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The entire people need to join hands in safeguarding the independence

All the people will be well aware of the fact that today, some powerful nations are attempting to influence weaker ones resorting to various ways and means. So, the entire people of the Union need to join hands in safeguarding and maintaining independence and sovereignty. Only Myanmar people can bring peace, development and prosperity to the nation. It should be noticed that the nation would fall again under the alien subjugation if national unity broke up. Therefore, it is especially important for all the national people to try to ensure non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

(Excerpts from the message sent by President U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, 2012)

All the people should be well aware of the fact that national unity is of utmost importance

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The following is the translation of the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Aggamaha Thayaysithu Aggamaha Thirithudhamma U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day.

Esteemed national brethren

Today is the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, which is of significance for all the Myanmar people. Another significant point is that it coincides with a time when Myanmar is marching towards a democratic nation of justice and liberty aspired by the national people born in the Union. Independence was achieved thanks to the unity of the national people who fought back with the noble spirit of sacrificing their lives, blood and sweat. This is why all the people must recognize the 64th Anniversary Independence Day as a noble, significant day. At such a time, I extend my greetings and wish all the national people of the Union both physical and mental well-being.

Myanmar people are the simple and honest ones living in the nation in peace and unity. Always respecting their faith and culture, they are helpful to each other. All the national races have been living in amity and intimacy respecting each other's tradition and culture. However, they had bitter experiences such as being under evil colonialism and under occupation by the colonialists. The British imperialists encroached upon Myanmar's sovereignty by waging three aggressive wars during the period from 1824 to 1885. Though the national people fought back the colonialists with all weapons they had after enlisting the public strength, they lost due to unequal strength. And consequently, all the national people fell under colonial rule. After annexing Myanmar, the colonialists systematically governed the people forcing them into enslavement. They exploited aboveground and underground resources in various ways. They even ruled the country in various wicked ways so that the faith, culture, tradition and language of the Myanmar people died away. What's more, the imperialists adopted a divide-and-rule policy discriminating between the hilly regions and plains and casting doubts among the national brethren with intent to disintegrate national unity.

Esteemed national brethren

Under colonial rule, the Myanmar people had to live in dire poverty. At the colonialists' instigation, a slavery education system emerged and so did those unscrupulous persons who wanted to prolong the colonial rule. Yet, the political awareness, growing public strength and strong anti-colonialism of the brilliant, patriotic youths of Myanmar could drive the imperialists out of the country.

Educated youths headed by General Aung San were able to recruit the national people to join the People's Tatmadaw risking their lives. Although the British colonialists could be driven out with the strength of the Tatmadaw, the Myanmar people suffered the severe penetration of fascism during independence struggles. The Tatmadaw side by side with the people put up a strong resistance to the fascists. After the fascists had fled, General Aung San together with Myanmar leaders had to fight for independence through political means when the British colonialists re-entered the country. To be able to enjoy complete independence, all the national people regardless of where they came from, hilly regions or plains, took part harmoniously in the fight against the colonialists. Owing to the physical strength, mental strength and united strength of the national people sacrificing their lives, blood and sweat, Myanmar became an independent, sovereign nation on 4 January, 1948, and it has turned 64 this year. The cost of lives, blood and sweat the people sacrificed for regaining independence and sovereignty was tremendous. All the people will be well aware of the fact that today, some powerful nations are attempting to influence weaker ones resorting to various ways and means. So, the entire people of the Union need to join hands in safeguarding and maintaining independence and sovereignty. Only Myanmar people can bring peace, development and prosperity to the nation. It should be noticed that the

nation would fall again under the alien subjugation if national unity broke up. Therefore, it is especially important for all the national people to try to ensure non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Esteemed national brethren

Despite the concerted efforts to achieve independence risking their lives, in the post-independence period, the national people sticking to their different ideologies, sectarianism and racism clashed with each other causing bloodshed. As a consequence, the people ran into trouble. Whenever the nation was on the brink of collapse, the Tatmadaw safeguarded it. It was the Tatmadaw that directed the nation towards building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic one by reconstructing the State which had been in ruin in all aspects due to the 1988 disturbances. For emergence of such a new nation, sound political, economic and social foundations were built in earnest. From political perspective, internal peace was built and efforts were exerted to make sure that national race armed groups returned to people's hearts. Besides, the Tatmadaw government laid down seven-step road map of the State and took step-by-step measures for writing a constitution in order to practise multi-party democracy, holding referendum, approving the constitution, holding the general election, holding Pyithu Hluttaw sessions with people's representatives and forming a government with the representatives elected by the people. As a result, a new people's government has emerged today. It has been known to all that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is moving forward with multi-party democratic system alongside changes and developments.

Esteemed national brethren

The public role is fundamental to development of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and it is vital to have political and economic strengths as well as strong national defence. Political strength means national unity. Only if the nation is in peace with national unity, can democracy be practised in earnest. Socio-economy of the people will improve only through democratic practices and national development. All the people therefore should be well aware that national unity is of utmost importance.

Economic strength calls for public participation. The government is inviting foreign investments by setting up industrial zones for establishment of an industrialized nation while trying to accelerate agricultural development. Moreover, Myanmar is marching towards a new modern, developed nation enlisting the strength of human resources like intellectuals and intelligentsia.

When it comes to the proper evolution of market economy in the economic sector, the nation needs a lot of intellectuals and technocrats who must be healthy, strong and intelligent. Therefore, efforts are being made to develop the education and health sectors in order that human resources can be best employed for the future nation.

A Tatmadaw of international standard is required for national defence. Participation of the entire national people is necessary for forming a strong, patriotic and skillful Tatmadaw.

Esteemed national brethren

Unity and cooperation of the entire national people are instrumental to building the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a modern, developed democratic nation. If national solidarity disintegrated, the goal of democracy could not be achieved. Hence, I would like to urge all the people to safeguard the essence of independence – non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty – with political outlook in building the nation.

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 4 January, 2012

Ardently safeguard our own nation

4th January, 2012 is the 64th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar is an independent, sovereign nation standing tall in the global community with its own territory, people and culture.

Myanmar did not become such a nation easily. Her independence was achieved after fighting back the imperialists through sacrificing lives, blood and sweat of the patriotic national people and monks.

Independence can be lost all of a sudden, when disunity prevails. But it will take a long time to regain independence. Struggles for independence call for lives, blood and sweat as well as hard work. The Myanmar national people have passed through many eras and gone through a series of oppression under the colonial rule. They have also experienced fruits of independence when the nation is free from the yoke of aliens.

The onus is upon all the national people to continue to safeguard and maintain independence inherited from their ancestors while living in the Union in unity and amity.

Now Myanmar is on the road to democracy. The government is undergoing changes and reforms in the legislative, executive and judicial sectors in a democratic way. It is also striving for emergence of worldly values such as justice, equality and freedom.

All the national people are therefore urged to try to ardently safeguard their independent, sovereign democratic nation for its long-term existence with patriotic spirit, nationalistic spirit and united strength.

LOCAL SPORTS

Muse organizes mass walk activities

MUSE, 3 Jan—The mass walk activities were organized in Muse of Muse District on 3, 10, 17 and 31 December.

The activities started in front of the city hall.

Township level departmental officials, social organization members, teachers and students joyfully participated in the activities.—*District IPRD*

Japan Cup Karatedo Championship 19-20 Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Under the supervision of the Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Karatedo Federation will organize the 3rd Japan Cup Karatedo Championship with the sponsorship of the Japanese Embassy at Aung San Gymnasium on 19 and 20 January.

Outstanding Karatedo athletes will be picked out as tentatively selected players for Myanmar team to take part in the XXVII SEA Games in 2013.

Those wishing to take part in the championship may enlist at the federation in Aung San Stadium, not later than 12 January or may dial 379939.—*MNA*

Tourists bade farewell to old year on U Pein Bridge in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region on 31 December. The wooden bridge was built under the aegis of U Pein in 1211 ME.—KYEMON

Public notice for remonstrations

1. Myanmar National Congress, headquartered at No.84/A, Daw Thein Tin Road, Kantawlay (North) Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, applied for registration as a political party on 3-1-2012 in accord with Political Parties Registration Law Section 5. In applying for its registration, the

Flag of Myanmar National Congress



- party has submitted its name, flag and logo to be used as mentioned hereunder.

2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rule 14 (d) that those who want to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party name, flag and logo may do so with firm evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

Logo of Myanmar National Congress



Union Election Commission

Myanma Gems Emporium 2011 ends

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium 2011, organized by Central Committee for holding Myanma Gems Emporium, continued for the last day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall here today.

Secretary of the Central Committee U Thein Swe presented certificate of honour and gifts to U Khin Zaw of Jade Dragon Company who bought gems lots most.

The emporium was packed with gems merchants from home and abroad. In the afternoon, Patron of the Central Committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Thaik visited the sale of jade through competitive bidding system and presented certificate of honour and gifts to Mr Lin Xibin of Hong Kong who bought jade lots most.

The 8290 jade lots were sold. The emporium came to an end today.

MNA



Good news for Myanmar handicrafts

YANGON, 2 Jan—As part of capacity enhancement for entrepreneurs from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV member countries), the ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC) and Ministry of Commerce will jointly organize a workshop on penetration of exports into Japan at federation of chambers of commerce and industry in Mandalay on 24 January.

The workshop aims to help exporters and manufacturers from CLMV countries to ensure quality goods, give advice for choosing participants to take part in INACRAFT to be

held in Jakarta of Indonesia, and ensure design and quality of goods so as to make a way into Japan market.

Entrepreneurs running gems, lacquer, seashells, garment and cane ware firms as well as handicraft may attend the workshop.

Any interested persons may contact the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon Region (Ph: 01-214344).

MNA

December Mass Walk held in Mon State

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—December Mass Walk was held in Mon State on 31 December. Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, State Huttaw Speaker U Kyin Pe, State ministers, secretary of state governmental and departmental officials, teachers and trainees from Education College and nursing training school participated in it, and took collective physical exercise.—*MNA*



District News

Traditional medicine kits presented to villages

TAUNGUP, 3 Jan—Traditional Medicine Department presented emergency use traditional medicine kits to village-tracts in Taungup Township, at the office of Township General Administration Department on 30 December.

Head of Township TMD Daw Zin Mar Aung explained usage of the kits.

Officials handed down the kits to 50 villages from 46 village-tracts.

Township IPRD

Model monsoon paddy plot harvested

KALAW, 3 Jan—Shweyinaye monsoon paddy strain on 3.14 acres of model plot was harvested in Heho Village-tract in Kalaw Township on 3 December morning.

The model plot produced 125.32 baskets of paddy per acre.

The harvesting work was attended by township level officials and local farmers.

Myanma Alin

Iraq war death toll at 162,000

BAGHDAD, 3 Jan—Around 162,000 people, almost 80 percent of them civilians, were killed in Iraq from the start of the 2003 US-led invasion up to last month's withdrawal of American forces, a British NGO said on Monday.

Iraq Body Count (IBC) warned that, contrary to apparent trends in figures released by the Iraqi government, the level of violence has changed little from mid-2009, though attacks are markedly down

from when the country was in the throes of sectarian war in 2006 and 2007.

In all, the non-governmental organization said an estimated 162,000 people were killed in Iraq in the nearly nine years of conflict. It said around 79 percent of the fatalities were civilians, while the remainder included US soldiers, Iraqi security forces, and militants.

"The violence peaked in late 2006 but was sustained at high levels until the second half of 2008 — nearly 90

percent of the deaths occurred by 2009," IBC said in a statement.

But it warned that "there has now been no noticeable downward trend (in civilian deaths) since mid-2009."

"Recent trends indicate a persistent low-level conflict in Iraq that will continue to kill civilians at a similar rate for years to come. While these data indicate no improvement, time will tell whether the withdrawal of US forces will have an effect on casualty levels," US troops, who at their peak numbered nearly 170,000 on as many as 505 bases in Iraq, completed their withdrawal from the country on 18 December and Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki dubbed Saturday to be "Iraq Day", marking when the bilateral pact allowing American forces to stay expired. IBC said it had recorded more than 114,000 civilian deaths in Iraq since the invasion, and said the addition of figures from US military logs published by whistleblower website WikiLeaks, as well as officially recorded US and Iraqi security deaths and militant tolls, put the overall figure at 162,000.

