot near the heart of Tinsel Town's tourist district, the Los Angeles Fire Department said.
XINHUA

Gaza militants fire two rockets into Israel

JERUSALEM, 2 Jan—Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired two mortar rockets into the Israeli territory from the enclave early Sunday, according to the army.

The bombs fell in an open area and there were no reports of damage or injury to residents in the area, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Spokesman's Office said in a statement.

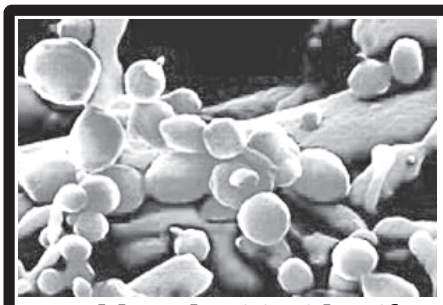
The Israeli Air Force had quickly responded to several such attacks in recent weeks, hitting what the army said launching crews and related targets in the coastal enclave.

The IDF Home Front Command (HFC) plans to test out a new cellphone text message system meant to warn individuals in a specific area of an incoming missile attack.

The army said that the system will send short messages alerts in Arabic, English, Hebrew, and Russian to people in the centre of the country.

When the GPS-linked "Deer Horn" system was first unveiled in early 2011, an IDF operations officer told *Xinhua* that it was capable of accurately figuring out where a rocket fired at Israel would land, alert the population in the specific area via map- referenced mobile phone numbers, send them an alert via SMS (short message service), and override television and radio broadcasts to warn the public at large before the rocket hit targets.

Xinhua



Health authorities identify virus leading to Guangdong bird flu death

SHENZHEN, 2 Jan—Health authorities in south Guangdong Province have identified the type of the virus that led to the death of a bus driver, but the cause of the bird flu remains unclear, a local disease control center confirmed Monday.

The receptor of the virus, a highly pathogenic H5N1, is poultry, according to a statement released by the Shenzhen Disease Control Centre.

Though it is highly pathogenic to human beings, the virus can not spread among people, the center said in the statement, adding that there is no need for Shenzhen citizens to panic.

Genetic analysis also indicated that the virus was spread directly from poultry to human, according to the statement.

A 39-year-old man surnamed Chen in Bao'an district of Shenzhen was hospitalized for fever on 21 Dec and tested positive for the H5N1 avian influenza virus. Chen died of multiple organ failure Saturday afternoon.

Health authorities are trying to figure out where Chen acquired the virus.

The Guangdong Department of Agriculture announced Saturday that no epidemic of bird flu among poultry had been reported in the province.—*Xinhua*

Sunbed ban 'could prevent 1 in 4 cases of skin cancer in under-40s'

LONDON, 2 Jan—Banning sunbed use could prevent a quarter of cases of the most common form of skin cancer in the under-40s, a new research suggests. The study from doctors at Yale University in the US revealed that indoor tanning significantly increases the risk of basal cell carcinoma. It found that sunbed users are 69 per cent more likely to develop BCC before the age of 40 than people who never use the tanning method.

The link was strongest among women, and the risk increased with years of sunbed use. And that study concluded that avoiding sunbeds can prevent a quarter of all cases of 'early onset' BCC – when the disease occurs before the age of 40. Among women, who are greater users of sunbeds, 43 per cent of cases could be avoided if sunbeds were banned.

Unlike other forms of skin cancer, such as malignant melanoma, BCC can be easily treated and survival rates stand at 98 percent. But since the 1970s cases have increased by 17 per cent, which is likely to be partly fuelled by sunbed use and holidays abroad. And British doctors say they are seeing increasing numbers of youngsters with this type of cancer. In April, under-18s were banned from using sunbeds although they still remain popular and three million adults use them every year. This Yale University study is the latest to show the damaging effects of sunbeds on the skin.

"We routinely see young women with skin cancer in our practice," the *Daily Mail* quoted Dr David J Leffell, professor of dermatology and surgery at Yale School of Medicine and author of the study as saying.

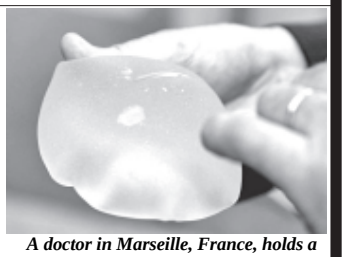
"In the past, this was extremely rare. But now in many cases the patients acknowledge their use of tanning parlours, and I think this study confirms the harmful nature of this activity," he noted. The study has been published in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology.

Internet

Aspirin-exacerbated disease tied to smoke

NEW YORK, 2 Jan—Adults with aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease are more than three times as likely to have been exposed to secondhand smoke as kids, US researchers say. Dr Jinny Chang of The Methodist Hospital said about 10 percent of people with asthma and one-third of asthmatics with chronic sinus inflammation have aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease. Although they might have been able to take aspirin previously, most are now unable to take it without suffering an asthma attack or other respiratory symptoms, Chang said. "More than half of US children are exposed to secondhand smoke, and this study adds to the evidence that it is a health threat," Chang said in a statement. "This study shows it also is associated with aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease,

The study included a total of 520 people: 260 patients who had asthma and aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease and their spouses, who did not have asthma or aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease. In the study, compared with those without aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease, those with the condition were more than three times as likely to have been exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke as children and were five times as likely to have been exposed during childhood and adulthood.—*Internet*



A doctor in Marseille, France, holds a ruptured breast implant made by French manufacturer Poly Implant Prothese (PIP). Britain's biggest cosmetic surgery chain has revealed that rupture rates on allegedly faulty implants are seven times higher than previously thought, a report says.—INTERNET

HEALTH

Hyundai, Kia see slower sales growth in 2012

SEOUL, 2 Jan—Hyundai Motor <005380.KS> and affiliate Kia Motors <000270.KS> aim to boost global vehicle sales by 6 percent this year to a combined 7 million vehicles, which would mark a slowdown for a duo that has enjoyed double-digit sales rises in recent years.

The South Korean automakers, which together rank fifth in global car sales, are unable to keep up with demand because of stretched production capacity. But they have refrained from boosting capacity sharply, instead focusing on improving product quality and profits.

Bigger rival Toyota Motor <7203.T> last month forecast a 20 percent jump in 2012 sales to a record 8.48 million vehicles, as it is recovering from output losses caused by natural disasters in Japan and Thailand last year.

"We will strengthen quality management we have continuously pursued," Chung Mong-koo, chairman of Hyundai and Kia's parent group, said on Monday in his annual speech to employees.

The 73-year-old Chung has headed Hyundai Motor Group since 2000 when he led auto-related firms out of the parent Hyundai Group, then South Korea's biggest conglomerate marred by financial troubles and a bitter family feud. The son of Hyundai's founder is credited with transforming the once maker of cheap, poor-quality vehicles into a stellar performer, especially during the global economic downturn.

Hyundai Motor Group, South Korea's No 2 conglomerate, is expected to top Samsung Group, which also includes Samsung Electronics <005930.KS>, in terms of net profit in 2011, media reports said, showing how fast the motor group has grown in the past decade.

Shares of Hyundai Motor dropped 0.9 percent and Kia shares fell 0.3 percent in the wider market <.KS11> that was down 0.2 percent as of 0534 GMT on Monday.

Shares in Hyundai Motor rose 23 percent and Kia shares rose 32 percent last year, far outperforming the wider market's 11 percent fall.—*Reuters*

Hyundai Motor Chairman Chung Mong-koo attends the company's opening ceremony for the year in Seoul on 3 January, 2011.—REUTERS

Robert and Yvonne McGillis of Oakland choose gift wraps, taking advantage of after-Christmas sales at a Target Store in the Bay Fair Mall in San Leandro, California on 26 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

Business

Indian gov't allows foreigners to directly invest in stocks

NEW DELHI, 2 Jan—Indian government has allowed foreign nationals, including overseas individuals, to invest directly in Indian stock markets, local media reported Monday. "As a next logical step, it has now been decided to allow qualified foreign investors (QFIs) to directly invest in the Indian equity market in order to widen the class of investors, attract more foreign funds and reduce market volatility and to deepen the Indian Capital market," the Finance Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. Earlier, foreigners were allowed to invest only in mutual fund schemes.

By allowing QFIs, the government is opening a new avenue for investment, earlier controlled by foreign institutional investors. Foreign nationals, who wanted to invest in Indian stock markets, earlier came through the sub-account route, local daily *The Times of India* reported. "In this arrangement, a large number of Qualified Foreign Investors, in particular, a large set of diversified individual foreign nationals who are desirous of investing in Indian equity market do not have direct access to Indian equity market. In the absence of availability of direct route, many QFIs find difficulties in investing in the Indian equity market," the Finance Ministry was quoted as saying.

The move came at a time when foreign institutional investors are withdrawing from Indian equity markets due to problems in their domestic markets, the report said.

Xinhua

DPRK's top papers glorify 2012 with leadership of Kim Jong Un

PYONGYANG, 2 Jan—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's *"Rodongsinmun", "Josoninmimgun", "Chongnyonjonwi"* top newspapers, published a New Year Joint Editorial titled "Glorify This Year 2012 as a Year of Proud Victory, a Year When an Era of Prosperity Is Unfolding, True to the Instructions of the Great General Kim Jong Il".

Summary of the joint editorial is as follows;

Having seen out the year 2011 in bitter tears of blood, the service personnel and people of Korea are now seeing in the new year Juche 101 (2012).

Now our service personnel and people, turning the great sorrow into one-thousand-fold strength and courage, are embarking on a grand march towards the goal of achieving prosperity in the new century of the Juche era, following the leadership of their supreme leader Kim Jong Un.

As long as there are the Party, army and state, which Kim Jong Il developed to be invincible, as long as Kim Jong Un, successor to the revolutionary cause of Juche, leads us sagaciously and as long as there is an excellent people who support their leaders faithfully through generations, the cause of building a thriving country is sure to emerge victorious–this is an iron truth inscribed in our hearts as we set out on a fresh march.

This year, Juche 101 (2012), is the year when Kim Jong Il's plan for achieving prosperity will bear a brilliant fruit, and the year of a grand march, when a new century of Kim Il Sung's Korea begins.

The march in the new century of the Juche era is the continuation of the revolutionary march that started up on Mt Paektu. Steadfast is the will of our service personnel and people to adorn our revolution, pioneered by Kim Il Sung and whose victory after victory they won following Kim Jong Il, with eternal victory following the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

We must develop our single-hearted unity without interruption into the solidest one which is carried forward generation after generation. Kim Jong Un, the supreme leader of our Party and our people, is the banner of victory and glory of Songun Korea and the eternal centre of its unity. The dear respected Kim Jong Un is precisely the great Kim Jong Il. The whole Party, the entire army and all the people should possess a firm conviction that they will become human bulwarks and human shields in defending Kim Jong Un unto death, and follow the great Party for ever. We must become true persons who keep pace with their leader and his true comrades who work untiringly to creditably realize his intentions however hard the times are.