Internet



Iraqi police carry a man into a hospital after he was wounded a bomb attack in Kirkuk in May 2011. Around 162,000 people, almost 80 percent of them civilians, were killed in Iraq from the start of the 2003 US-led invasion up to last month's withdrawal of American forces, a British NGO says.—INTERNET

Iran to build advanced destroyers

TEHRAN, 3 Jan—A senior Iranian naval commander said Monday the Islamic republic is planning to build advanced destroyers, the local satellite Press TV reported.

Rear Admiral Abbas Zamini said on Monday that the country has managed to acquire the state-of-the-art expertise to manufacture and maintain all sorts of destroyers, said Press TV.

Zamini said that building numerous surface and subsurface destroyers,

including currently-used Jarmaran-class destroyers, are currently underway at the country's defence industries, said the report.

The production of five other naval destroyers similar and even more advanced than the Jarmaran are on the Navy's agenda, he added.

According to the report, the Iranian Navy launched its first domestically-manufactured destroyer Jarmaran in the waters of the Persian Gulf in

February 2010.

The 1,420-ton destroyer, which is part of the 16th fleet of Iranian warships, is equipped with modern radars and electronic warfare capabilities.

It has a top speed of up to 30 knots and a helipad. The destroyer features highly advanced anti-aircraft, anti-surface and anti-subsurface systems. The vessel has also been equipped with torpedoes and naval cannons.

Xinhua

NATO service member killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 3 Jan—A NATO service member was killed in a blast in Afghanistan's restive southern region on Monday, the military alliance confirmed on Tuesday morning.

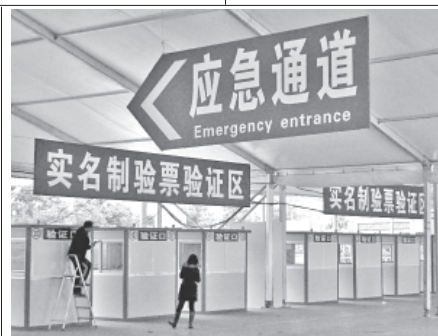
"An International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service member died following an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in southern Afghanistan, yesterday," the NATO-led ISAF said in a Press release.

However, the brief release did not reveal the nationality of the victim, only saying "it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities."

Forty nine countries are contributing 130,000-strong forces in Afghanistan with over 90,000 of them American mainly stationed in the east and south, followed by 9,500 from UK mainly based in southern Afghanistan.

This is the first casualty of NATO-led troops, reported by the military alliance in 2012.

A total of 566 NATO soldiers, most of them Americans, have been killed in Afghanistan in 2011.—Xinhua



Workers make preparations for a temporary tent specially built for real-name ticket check at the Shanghai Railway Station in Shanghai, east China, on 1 Jan, 2012. All passengers are required to go through the specially-built tent for real-name ticket check to get in the waiting hall during the Spring Festival travel period beginning on 8 Jan at the Shanghai Railway Station.—XINHUA

Roadside bomb kills three Afghan civilians

PUL-E-ALAM, 3 Jan—Three civilians were killed as a roadside bomb struck their car on Monday in Logar Province, 60 km south of capital City Kabul, an official said. "The tragic incident took place outside provincial capital Pul-e-Alam at around 10:00 am local time leaving three civilians including a child dead," spokesman for provincial administration Deen Mohammad Darvish told Xinhua.

He also blamed Taleban militants for planting the mine on the road and killing non-combatants, but the outfit has yet to make comment.

Xinhua



A BMW car damaged in an arson is 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 Hollywood 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 Tinseltown's tourist district, the Los Angeles Fire Department said.—XINHUA

Dengue fever kills 72 Cambodian children in 2011, up 89 pct

PHNOM PENH, 3 Jan—Cambodia's Ministry of Health reported on Tuesday that at least 72 Cambodian children had been killed by dengue fever in 2011, an increase of 89 percent, compared with the 2010's deaths of 38 kids.

It said that there were 15,805 dengue fever cases reported in 2011, up 26 percent from 12,500 cases in a year earlier.

"The disease broke out in a large scale every three to five years and the year 2011 was the large scale breakout, that's why the cases were on the rise and the deaths were almost double," Ngan Chantha, director of dengue control at the Ministry of Health, told Xinhua over telephone on Tuesday.

He said the long-stayed floods that had submerged most provinces between August and October were also the main cause of the disease increase.

Ngan Chantha estimated that the country spent an

average 7 million US dollars a year for campaigns to prevent the disease and for medical attention.

Dengue is caused by mosquitoes. The disease causes an acute illness of sudden onset that usually follows symptoms such as headache, fever, exhaustion, severe muscle and joint pain, swollen glands and rash.

Xinhua

An Iranian missile is launched during Iranian naval maneuvers dubbed Velayat 90 on the Sea of Oman, Iran, on 2 Jan, 2012. Iran successfully test-fired long range and short range missiles during its military drill in the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, state media reported.—XINHUA



Road accidents kill 241 in first 4 holidays of New Year in Thailand

BANGKOK, 3 Jan—Road accidents have claimed lives of 241 people and injured 2,382 others in the first four days of the New Year holiday week, a little higher than the same period last year, the Road Safety Centre said on Monday.

From 29 Dec, 2011 to 1 Jan, 2012, there were 2,167 road accidents in total, falling by 306 or 12.37 percent from the 2,473 accidents reported during the same period last year, the Thai News Agency reported, citing statistics of the Road Safety Centre.

The death toll rose to 241, up by seven or 2.99 percent over the same period of last year. The total number of the injured amounted to 2,382, down by 274 or 10.32 percent.

Northern Province of Chiang Rai reported the highest number of accidents with 85 while the most deaths were reported in northeastern Province of Buri Ram with 16.

On New Year's Day, the fourth day of the New Year travel period, the Road Safety Centre reported 562 accidents, down 26.67 percent from 777 recorded on the same day last year, Public Health Minister Withaya Buranasiri told a news conference.

Some 47.86 percent of the accidents were caused by drunk driving, followed by speeding with 19.93 percent and motorcycles are involved in most of the accidents, accounting for 82.59 percent, he said.—Xinhua



Health Tip: Minimize nightmares

While parents can't prevent nightmares altogether, they can take steps to help foster sweet dreams.

The Nemours Foundation offers these suggestions:

- * Keep a consistent bedtime and waking schedule.
- * Implement a calm, quiet, relaxing and consistent bedtime routine — perhaps including a bath, book and some cuddle time.
- * Make sure your child's bed is comfortable and cozy. Allow a favorite stuffed animal or blanket to be in bed.
- * Don't let your child watch any frightening television shows before bed.
- * Explain to your child that nightmares are only dreams, and that he or she can't be hurt during a nightmare.

Internet

Ignorance about calories putting millions at risk

LONDON, 3 Jan—Millions of people are unaware of the calories they take in their daily meal and thus risking themselves to be affected by diseases like cancer, diabetes or heart ailments due to their uninformed choices in everyday life, a study has suggested.

According to a survey commissioned



Ignorance about calories can be risky.

INTERNET

for World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF), in Britain, two-thirds of adults underestimated the level of calories in foods such as houmous and so-called 'light' mayonnaise. Just 32 percent correctly said houmous was high in calories and only 29 percent said that low-fat mayo was also high in calories.

The fact is both houmous and 'light' mayonnaise are actually high-calorie foods. It shows how there is a 'troubling' lack of understanding about the calorie content of foods. As per the YouGov poll, confusion about terms such as 'light' or 'reduced fat' was compounding the problem. This is a major concern since being an overweight is a key factor in causing a range of diseases from cancer and heart disease to diabetes.

A fifth — 20 percent — of the 2,128 adults questioned for the research thought bananas were high in calories even though the fruit contains just 95 calories per 100g on average.—Internet

Poor sleep aggravates health and behaviour problems in young diabetics

WASHINGTON, 3 Jan — Young diabetics struggling to get a good night's sleep have worse control of their blood sugar, perform poorly in school and behave badly, a new study has found.

According to Michelle Perfect and her colleagues, lighter sleep and breathing problems lead to trouble controlling blood sugar, despite adherence to diabetic health guidelines.

"Despite adhering to recommendations for good

diabetic health, many youth with Type 1 diabetes have difficulty maintaining control of their blood sugars," Perfect, principal investigator of the study, said.

The researchers tracked the sleep health of 50 Type 1 diabetics, aged 10 to 16, and compared that data with a similar control group.

They found that the young diabetics spent more time in a lighter stage of sleep than youth without diabetes, which was related to

compromised school performance and higher blood sugar levels. "Sleep problems were associated with lower grades, poorer performance on state standardized tests, poor quality of life and abnormalities in daytime behaviour," Perfect said.

"On the upside, sleep is a potentially modifiable health behaviour, so these kids could be helped by a qualified professional to get a better night's sleep," she added.

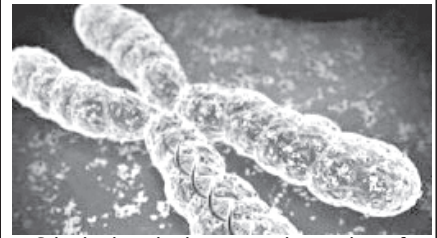
Internet

Scientists isolate gene common to unrelated cancers

TORONTO, 3 Jan—Scientists investigating rare ovarian, uterine and testicular tumours have stumbled upon on a mutated gene that is surprisingly common to all of them.

David Huntsman, genetic pathologist at the University of British Columbia (UBC) Cancer Agency and Gregg Morin, from its Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, led a team which found mutations in rare, seemingly unrelated cancers, all tied to the same gene, DICER.

"There have been nearly 1,300 published studies about it in the last 10 years, but until now, it has not been known how the gene (DICER) functions in relation to cancer," said Huntsman, UBC professor in obstetrics, gynaecology, pathology and lab medicine.



Scientists investigating rare ovarian, uterine and testicular tumours have stumbled upon on a mutated gene that is surprisingly common to all of them.

INTERNET

The gene plays an important role in maintaining health. It has a "factory style" function, chopping up microRNA molecules to activate them. These microRNA molecules in turn control hundreds of other genes.

"This discovery shows researchers that these mutations change the function of DICER so that it participates directly in the initiation of cancer, but not in a typical "on-off" fashion," said Morin, UBC assistant professor in medical genetics. "DICER can be viewed as the conductor for an orchestra of functions critical for the development and behaviour of normal cells. The mutations we discovered do not totally destroy the function of DICER; rather they warp it - the orchestra is still there but the conductor is drunk," Morin added.—Internet



In this 31 Aug, 2011 photo, a Lime Squeeze Metallic 2012 Ford Fiesta SE, left, and an Ingot Silver Metallic 2012 Ford Focus Titanium 5-Door Hatchback are shown at the Maroone Ford of Miami dealership in Miami.

INTERNET

US auto industry to post another good sales year

DETROIT, 3 Jan—After hitting a 30-year low in 2009, US auto sales are poised for a second straight year of growth—the result of easier credit, low interest rates and pent-up demand for cars and trucks created by the Great Recession.

The sales forecast bodes well for the industry's continued recovery and for the broader American economy.

In 2009, Detroit automakers were in peril. Car sales plunged as unemployment soared, and loans became harder to get. Chrysler and General Motors filed for bankruptcy protection. Ford avoided bankruptcy

only by borrowing billions.

Now credit is more available, interest rates are low and Americans need to replace old cars and trucks they kept during and after the downturn. Millions of drivers in their teens and 20s are expected to buy vehicles, too. That could mean more jobs, more factory shifts and overall growth.

Vince Powell, a retiree from Winfield, Pa., recently traded in his wife's 7-year-old Chrysler 300 luxury sedan for a 2011 model. The old car had 145,000 miles on it, but it was the deal he got that most attracted him: a low interest rate (2.7 percent per year), a six-year loan term and a big discount off the

\$31,900 sticker price.

"I'm getting a \$300 per month payment," he said just before closing the sale at Beaver Motors in Beaver Springs, Pa., near Harrisburg. "I've never had a new car for 300 bucks a month."

Internet

Asian shares rise on China economic data

HONG KONG, 3 Jan—Asian shares rose Tuesday, taking a lead from European markets which started 2012 in positive territory, and after China announced better-than-expected manufacturing data.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was up 1.16 percent, Hong Kong rose 1.80 percent in morning trade while Seoul was 2.50 percent higher.

Financial markets in China, Japan and Thailand were closed for a public holiday.

"We are starting the new year on a positive note and data such as better than expected PMI (purchasing managers index) out of China over the weekend will help to give investors new confidence," said Jason Hughes, Head of Premium Client Management at IG Markets.

"However, the major issues of 2011 still have to be resolved with meaningful solutions required from Europe - until this is finally put

to bed we are likely to have an amount of uncertainty remaining around global markets."

China's manufacturing unexpectedly rebounded in December on holiday shopping, as the world's number two economy showed some resilience despite strife in key export markets.

The purchasing managers index (PMI) reached 50.3 in December, the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing said in a statement Sunday.

A reading above 50 indicates the sector is expanding.—Internet



Traders seen at the Hong Kong stock exchange.—INTERNET

Indian stocks open higher

MUMBAI, 3 Jan—Indian main stock index Sensex opened at 15,640.56 points Tuesday 122.64 points or 0.79 percent higher from previous close of 15,517.92 on the opening-up of Indian stock markets to foreign individual investors.

Consumer durables, metal, banking and capital goods sector gained 1.35 percent, 0.95 percent, 0.93 percent and 0.86 percent, respectively.

Tata Motors, Coal India, Tata Power and property developer DLF picked up 2.23 percent, 2.13 percent, 1.99 percent and 1.98 percent.

Sensex is the common name for the Bombay Stock Exchange Sensitive Index. It consists of the 30 largest and most actively traded stocks, representative of various sectors, on the Bombay Stock Exchange.—Xinhua

Business

World's first hybrid sharks found in Australia

MELBOURNE, 3 Jan—Researchers in marine biology have discovered the world's first hybrid sharks in Australian waters, a media report said on Tuesday. The researchers have come across 57 animals along a 2000-km stretch from Queensland to New South Wales which they believe are the result of cross-breeding between the common blacktip shark and Australian blacktip shark, two related but genetically distinct species, a newspaper reported.

The inter-breeding between the two species shows that the animals are

adapting to climate change and the hybridization can make the fishes stronger, the scientists said. "Hybridisation can enable sharks to adapt to ecological change as the smaller Australian blacktip currently favours tropical waters in the north while the larger common blacktip is more abundant in sub-tropical and temperate waters along the south-eastern Australian coastline," Jennifer Ovenden of Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries was quoted as saying by the daily.

"Wild hybrids are usually hard to find, so detecting them and their offspring is



extraordinary. To find 57 hybrids along 2000-km of coastline is unprecedented," she said. Another researcher at the University of Queensland researcher, Jess

World's 1st hybrid sharks found in Australia.
INTERNET

Morgan, said it was unusual for sharks to breed in such a way. She said as sharks physically mate, it makes sure they do not hybridise with the wrong species.—Internet

Watch out for Jupiter, Moon conjunction Tuesday

NEW DELHI, 3 Jan—As the sun went down on Tuesday evening, two of the brightest objects in the winter sky - Jupiter and the moon - will get together and offer a visual treat to the sky gazers. A beautiful conjunction of Jupiter and the moon, which can be seen with a naked eye, will be visible in the sky for hours after sunset Tuesday evening.

"There will be a spectacular sight in the sky tomorrow (Tuesday) as the moon and Jupiter will be placed very close together. The celestial activity will be impressive and it can be seen with naked eyes," CB Devgun, president, Science Popularisation Association of Communicators and Educators (SPACE), told IANS.

Both the moon and Jupiter will appear very near to each other, he said. "As moon comes in between earth and Jupiter, a conjunction is going to happen and the giant planet will look about ten times brighter than a star in the sky," Devgun added. Conjunction is a phenomenon in which celestial bodies appear near one another as seen from the earth.—Internet



This sky map shows where to look to see the moon and Jupiter together in the night sky on 2 Jan, 2012 at 6 pm local time from mid-northern latitudes.—INTERNET



Surge in UFO sightings a sign of 2012 hysteria: New Zealand meteorologists

WELLINGTON, 3 Jan—Chinese lanterns or life from a distant planet? New Zealand meteorologists said Monday they were opting for the former and other mundane explanations after being inundated with reports of UFOs since the start of the New Year.

WeatherWatch.co.nz said it normally received "a handful" of eyewitness

reports of meteors and lights in the sky, with about 10 reports on a busy day.

However, since Sunday, the reports of "floating orbs" and UFOs had been flooding in from around the world at a rate of about 10 each hour.

WeatherWatch.co.nz weather analyst Philip Duncan said the reports ranged from "normal meteor sightings to the strange and

unusual."

"Many people around the world have been outside celebrating the New Year," said Duncan in a statement.

"In the US, where most of the sightings came from, conditions were fairly mild and dry in many areas - so more people were outside to see things. Finally, it's 2012, the year the world is supposed to end according to the

Mayans and it seems many are already worrying."

One report from Ireland on the weather information company's website said, "At half ten new years eve as My mother and I were heading out of our house to go to town we both saw a strange orange pulsing light. My first guess was it could be a Chinese lantern but it was moving very fast in a perfect straight line. There was no wing and a lantern would sway a little and go up not straight across."

Xinhua

NajmTek U-Book dual-screen notebook due at CES



NajmTek is finally planning to take the wraps off its dual-screen U-Book at CES 2012, sporting a fully customizable second touchscreen display instead of a traditional keyboard.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 3 Jan—Last year, computer maker Acer raised some eyebrows at CES with its Acer Iconia notebook, which replaced a notebook's traditional keyboard with a second touch-sensitive display that could be used to show content—but also be used as a keyboard and customizable

controller for media, applications, and more. At this year's CES, new notebook manufacturer NajmTek plans to step into the same game with its U-Book, focusing on multilingual users. The advantage of the second touchscreen display is that it can handle a wide variety of keyboard layouts supporting many different languages—and users with truly specialized needs—think video editing or 3D software—will be able to design their own input layouts, even in an app-by-app basis.

NajmTek has been talking about the U-Book since 2010, but intends to launch the device at this year's CES show. So far, technical details on the U-book are sketchy: NajmTek says it'll be offered with either dual-core or quad-core processors, Nvidia GeForce Go discrete graphics, and either a 250 or 500 GB hard drive. The U-Book will also sport a usual slate of notebook connectivity and accessories, including an HD webcam, memory card reader, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth wireless connectivity, and "a kind of HDMI output."—Internet

Samsung DV300F dual-view camera adds Wi-Fi

TOKYO, 3 Jan—Samsung continues to cater toward casual photographers who specialize in self-portraits, today announcing its latest DualView camera, the Samsung DV300F. In addition to a traditional LCD viewfinder, 16 megapixel resolution, and 5× optical zoom, the DV300F point-and-shoot camera features a front-facing 1.5-inch LCD display so users can easily see what they're doing when they're shooting...well, themselves. The new DV300F also features Wi-Fi connectivity, so users can instantly upload their photos and video to services like Flickr, Picasa, Facebook, and YouTube, as well as cloud



Samsung's new DV300F camera sports a 1.5-inch front-facing LCD display for the self-portrait crowd... and now adds Wi-Fi connectivity for instant sharing. INTERNET

services like Microsoft SkyDrive and Samsung's own AllShare Play.

"Our aim is to continually be at the forefront of innovation and maintain our leadership within the DualView market, pioneered by Samsung," said Samsung's senior VP of digital imaging Myoung Sup Han, in a statement. "This latest model

with the DualView LCD, Wi-Fi connectivity, ultra premium styling and the latest creative features, demonstrates Samsung's unwavering commitment to innovation within the digital compact camera market, as well as our ability to consistently meet the needs of our customers."

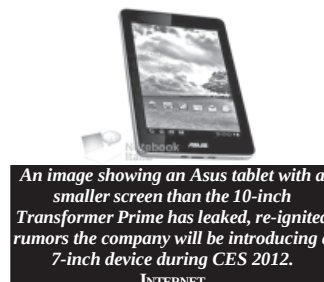
Internet

Asus could bring a 7-inch tablet to CES 2012

LONDON, 3 Jan—Asus could be planning a move into Samsung's territory with the launch of a 7-inch Android tablet. The Taiwanese company currently restricts its tablet range to models with 10-inch screens, such as the Eee Pad Transformer Prime. Samsung, on the other hand, offers 7-inch, 8.9-inch and 10.1-inch versions of its Galaxy tablets. The recent success of the Amazon Fire has shown consumers are interested in more portable tablets too.

Rumors of an Asus 7-inch tablet have been circulating for sometime, with reports of a device named the Eee Pad MeMo being slated for launch during CES 2012 doing the rounds before Christmas. Now an image, believed to show just such a device, has been leaked to the website Netbook Italia.

Is it the Eee Pad MeMo, a smaller version of the Transformer, or an entirely new model replacing or complementing them? With no details other than the picture to go on, it's



An image showing an Asus tablet with a smaller screen than the 10-inch Transformer Prime has leaked, re-ignited rumors the company will be introducing a 7-inch device during CES 2012. INTERNET

impossible to answer, and one must always consider the possibility the image is the work of a cheeky fan too. If the image is genuine, and an Asus 7-inch tablet is ready for a CES 2012 debut, could it use the same quad-core Tegra 3 chip as its larger cousin, the Transformer Prime?—Internet



Fathes: Thankful for passers-by who saved children

LOGAN, 3 Jan—Roger Andersen thought it was over.

The 46-year-old lost control of his car this weekend on a winding Utah canyon road and slid into an icy river, trapping his 9-year-old daughter Mia and 4-year-old son Baylor, along with their friend, 9-year-old Kenya Wildman. The car flipped upside-down and quickly became submerged.

"The first thought was, 'So this is it how it ends,'" Andersen said while choking back tears Monday. "This could very easily have been a funeral for four of us."

But it wasn't, thanks to a handful of passers-by who stopped and within seconds, jumped into the frigid river to help. "I was amazed at the people and the readiness of people to jump in and help,"

Anderson said at a news conference in Logan, about 80 miles north of Salt Lake City. "Without hesitation, they just did what they had to do... And that... for our family, made all the difference."

Andersen said they were on their way to a ski resort Saturday when the accident happened on a road they've travelled hundreds of times. The road didn't appear icy, at first, but as they made their way up the canyon, it got slicker so he slowed.

But just one tap on the brakes was all it took. "In a second, I was completely off the road and sliding down the embankment," he said. "Within a second, the entire cabin of the vehicle was full of water."

He struggled to free the children from their seatbelts,

but couldn't get them loose, and he had to breathe.

"I decided the best thing was to get out of the car and get air," he said. "In no less than 10 seconds, there were a half-dozen men standing on the banks of the river, and they're questions to me were, 'Who else was in the car?'"

"Within five seconds, there were eight men in the river ... ready to assist," he added.—Internet



A photo provided by Chris Willden shows a car in the Logan River in Utah on 31 Dec, 2011, after the car was flipped upright by rescuers who saved three children trapped in the car. The car plunged off an embankment into the river and Willden shot out the car's window with a handgun and cut a seat belt to help free the children after the accident.—INTERNET

Los Angeles Fire Department firefighters extinguishes numerous cars on fire in a carport in the Sherman Oaks neighbourhood of Los Angeles on 2 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET



Mexico gas station attendant dies, seen as hero

ACAPULCO, 3 Jan—A gas station attendant who died of burns after shutting off pumps set alight during a violent protest was being honored Monday in the southern Mexican State of Guerrero.

Officials held a ceremony to honor Gonzalo Rivas Camara in the main square of the state capital, Chilpancingo, where he worked. The Guerrero State government said he died of his injuries Sunday at a hospital near Mexico City.

More attention has been focused on two protesters who were shot to death at the 12 Dec protest after students from a rural teachers' college blocked a highway to demand more funds for the school and battled police trying to clear the highway. Armed police were photographed at the scene pointing their guns at the protesters, and 12 policemen are under investigation in those shootings.—Internet

24-year-old arrested in Los Angeles arson spree

LOS ANGELES, 3 Jan—Authorities arrested a German man Monday in connection with dozens of suspected arson attacks that destroyed parked cars, scorched buildings and

arson of an inhabited dwelling and was being held without bail, authorities said. He is a German national, but authorities said they didn't know how long he's been in the United States. Police said he told arresting officers he's from Frankfurt. Burkhart was arrested earlier in the day because he resembled a "person of interest" captured on surveillance video.