We must thoroughly carry out the instructions on national reunification of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, who are revered as the eternal sun of our nation.

The reunification of the country was the lifelong desire of the great persons of Mt Paektu and the greatest national task assigned to our generation.

As solid foundations have been laid for national reunification and the whole of 70 million Korean people are burning with patriotic zeal, the long-cherished desire of the nation will be materialized without fail before long.

Last year, proceeding from a patriotic intention to open a new phase for reunification and prosperity, we proposed wide-ranging talks and negotiations to the south Korean authorities, and made consistent efforts to realize them. The developments of last year reaffirmed the truth of history that our nation's will for independent reunification, peace and prosperity can be broken by no force and the anti-reunification forces will surely be defeated.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the publication of the 4 October Declaration, the action programme of the 15 June Joint Declaration.

As Kim Jong Un, a peerlessly brilliant commander, is leading our revolution in the van and the powerful revolutionary army and people united single-heartedly support faithfully their guide, the Workers' Party of Korea, the revolutionary cause of Juche is sure to emerge victorious.

MNA/KCNA

Science

Stephen Hawking seeks help to make voice heard

LONDON, 2 Jan—Can you help make Stephen Hawking's voice heard?

The famed British physicist is seeking an assistant to help develop and maintain the electronic speech system that allows him to communicate his vision of the universe. An informal job ad posted to the famed physicist's website said the assistant should be computer literate, ready to travel, and able to repair electronic devices "with no instruction manual or technical support."

Hawking has long struggled against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a disease which left him almost completely para-lyzed. He lost his real voice in a tracheotomy in 1985, but a wheelchair-mounted computer helps synthesize speech by interpreting the twitches of his face. The synthesizer's robotic monotone has become nearly as famous as Hawking himself, but the computer — powered by batteries fastened to the back of Hawking's wheelchair — isn't just for speaking.

It can connect to the Internet over cell phone networks and a universal infrared remote enables the physicist to switch on the lights, watch television, or open doors either at home or at the office. It's a complicated, tailor-made system, as the ad makes clear. A photograph of the back of Hawking's wheelchair, loaded with coiled wires and electronic equipment, is pictured under the words: "Could you maintain this?"

"If your answer is 'yes,' we'd like to hear from you!" the website says. Hawking's website says that the job's salary is expected to be about 25,000 pounds ($38,500) a year.—*Xinhua*

In this 18 March, 2005, file photo, a developing tassel sits atop a genetically modified corn plant in a greenhouse at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. So-called Bt corn, genetically engineered to make its own insecticide, may be losing its distinctive ability to kill pests _ a possible result of careless farming practices that could give rise to resistant bugs and threaten the future of one of the nation's most widely planted crops.— **INTERNET**

Chinese icebreaker arrives at Antarctica's Changcheng Station

ABOARD XUELONG, 2 Jan—The icebreaker *Xuelong*, or "Snow Dragon," arrived Sunday at the roadstead off China's Changcheng station during the country's 28th scientific expedition to Antarctica. The A-2 class icebreaker, capable of breaking 1.2 metre-thick ice, has covered 4,330 nautical miles (8,019 km) since leaving another Chinese Antarctic research station, Zhongshan, 16 days ago.—*Xinhua*

Greying Singapore taps robots, games in rehab

SINGAPORE, 2 Jan—Six months ago, Singaporean retiree Soon Eng Sam, 70, suffered a stroke that paralysed the left side of his body. Bedridden for three months, he has regained some limb functions on the affected side through conventional physical therapy but now hopes to hasten his recovery with the help of new gadgets designed to make rehabilitation fun. "This therapy is not so boring, not so painful as physical therapy, because the machine is assisting me to move my arm up and down and laterally," he said after a recent hour-long session with the "Armeo" robotic arm.

A therapist had to tell Soon to slow down as the former civil servant enthusiastically used his left hand, partly supported by the robotic arm, to catch virtual water droplets with a teacup on a colour monitor. The machine is among the high-tech exercise stations now being used at the Centre for Advanced Rehabilitation Therapeutics (CART), described by its administrators as the most advanced facility of its kind in Asia.

Medical authorities are deploying the latest technology as fast-greying Singapore prepares for a "silver tsunami" of elderly people as a result of longer life spans and low birth rates. In two decades, an estimated 20 percent of the population will be 65 years or older, compared to 9.3 percent at present.

To better prepare themselves for the demographic explosion, hospitals in the affluent city-state of five million people are using the latest available technology to augment its limited pool of health personnel.—*Internet*

Hospitals in Sigapore, an affluent city-state of five million people, are using the latest available technology to augment its limited pool of health personnel. **INTERNET**

Technology

In this photo a model plays a game on Sony's new tablet computer Tablet S during a launch event in Tokyo. The Tablet S stands out a little bit from the pack by including an infrared emitter, which makes it usable as a large universal remote control. It also plays some PlayStation games.— **INTERNET**

Sony Tablet S prices slashed by $100 to kick off the new

TOKYO, 2 Jan—Sony is knocking $100 off the price of its Tablet S, as you can see in the company's online store, with prices now falling at $399 for the 16 GB model and $499 for the 32 GB. The Android-powered tablets launched in September, but the holidays are now behind us and Sony is probably looking to make its new tech a little more attractive to shoppers in the new year.

Note that the price drop is also in effect at Newegg.com. The online electronics retailer was originally running a New Year's Day promotion that bundled a 16 GB Tablet S with 1TB GoFlex hard drive for $449.99. The price for that same bundle now sits at $399.99.

The Tablet S sports a 9.4-inch screen and runs on Honeycomb. It's packing a Tegra 2 CPU and 1GB of memory, plus a 5.0 MP rear camera and a 0.3 MP in the front. Not a bad tablet to have according to reviews so far, but early adopters have got to be a little rankled over such a quick turnaround on the price. Then again, Sony dropped the price 'temporarily' by $50 in mid-December. Maybe there aren't enough early adopters out there to begin with.

Internet

Indian PM promises to continue act against corruption in coming year

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

NEW DELHI, 2 Jan—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Saturday called on the Indians to be patient for the results of his efforts to fight corruption, and promised to work for the livelihood of ordinary people as his priority in the coming year.

"These initiatives (to fight corruption) will take time to have their full effect and we must therefore be patient," the prime minister, who is 79-year-old, said in his New Year's address to the nation.

"But I do believe they are transformational initiatives, which will be recognized as such a few years down the line," he added.

He said he personally will work to "provide an honest and more efficient government, a more productive, competitive and robust economy and a more equitable and just social and political order."

The government has introduced the anti-graft Lokpal (Ombudsman) bill to the Parliament this week. While the Lower House of the Parliament has endorsed it, the Upper House has yet to give its approval due to differences with the opposition over the bill.

India has seen an unprecedented movement of protests against corruption in the passing year.

Singh also said there were five challenges he would like to address in 2012 — livelihood security, (covering education, food, health and employment), economic security, energy security, ecological security and national security.

"In addressing each of these five challenges we must work together as a nation, while working with like-minded nations around the world. I assure you that I will work with all the energy at my command to ensure that we meet each of these challenges and overcome them," he said.—*Xinhua*

Chinese President delivers New Year address, stresses world peace, development

BEIJING, 2 Jan—In a New Year's address broadcast on Saturday, Chinese President Hu Jintao vowed that China will continue to develop friendly exchanges with other countries and positively participate in international cooperation on global issues. While addressing domestic and overseas audiences via state TV and radio broadcasters, Hu urged the acceleration of the transformation of the country's economic development pattern and structural adjustments while making more efforts in ensuring people's livelihood.

The country will continue to balance maintaining steady and relatively fast economic growth with adjusting its economic structures and managing inflation expectations, he said in the speech titled "Jointly Improve World Peace and Development," which was broadcast by China Radio International, China National Radio and China Central Television.

A photo released on 31 Dec, 2011 shows Chinese President Hu Jintao delivering a New Year address, titled "Jointly Improve World Peace and Development", to domestic and overseas audiences via state TV and radio broadcasters. XINHUA

China will stick to the guidelines of "one country, two systems," "Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong," "Macao people governing Macao," and a high degree of autonomy in maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao, Hu said. "We will adhere to the principles of 'peaceful reunification' and 'one country, two systems,' continue to push forward the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations, ensure the basic benefits for those of the Chinese nationality, and endlessly work for the common benefit of the compatriots on both sides of the Strait," he said.

Xinhua

Putin says Russia in stability, wishes all success in new year

MOSCOW, 2 Jan—Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Saturday said that Russia "is an island of stability" amid the global financial turmoil and wished all a successful new year.

"Indeed, the world economy has not been stable. In this sense, Russia is an island of stability to a certain extent," Putin told reporters on the new year's eve.

He stressed that Russia has made a successful recovery from the global financial crisis and overcame its aftermaths, which, in Putin's words, gave Russians confidence that "next year will also be successful."

The prime minister also noted that the coming year is the "Year of the Dragon" according to the "oriental calendar."

The year of the dragon has meant good luck for Russia in the past, Putin said. "(I) Hope this time that Dragon will bring luck, well-being and prosperity to each Russian family and to all our citizens," Putin said.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin

Addressing the recent parliamentary elections held on 4 Dec and the upcoming presidential election on 4 March, Putin said that in such times everything is somewhat unsteady and turbulent. "But this is the inevitable cost of democracy. There is nothing unusual here," Putin stressed.

Following the 4 Dec election, Russia has been marred by mass protests against alleged vote frauds, in which the ruling United Russia party, led by Putin, gained 238 out of 450 seats and kept an absolute majority in the new State Duma, or the lower house of parliament.—*Xinhua*

Sarkozy says debt crisis not over

PARIS, 2 Jan—French President Nicolas Sarkozy said Saturday in his New Year greetings that the spiralling debt crisis is not finished, urging more work to boost growth and competitiveness.

"This unprecedented crisis, probably the worst since the Second World War is not over yet but there are reasons for hope and we must, we can keep confidence in the future. 2012 will be the year of all the risks but also of hopes," the French president said.

"The problem is not that of a new package of spending cuts for the coming year. What should be done has been done by the government. Now we need to work primarily for growth, for competitiveness, for the re-industrialization which will enable us to create jobs and purchasing power," he added.—*Xinhua*

French President Nicolas Sarkozy

China launches 3D TV on New Year's Day

BEIJING, 2 Jan—China has marked the New Year with the start of 3D TV service. After a trial run, the 3D TV will be officially put into operation during Spring Festival later in January.