He was stopped by a reserve sheriff's deputy in a van being sought by arson investigators, who did not rule out the possibility that others may be involved.

More than 50 blazes have flared since Friday in Hollywood, neighbouring West Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley, causing about \$3 million in damage.

Firefighters have not responded to any other suspicious fires since Burkhart was detained.

Police declined to reveal any motive for the fires. When asked at a news conference about reports that an immigration problem with Burkhart's mother may have been a factor, authorities declined to comment.

"We are very confident in this arrest, but we have a long way to go," said Police Chief Charlie Beck, who mentioned receiving information from federal authorities who recognized Burkhart from the video. They believed he had been involved in removal hearings in immigration court, but they didn't specify how he was involved.—Internet



A Clinical officer at the King Fahd Lamu District hospital, Nuru Abdilahi, left, examines child survivor Abubakar Ali on 2 Jan, 2012, who survived when the passenger boat MV Safina, capsized and sank, in Lamu, Kenya. The passenger boat collided with a cargo boat Sunday night near the resort town of Lamu, killing at least seven and leaving some dozens still missing.—INTERNET

Japan police turned away surrendering Aum fugitive

TOKYO, 3 Jan—Japanese police turned away one of the nation's most wanted fugitives when he tried to surrender at Tokyo police headquarters on New Year's Eve after nearly 17 years on the run, reports said Tuesday.

A police officer at the main entrance of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police thought it was a bad joke when Makoto Hirata, a former member of the Aum Supreme Truth doomsday cult, responsible for the 1995 nerve-gas attack on the Tokyo subway, showed up.

According to major media, he approached the officer around 11:35 pm Saturday and said: "I am Makoto Hirata. I am turning myself in."

But the officer dismissed him as a fake and urged Hirata to go to a local police station some 700 metres (yards) away, said the *Asahi Shimbun*, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* and the *Mainichi Shimbun* newspapers.

Hirata, who is wanted over a 1995 kidnapping, then told to the officer: "I am Hirata on the special wanted list."

The officer did not consult with his colleagues and again told Hirata to head to the Marunouchi police station, where he arrived 15 minutes later and was arrested, local media said.

Hirata's hair was longer than in his photos from the mid-1990s, but his major facial features and body shape had not significantly changed, the *Asahi* said.

Hirata also claims to have called a police hotline recently about his case, but was not taken seriously, national broadcaster NHK said.

He turned himself in after nearly 17 years on the run for his alleged role in a plot to kidnap a man in 1995 and conspiring with others to hold him in confinement and inject him with a chemical, causing him to die.

Hirata reportedly told investigators that he wanted to turn himself in after seeing the devastation caused by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Internet

A policeman walks past a 'most wanted' poster of three former members of Japan's Aum Supreme Truth doomsday cult, including Makoto Hirata (C). Japanese police turned away one of the nation's most wanted fugitives when he tried to surrender at Tokyo police headquarters on New Year's Eve after nearly 17 years on the run.

INTERNET



Eight drown, 20 missing in Kenya boat accident

NAIROBI, 3 Jan—At least eight people drowned and more are feared dead after a boat capsized in rough seas off the Kenyan tourist island of Lamu, police said Monday.

"We are continuing the search for survivors, and have taken 12 people to hospital where they are recovering after their boat was capsized by high waves in the dark of Sunday evening," said regional police chief Aggrey

Adoli. "We have retrieved the bodies of eight people who drowned, and are continuing the search today, in case there are more," he told AFP, adding the passengers were travelling the short distance from Lamu to the mainland.

Kenya's Red Cross said in a statement that more than 20 of the over 80 passengers on board were unaccounted for, with a tracing desk set up "to help families to claim missing persons."

"We are hoping that some people managed to swim to the shore, and they then made their own way by bus, but since there are no official manifest lists of passengers for a boat such as this we continue to search," Adoli added.

Lamu had been holding a festival as part of traditional New Year celebrations, including boat races, and the island was crowded with tourists.—Internet

Israel to construct barrier on Lebanese border

JERUSALEM, 3 Jan—Israel plans to build a wall that would separate its northernmost town from a Lebanese Village in a bid to quell tensions in the area.

The military has begun preparations for the construction of a five-metre-high wall between Metulla, a community of 1,400 people, and the southern Lebanese Village of Kleya.

"The area in question has been a source of friction in the past. The IDF (Israel Defence Forces), UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) and LAF (Lebanese Armed Forces) are assessing available options in order to reduce this friction

in the future," an Israeli army spokesman told *Xinhua* on Monday.

Work on the barrier is due to begin in the coming weeks. Once completed, it will stretch one kilometre and be equipped with electronic surveillance measures, including cameras and motion sensors.

The move came on the heels of escalating tensions in the area in recent years. The Lebanese Village is located just meters from the international border and Metulla's apple orchards.—Xinhua

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign heads of State to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on occasion of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Yoshihiko Noda, Prime Minister of Japan, Excellency,

On the 64th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, my warm congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity of your country. I am looking forward to seeing you on the occasion of the Fourth Japan-Mekong Summit Meeting in Japan this year.

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

From Mr. Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea, I would like to extend to you and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, my warmest felicitations and good wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Over the past several years, there has been significant growth in mutual understanding and cooperation between our two countries. I hope that our friendly and good relations can be further strengthened in various fields for the mutual benefit of our two peoples in the years ahead.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes for your continued good health and happiness, and success in all your noble endeavours.

From Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China Excellency,

Upon the auspicious occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the Chinese people and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

Since the inauguration of the new government, Myanmar has undertaken positive efforts in maintaining stability, promoting development and improving people's livelihood, and achieved new progress in domestic political reconciliation and expansion of international exchanges. China highly values and cherishes the "Pauk-Phaw" friendship between our two countries, and is willing and ready to work with Myanmar to further enhance traditional friendship, deepen mutual beneficial cooperation, and promote China-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership to new highs.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the great prosperity to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and well-being to the people of Myanmar.

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

Upon the auspicious occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the government of

the People's Republic of China and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

I am pleased to see that our bilateral relationship, based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, developed very smoothly and favorably. The contacts and cooperations between the two countries in the fields of politics, economy, culture and etc., was broadening continuously, which generated a lot of tangible benefits to the peoples of our two countries. The Chinese government always attaches great importance to the good neighbourly and friendly cooperative relations with Myanmar, and is willing and ready to make joint efforts with Myanmar to deepen all-areas pragmatic cooperations, enrich the contents of China-Myanmar Comprehensive and Cooperative Partnership constantly.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the great prosperity to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and well-being to the people of Myanmar.

From Md. Zillur Rahman, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, I extend to Your Excellency and through you to the friendly people of Myanmar, our warmest greetings and felicitations.

Bangladesh and Myanmar enjoy excellent bilateral relations based on common history, culture and shared vision for development. It is my firm conviction that the existing bond of friendly relations between our two countries will further be strengthened in depth and dimension in the coming years.

I avail of this opportunity to convey my best wishes for your good health, long life and happiness as well as for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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

From Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Excellency,

On behalf of the government of the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in conveying to your Excellency, and through you to the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, our warmest greetings and heartiest felicitations on the joyous occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that Bangladesh and Myanmar maintain excellent bilateral relations. There exist tremendous potentials for further improvement of our relations through greater economic activities and enhanced interactions at the political and official levels. Bangladesh would greatly be honoured to participate in the development process of Myanmar in the days ahead.

I wish you good health, happiness and long life and the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar peace, progress and prosperity.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest

consideration.

From Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Your Excellency,

I have great pleasure in conveying to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar warm congratulations and best wishes of the people and the government of Sri Lanka and those of my own, on this auspicious occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

For centuries, relations between Sri Lanka and Myanmar have flourished and had been nurtured by our common Buddhist heritage. The frequent high-level visits and increasing people to people exchanges have strengthened our relations over the years. I am confident that we will build upon these foundations of our excellent relationship and deepen it further in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency, my sincere wishes for your personal health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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

On the occasion of Independence Day in Myanmar permit me to offer you and the people of Myanmar my sincere congratulations and those of my compatriots.

Germany is following with keen interest and good will the new course your country is steering in the direction of national reconciliation and democracy.

I wish you and all reform-minded people in Myanmar good luck and every success. Germany stands ready to provide Myanmar with advice and active assistance in taking its reform agenda forward.

From Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Excellency,

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

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From D. M. Jayaratne, Prime Minister of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Excellency,

I have great pleasure to congratulate Your Excellency on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I firmly believe that the bonds of friendship and cooperation that so happily exist between our two countries will be further strengthened for the well-being of our two peoples in the future.

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

UEC scrutinizes, grants applications for registration of political parties

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and granting the applications for registration of political parties. Myanmar National Congress today applied for registration as a political party to the UEC.—MNA

Chile struggles to control fires in famous national park

SANTIAGO, 3 Jan—Chilean President Sebastian Pinera said Monday that massive forest fires in the Torres del Paine National Park in the south were partially controlled but that half of the park has been burnt. Pinera said four of the six fire areas were under

control, but there is still a lot of work to do to completely control the situation.

More than half of the 230,000-hectare tourist destination has been engulfed in fire, which unfortunately occurred in a zone which is very difficult to approach as a result of

difficult topography and strong winds, said the president. More than 750 people were working on the site, supported by airplanes and helicopters. During the weekend, separate fires in Biobio and Maule had left one person killed and 500 others evacuated.—Xinhua

Fire preventive measures taken Pyu Market

PYU, 3 Jan—Township Administrator U Lwin Min and part inspected fire preventive measures at Pyu

Development Market on 23 December.

Members of Township Fire Services Department

and Market Fire Brigade Jointly demonstrated fire drill.

Township IPRD

British police meet family of Indian student killed in Manchester

NEW DELHI, 3 Jan—British police officers Monday evening visited the family of a 23-year-old Indian student, Anuj Bidve, who was shot dead in Manchester last Christmas, according to the *Indo-Asian News Service*. Manchester Police Chief Superintendent Russ Jackson and another officer who is currently corresponding with the

family, are in Pune, western India, to meet Bidve's family, said the report. They also apprised the family about the status of investigation. Bidve was shot in the head from close range in the early hours on 26 Dec. The gunman is suspected to be a white man in his 20's. Police are treating the killing as a "hate crime" which may have been racially motivated. A 50,000-pound

reward has been offered by police to help catch the killer.

Bidve was a postgraduate student in micro-electronics at the Lancaster University.

While three people aged 19, 20, and 16 and two 17-year-olds were arrested in connection with the case Sunday, 20-year-old Kieran Stapleton, from Ordsall in Greater Manchester was Monday charged with the murder.—Xinhua

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

A new nation with new strength

YANGYI AUNG

(Continued from yesterday)

Active and dynamic international relations

One sector that is the most remarkable and successful in the time of the new government is international relations. In practice, international relations are related to domestic political affairs. As you will have guests only when you show your kind hospitality, a sign of progress has been seen in the sector of international relations as national reconciliation is dawning in Myanmar's political situation.

The new government achieved two marked successes in the arena of international relations last year. The first is that Myanmar has been allowed to take ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014, which is important in regional politics.

As the government was able to build trust with regional countries through its genuine, practical reforms, the ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia, in 2011 unanimously announced that Myanmar has been entrusted with the duty to take ASEAN Chairmanship for 2014. At this point, the kind support Indonesia taking ASEAN Chairmanship has given to Myanmar as a good neighbour should be put on record. Another follow-up success is that Myanmar's relations with Western nations (especially America) which had been cool for some time have improved. Shortly after the Bali ASEAN Summit, US President Obama announced that Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton would pay a visit to Myanmar. Since it was the first ever visit of a US Secretary of State to Myanmar in more than 50 years, the whole world got surprised.

But, that visit did not come as a surprise. Relations with Western countries have developed rapidly since the new government taking office. Particularly, high-ranking officials, scholars and business people from European nations have paid frequent visits to Myanmar. Likewise, senior officials from America, including US Special Envoy to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell, visited Myanmar. More and more discussions with exchange of views have led to more understanding in bilateral relations.

The first ever visit of US State Secretary in half a century has opened a new phase in Myanmar-US relations that were at a standstill for a long time. Then followed the visits of Singaporean, British and Japanese Foreign Ministers.

The clear images in Myanmar's foreign relations in the time of the new government are exchange of goodwill visits of State leaders. After taking office, the President paid goodwill visits to the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India. China and India have had close and friendly relations with Myanmar as the most important neighbours throughout history. The President's visits further strengthened the existing relationships.

Heads of Government of the neighbouring countries also made their visits to Myanmar. They are Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Mrs Sheikh Hasina. Mr Mikhail V. Myasnikov, Prime Minister of Belarus, far away from Myanmar, paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar as well.

One vital issue in late 2011 is that Myanmar hosted the GMS Summit on 19 and 20 December. Heads of Government of six GMS countries attended the summit, which adopted a strategic framework agreement to be implemented from 2012 to 2022. It is the first ever summit of its kind that Myanmar hosted in the time of the new government. And it has put Myanmar to the test for its preparedness to host the ASEAN Summit in 2014.

Overall, the new government was able to practise an active, independent and perspective foreign policy in a period of nine months, making good strides in restoring Myanmar's status in the international arena. As the saying that goes by 'Initial step is the most important for a thousand-mile journey', it is crucial for Myanmar's reformation process to be on the correct path with regular steps.

On the right path with no turning back

Myanmar's political and economic reforms made in the new government's nine month's period have been internally and internationally

recognized. However, some voiced their concerns that Myanmar would turn back from the path it is taking for uncertain reasons.

Those concerns come from those who are in favour of Myanmar's interests out of genuine goodwill.

They also come from those with negative attitude saying that Myanmar's changes and reforms are just a sham seeking the long-term interests of the old administrative classes. Such people are getting jealous of the Myanmar government

gaining momentum of its reformation. They feel unbearable that other countries have come to build close relationships with Myanmar's new government. By misleading others into thinking that Myanmar will turn back with uncertainties in its reform policy, they are devising a plan to cease ongoing and upcoming aids and to delay economic investments from the outside.

Studying democratic transition of global nations, any could not be carried out successfully without difficulty. They had to go through a series of hardships,

obstacles and challenges.

However difficult our journey is, we have to march towards the destination with no turning back if it is in the interests of our own nation and people. Such a commitment to reach the goal with no turning back has not been made without rationality. It has been made reflecting Myanmar's objective conditions, the interests and desires of the people and changes and developments in international politics.

(See page 9)



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win on their visit to India being welcomed by Indian President Mrs Pratibha Devisingh Patil and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.



Heavy machinery seen at Myanmar Industrial Product Expo on 22-7-2011.

A new nation...

(from page 8)

If we make a study, the first point is that today's political and economic reforms are being conducted with the common decision of the government and the people as they are the desire of the entire people and in the public interest.

Secondly, frameworks and principles have been laid down in the constitution in order to conduct those reforms. Executive, legislative and judiciary bodies formed in accordance with the constitution are already in operation. There is no constitution in the world that does not need to be amended at all. The constitution of Myanmar will be amended in accord with the law if necessary depending on necessary time and circumstances. So, there is no way we turn back from our political system seeing beyond the constitution.

The third point is public support, the fifth pillar of the nation. Most of the people across the country are in earnest support of the new government's reformation process. Public support, the driving force of a democratic nation, is a major strength to overcome challenges and difficulties.

The fourth point is the mainstream of international politics. About 60 percent of world nations are democracies that have chosen their governments through elections. Further, democracy movements are spreading throughout the world. But some countries are experiencing violent conflicts, protests and bloodshed between their rulers and democracy activists. Myanmar however is in rapid, peaceful transition with mutual understanding and trust and negotiations as directed by its former rulers. Can there be a more efficient, correct way?

Hence, the Myanmar government can daringly disclose that there is no way to deviate from its democratic transition. The President and other responsible leaders have reassured the international community that they will never turn back from the country's changes and reforms.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all the people to harmoniously build and maintain a peaceful and strong Union in accord with democratic practices from the 64th Anniversary Independence Day till the end of the world by quoting the following excerpts from the President speech at a meeting with responsible people from economic and social fields and organizations on 17-8-11.

"The country is in the process of starting a new life. There are many challenges as well as good opportunities. What is needed is that we show resilience in taking the challenges and we should

seize all the opportunities.

In successive periods, our country had to take so long time, dealing with issues of instability and unrest, which was merely a sheer waste of time. There are so many countries that lagged behind or whose development was on a par with our country in the post-independence period, but our country left behind in terms of development now. Now the people of us should have stopped quarreling with each other, and individuals and organizations should no longer find fault with and put blame on each other.

Our country has favourable conditions, our country will be a developed one soon if we are united and work hard together. Our country belongs to all of us. Every citizen is responsible for guarding and protecting our country. We also need to build a fine society for generations to come."

(Translation: ST)

President U Thein Sein shaking hands with US Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton at President Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 1-12-2011.



Photo shows Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), the longest one in Myanmar, inaugurated on 31-12-2011.



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.

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

POEM:

Independence and joy

- * Independence Myanmar restored
After a long period of enslavement
Never to fall under subjugation again
Means patriots tried to find
Adopting system of their very own
Prosperity for entire Myanmar
Her future in golden age
Democracy on the march to flourish
Shaping country nationalities
Union's sons and daughters
- * Unity Myanmar restored
All in coherence and kindness
Removed we all
Wrong visions of past
Our kinfolk now have in mind
Amity for each and everyone
Everlasting and firm
Hands joining for Myanmar
- * Development Myanmar achieved
High rise buildings everywhere
Impressive infrastructures also seen
On meandering rivers are bridges
Tunnels through high ridges
Modernizing own country
For her glory and dignity
All with dynamic force
- * It is independence
That enables us bring progress
And also prosperity to nation
- * It is independence
That gives Myanmar new vigor
To stand tall worldwide
- * Myanmar glory rises high
Shining like the sun
Only if joining hands
Remain ever for independence

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

Religious titles conferred on Most Venerable Sayadaws, nuns, lay persons

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Notification No. 1/2012

11th Waxing of Pyatho, 1373 ME (4th January, 2012)

The President has conferred religious titles on the following Most Venerable Sayadaws, Ganthadhura Pariyatti Lecturer Sayadaws, Vipassanadhura Paripatti Kammathana Instructor Sayadaws, Mobile Preacher Sayadaws, national and foreign missionary figures and outstanding donors of the Four Essentials to the Buddha Sasana.

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title

1. Bhaddanta Indariyasabha, Mahitayon Monastery, Kanaungsu Ward, Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region
2. Bhaddanta Tejosarabhivamsa, Nikaya New Padetha Monastery, Masoeeyin Taik, Daewun East Ward, Mahaungmye Township, Mandalay Region
3. Bhaddanta Kesara, Myatheindan Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 10, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region
4. Bhaddanta Samvara, Sasana Mandaing Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Myodwingyi Ward, Bago, Bago Region

Agga Maha Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Kesara, Khemawady Monastery, Yongyi Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
2. Bhaddanta Vijaya, Myazigon Monastery, Ward 14, Toungoo, Bago Region
3. Bhaddanta Suriya, Okthathiri Monastery, Nandawya Ward, Bago, Bago Region
4. Bhaddanta Dhammasara, Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery, Ywagauk Ward, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana
5. Bhaddanta Janapati, Maha Gandayon Monastery, Hsinswepuk Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region
6. Bhaddanta Visuddhabhivamsa, Pali New Padetha Monastery, Masoeeyin Taik, Daewun East Ward, Mahaungmye Township, Mandalay Region
7. Bhaddanta Visuddhacarabhivamsa, Sasana Zawtaton Monastery, No. 5 Naychinsaya Ward, Madaya, Mandalay Region
8. Bhaddanta Vepulla, Saddhammapala Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 3, Kyaukse, Shan State

Title recipient Sayadaw from abroad

9. Ven. Pallithara Sri Sumanajothi Thero of Subadrarama Purana Monastery, Maligasse, Galle, Sri Lanka
10. Ven. Galayaye Piyadassi Thero, International Sirisaddhatissa Buddhist Centre, No. 309-311, Kingsbury Road, London, England

Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Title

1. Bhaddanta Sumangala, Okthathiri Monastery, Nandawya Ward, Bago, Bago Region
2. Bhaddanta Vayama, Htupayon Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Ngatahmaw Village, Yezagyo Township, Magway Region
3. Bhaddanta Indalokalanakara, Mahagandayon Monastery, Hsinswepuk Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region
4. Bhaddanta Tejavanta, Dhammathukha Monastery, Thirimaing Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
5. Bhaddanta Devinda, Bawgyo Phayagyi Monastery, Hsipaw, Shan State

Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Visuddha, Khemathiwin Monastery, Khemathiri Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Rajinda, Taungphila Monastery, Taungphila Ward, Kalay, Sagaing Region
3. Bhaddanta Samvarabhivamsa, Mahagandayon Pariyatti Monastery, Ayemyathaya, Okpo Township, Bago Region
4. Bhaddanta Kusala, Mingalayama Shwebo Monastery, Dawwabwa Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
5. Bhaddanta Janasara, Panditayon Monastery, Nyaunggan Taik, Chanmyathazi South Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
6. Bhaddanta Sumanabhivamsa, Three-storey monastery,

Kyaungdawya Shwegyin Taik, Gyadawya Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region

7. Bhaddanta Indobhasabhivamsa, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
8. Bhaddanta Çadavara, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
9. Bhaddanta Vijaya, Sasana Vepulla Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 3, Kengtung, Shan State

Nuns

10. Nun Daw Çandabhaçi, Thameikdawdaya Nunnery, Thameikdawdaya Corner, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
11. Nun Daw Vijjanandi, Khemethaka Corner, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region

Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, Aungsupan Monastery, Myaik-Thabyetha Ward, Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region
2. Bhaddanta Viççitta, Myoma Pariyatti Monastery, Myoma Ward, Banmauk, Sagaing Region
3. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Shwein Yeiktha Pariyatti Monastery, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon
4. Bhaddanta Dhammavudha, Myatshwegu Monastery, Mogok Dhamma Yeiktha, Letya (ta) Village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region

Nun

5. Nun Daw Iççhariyañani, Sasana Beikman Nunnery, Shinbyu Shinhla Village, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region

Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Setthañana, Thuriyayama New Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 5, Hton-aing Model Village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State
2. Bhaddanta Paññabala, Zeyawady Pariyatti Monastery, Peinnedaw Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region
3. Bhaddanta Indaçaakka, Shwedaung Monastery, Minyat Ward, Letpadaung, Bago Region
4. Bhaddanta Teja, Yadana Pada Pariyatti Monastery, Ywabe Region, Pyay, Bago Region
5. Bhaddanta Tejavanta, Dhammika Pariyatti Monastery, Myoma Ward, Monyo, Bago Region
6. Bhaddanta Sundara, Sasana Mandaing Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Pangyangon Ward, Bago, Bago Region
7. Bhaddanta Vasava, Maha Dhammamikayama Sabeiyon Monastery, Aungchantha Ward, Yenangyoung, Magway Region
8. Bhaddanta Kusala, Khingyi Dway Monastery, Magway, Magway Region
9. Bhaddanta Kittisara, Maha Withutayama (Central) Monastery, Ward 10, Pakokku, Magway Region
10. Bhaddanta Ñeyavara, Myingyan Monastery, Yenangyoung Monastery, Chanmyathazi North Ward, Mahaungmye Township, Mandalay Region
11. Bhaddanta Kovida, Megawady Taungthaman Monastery, Thirihema West Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
12. Bhaddanta Uttamasaralankara, Mahamyain Monastery, Mahamyain Ward 1, Mahaungmye Township, Mandalay Region
13. Bhaddanta Agginña, Gunawady Taikkyaung, Dekkhinayama Phayagyi Monastery, Kyunlonokshaung Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
14. Bhaddanta Sundara, Sagaing Pariyatti Monastery, Bo Teza Ward, Bilin, Mon State
15. Bhaddanta Indaçaariya, Pariyatti Dhammikayon Monastery, Aukywapaing Ward, Minbya, Rakhine State
16. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Kyaukkontawya Medini Monastery, Ward 14, Yankin Township, Yangon Region
17. Bhaddanta Dhammasami, Mahabawdi Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 14, Yankin Township, Yangon Region
18. Bhaddanta Dhammaçara, Aungthida Pariyatti Monastery, Shukhintha Ward, Thakayta Township, Yangon Region
19. Dr Bhaddanta Açinna, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
20. Bhaddanta Narainda, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
21. Bhaddanta Dhammanandabhivamsa, Maha Dhimmikayama Monastery, Kantha Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State
22. Bhaddanta Kovidabhivamsa, Shwenantha Monastery,