The first stations for the 3D trial are China Central Television, Beijing Television, Tianjing Broadcasting TV, Jiangsu TV and Shenzhen TV. 3D programmes will be offered daily from 10:30 am to midnight. The programmes include animation, sports, documentaries, TV dramas, entertainment and live broadcasting of big events, such as CCTV New Year's Gala and the London 2012 Olympic Games.—*Xinhua*

A marching band from the University of South Dakota of the United States takes part in the annual New Year's Day parade in central London, Britain, on 1 Jan, 2012. More than 8,000 performers attended the annual parade which was estimated to have attracted over 500,000 spectators.—XINHUA

Militants demand ransom for Australian hostage in S Philippines

COTABATO, 2 Jan—Militants demanded ransom in exchange for the freedom of their Australian hostage in the restive southern Philippines, police said on Monday.

Felicisimo Khu, chief Director for Integrated Police Operations, said gunmen holding Warren Richard Rodwell demanded at least 1 million pesos (22,831 US dollars) ransom money. Khu said the demand was relayed to the victim's Filipina wife. Roduel was seized on 5 Dec from his house in Green Meadows Subdivision, Upper Pangi Village in Ipil Town. He was last seen along with his captors in the province of Basilan. The Australian government has since warned their citizens from travelling to southern Philippines due to the abduction.

Basilan is a known bailiwick of the Abu Sayyaf, a militant group founded in the 1990s and has perpetrated a number of high-profile attacks, including kidnapping, bombing and beheading. The Philippine military estimates the group, which has links with external terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda, at less than 400 members.—*Xinhua*

Kim Jong Un inspects KPA on new year's day

PYONGYANG, 2 Jan—Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Kim Jong Un, marked New Year's day with a visit to a Korean People's Army (KPA) tank division on Sunday, the official *KCNA* news agency reported.

Kim, supreme commander of the KPA and supreme leader of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), state and Army, said the Seoul Ryu Kyong *Su 105* Guards Tank Division was the unit that late DPRK leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il had inspected the most, according to the report. He expected the division would become the Army's most powerful unit, expressing his hope that it would strengthen training and be ready to fight any time. This was Kim's first KPA inspection since he assumed its top role.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK proclaimed on December 30 that Kim had assumed the supreme KPA commandership "at the behest" of late leader Kim Jong Il on 8 October, 2011. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium goes on

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium 2011 organized by Central committee for Organizing Myanma Gems Emporium continued for 9th day today at Mani Yadana Hall here, attended by Union Mines Minister U Thein Htaik.

Local and foreign gems merchants purchased jade lots through competitive biding system and items of jewellery from jewellery shops as well.

Secretary of the central committee Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and personnel supervised the sale for the convenience of buyers.

29 jade lots were sold out today and 8250 lots so far in the emporium which ends tomorrow.—*MNA*

Buddha Tooth Relic conveyed to China

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—A ceremony to convey Buddha Tooth Relic which was present here for 48 days, from Mandalay to the People's Republic of China took place at Mandalay on 24 December. A conveyance team comprising Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Myanmar Ambassador to PRC U Tin Oo, Director-General U Khaing Aung of Department for Promotion and Propagation of Sasana, Acting Director-General U Tha Aung Nyunt of Consular and Legal Affairs Department and officials from Ministries of Religious Affairs, Home Affairs and Information conveyed it.

The following day, Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister Thura U Myint Maung held a frank discussion on matters related to culture and religious affairs between the two countries and promotion and propagation of Theravada Buddhism with Chinese People's Political Con-sultative Conference Mr Du Qing Lin, at CPPCC Head Office in Beijing.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister met Minister of Chinese Religious Affairs Bureau and party at Beijing Hall in Beijing Hotel, and Minister of Chinese Religious Affairs Bureau hosted a dinner to Myanmar delegation.

On 26 December, Myanmar delegation visited the World's fourth highest building Oriental Pearl Building and Oriental Pearl Museum.

They paid homage to Buddha Image at Jade Buddha Image Monastery and then visited 2010 Expo Botanical Garden.

On 27 December, they visited site for construction of the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda in Hunan Province and Longmen Buddhist Cave Temples. The next day, they processed to Xi'an in Shanxi Province by train, visited Terra-Cotta Museum and paid homage to Buddha images. They arrived here on 29 December.

MNA

***Union Civil Service Board Chairman U Kyaw Thu addressed concluding ceremony of refresher course No (44) for basic education teachers at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) on 31 December. He tasked the basic education teachers to succeed in literacy. The course was completed by 1500 basic education teachers.*(News Reported)—MNA**

Hotels and Tourism Ministry organizes mass walk and sports activities

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Ministry of Hotels and Tourism organized mass walk and sports activities yesterday morning, participated by Deputy Minister U Htay Aung.

About 200 walkers including the deputy minister, director-general, office head and staff took part in the activity, followed by the finals of Sepak Takraw (men) and men's and women's volleyball tournaments. The deputy minister awarded the winning teams.—*MNA*

Untimely Rainfall Warning

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, due to the convergence of warm air from Southwest and cold air from Northwest towards Myanmar, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states within next (48) hours commencing noon today, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

MNA

Fire drill exercised

KYAIKTO, 2 Jan—Myanma Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry organized the fire drill as fire preventive measures at No. 81 Saw Mill in Kyaikto on 19 December.

Under supervision of the township level officials, staff and workers of the mill and member of fire brigade practised fire drill.

Township IPRD

Shan State Minister calls for environmental conservation campaigns

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Shan State Minister for Forestry and Mines U Sai Aibao met responsible persons of environmental conservation committee and social organization at Lashio District General Administration Department on 30 December, 2011. He called for environmental conservation campaigns in Shan State and attended to the needs.—*MNA*

District News

Baby show and best mother contests held

YANGON, 2 Jan—Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee organized the baby show and best mother contests to mark the 64th Anniversary Independence Day at Yangon West General Hospital in Kyimyindine Township on 29 December.

The deputy commissioner accepted cash donations from wellwishers.

The Chairperson of District MCWSC and officials awarded the prize winners.—*Myanma Alin*

Basic first-aid course concludes

NYAUNGSHWE, 2 Jan—The basic first-aid course concluded at Basic Education High School branch in Nyaungshwe on 30 December morning.

Township authorities presented prizes to the outstanding trainees. The one-week course was attended by 43 trainees.—*Township IPRD*

Rural health branch opened

KYONPYAW, 2 Jan—A rural health branch was opened in Tawchaung Village of Kyonpyaw Township on 25 December.

Township level officials explained the purpose of opening the branch. Head of Township Health Department Dr Toe Maung, Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Kyi Kyi Win and village administrator Mahn Kyi Win formally opened the rural health branch.—*Township IPRD*

Fukushima hospitals face financial crisis

FUKUSHIMA, (Japan), 2 Jan—Hospitals in Japan's Fukushima prefecture have reported financial strain in the wake of Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima No 1 nuclear power plant disaster. The prefecture's hospital association, to which 90 percent of its hospitals belong, estimated the medical facilities' combined losses would reach at least $164 million for the first year after the March nuclear crisis, *The Yomiuri Shimbun* reported Thursday. The hospitals demanded Tepco pay compensation for the first six months following the disaster. They received about 70 percent of their request, though retirement bonuses for doctors and other expenses, such as the cost of medicine, where not covered.

Due to financial shortfalls, hospitals have been forced to reduce staff and cut services.

"Many of the hospitals had to limit the number of inpatients they accept due to the declining number of medical staff," said Kazuhira Maehara, head of the prefecture's hospital association. "Compensation payments didn't start until nine months after the accident. Unless something is done, it will be a long time before hospitals [in the prefecture] can resume operation."

Onoda Hospital in Minami-Soma reported the number of doctors dropped from eight to six, while the number of nurses working in the hospital decreased from 80 to 46. The hospital also said it was forced to close its inpatient wards, which reduced its revenues to one-third of pre-crisis levels, *Yomiuri Shimbun* said."We don't know how long we'll be able to continue operating under the current circumstances," a hospital administrator said.

Internet

Two killed in C Philippines grenade attack

MANILA, 2 Jan—Two people were killed in grenade attack on Sunday in the central Philippine Province of Capiz, state police said on Monday. The victims, Nerissa Lavado and eight month pregnant Ritchele Marquez, were sleeping inside their house when a grenade was lobbed by unknown men at their home in Libo-on village in Mabusao Town, said local police investigator Edwin Javedra.—*Xinhua*

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

A new nation with new strength

YANGYI AUNG

"A new nation with new strength
This era going down into the annals
Opening a new chapter in the year 2012"

The year 2011 has come to an end with changes and developments plus pleasure and refreshment. The auspicious occasion of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, which falls on 4 January, 2012, is the newest archway of an era in history.

The year 2011 is a transition period from the old era to the new one. Over the past 60 years after Myanmar regained her independence, there has been no other year as significant as 2011 that was filled with remarkable changes and political developments. That is a great surprise not only for the Myanmar people but also for the whole world.

For those analysts, they will be able to make it clear that since taking office in 2011, Myanmar's new government has been implementing its future policy plans and objectives earnestly as it has earlier promised.

In reality, changes and developments have surprisingly emerged during the short period beginning 30 March 2011 when the new government initiated adopting and implementing policy programmes and work plans suitable for time and circumstances for emergence of a peaceful, modern developed democratic nation.

President U Thein Sein poses with heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries, China, Japan, Korea, India, America, representatives of New Zealand and Russia at East Asia Summit in Bali of Indonesia.—MNA

Out of a series of changes that occurred during the period of not more than 10 months, I would like to present political reforms, the most important part of the said changes.

The drive for turning point

Most of international observers were taken aback by the fact that Myanmar, which had been ruled by an authoritarian Tatmadaw government in its political sector, has started practising democracy after holding elections and electing a new government within years or months.

In that regard, questions were flooding in about the reason why the political system had changed drastically. Indeed, such a sudden political change is not accidental. It is the results of the reforms the Tatmadaw government of State Peace and Development Council made to build up a new democratic nation by adopting the seven-point State road map.

The then government built not only political but also economic and social foundations for the emergence of a new democratic nation.

In comparison with tragedies, instability and bloodshed of imported democracies like Iraq and Afghanistan and of the nations of the Arab Spring such as Egypt, Libya, Syria Yemen and Bahrain staging a revolutionary wave of protests to bring down their governments in their efforts for democratic change, we must recognize the moves and goodwill attitude of the Tatmadaw government for its drive to change the country to a certain degree in a peaceful and stable way.

Leaders of GMS member countries at 4th GMS Summit hosted by Myanmar.—MNA

Prioritization of national reconciliation

The most popular and internationally recognized move the new government made in the nine-month period is mutual understanding and trust built during a meeting between President U Thein Sein and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

During the period from 25-7-2011 to 12-8-2011, Union Minister U Aung Kyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met three times. The discussion held between the President and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 19-8-2011 was a success achieved in a short time and it went on the record as a both internally and internationally unexpected issue.

As the saying goes by "Genuine goodwill reflects", the unanimous decision of the National League for Democracy led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to re-register as a political party in order to stand for the by-election is another significant success due to the fact that mutual understanding and trust could have been built with genuine goodwill.

The commutation of prison sentences and granting of general amnesty two times for national prisoners are another significant action the government took in its national reconciliation efforts. Released prisoners will be able to contribute towards nation-building tasks by doing their bit in respective sectors, politics, economy or social affairs.

Relentless efforts for national solidarity

When it comes to national consolidation, the government's perspective and policy programmes are open and transparent. In accord with the instructions included in the speech made by the President at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30-3-2011, peace talks and negotiations were held with aboveground and underground armed groups that had not been accepted the constitution so as to make eternal peace. The peace talks were held after a peace-making group had been formed with Hluttaw representatives who are familiar with the areas and masses of respective national races and ministers at state and union levels.

Plans have been made to hold peace talks and negotiations at three levels – state, Union and Hluttaw. At state level, initial agreement is to be reached for ceasefire agreement and future programmes of peace talks and at Union level, coordination, negotiations and solutions are to be sought politically.

After seeking approval from individual groups at Union level, discussions will be held at the Hluttaw to seek common ground by inviting various national race armed groups. The constitution will be amended if required. Finally, a complete agreement will be officially signed in the Hluttaw for eternal peace. National race organizations will have the chance to transform themselves into political parties as they wish.

In this regard, contacts were made with 10 national race armed groups which had yet to make peace with the government and peace talks have been held with all the armed groups, except the Kachin group. And success has been achieved to a certain extent and initial peace agreement has been reached at state level with about four groups. Peace talks with Kalohtobaw Group (Former DKBA) and Special Region (4) Group have reached Union level. As the peace talks with the remaining groups are gaining momentum, the hilly regions to the east of Myanmar are beginning to hear pleasant voices of peace doves in place of sounds of gunfire.

With the prevalence of regional peace and stability, steps are being taken in accord with the instructions included in the President's speech to establish industrial zones and special

(see page 9)

A new nation...

(from page 8)

socio-economic life of local people. Such measures are being taken practically, not on paper.

But it is natural that everything cannot be perfect. Parts of Kachin State are still noisy with sounds of gunfire. The government on its part is offering peace talks with kind patience and Union Spirit. The President halted the Myitsone hydropower project on 30-9-2011 in accordance with the desire of the Myanmar people, including the mass of Kachin. On 10-12-2011, he directed the units and regiments of the Myanmar Tatmadaw not to launch offensive except for self-defence. Besides, the government, international organizations and social organizations provided food, medicine and other humanitarian aids for refugees who evacuated to the government-controlled areas as well as for local refugees who were in the other armed group-operated area. It is therefore hoped that sooner or later, the other side will understand and response to the peace offerings being made with goodwill and kind patience based on Union Spirit.

Towards clean government and good governance

"The important duty of the new government is to strive for emergence of clean government and good governance," said the President to the members of the Union Government on 30-3-2011. In this context, the tasks must have transparency and accountability and be in conformity with the constitution and existing laws. In addition, they must be effective and efficient paying respect for public desires and ensuring all-inclusiveness, the President also noted.

The government's second work programme is the flourishing of democracy. Now, Myanmar has had a constitution fundamental to building a democratic nation. The three legislative, executive and judicial pillars emerging from the constitution have come into operation with check and balance.

As to the matter of transparency, open tender system is being practised in the departments dealing with trading while action is being taken against bribery and corruption for ensuring a clean government.

With regard to respecting the public desire, the most significant and popular issue is the halting of Myitsone hydro-power project.

As for democratic practices, the formation of National Human Rights Commission to protect the rights of the citizens enshrined in the constitution is indeed a noteworthy act of the government. Out of the 10 ASEAN member nations, there are only five countries which have human rights watch groups. Among them, National Human Rights Commission of Myanmar is an organization of international standard formed with the Paris fundamental principles.

As the three powers of the constitution are in force, legislative Hluttaws have been able to widen the scope of their knowledge and experience and work more actively in the Hluttaw sessions. In changing a new system and new era, a primary work plan is to make reforms in laws and procedures in parallel with the present time. Out of over 800 laws in Myanmar, about half was inherited from the colonial era and some were prescribed in the British-India colonial era before the entire country had been forced into enslavement. So, it is the tremendous duty of the legislative body to abolish or amend the old laws and to pass necessary new ones. It is difficult for a law to be amended after being promulgated. Amending of laws needs thorough decision and is time-consuming. Hence, 15 cases for abolishing, amending and passing laws could only be carried out at the two previous Hluttaw sessions.

Nonetheless, new laws such as freedom of peaceful expression law and labour union law could have been successfully passed in a short time and we must recognize that these are the significant legislative tasks.

To be continued

(Translation: ST)

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.**

President U Thein Sein and Chinese President Mr Hu Jintao taking salute of Guard of Honour of China.

President U Thein Sein met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 19-8-2011.

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

POEM:

High in sky the national flag

* **It was the 4th of January**
A day shrouded in mist
And 1948 was the year
A new era in sight
All in a shining moment

* **Celebrating independence heartily**
Nationalities of the Union
Rising proudly was the national flag
High above in sky it was fluttering
All in honour of our nation

* **Nationalities the offspring of Myanmar**
Enslaved they were for over 100 years
Evil legacy colonialism had left behind
But strength and unity they consolidated
And fought back colonialists for independence
Never had they yielded to occupiers
Wave after wave of battles for liberty
All in unity roaring to victory
And all along the 64 years
They've been always in harmony
Long live our independence

Hnin Maung (Zigon) (Trs)

Four killed, dozens injured as blast hits NE Kenya

GARISSA, 2 Jan—At least four people were killed and dozens of others seriously injured when a nightclub came under a hand grenade attack here in northeastern Kenya early Sunday.

Leo Nyongesa, northeastern provincial police officer, confirmed the incident in Garissa, a town near the Kenya-Somalia border, saying that "the police have launched investigations to establish the motive behind the attack, but so far no arrests have been made."

He said that the deceased included a military officer, a policeman and two civilians, adding that the injured have been sent to a local hospital and the number of casualties may rise.

Eyewitnesses said unknown attackers drove to the nightclub in a taxi and hurled the hand grenade in the pub where people were having New Year celebrations.

The country's security agencies are on an unprecedented alert amid latest reports that Islamist Al-Shabaab militia have planned attacks against Kenya and US interests in the country.

Kenyan forces are hunting down the Al-Shabaab militants inside Somalia to stop further incursions into Kenya.

In the last few weeks, Kenya suffered incursions by the Al-Shabaab militia from neighbouring Somalia, with heavy fightings reported near the border Town of Mandera, as well as in the northern Districts of Wajir, Garissa and Dadaab.

Xinhua

People queue up for Laba porridge distributed at Pilu Temple in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province,on 1 Jan, 2012. As a tradition, many Buddhist temples provided free Laba porridge to citizens on Sunday, which happened to be the New Year's day and also China's traditional Laba Festival. **XINHUA**

Argentine governor 'accidentally' killed by gunshot

LONDON, 2 Jan—A provincial governor in Argentina has died of a gunshot at home while celebrating the new year with family.

According to the police, Carlos Soria, the Rio Negro governor, was with his wife when he got killed around 08.00 GMT, the *BBC* reported. He had sworn in as a governor just a few weeks ago and had been elected in Rio Negro by a wide margin.

Vice-governor Alberto Weretilneck termed it a "domestic accident".

As per local media reports, Soria's wife Susana Freidos is being questioned by police.

Internet

Overdue library book with 4,500 pounds fine uncovered 123 years late

LONDON, 2 Jan—A library book that has been overdue for 123 years has been unearthed at a historic Lake District home.

The Victorian miscellany 'Good Words for 1888' was borrowed from the Troutbeck Institute library in North West England shortly after it was first published, but was never returned.

It sat on the fireside shelf at Townend House in Troutbeck, home to the wealthy Browne family ever since. It was discovered by chance by staff at the National Trust, which now owns the building.

The library from which it was borrowed no longer exists, and the book could be the longest-ever library loan in Britain. Cumbria libraries now cap their book fines at 6 pounds. Otherwise the total payable, at 10p a day, would be a hefty 4,489.50 pounds,

"It would have quite a fine on it by now. I think it's a huge amount of time for a library book to be overdue. The Institute still has a collection of books, I wonder if they know it is missing?" the *Daily Mail* quoted Katrina Zanhak, custodian of Townend House, which has been a National Trust property since 1948 as saying.—*Internet*

Italy's Maurizio Palmulli dives into the Tiber River from the 18-metre high Cavour Bridge in Rome to celebrate the New Year. **INTERNET**

China, Afghanistan sign agreement on bilateral cooperation

KABUL, 2 Jan—Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan Xu Feihong and Afghan Foreign Minister Zalmai Rassoul signed an agreement on bilateral economic and technical cooperation on Saturday.

The deal is a part of the grant assistance of China to the people of Afghanistan, said a Press release by the Afghan Foreign Ministry.

The latest grant will be spent on the implementation of projects based on consultations between the two countries, it said.

The main projects include the reconstruction and equipping of the Jamhooryat Hospital in Kabul, the reconstruction of the Parwan Irrigation Canal, construction of the Conference Hall within the Arg premises (Afghan Presidential Palace), the reconstruction of the Ministry of Education's Centre for National Science and Technology, the reconstruction of the Ministry of Higher Education 's guest house, the construction of the department of the Chinese Language in Kabul University and the provision of 100 ambulances to the Ministry of Public Health.

Since 2001, the People's Republic of China has provided a total amount of 200 million US dollars to the reconstruction projects in Afghanistan, the foreign ministry said.

Xinhua

Afghan Foreign Minister Zalmai Rassoul (R) shakes hands with Xu Feihong, Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan, after signing an agreement on bilateral economic and technical cooperation, in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 31 Dec, 2011.— **XINHUA**

13 die after drinking illicit liquor in India

NEW DELHI, 2 Jan—At least 13 people died after drinking illicit liquor to celebrate New Year Saturday night in India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh, local media reported on Sunday.

The incident took place after over 170 died of drinking the illicit liquor, also known as hooch, in the eastern state of West Bengal two weeks ago.