Shwehintha Tawya Monastery, Ward 7, Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Region

23. Bhaddanta Paññasiriyatanabhivamsa, Myaungmyakyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 3, Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region

Nuns

24. Nun Daw Dhammesi, Ayethuwady Nunnery, Leti Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
25. Nun Daw Khemasangi, Yadana Manaung Nunnery, Karatpyin Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region
26. Nun Daw Sunandi, Sasana Hitakari Nunnery, Aungthida Ward 8, Lashio, Shan State

Title recipient nun from abroad

27. Nun Dr Daw Molini, Kimdol Nunnery, Swayumbu, Kathmandu, Nepal

Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Title

1. Bhaddanta Silavamsa, Dhammarekkhita Wuntho Monastery, Shansu North Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Dhammaloka, Maha Yadanabonsan Myataung Monastery, Wacht Village, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
3. Bhaddanta Çandima, Pitakattaw Propagation Monastery, Myataung Monastery, Yadana West Ward, Mahaungmye Township, Mandalay Region
4. Bhaddanta Jayanta, Kyayok Pariyatti Monastery, Kyaungtetlan Ward, Sittway, Rakhine State

Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Sirindaçara, Ngwetaungpyi Pariyatti Monastery, Ngwetaung Model Village, Dimawhsa Township, Kayah State
2. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Taunggale Pariyatti Monastery, Taunggale Village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State
3. Bhaddanta Mandala, West Kyaunggyi Pariyatti Monastery, Setyon Ward, Kawlin, Sagaing Region
4. Bhaddanta Visuddha, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Phaungsaing Village, Hkamti Township, Sagaing Region
5. Bhaddanta Kumara, Kywegan Monastery, Kywegan Village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region
6. Bhaddanta Paññinda, Shwebontha Monastery, Leinbin Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region
7. Bhaddanta Janeya, Palemyint Monastic Middle School, Shwepyi Monastery, 88th Street between 17th and 18th Streets, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
8. Bhaddanta Naginda, Kyaikthitsaung Hsawdawshin Phayagyi Monastery, Zokthok Model Village, Bilin Township, Mon State
9. Bhaddanta Indaka, Meewa Monastic Education Middle School, Meewa Village, Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State
10. Bhaddanta Paññasara, TatU Mingon Monastic Education School, Mingon Model Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region
11. Bhaddanta Nandaçariya, Dekkhinayon Monastery, Aungchantha Ward, Namkhom, Shan State

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

12. Ven. Samsamone Tepmounithone, Pakkayoung Village, Viengkham District, Viengkham Province, Laos
13. Ven. Chuan Yin, Fa Yuan Si Monastery, Beijing, People's Republic of China
14. Dr Bhaddanta Dhammapiya, Myittananda Vihara Dhamma Yeiktha, Metta Vihara 4619, Central Ave Fremont, CA 94536, California, the United States of America
15. Dr Bhaddanta Dhammasami, No. 356, Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1, 4TQ, UK

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Pandava, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Namnauk Village, Loikaw Township, Kayah State
2. Bhaddanta Setthila, Lawkhukhu Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Lawkhukhu Village, Prusho Township, Kayah State
3. Bhaddanta Jotisara, Theravada Buddhist Monastery Centre, Tarlan Ward, Lahe, Sagaing Region
4. Bhaddanta Dhammavudha, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastic Education School, Maungshin Village, Myebon Township, Rakhine State
5. Bhaddanta Indobhassa, Kyargu Dhamma Beikman Monastery, Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Dagon Township, Yangon Region

(See page 11)

(from page 10)

6. Bhaddanta Paññasara, Pantabwintaung Missionary Tawya Yeiktha Monastery, near Phugyi Dam, Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region
7. Bhaddanta Tejaniya, Aungmyethaya (Zayangyi) Monastery, Palaung Peace Hill, Kyaukse Township, Shan State
8. Bhaddanta Čanasiri, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Pyinnyadipa Monastery, Ward 2, Metmung, Shan State
9. Bhaddanta Puññananda, Thiri Mingala Manhso Shan Monastery, Ward 12, Lashio, Shan State
10. Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, Border Area Missionary Theravada Buddhist Monastery, Ward 5, Monoke Sub-Township, Muse Township, Shan State
11. Bhaddanta Čandobhassa, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Youth Development Parahita House, Salin Village, Pekhon Township, Shan State
12. Bhaddanta Paññananda, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Kengtung, Shan State

Title recipient Sayadaw from abroad

13. Bhaddanta Revata, Dhammathukha Monastery, Northward, California, USA

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Sučittananda, Neikthawkayama Monastic Education School, Alintaung Ward, Momauk Township, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Vičarañana, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre Taungtan Monastery, Myoma Ward, Putao, Kachin State
3. Bhaddanta Čandima, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Nwalapoh Ywama Village, Loikaw, Kayah State
4. Bhaddanta Nandasiri, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Panawt Village, Mindat Township, Chin State
5. Bhaddanta Kundala, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Kadoegyi Village, Hkamti Township, Sagaing Region
6. Bhaddanta Ačinna, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Monastic Education School, Bokkan Village, Khampat Sub-Township, Tamu District, Sagaing Region
7. Bhaddanta Kosala, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre Monastery, Lonphaw Village, Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region
8. Bhaddanta Indaka, No. 18 Aungpyitha Monastic Education School, Kyaikpaw Village, Bago, Bago Region
9. Bhaddanta Khemačara, Thitsadipa Monastery, Thitsaweda Mogok Vipassana Maggin Yeiktha, Yekyi Village, Yedaguntaung, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region
10. Bhaddanta Ñanissara, Shwemyogyi Gainghtauk Monastery, Shwemyo Village, Tatkon Township
11. Bhaddanta Sasanarekkhita, Sasana Yaunggyi Monastic Education School (Post-Primary), Auklule Village, Kyaikto Township, Mon State
12. Bhaddanta Čadasuriya, Yinchaung Missionary Monastery, Yinchaung Village, Minbya Township, Rakhine State
13. Bhaddanta Garava, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Monastic School, Phawai Village, Myebon Township, Rakhine State
14. Bhaddanta Silananda, Myittawadi Hinthada (Parahita) Monastery, Ward 16, Hline Township, Yangon Region
15. Bhaddanta Vilasa, Theravada Buddhist Missionary (Zaytawun Shwehti) Mahawun Myole Monastery, "Wa" Special Region (2), Pangsan, Shan State
16. Bhaddanta Ñanobhassa, Namhlay Myitzimayama (Central) Pariyatti Monastery, Hsipaw, Shan State
17. Bhaddanta Sobhita, Natyegon Thawbitayama Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 1, Lashio, Shan State
18. Bhaddanta Vimala, Namngaw Theravada Buddhist

Missionary Monastery, Namngaw Village, Kenglat Sub-Township, Tachilek Township, Shan State

19. Bhaddanta Vannita, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Pandaw Missionary Centre, Pandaw Village, Kengtung Township, Shan State
20. Bhaddanta Nandadhaja, Holin Missionary Centre, Holin Village, Mongkhat Township, Shan State
21. Bhaddanta Indaka, Thabbinnyu Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Monghsat, Shan State
22. Bhaddanta Tikkhindariya, Shwenyaungbin Monastery, Monastic Post-Primary School, Kungyangon Ywathit Village, Kyaunggon Township, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

23. Ven. Shi Yin Le, Bai Ma Si Temple, Luo Yang, Hai Nan Province, People's Republic of China
24. Ven. Lokasanghatthero (a) Mr. Am Limheng, Munisovann (Champukaek) Temple, Sangkat Prakhmei, Khan Meanchay Phnom Penh, Cambodia
25. Ven. Dhamma Shobhana, Baudhasamakrita Vihara, Minibus Park, Dudhpati Ward, Bhaktapur, Nepal
26. Ven. Dr Pallegama Sirinivasa Nayaka Thero, Sri Maha Bodhiya Temple, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka
27. Bhaddanta Vasava, India-Myanmar Buddhist Monastery, Chennai, Tamil Nadu Province, India
28. Dr Bhaddanta Sirinda, Myanmar Monastery, Baw Bazaar Ward, Calcutta, West Bengal Province, India

Nun

29. Nun Daw Silavati, Myatheingi Nunnery, Nunnery Education School (Parahita), Naungngu Nyana Ward, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region

Layperson

30. U Kyaw Wai, No. 3, 30th Street between 70th x 71st Streets, Shwepyithar Mandalay Housing Estate, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region

Kammathanacariya Title

1. Bhaddanta Nandiya, Shwezedi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Ward 2, Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Region
2. Bhaddanta Dhammapala, Phayagyi Tawya Monastery, Shwepyithar Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha, Pankhin Kwethit, Pyinmana Township
3. Bhaddanta Nanuttara, Myazedi Monastery, West Monastery, Mogok Vipassana Branch No. 228, Bawthabyegan Village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region
4. Bhaddanta Janeya, Shweminwun Tawya Meditation Monastery, Thithseintgon Ward, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region
5. Bhaddanta Vannasami, Gondawyeik Thanda U Monastery, Yanaung Monastery, Thanda Road, Ward E, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
6. Bhaddanta Khamavudha, Shwepyithar Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Aungthida Ward 8, Lashio, Shan State (North)

Agga Maha Thudhamma Theingi Title

1. Daw Khin Cho Ohn, No. 206, corner of Thanthuma Street and Sayeebin Street, Ward 23, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region
2. Daw Win Win Htay (a) Ma Nge, No. Hsa/56, Padauk Road, Ward 1, Bayintnaung, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region

Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara Title

1. U Myint Thein, No. 144, 42nd Street, Shanpwe Ward, Mahaangmye Township, Mandalay Region
2. U Kyaw Khin Myint, No. 134, Shwebontha Street, No. 6 Ward, Pabedan Township, Yangon Region

Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Title

1. Daw San Kyu, Mingala Yard, 73rd Street between 27th x 28th Streets, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
2. Daw Swe Thazin, No. 3, 30th Street between 70th x 71st

Streets, Shwepyithar Mandalay Housing Estate, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region

Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara Title

1. U Khin Maung, No. 107, Block 622, Kinsanamahi Ward, 30th Street between 79th x 80th Streets, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
2. Dr U Soe Myint, No. 9, Mani Maykhalay, Magyidan South/West Ward, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region
3. U Kyaw Soe Win (a) U Khant Sithu, No. 90/C-2, Shwetaunggyar 1st Street, Ward 1, Bahan Township, Yangon Region

Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Title

1. Daw San San, No. 15, Block 33, 9th Street, 9th Street between 76th x 77th Streets, Amarantani East Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
2. Daw Ei Kay Thwe Min, No. 4, A-1/2, E Condo Market North Road, Phayagyi Ward, Dagon Township, Yangon Region
3. Daw Khin Swe Oo, Building 1, Room-5/6, Pyidaungsu Road, Myo U Yeikmon, Ward 26, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region

Thudhamma Manijotadhara Title

1. U Htay Hlaing, Pateinhaw Village, Salingyi Township, Sagaing Region
2. U Kyi Maung, No. 1030/1031, Thumingala Street, Ward 16/1, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region
3. U Myo Hset, Za/13 Padauk Street, Ward 1, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region

Thudhamma Theingi Title

1. Daw Than Htay, Myothit Ward, Chaung U, Sagaing Region
2. Saw Win Maw Tun, No. 44, Thakin Po Hla Gyi Road, Shwebontha Ward, Yenangyoung, Magway Region
3. Daw Mya Yin, No. 141/A Yesu Ward, Kyaukse, Mandalay Region
4. Daw Talawadi (a) Daw San San, No. 1, Myoma Ward, Anawrahta Road, Mogok, Mandalay Region
5. Daw Htwe Htwe (a) Daw Yi Yi Htwe, No. 124, 73rd Mingala Road, 29th x 30th Streets, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
6. Daw Tin Tin, No. 18, 45th Street, 81st x 82nd Streets, Shwephoneshin Ward, Mahaangmye Township, Mandalay Region
7. Daw Aye Aye Myint, 80th x 32nd Streets, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
8. Daw Aye Aye Aung, No. B 26, Yadanabon Street, 65th x 66th Streets, Ward 1, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
9. Daw Ma Ma (a) Daw Kyi Kyi Mya, 69th Street, 27th x 28th Streets, Pyigyimythman Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
10. Daw Htay Htay Khaing, 66th Street between Theikpan and Thazin Streets, Ma-23/2 Tha+2 Ha, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
11. Daw Aye Myint, No. 9, Myaungmya Road, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region
12. Daw Mya Mya Htay, No. 598, Phaunggyi Road, Aungmyingala Ward, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region
13. Daw Khin Nyunt, No. 46/E, Po Sein Street, Natmauk Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region
14. Daw Ohnma Lwin, No. 39-A, Shin Saw Pu Road, Aungchantha Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region
15. Daw Khin Thida, No. 5A/1, Malikha Road, Ward 10, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region

Sd/

Thein Sein
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union A & I Minister visits 10000-acred model mechanized farm in Dagon Myothit

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited 500-acre Palethwal hybrid paddy strains farm of International Sun Moon Star Agriculture Company of IBTC at 10000-acre model mechanized farm

in Dagon Myothit here this morning.

Next, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing inspected the condition of 55-day-old Palethwal hybrid paddy strains, vegetables garden near the paddy farm for agricultural work-

ers, staff of the company, and cultivation with machines

Afterwards, the Union Minister looked into vegetable patches and works being carried out with the use of heavy machinery at the farmland.

MNA

K150-million lot included in State Lottery

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—As a special lot, one K150 million-lot will be included in the monthly lottery of the State Lottery Division of the Internal Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue as from the 277th Lottery which will open on 1 February.

The 277th lottery will consists of

16193 lots including one K150-million lot, one K100-million lot, one K50-million lot, two K30-million lots, four K20-million lots and 15 units of K10-million lottery pairs. The number of lots in the 277th lottery is more 1186 lots than the previous one. The price for the lottery ticket does not change though the special lottery lot is included in the monthly lottery. — MNA



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Civil Service Board
Vacancy Announcement
Announcement No. 1 / 2012
Waxing of Pyatho 1373 ME
(2 January 2012)

1. The Relief and Resettlement Department and the Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relife and Resettlement have issued an announcement of vacancies for the following positions-

Sr. No	Organization	Position	Vancancy	Educational Qualification
(a)	The Relief and Resettlement Department	Staff Officer (Male)	2	M.A(English)
		(Female)	1	
		Staff Officer(Male)	1	M.C.Tech
		Staff Officer(Female)	1	M.Com/ M.Econ(Statistics)
(b)	The Fire Services Department	Staff Officer(Male)	1	B.E(Mechatronic)
		(Mechanical/Electrical)		
		Staff Officer(Male)	1	B.E(Electrical Power) (Electrical)

2. The applicants -
 (a) must be citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
 (b) must not be over 35 years of age (40 years if service personnel) on 24 January 2012.
 (c) must be in good health, must be physically fit and possess well intact limbs.
3. Applications must be sent to Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw in person, or by expedited Mail Service, or by registered letter not later than 24 January 2012.
4. With regards to filling in the application form, documents to be attached, mode of payment of Ks.500/- for examination fee, subjects to be studied for written examinations and personal interview, candidates applying for the vacant positions will have to follow the instructions manifested in the Guide Booklet published under Letter No. 1/ Selection (Main)/ 2012, dated 2 January 2012.
5. For service personnel, his or her original application altogether with the recommendation of the ministry concerned and a passport photo of the applicant must be sent to Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw through the Head of Department by 24 January 2012. An extra copy of the application together with photo must also be attached.
6. Written examinations will be held in Nay Pyi Taw. Candidates will be examined in Myanmar and General Knowledge examination papers on 18-2-2012 (Saturday) and English examination paper on 19-2-2012 (Sunday).
7. Identity cards for candidates sitting for the examination will be issued at Office No.(17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw commencing 16-2-2012.
8. For more information, applicants may contact Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in person or by phone (067-409052, 067-409430).
9. This announcement and the guide booklet for applicants may be browsed on Websites: ucsb.imis.com.mm and www.ucsb.gov.mm.

British man shoots three family members before committing suicide

LONDON, 3 Jan—A British man is believed to have killed three female family members and then taken his own life at a house in County Durham in northern England, local

police said on Monday.

Police said they found the four bodies in different rooms in the house with gunshot wounds, and a shotgun was found next to the man's body. Detective Superintendent Paul Goundry said he believed "the shootings were carried out by the 40-year-old male" identified as Michael Atherton, a taxi driver.

Police said all four victims were related or known to each other. They also confirmed there were other people in the house before the shootings but said they are now treated as witnesses. A teenage girl, suffering minor injuries, escaped through an upstairs window and went to neighbors for help.

At the news conference, Assistant Chief Constable Michael Banks said a resident of the house held a firearms license. "I can confirm that a resident at that address was the lawful holder of shotgun and firearms licenses and we cannot confirm at this stage whether any of those weapons that were lawfully held have been used in this," he said.—Xinhua



Incredible! Pygmy Chimpanzee cooks for itself.—XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CEC FANTASY VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CEC FANTASY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W(3) 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: TASNEEM INT'L SDN BHD,
MALAYSIA

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MVBANGKACHAI VOYNO(107)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (107) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919



A chef cooks Laba porridge at Quanjudu, an honoured Beijing roast duck restaurant, in Beijing, China, on 1 Jan, 2012. Laba literally means the eighth day of the 12th lunar month. The Laba Festival is regarded as a prelude to the Spring Festival, or Chinese Lunar New Year, the most important occasion of family reunion, falling on 1 January this year. Many restaurants, residential communities and Buddhist temples in the country provided free Laba porridge on Sunday.—XINHUA

'Highland tigers' not wild about snow, says SNH report

LONDON, 3 Jan—Scientists suspect Scottish wildcats may have trouble crossing deep snow as camera traps captured no images of the animals after heavy snowfalls.

Other predators such as pine martens were photographed in thick snow in the Cairngorms National Park. Zoologists from the University of Oxford worked with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) on the project.

Thirteen "wild-living" cats were photographed during the study with four of them identified as wildcats.

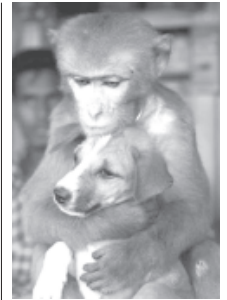
The other nine were thought to be hybrids, rather than pure Scottish wildcats. Nicknamed "Highland tigers", only about 400 pure wildcats are thought to survive in the wild.

Disease, habitat loss and cross breeding with domestic cats has caused a decline in pure wildcats. Twenty camera traps were set up at locations on the Seafield and Strathspey Estates between February to May 2010.

Internet



A Scottish wildcat photographed by one of the camera traps.—INTERNET



Friendship transcends species.—XINHUA

Toronto welcomes 2012 with annual Polar Bear Dip

TORONTO, 3 Jan—More than 300 Canadians braved the cold winter rain to take a quick plunge in Lake Ontario Sunday for the annual Polar Bear Dip as a unique way to celebrate the New Year. It was 4 degrees Celsius at Toronto's Sunnyside Beach at noon Sunday. People wore colored swimsuits and different headgear to disguise themselves as elves, Superman, or rock stars. Exactly at noon, the participants plunged into the lake, but most just went in for a quick dip and were out of the water in a flash due to the cold.

The New Year's Day Polar Bear Dip not only offers a unique way to celebrate the New Year, but also raises money to help low-income families build houses. Habitat for Humanity Toronto, a non-profit, non-denominational organization aiming at improving low-income families' living conditions, sponsored the event. Organizers said this is the seventh year they are holding the event, and that this time, they had a record number of participants. They were hoping to raise 40,000 Canadian dollars for their organization this year.

One organizer from Habitat for Humanity Toronto told Xinhua that the first year, there were only 25 participants, but every year, the number seems to double.—Xinhua

Walmart clerk rejects \$1 million bill

The old fake \$1 million bill scam failed yet again, this time with a North Carolina man allegedly trying to use one at a Walmart store, police said.

The Winston-Salem Journal reported Saturday an arrest warrant alleges Michael Anthony Fuller, 53, of Lexington tried to pay for a vacuum cleaner, a microwave oven and other items totaling \$476 with a \$1 million bill back on 17 Nov

Court records show employees at the Lexington store called police and Fuller was later charged with felony counts of trying to obtain property by false pretenses and uttering a forged instrument, the newspaper said.

With his bond set at \$17,500, he was still in the Davidson County Jail as of Friday pending a Tuesday court appearance.

"It is kind of strange,"

Lexington police Sgt Shannon Sharpe said of the case.

Every once in a while someone tries to pass off a fake \$1 million bill. For the record, the largest US bill now in circulation is the \$100 bill.

The largest denomination ever printed was a \$100,000 bill printed back in the mid-1930s and used for transactions between Federal Reserve banks.



Creepy body puncture at Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

NewsAlbum

Pirate ship runs aground on New Year's Eve

A pirate-themed ship ran aground on New Year's Eve in west Florida, leaving about 100 pirates in need of rescuing, officials said.

The pirate-themed ship—the Pirate's Ransom—was actually one of two ships to run aground Saturday evening, CNN reported. The Island Time went aground while trying to take some of the Pirate's Ransom's passengers.

Eventually police and fireboats arrived and ferried the 100 passengers on the Pirate's Ransom safely back to shore.

The Pirate's Ransom belongs to "Captain Memo," whose Web site invites "briny buccaneers and seafaring seadogs" to join his crew for day cruises of eating, drinking and searching for dolphins.

Naked drive-through joke draws arrests

Two people who said they thought it would be funny to order fast-food while naked found themselves arrested for the stunt, Galesburg, Ill, police say.

Galesburg's WGIL Radio reported Paul Kosur, 19, of El Paso, Ill, and Megan Gutierrez, 21, of Galesburg were arrested on public indecency charges early Wednesday after allegedly pulling up to a McDonald's drive-through window without any clothes on.

Police reports indicate investigating officers found the couple in the car in the restaurant's parking lot. The officers said the only clothes they found in the car were a pair of pants and a coat.

The couple, who were taken to the Knox County Jail and later released pending court appearances, allegedly told the officers their stunt may not have been a great idea but they still thought it was funny, WGIL said.

Hundreds jump into frigid Boston Harbor

Hundreds of swimmers jumped into the freezing waters of Boston Harbor Sunday morning for the annual New Year's Day polar bear plunge.

An estimated 600 to 700 swimmers joined the L Street Brownies in the annual New Year's Day polar bear plunge, *The Boston Globe* reported.

Freddy Ahern, director of the Curley Community Centre, where the event is held, announced the beginning of the plunge by counting down from five through a bull horn. "It was like a baptism with ice," said Anna Byrne, 47, who was visiting from Dublin, Ireland.

Byrne said she jumped in twice, "because the first time I didn't get my hair wet. The first time it was cold. The second time it was not so bad."

"What other way is there to bring in the New Year than with a bunch of crazy friends," said Justin Brown, 30, an investment adviser from South Boston.

Sofia Vergara wanted small role in 'Happy Feet Two'



Sofia Vergara

alongside Robin Williams, Elijah Wood and Matt Damon.

"I wanted to do a film like this for kids and give out a nice message and it's not like I had to do hours and hours of research for this role. It was very easy. I knew I was going to be part of such an amazing cast so I said yes immediately," she added.—*Internet*

WASHINGTON, 3 Jan—Sofia Vergara has revealed that she was reluctant to accept a bigger part in the animation film 'Happy Feet Two', since she isn't used to the genre.

The 39-year-old beauty voices a penguin called Carmen in her first ever animated movie. "I knew it was a small role when I did it. It was my first time doing a voice for anything so I didn't want it to be a big role because I didn't want to not be able to cope with it," Contactmusic.com quoted her as telling BANG Showbiz.

"I'm quite new to acting so I prefer to do little things that I think I will be OK to do, rather than bigger parts where people are thinking, 'What is she doing?'" she said.

However, the Colombian actress has said that despite 'Happy Feet Two' being her first taste at voiceover work, she found the creative process "very easy". She also admitted that she had accepted the offer "immediately" when she found out she would be acting



Sir Elton John

Elton John wants Justin Timberlake to play him in biopic

MELBOURNE, 3 Jan—Sir Elton John has revealed his desire of casting Justin Timberlake in the lead role in his upcoming biopic. The 64-year-old told the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper that an announcement about the biopic is due very soon. "That's very much in the works. We're making an announcement about that very, very soon.