Hours before the dawn of New Year, the tragedy struck Poratanagar in Krishna district of coastal Andhra, said *Indo-Asian News Service.*

At least 10 others are still battling for life in hospitals where they are being treated for poisoning.

The victims belonged to three tribal hamlets. After consuming the country-made liquor, they suffered giddiness.

Local authorities ordered judicial investigation into the incident and suspension of two tax officers for negligence.

Xinhua

Vietnamese cargo ship sinks; 22 dead

HANOI, 2 Jan—A Vietnamese cargo ship that vanished near the Philippines on Christmas Day has sunk, killing 22 of its 23 crew members, Vietnam state shipping firm Vinalines said on Friday.

"According to our initial information, only one sailor has been rescued and the vessel has not been found yet," a Vinalines official based in Hanoi told *AFP*, asking not to be named.

The Vinalines Queen disappeared after passing Luzon island and apparently did not send out a distress signal.

Late on Friday, online newspaper Dan Tri reported that the surviving sailor, Dau Ngoc Hung, was rescued by a British ship which was heading towards Singapore.

Vinalines said its ship was carrying more than 54,000 tonnes of nickel ore and was travelling from Indonesia to China when it lost contact.

Vietnam appealed to the Philippines, Taipei and Japanese coastguards for help in finding the vessel, but had heard nothing from the ship until now.

"We are now focusing our efforts on searching for the Vinalines Queen," the company official added.

Rescue experts quoted in the local Press said emergency equipment in the vessel should have automatically sent SOS signals to satellites and coastal rescue stations. It is not yet clear why none was transmitted.

The Japanese-built 190-metre (627-feet) Vinalines Queen was one of the largest and most modern cargo ships in the Vietnamese fleet, with a capacity of more than 56,000 tonnes. It had been in service for Vinalines since 2005.

Vietnam National Shipping Lines, or Vinalines, is one of the communist country's main state-owned enterprises.

Internet

Picture shows the Vinalines Queen cargo ship anchored at Saigon port in Ho Chi Minh City.— **INTERNET**

Israel to build wall along Jordanian border

JERUSALEM , 2 Jan— Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday announced that Israel plans to build a wall along its eastern border with Jordan, similar to the one currently under construction along its border with Egypt.

The government invests some 360 million US dollars in a five—metre-high steel fence along its 240-kilometre-long western border, which is scheduled for completion by September.

"When the security barrier along the Egyptian border is finished, one will be built along the border with Jordan," Netanyahu told ministers at the weekly cabinet session, Army radio said.

Both structures are intended to thwart infiltrators, whether refugees, those seeking work, smugglers, or hostile cross-border attacks.

"Israel's border with Egypt is a border of peace," Netanyahu said during a visit in September.

But, he continued, "To continue the peace, there must be security and to this end a fence is necessary. Its rapid construction is important for both peace and security."

Political and defence echelon officials are deeply concerned by the deteriorating situation along the Egyptian border.

"I'd define the border these days as one of tense peace ... We' ve always known that radical Islamist elements are infiltrating into Sinai," an Eilat-area counter-terrorism expert told *Xinhua* in December.

In a cross-border attack along a nearby road in August, militants killed eight Israeli motorists, and wounded some 30 others. The army has since then deployed some of its crack infantry units to patrol the region and upped the number of early- warning installations.

It is also considering calling up reserve units to beef-up manpower for patrols. "The fence is an important tool that will enable us and other forces to control occurrences on the border with greater effectiveness," the official said, but warned that without boots on the ground, the barrier itself would be "worthless."

Xinhua

***Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during Israeli weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, on 1 Jan, 2012.—*XINHUA**

Blackbirds fall to the ground in Beebe

BEEBE, (Ark), 2 Jan—At least 80 dead blackbirds fell from the sky in Beebe, Ark, on New Year's Eve, prompting police to ban fireworks, the suspected cause, for the night.

Beebe animal control officer Horace Taylor said his office picked up about 80 blackbirds on New Year's Eve, KHTV, Little Rock, Ark, reported.

Authorities put an emergency ban on fireworks for the night after police received the first report of birds falling to the ground at 7:14 pm.

On New Year's Eve 2010, about 4,000 blackbirds fell from the sky in Beebe, KATV, Little Rock, Ark, reported.

Experts said the loud noises from fireworks sent the birds crashing into buildings, cars and each other before the fell to the ground.

Internet

***Rubbish left by revellers after the New Year celebrations in Hong Kong's Times Square.* INTERNET**

Fireworks smoke cancels Manila flights

MANILA, (Philippines), 2 Jan—New Year's fireworks displays in Manila created so much smoke airlines were forced to cancel flights, Philippine officials said.

GMA News reported the air pollution also presented a problem for people with asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

On the plus side, health officials said this year's celebration produced significantly fewer firecracker-related injuries, the Philippines broadcaster said. Health Secretary Enrique Ona said 476 fireworks-related injuries were recorded by 6 am Sunday. The department had said in a news release in late November that there had been 1,022 injuries during the 2010 New Year's revelry. *GMA News* said visibility had been reduced to zero in Manila on New Year's Eve, forcing airports to shut down their runways until 9 am Sunday. Some airlines canceled and delayed flights even after the runways reopened.

Officials said while there were fewer fireworks set off this year, the smoke lingered because of dry weather and calm winds.—*Internet*

***A man injured by a firecracker arrives at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Centre in Manila after the new year celebration.* INTERNET**

Southern Thailand under flood threat

BANGKOK, 2 Jan—The National Disaster Warning Centre of Thailand issued a warning on Sunday for people in eastern provinces of the South to prepare for heavy rain and the danger of floods and mudslides.

Most of the southern provinces were greeted by incessant heavy downpours during the New Year holiday. 12 districts of Songkla were taken over by floodwaters, with one people reportedly killed by the flood. 8 districts in Narathiwat were declared disaster zones from flooding.

In Yala, heavy rain hit this southernmost province for four straight days inundating areas. Photos on the website of *Thai News Agency* show that the water level in some regions reaches half—metre high and submerges shops along the roads. Meanwhile, strong winds and high waves in the Gulf of Thailand are expected and people living along the coast are warned of high waves pounding the shoreline.

Fishermen are advised to be cautious and small boats should stay tied ashore.—*Xinhua*

Five new members join UN Security Council

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Jan— Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo, the five new non-permanent members of the 15-nation UN Security Council, on Sunday began to serve their two-year terms.

The five new Council members were elected by the UN General Assembly in October 2011.

The five represent different geographical groups — three from Africa and the Asia-Pacific Region, one from Eastern Europe, and one from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Lebanon, Nigeria, Gabon, Bosnia and Brazil are ending their terms on the Council on Sunday. The five temporary members that will remain through 2012 are Colombia, Germany, India, Portugal and South Africa.

Under the UN Charter, the Security Council, the most powerful UN body, has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council has 15 members: five permanent — China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States — and 10 elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms.

Each member has one vote. Decisions on procedural matters are made by an affirmative vote of at least nine of the 15 members. Decisions on substantive matters require nine votes and the absence of a negative vote by any of the five permanent members.

Under Article 25 of the UN Charter, all members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, the Council alone has the power to take decisions which member states are obliged under the Charter to implement.

Xinhua

Blues guitarist DeGennaro killed

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP, 2 Jan—Authorities were looking for whoever shot and killed blues guitarist Daniel DeGennaro in suburban Philadelphia. The 56-year-old musician and songwriter was found with a fatal shotgun wound to his chest Wednesday night near the front door of his home, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. Bucks County authorities ruled the death a homicide Friday, the newspaper said.

"We don't believe it was a random attack," prosecutor David W. Heckler said. "But there are a number of avenues of investigation to pursue. We have a number of layers of things to look at."

Nick Wilson, who lives near DeGennaro's house in Bristol Township's Levittown community, said he called authorities after a tenant living in DeGennaro's basement showed up at his door in a panic.

"The house looked like it was robbed, and someone got hurt really bad," Wilson said. Investigators said they questioned the renter and do not consider him a suspect, the Inquirer said. They said none of several guns removed from the residence were believed to have been used to kill DeGennaro.

Bob Settelen, a friend and vice president of the Bucks County Blues Society, described DeGennaro, who had toured with Kingfish and also was known as Danny Rio, as "an incredible musician."

According to his Web site, DeGennaro had also performed with Bo Diddley and the late E Street Band saxophonist Clarence Clemons.—*Internet*

Blues guitarist Daniel DeGennaro

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SILVER SMOOTH VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SILVER SMOOTH VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1202)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG TRADER VOY NO (1202) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Chile detains tourist suspected of causing park fire

SANTIAGO, 2 Jan—Officials in Chile say they have detained an Israeli tourist they suspect of having caused a forest fire in a nature reserve in Patagonia. An expanse of pristine forest 110 sq km (27,000 acres) large has already burned in the Torres del Paine national park. Hundreds of firefighters continue to fight the blaze, which is believed to have been sparked by a camp fire.

Torres del Paine is one of the country's most popular parks, visited by more than 100,000 people a year. Local prosecutor Juan Melendez said that the 23-year-old Israeli had been arrested on suspicion of causing the fire through negligence. Four hundred tourists were evacuated from Torres del Paine on Thursday as firefighters failed to stem the blaze. Chilean President Sebastian Pinera said it could take weeks to bring the fire under control. The head of Chile's national emergency service, Vicente Nunez, called the situation "an extreme scenario, mainly due to topography, strong winds and highly combustible vegetation".

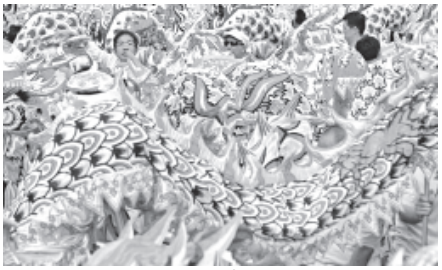
In 2005, a campfire started by a backpacker destroyed 160 sq kms (40,000 acres) of the nature preserve. President Pinera said the ministers of agriculture and the environment would travel to Patagonia to personally oversee the firefighting efforts. The president also said the number of military personnel deployed to fight the blaze would be raised to 450.

Internet

China's national ice fishing game kicks off in Yinchuan

YINCHUAN, 2 Jan — National Ice-fishing Invitation Game kicked off in Yinchuan, the capital city of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on Saturday. The game attracted over 220 fishing lovers from around China. After two truns, Tang Yuankun from Lingwu county of Ningxia won the final with a prize of 10,000 yuan (about 1,650 US dollars).

"It's the last one of the 31 national fishing games in 2011 and also the first national ice-fishing game sponsored by China's General Administration of Sports," said Li Xiaolin, the president of Ningxia Fishing Association.Yinchuan, renowned for its "72 rivers" in history, boasts many natural lakes and rivers. The rich fish resource and moderate winter temperature makes it a nice choice for ice-fishing lovers.—*Xinhua*



Dragon and lion dance performers look on during a street parade in Hong Kong. Some 2,000 performers took part in the event including 88 dragons setting a new Guinness world record for the most dragons in a parade.
INTERNET

Mt Rainier ranger slain, suspect at large

SEATTLE, 2 Jan—A manhunt was under way Sunday for a gunman who killed a park ranger in Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state, authorities said. Officials said Park Ranger Margaret Anderson was fatally wounded about a mile south of Paradise about 10:30 am after placing her car as a roadblock to stop a car that fled when other park rangers tried to pull it over for a routine traffic stop on a road near Longmire, *The Seattle Times* reported. "He just jumped out and shot her," park spokeswoman Lee Taylor said. The killer, who was armed with a rifle, escaped on foot. The 34-year-old ranger was a mother of two who was married to another park ranger, the newspaper said.

Park officials said about 86 park visitors and about 20 employees were locked down at a visitors center Paradise because of the shooting. "It's really not safe right now," Taylor told the *Times*. "We've got a guy on the loose with a gun and he's obviously willing to use it."—*Internet*

Monkey-nappers break into San Francisco Zoo and snatch Banana Sam

***Banana Sam, 17, was taken from San Francisco Zoo—*INTERNET**

SAN FRANCISCO, 2 Jan — Thieves broke into San Francisco Zoo and snatched its beloved squirrel monkey; Banana Sam. The monkey-snatchers cut two holes into the metal mesh of the squirrel monkey enclosure and took the foot tall, two-pound animal on Thursday. The zoo is offering a $1,000 reward for Banana Sam's safe return. Investigators believe someone stole the animal late on Thursday, San Francisco police Sgt Michael Andraychak said.

'It was apparent someone broke into the zoo and deliberately took the animal, we believe somebody has him,' Andraychak said. Zoo officials discovered Banana Sam was missing when they arrived at work on Friday morning. The zoo said the thieves cut a back perimeter gate and made it to the top of a roof that houses five other primate exhibits. The zoo, which keeps about 20 squirrel monkeys, said it is concerned on many fronts. First, Banana Sam requires a special diet to survive and is older.

Also, while squirrel monkeys are not large animals, they have sharp teeth and will bite if provoked. 'This was a criminal act of vandalism and trespassing and we are working with the police to identify the perpetrators,' said Tanya Peterson, president and executive director of the San Francisco Zoological Society. News of the stolen monkey spread quickly on the Internet Friday, and someone set up a fake Twitter account 'tracking' the alleged whereabouts of Banana Sam.—*Internet*

***San Francisco Zoo, pictured, is offering a $1,000 reward for Banana Sam's safe return.—*INTERNET**

Seven die in Kenya boats collision

NAIROBI, 2 Jan—Seven passengers perished after two boats collided late Sunday off Kenya's Indian Ocean island of Lamu, according to hospital sources.

One boat having 80 people on board capsized after hitting another one as it was leaving the island for the mainland.

Rescuers have found 20 survivors, the sources reported, indicating many still missing after the wreckage.

Xinhua

Fracking wastewater might have caused Ohio quake

MCDONALD, 2 Jan— Officials said on Saturday they believe the latest earthquake activity in northeast Ohio is related to the injection of wastewater into the ground near a fault line, creating enough pressure to cause seismic activity.

The brine wastewater comes from drilling operations that use the so-called fracking process to extract gas from underground shale. But Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Jim Zehringer said during a news teleconference that fracking is not causing the quakes.

"The seismic events are not a direct result of fracking," he said.

Environmentalists and property owners who live near gas drilling wells have questioned the safety of fracking to the environment and public health. Federal regulators have declared the technology safe, however. Mr Zehringer said four injection wells within a five-mile radius of an already shuttered well in Youngstown, Ohio will remain inactive while further scientific research is conducted.

Internet

Man critical after contracting first case of rabies in Massachusetts in 75 years after being 'bitten by infected bat'

BOSTON, 2 Jan— A Boston man is fighting for his life after contracting human rabies - the first case in Massachusetts in more than 75 years.

It is believed the victim, who is in his 60s and from Cape Cod, may have been bitten by a rabid bat in his home. The man, who has not been identified, is in a critical condition and state public health officials say the chances of him surviving the highly deadly disease are poor.

'It is not clear how the man was infected, but there was evidence that he may have been exposed to a rabid bat, said Dr Al DeMaria, medical director of the state's Bureau of Infectious Disease.

Internet

***More than 100 sq km of the park's vegetation has been destroyed by the fire.—*INTERNET**

***Deadly disease: It is believed the victim, who is in his 60s, may have been bitten by a rabid bat in his home.—*INTERNET**

Lost ring found growing around carrot

Lena Paahlsson says the ring was on a small carrot she was about to discard.

A Swedish woman has discovered her wedding ring on a carrot growing in her garden, 16 years after she lost it, says a newspaper. Lena Paahlsson had long ago lost hope of finding the ring, which she designed herself, reports *Dagens Nyheter*. The white-gold band, set with seven small diamonds, went missing in her kitchen in 1995, she told the paper. Although the ring no longer fits, she hopes to have it enlarged so she can wear it again.

Mrs Paahlsson and her family live on a farm near Mora in central Sweden. She took the ring off to do some Christmas baking with her daughters, but it disappeared from the work surface where it had been left, she explained to *Dagens Nyheter*. The family searched everywhere and years later took up the tiling on the floor during renovations, in the hope of finding the ring. It was not until 16 years later when Mrs Paahlsson was pulling up carrots in her garden that she noticed one with the gold band fastened tightly around it.

Lena Paahlsson and husband Ola say it is incredible that the ring has been found.

"The carrot was sprouting in the middle of the ring. It is quite incredible," her husband Ola said to the newspaper. The couple believe the ring fell into a sink back in 1995 and was lost in vegetable peelings that were turned into compost or fed to their sheep. "I had given up hope," Mrs Paahlsson told *Dagens Nyheter*, adding that she wanted to have the ring adjusted to fit her. "Now that I have found the ring again I want to be able to use it," she said.

Woman arrested in pink paint attack on ex

A Florida woman was arrested after allegedly throwing pink paint on her ex-boyfriend and his car at the parking lot where he works, police said.

Hallandale police said Tasha Franklin, 25, of Hollywood, and her ex-boyfriend split up in July, but she showed up at the parking lot where he works a few days before Christmas and threw pink paint on the man and his car before dipping her own hand in paint and leaving an imprint on his front seat, the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* reported Friday. Investigators said Franklin then bit her ex on the arm, leaving an imprint of her teeth. Franklin was charged with dating battery, burglary of the victim's car and criminal mischief.

News Album

Michigan's longest-serving nurse retires

A woman believed to be Michigan's longest-serving nurse has announced her retirement only one month prior to her 90th birthday.

Dorothe Canty, who became a nurse near the start of World War II and was recognized by the state Legislature in 2007 as Michigan's longest-serving nurse, said she completed her final shift Thursday at Dr Alan Bolton's obstetrics/gynecology practice in Berkley, the *Detroit Free Press* reported Friday. "My husband always said, 'Just say the word 'go' to Dorothe, and she's already gone,'" Canty said.

Canty said she retired once before, in 1984, but her retirement quickly ended when Bolton asked her to work for a few days, which turned into years. "Don't tell them," Canty said, "but I'm not giving back the office keys just yet."

Injured man stole ambulance

Police in Florida said they arrested an injured man accused of stealing an ambulance while it was on a call to drive himself to the hospital.

Tampa police said medical personnel from ambulance #41, which belongs to Transcare Ambulance Co, were in a home on a call shortly before 10:30 pm Thursday when they heard a vehicle's engine start and looked outside to see a man drive away in the ambulance, the *Tampa Bay Tribune* reported Friday.

Police tracked the vehicle via its GPS system and stopped the ambulance at North Tampa Street and East 26th Avenue.

The man, Hubert Lee Credit, 39, was arrested on charges of auto burglary and grand theft auto.

"I got beat up by four guys," a police report quotes Credit as saying. "I saw the ambulance and I was going to drive myself to the hospital."

Credit was treated for a puncture wound to the head at Tampa General Hospital.

US actor Tom Cruise (R) poses with cast member, US actress Paula Patton. INTERNET

'Mission' takes No 1 for second weekend

LOS ANGELES, 2 Jan—"Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol," with Tom Cruise, was No 1 at the US box office for the second straight weekend with $31.25 million in receipts. "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," with Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law, kept going strong and was No 2 with more than $22.09 million.

All studio estimates of gross US receipts are via Box Office Mojo. "Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked" was third with $18.25 million; "War Horse" fourth with $16.94 million; "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2011)" fifth with $16.3 million; "We Bought a Zoo" sixth with $14.3 million; "The Adventures of Tintin" seventh with $12 million; "New Year's Eve" eighth with more than $6.74 million; and "The Darkest Hour" ninth with $4.3 million. "The Descendants" rounded out the top 10 with $3.65 million.—*Internet*

Jeff Bridges not concerned about aging

Actor Jeff Bridges

LONDON, 2 Jan—Actor Jeff Bridges says he no longer cares about his looks and isn't worried about aging. The 62-year-old believes getting older helps him feel better about his looks and he has learned to "let go" and not be concerned about age.

"As you get older, there's maybe something like a reverse vanity, where you just let your age go and not be concerned about it,"contactmusic.com quoted Bridges as saying.

Internet

Christine Bleakley eyes 'The X Factor'

LONDON, 2 Jan—Television presenter Christine Bleakley, who is dating footballer Frank Lampard for six months, says she is eyeing up a role on US version of "The X Factor". The "Dancing On Ice" host has told friends she would be happy to be the part of the reality show after their wedding if Lampard, 33, moves to America to play football.

"She gets on very well with Simon and he's always maintained at some point they will work -together. After Dancing On Ice is done and dusted by the spring, there's nothing keeping her in the UK if she wanted to move abroad," mirror.co.uk quoted a source as saying. "The Americans love an Irish presenter and Christine has potential to work very well in the US," the source added.

Television presenter Christine Bleakley

Internet

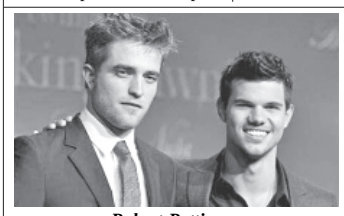
'Idol' singer Durbin gets married in Calif

SANTA CRUZ, 2 Jan—"American Idol" contestant James Durbin said he married longtime girlfriend Heidi Lowe on New Year's Eve in rural California. The couple tied the knot at a chapel on the fringe of a redwood forest in the Santa Cruz Mountains in front of 85 guests, People said Sunday.

"We are so in love and happy that we got to share our special day with our closest family and friends," the couple told People.

'Idol' singer Durbin

"American Idol" alums Hanley Reinhart, Casey Abrams and Stefano Langone were on hand, and the couple's 2-year-old son, Hunter, was the ring-bearer for the ceremony. Queensryche singer Geoff Tate performed "Take Hold of the Flame," one of the happy couple's favorite songs. Getting married was one of the highlights of what has been a busy year for the 22-year-old Durbin, who released his first album in November.—*Internet*



Robert Pattinson

Robert Pattinson trumps royalty to become 'celeb of the year'

LONDON, 2 Jan—Robert Pattinson has beaten the Duchess of Cambridge to be crowned Celebrity of the Year, in a poll by an Internet TV channel. The poll, conducted by the channel E!, saw the Twilight heartthrob's popularity surpass that of Duchess Kate, Britney Spears, and even his co-star and girlfriend Kristen Stewart.

This is the second time London-born star has scooped the title, the *Daily Star* reported. Pattinson was ranked as one of the highest paid actors in Hollywood based on his 2009 earnings, and in 2010 was named among Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.—*Internet*

Russell Brand files for divorce from Katy Perry

LONDON, 2 Jan—Comedian Russell Brand has filed for divorce from his pop singer wife Katy Perry after just 14 months of marriage. Though the couple had earlier denied rumours of problems in their relationship, Brand cited "irreconcilable differences" in papers filed at a Los Angeles court on Friday. "Sadly, Katy and I are ending our marriage. I'll always adore her and I know we'll remain friends," the *Telegraph* quoted him as saying in a statement.

While there was no immediate reaction from Perry but celebrity website TMZ reported that she was shocked by the news. The pair had wed in a lavish ceremony in India in October 2010 but were almost immediately beset by claims that the marriage was struggling. The couple celebrated Christmas 7,000 miles apart as while he visited family in Cornwall, she spent the holiday with friends in Hawaii.—*Internet*

British comedian Russell Brand (R) poses with his wife, singer Katy .

Wenger says his Arsenal players are a positive unit

Wenger says team spirit changed fortunes

LONDON, 2 Jan — Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has put his side's rise up the Barclays Premier League table down to a great attitude and spirit in the camp.

The Gunners had a poor start to the season, including an extraordinary 8-2 defeat at Manchester United in August. But they have improved and their 1-0 win over QPR on New Year's Eve meant that they began 2012 in fourth place in the table. "When we were in a difficult situation I always said 'look, we have to take the critics and focus on performing better and improving'," he said.

"I give credit to my players because we have been 17th or 18th in the league. "Nobody focused on that and we improved as a team. "For me, the spirit in the side got us to where we are today. "We still have some room for improvement but there is a good base there because the attitude and the spirit are really great."

Wenger said Monday's match at London rivals Fulham would be tough, despite the Cottagers' fluctuating form which has seen them draw away at Chelsea, but lose 5-0 at home against Manchester United. "I am expecting a tough game," said Wenger. "You can see that everybody finds a good motivation against Arsenal.

Internet

Zaragoza need reinforcements, says new coach Jimenez

MADRID, 2 Jan — Real Zaragoza's new coach Manolo Jimenez wants the cash-strapped club to find the money to buy players in the January transfer window as he begins the task of helping La Liga's bottom side avoid relegation. "Of course, I have asked for signings," the former Sevilla boss said at his first news conference since his appointment on Saturday to replace the sacked Javier Aguirre.

"There are gaps in the team," Jimenez said, adding that he was aware of the economic woes of the heavily-indebted Aragonese club, who are one of several top-flight sides in administration. "We need a second goalkeeper, defenders because we are letting in a lot of goals, too many of those from set pieces, something on the creative side and the odd forward," he said. "I am excited about this new task of getting Real Zaragoza off the bottom, which demands that we all pull in the same direction." Former Mexico boss Aguirre was appointed in November 2010 and helped Zaragoza avoid relegation last season.

After 16 of 38 matches this term they are five points adrift of the safety zone having picked up just 10 points and the board decided on Thursday "an urgent change of course" was needed.

Internet

Real Zaragoza's new coach Manolo Jimenez

Ibrahimovic excited by prospect of Tevez arrival

AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic

DUBAI, 2 Jan — AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic would love to see Carlos Tevez join his side, saying on Sunday that the Manchester City player would provide the Italian giants "an extra weapon." Milan is in talks with City over the signing of Argentina international Tevez, who hasn't played for City since being suspended for two weeks and fined a fortnight's wages for refusing to warm up during a Champions League game in September.

"For me, Tevez is a great player. I don't know how the situation is and if he's coming, if he's not coming. But he's a great player and if he comes for sure he will do a great job for us," Ibrahimovic said. "It would be an extra weapon for us … Everybody knows what kind of a player Tevez is. He's a fantastic player and he will bring extra quality to the team."

Ibrahimovic, whose team is in Dubai to play a friendly match against Paris Saint-Germain Wednesday, also welcomed foreign investment into teams like PSG and City. He said it would allow those clubs to better compete with the "bigger teams" and will further help football development in the long term. "I think it's good for football that teams like City and PSG come in," Ibrahimovic said. "They have big money to buy big players and they make the competition more difficult for the bigger teams. Football will develop even more and become even better so it's good."

The 30-year-old captain of the Sweden's national team also played down earlier talk of retirement, saying he expected to play three more years and maybe even longer.

Internet

Anichebe nets late to sink Baggies

Chances were at a premium for both sides before Anichebe's late goal

LONDON, 2 Jan — West Brom 0-1 Everton. Victor Anichebe's 87th-minute winner was enough to bring Everton victory in a tense match at the Hawthorns.

Anichebe fired in from close range as Everton extended their unbeaten run in the Barclays Premier League to four matches. In a match of few chances, West Brom struggled to create opportunities to add to their seven home goals in the League this season - the lowest total in the Barclays Premier League.

Internet

Japan's Lee linked with Saints switch

TOKYO, 2 Jan — Japan striker Tadanari Lee could soon joining English club Southampton after agreeing terms with the Championship (second division) leaders, local media reported on Monday. The Saints have made a formal offer for the 26-year-old, Sanfrecce Hiroshima's technical committee chief Hidekazu Orita has been informed, according to the Nikkan Sports newspaper.

Lee famously volleyed a superb winning goal for Japan in last year's Asian Cup final against Australia in Doha to give the Blue Samurai a record fourth continental title. Southampton must secure a work permit for Lee, born to Korean parents and scorer of 15 goals in 32 games for J.League side Hiroshima last year, to take him to England's south coast.—*Internet*

Japan striker Tadanari Lee

German Bundesliga side Kaiserslautern signs Polish teen player

BERLIN, 2 Jan — German Bundesliga side Kaiserslautern announced on Sunday that they have signed highly-regarded Poland Under-20 international Jakub Swierczok from Polish second division outfit Polonia Bytom.

The 19-year-old signed a three-and-a-half year contract with Kaiserslautern, who are third from bottom of the Bundesliga and have scored just 13 goals, the fewest in the league. "He is a talented player and we are convinced he has the potential to make it in the Bundesliga," said club president Stefan Kuntz.— *Xinhua*

Spain beats Australia at Hopman Cup

PERTH, 2 Jan — Fernando Verdasco and Anabel Medina Garrigues beat Lleyton Hewitt and Jarmila Gajdosova in a mixed doubles third-set tiebreaker Sunday to give Spain a 2-1 victory over Australia in the Hopman Cup. According to Hopman Cup rules, the mixed doubles is decided by a tiebreaker if the match is tied at a set apiece. The first pair to reach 10 points with at least a two-point advantage wins the match.

Earlier, Gajdosova beat Medina Garrigues 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to give Australia a 1-0 lead on the indoor hard courts at the Burswood Dome. Verdasco then beat Hewitt 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, breaking Hewitt's serve in the final game. The United States, with Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Mardy Fish, meets top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki and Frederik Nielsen of Denmark on Monday, when the Czech Republic plays Bulgaria. —*Internet*

Jarmila Gajdosova of Australia returns the ball during the women's singles match against Anabel Medina Garrigues of Spain on day 2 matches between Australia and Spain of Hopman Cup tennis tournament at Burswood Dome in Perth, Australia on 1 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Serena Williams wins 1st match back after layoff

Serena Williams

BRISBANE, 2 Jan — Serena Williams won in her first match since losing the US Open final last September, beating Chanelle Scheepers of South Africa 6-2, 6-3 on Monday at the Brisbane International. Williams had her service broken in the opening game before settling in. She needed just 68 minutes to advance, firing seven aces and taking advantage of eight double-faults by Scheepers.

In other matches, former No 1 Ana Ivanovic beat Tamira Paszek of Austria 6-3, 6-3 and American Vania King beat Melinda Czink of Hungary 6-3, 6-4. Sam Stosur, who beat Williams for the US Open title last September, plays her opening match at Pat Rafter Arena on Monday night.— *Internet*

International Sports

Roberto Mancini rues missed opportunity for Manchester City

LONDON, 2 Jan — Manchester City boss Roberto Mancini bemoaned a missed chance of extending a Premier League lead over Manchester United after losing to Sunderland. The 1-0 defeat, after Ji Dong-won's injury-time winner, means City are level with United on 45 points after they lost to Blackburn on Saturday. Mancini said: "We missed a big opportunity because we had a chance to go three points up on United. "We are in an unlucky moment because we keep missing these chances to score."

Micah Richards and Edin Dzeko both hit the bar for City, with Sunderland goalkeeper Simon Mignolet also making several saves from Sergio Aguero and a David Silva effort. For the hosts, striker Nicklas Bendtner was thwarted by Joe Hart early on and Stephane Sessegnon curled a second-half shot past the post. As his team pressed for a winner, the City boss was disappointed to be outnumbered in defence in the build-up to the goal and said his team had to recognise when to settle for a draw.

It marks the second season in a row where City have lost to a 90th-minute winner at the Stadium of Light, after Darren Bent's penalty in August 2010.—*Internet*

Mancini bemused by 'incredible' defeat

DISTRICT NEWS

Basic fire fighting course concludes

YANGON, 1 Jan—No. 1 Plywood Factory held the concluding ceremony of the basic fire fighting course No. 2/2011 at the factory in Kyimyindine Township on 26 December.

Head of Township Fire Services Department U Than Htet Aung gave talks on fire preventive measures.

The trainees demonstrated fire drills.—*Myanma Alin*

Loans disbursed to vendors

TANYANG, 1 Jan—As part of efforts for alleviation of poverty, under the arrangements of Tangyan Township Development Affairs Committee, Development Affairs Department and Sibin Thayar Yay Bank Ltd disbursed K 2.3 million to 50 vendors on 19 December.

Chairman of the township microfinance service committee Executive Officer of Township DAC U Tin Maung Soe presented loans to the vendors.

Township DAC

Tachilek gets new asphalt lanes

TACHILEK, 1 Jan—As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the 8th, 9th and 10th Yadana asphalt lanes were inaugurated in Wamkaung Ward of Tachilek on 27 December.

Local authorities formally opened the lanes.

The new facilities are 800 feet long and 12 feet wide each, built at a cost of K 8 million each.

Myanma Alin

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(3-1-12 09:30 am ~ 4-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

* News
* "The Republic of the Union of Myanmar" Hluttaw (Parliament)
* News
* Adventurous Journey to Bontalar Waterfall
* News
* A Riverine Cruise with RV Ma-Hay-Thi
* News
* Relax . . . At Pet Fishes Farm
* News
* Village of Palaung
* News
* Myanmar Social and Charitable Association (Episode-1)
* Music
* News
* Myanmar Performing Arts (Puppet)
* News
* Myanmar Movies "Love On The Internet"

MYANMAR TV

(3-1-2012) (Tuesday)

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

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:40 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song

8:05 am
4. Songs of Yester Years

8:15 am
5. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

8:30 am
6. Dance Of National Races

5:10 pm
7. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:15 pm
8. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies

5:30 pm
9. (64)th Anniversary Independence Day

6:20 pm
10. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:00 pm
11. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
12. News
13. Independence Day Programme
14. TV Drama Series
15. India Drama Series

British travel magazine names Sri Lanka among top travel destinations for 2012

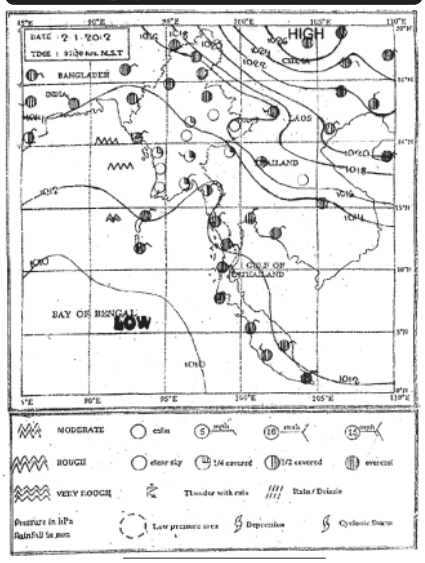
COLOMBO, 2 Jan—Sri Lanka has been recommended as a top destination by a popular British travel magazine boosting its post-war tourism boom, authorities said here on Monday.

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, the government regulator and facilitator of tourism, said that Britain's Cond Nast Traveller has nominated Sri Lanka as one of the top five destinations to watch in year 2012. The travel experts of the magazine have predicted that Sri Lanka will be among the hottest new holiday destinations for travellers in the coming year. It follows National Geographic nominating the country among its top six for this year.

Sri Lanka has been placed third in the list of destinations ahead of Britain and Australia.

Sri Lanka's tourism has seen strong growth after the end of a three decade war in 2009. It hopes to attract 950,000 tourists this year and is targeting 2.5 million by 2016.—*Xinhua*

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 3rd January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F) Maximum	Minimum	For Tomorrow Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	27/81	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	28/82	15/59	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	36/97	21/70	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	23/73	08/46	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	27/81	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	30/86	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
7	Tanintharyi	36/97	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	32/90	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
9	Magway	31/88	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	30/86	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Mon	36/97	23/73	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	35/95	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
13	Rakhine	31/88	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	26/79	12/54	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	27/81	10/50	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	29/84	13/55	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	31/88	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	32/90	18/64	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today		During the past (24) hours, rain have been isolated in Upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Regions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above January averages temperatures in Mandalay and Yangon Regions, (5°C) to (6°C) above January averages temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and (7°C) to (8°C) above January average temperatures in Magway Region, Chin, Kayah and Mon States and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature was Pinlaung (8°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthoung (1.57) inches.			
Bay Inference		Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman sea and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.			
State of the Sea		Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.			
Outlook for sub-sequent two days		Likelihood of isolated rain in Upper Myanmar Areas.			

Wave of pirated eBooks may hit Kindle profits

LONDON, 2 Jan—Pirated e-books, which can be downloaded for free, have sparked fears of adversely affecting profits of makers like Amazon, which produces Kindle.

Creating pirate copies of published books is simple and can be done using a computer and a scanner in a comparatively short duration of time.

The pirates have developed software, which people can download to their home computers to convert these pages into images that can be read on a Kindle or similar device, the *Daily Mail* reported.

"With a Kindle there is pretty much no protection against pirated books. There are programs which can simply convert any piece of text into the proper format and it will show on your Kindle as if you had bought it!" one of the pirate websites said.

It is estimated that up to 20 per cent of e-book downloads are from pirate sites.

Publishers are in talks with the Government and Google to find ways to bring an end to this trade, which breaches their copyright.

They have asked Google to demote pirate websites to make certain they do not appear at the top of web searches for consumers looking to find free e-books.

Even the internet service providers are being pressurized to shut down pirate websites. (ANI)

Meanwhile, the fire occurred in the stadium was put out at around 9:00 am local time (0800 GMT), said firefighters. A cleaner had discovered the fire, possibly caused by short circuit, early in the day.—*Internet*

Wolverhampton 1 - 2 Chelsea

WOLVERHAMPTON, 2 Jan—Frank Lampard scored a last-gasp winner as Chelsea secured a first win in five matches with a gutsy and much-improved display against Wolves at Molineux.

Stephen Ward seemed to have earned the hosts a point when he smashed Steven Fletcher's cross low into the net.

But Chelsea, who led through Ramires' strike, won it when Lampard volleyed in Ashley Cole's brilliant cross.

Kevin Doyle almost snatched a point in injury time but his header was superbly saved by Blues keeper Petr Cech.

Internet

Two major fire accidents in the Netherlands under control

THE HAGUE, 2 Jan—A large-scale fire in a business warehouse involving asbestos containing materials in the Dutch town of Losser and another accident which broke out in the stadium of Dutch soccer club NEC were under control on Monday, according to local reports.

The fire brigade said the warehouse fire was brought under control at around 5:00 am local time (0400 GMT), though the cause of the fire is still unknown.

Despite the fact that carcinogenic asbestos was released during the fire, people in the area did not have to leave their homes thanks to a favourable wind direction. The warehouse, which is situated in the province of Overijssel, was completely destroyed. At the time the fire broke out no one was in the building.—*Xinhua*

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonel (Rtd) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir, DPMB, SMB, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at President Residence here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Aye Thaw of Protocol Department.—*MNA*

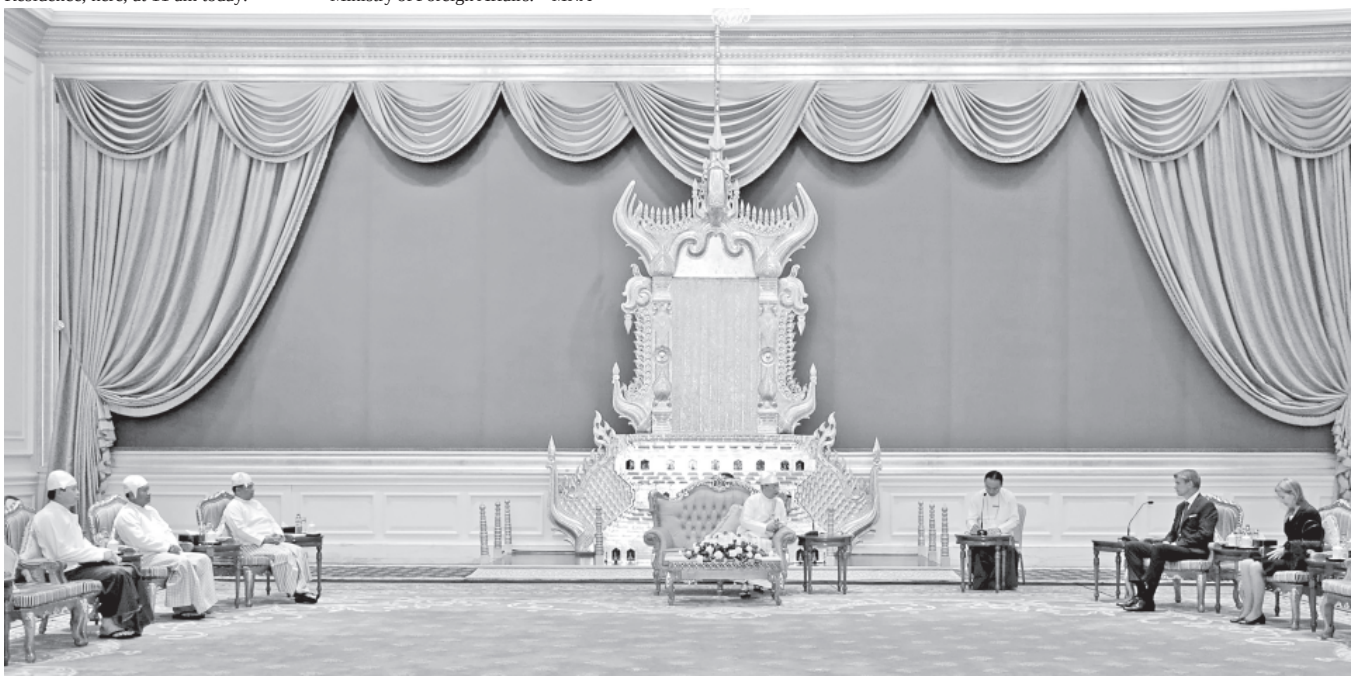
President U Thein Sein accepts credentials from Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonel (Rtd) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir, DPMB, SMB.

MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of Kingdom of Sweden

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Mr Klas Molin, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at President Residence, here, at 11 am today.

Present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Aye Thaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—*MNA*



President U Thein Sein receives newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Klas Molin.—MNA

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

A new nation with new strength

As the three powers of the constitution are in force, legislative Hluttaws have been able to widen the scope of their knowledge and experience and work more actively in the Hluttaw sessions. In changing a new system and new era, a primary work plan is to make reforms in laws and procedures in parallel with the present time.

YANGYI AUNG

PAGES 8+9

POEM:

High in sky the national flag

* It was the 4th of January
A day shrouded in mist
And 1948 was the year
A new era in sight
All in a shining moment

* Celebrating independence heartily
Nationalities of the Union
Rising proudly was the national flag
High above in sky it was fluttering

HNIN MAUNG (ZIGON) (TRS)

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