We have a director on board, and then it's just going to be a matter of getting the script exactly the way we want it," John said.

Lee Hall, who wrote mega-hit *Billy Elliot*, has written the screenplay, he said, adding they will soon start trying to cast and plan production. News.com.au reported. He revealed that he

would prefer Justin Timberlake portraying him in the biopic as the singer had already done an impressive portrayal of the rocker earlier in a video. "I don't know. I've got a wish list of people. No 1 on my wish list is Justin Timberlake, because he played me before in a David LaChapelle video of (Elton classic) Rocket Man and was superb," he said.—*Internet*

Kelly Clarkson dislikes talking about herself

LONDON, 3 Jan—Singer Kelly Clarkson finds it "really narcissistic" to discuss her career on a daily basis.

"My job is a lot of talking about myself, so that's really narcissistic. It can get draining. Towards the end of the day I'm like, 'I hate Kelly Clarkson'," showbizspy.com quoted the 29-year-old as saying.

"So, I think it's just healthy to have some time off now and again, that way I have off time for me and do something fresh for interviews. You don't get used to talking about yourself.



Singer Kelly Clarkson

Well, I hope I don't," she added. She also prefers to spend time at her farm house in Texas. "When I relax I simply don't do anything. I literally hang out on my land, I just walk around and hang out with my animals. The last thing I want to do is go out.

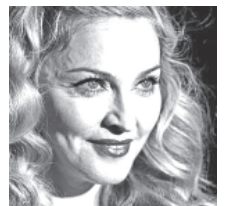
Internet

Madonna furious over staff selling songs

LONDON, 3 Jan—Madonna is on a serious lookout for the culprit, who is a member of her own camp but has been flogging music, video footage and sensitive pictures behind her back. It all started before Christmas, when a Spanish super-fan was rumbled releasing seven new songs from her forthcoming album on the

web, the *Sun* reported. "Her camp were aware of the Spanish character because he was an annoying super-fan. They were on to him for actively leaking and selling new and old unreleased tracks online," a source said. "He has been arrested but there's a much bigger picture.

The source of these



Madonna

leaks comes from within Madonna's camp." The source asserted that it would have to be someone close to get access to that kind of material. It is evident that serious betrayal has been going on. "Single tracks have been exchanging hands for well over 1,000 dollars." "Hundreds of hours of Madonna footage have been obtained illegally for tens of thousands of dollars."

Hundreds of unflattering, un-Photoshopped pics of the singer also leaked last year, which really got her famous temper bubbling over. "It is all part of the same deal made by a few unscrupulous characters to line their pockets," the source added.—*Internet*

Russell Brand could get 20 million pounds from Katy Perry divorce

LONDON, 3 Jan—Russell Brand could make up to 20 million pounds from his divorce from pop star wife Katy Perry. The 36-year-old comedian is in line for the huge lump sum in a 50/50 split of the couple's earnings even after just 14 months of marriage.

Brand and Perry hadn't signed a pre-nuptial agreement when they married in October, so under Californian law, he could be entitled to half of her fortune, the *Daily Mail* reported.

Brand had announced

on Friday that the couple's marriage was over after they spent Christmas apart and his lawyers filed divorce papers at Los Angeles Superior Court citing 'irreconcilable differences'.

Speaking to the *Daily Star* on Sunday, he hoped that things would be "better in the next year". "I'm doing good. Everything is going to be better next year," he said.

The *Star* reported that according to *Forbes Magazine*, the 27-year-old is worth 28 million pounds, a fortune that industry insiders said has



Russell Brand

rocked recently to at least 45 million pounds due to her non-stop touring and commercial ventures.

Internet



Steve Sidwell heads home for Fulham, moments before Bobby Zamora's winner

Last-gasp Fulham stun Arsenal

LONDON, 3 Jan — Fulham 2-1 Arsenal. Fulham stunned Arsenal with a late fightback to earn a last-gasp victory over the Gunners at Craven Cottage.

Striker Bobby Zamora volleyed home the winner deep into injury time after Arsenal failed to clear a cross into their own box, a victory that left Arsene Wenger's side outside the top four in the Barclays Premier League.

Arsenal had taken the lead in the first half when Laurent Koscielny nodded in, only for Johan Djourou to be sent off for the visitors near the end and, after Steve Sidwell equalised, Zamora won it. — *Internet*

Real Madrid's Jose Mourinho says I hope none of my players leave in January

MADRID, 3 Jan — Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho says he is hopeful that none of his players will leave the club in January.

Raul Albiol and Esteban Granero have both been linked with Madrid's exit door in recent weeks as the Spanish duo have been on the club's periphery under Mourinho. Gonzalo Higuain's agent insisted on Saturday that the Argentina international was determined to see out his contract, meanwhile, but Mourinho is worried about the effects that the transfer window may have on his squad.

"Until January 30 I am open [to what happens], but I would not like it if someone left," he told reporters at a press conference on Monday.

"There aren't a lot [of us] and this is a closed and balanced group [considering we have] to play three different competitions." Speaking ahead of Madrid's Copa del Rey match against Malaga, Mourinho refused to reveal whether he will make changes to his usual starting side.

"I have decided my team, but not even my players know who will play," he said.

Should Madrid and Barcelona progress in the competition, the two clubs will face each other in the quarter-finals, but Mourinho is not thinking about a potential showdown against the Catalan giants.

Internet



Real Madrid's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho attends a press conference before a training session at Bernabeu stadium on 2 Jan, 2012 in Madrid. — *INTERNET*

Chennai Open 2012: Erlich, Ram breeze past young Indian pair

Chennai: The fourth seed Israeli pair of Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram breezed past the inexperienced Indian doubles pairing of Mohit Mayur Jayaprakash and Ramkumar Ramanathan in the first round of the doubles event of the Chennai Open 2012 on Monday.

The 18-year-old Jayaprakash and 17-year-old Ramanathan showed some spunk towards the latter stages of the match, but the accomplished Israeli pair exploited their inexperience in the highest level and won 6-2, 6-1.

The Indian pair, whose combined age is only a year more than 34-year-old Erlich, started well by going 2-2 in the opening set, before the opposition ran away with the match. Erlich and Ram broke Jayaprakash and Ramanathan in games six and eight of the first set and games two and

International Sports

Klinsmann says Spurs deserve top four place

HUNTINGTON BEACH, 3 Jan — Juergen Klinsmann remains an unabashed Tottenham Hotspur fan more than a decade after leaving the north London club and the new United States coach even has his cell phone programmed to sound an alert every time a Spurs result is published. Klinsmann told *Reuters* in an interview he is delighted his former team are challenging near the top of the Premier League because the right ingredients have come together - a strong squad, stability, consistency and patience.

"They're a club that really deserves to be in the top four and this year there might even be a little bit more possible with a bit of luck," said the ex-Germany striker after Spurs ended 2011 as London's leading side in third place in the table. Klinsmann is still revered at White Hart Lane where he spent the 1994-95 season and the second half of 1997-98. "I'll always carry that club in my heart because it's a really special place," he said.

"The squad is now strong enough to compete in the Champions League. It has been a process. The owners had patience. They knew it would take time and they gave (manager) Harry Redknapp the time. They built this and worked on it together. "Klinsmann had an exceptional time at Spurs, scoring

29 goals in his first spell when they reached the FA Cup semi-finals, and became the first German to be named England's Footballer of the Year since Manchester City goalkeeper Bert Trautmann in 1956. — *Internet*



Juergen Klinsmann

Federer, Nadal start season at Qatar Open

DOHA, 3 Jan — Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are eyeing a confidence-boosting victory at the season-opening Qatar Open. But Novak Djokovic, elsewhere in the Persian Gulf, is already showing signs that made him such a force in 2011. Djokovic wrapped up his first title in Abu Dhabi on Saturday and said he is feeling better than he did at this time last season. That does not bode well for the No. 2 Nadal and No. 3 Federer. After all, the top-ranked Djokovic won three Grand Slams on his way to a 70-6 record. Nadal, who lost to Djokovic in the US Open and Wimbledon finals in 2011, said expectations for the Serb are clear.

"Everybody thinks that Djokovic will be difficult to

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger unhappy after loss to Fulham

LONDON, 3 Jan — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said referee Lee Probert cost his side victory in the 2-1 defeat at Fulham. The Gunners had looked set to clinch three points at Craven Cottage until the home side staged a late comeback. Wenger was unhappy with the decision to send off defender Johan Djourou for two bookable offences and felt his team should have been awarded a penalty.

"The referee influenced the game in completely the wrong way, in my opinion," said Wenger. "The first yellow card [for Djourou] was not a yellow card," he said. "The second was a foul for us." Asked whether his side should have had a first-half



Wenger unhappy with 'naive' referee

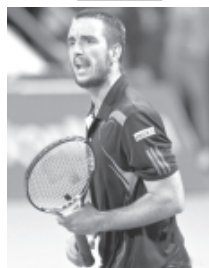
penalty when Philippe Senderos appeared to trip Gervinho, Wenger said: "200%, but we know we don't get penalties."

Arsenal dominated the first half but only had Laurent Koscielny's header to show for their efforts. And they were made to pay for their profligacy in the second half as Fulham increased the pressure, culminating in a late fightback after Djourou's dismissal with Steve Sidwell and Bobby Zamora scoring in the final five minutes. "We had a good first half and in the second half we were tired in the last 10 minutes," added Wenger. "We lost the game because we were down to 10 men."

"In the end I think it was very unlucky to lose a game with 10 men. When you see that we finished the game with 10 men it is very difficult to take and that makes a massive difference when you played 48 hours before. It is too difficult." Wenger also apportioned some blame to Fulham, whom he claimed had attempted to get Djourou sent off. — *Internet*

Serbia's Viktor Troicki celebrates after winning the first round match of men's singles against Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic at the ATP Qatar Open tennis tournament in Doha, capital of Qatar, on 2 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET



Chelsea goes fourth with win as Arsenal collapses

LONDON, 3 Jan — Late goals provided a fresh twist to the tussle for fourth place in the Premier League on Monday, as Chelsea surged to victory at Wolverhampton Wanderers and 10-man Arsenal slumped to defeat at Fulham. After the title itself, fourth place is the most hotly contested prize

in English football - bringing with it the prospect of qualifying for the lucrative television deals and kudos of the Champions League group stage.

For Chelsea to be occupying that place at Arsenal's expense as they prepare for the second half of the season, can only be good news for Blues coach Andre Villas-Boas.

That said, his sights are set even higher. Chelsea appeared set to drop points when Stephen Ward canceled out Ramires' goal in the 84th minute, but Frank Lampard produced a late goal to secure a 2-1 win at Wolves and end a four-match run without a win. Arsenal showed no such powers of recovery, though,

losing by the same scoreline at Fulham after Steve Sidwell canceled out Laurent Koscielny's first-half header in the 85th minute.

Already down to 10 men following Johan Djourou's sending off in the 78th, Arsenal's defense was breached again in stoppage time when Bobby Zamora produced the winner. Chelsea now has a one-point advantage over fifth-place Arsenal, but is eight points behind the pacesetters: Manchester rivals City and United. "If we go on a winning streak of five or six games, which we are capable of, we can be fighting for this league," Villas-Boas said.

Internet



The fourth seed Israeli pair of Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram.

DISTRICT NEWS

Model school in health awarded

YAMETHIN, 3 Jan—Prizes were awarded to School Health Model School in Yamethin Township on 30 December.

The first prize went to Tabekka Basic Education Primary School, the second to Kyauktaiksu BEPS and the third to Kyidawgon BEPS.—*Myanma Alin*



Asphalt road opened to hail Independence Day

SAGAING, 3 Jan—As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, asphalt Chandawgyi Road (Shwehintha Road) was opened in Sagaing on 30 December.

Local authorities formally opened the road.

The facility, 1575 feet long, was built by Sagaing Township Development Affairs Committee with contribution of local people.

Kyemon

Computer and spoken English course opened

SALINGYI, 3 Jan—Salingyi Township Women's Affairs Organization, Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and W.Com Centre conducted the basic computer and spoken English course at the hall of township General Administration Department on 15 December.

The training course will last one month.

Township IPRD

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(4-1-12 09:30 am ~ 5-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

- * News
- * Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation (Significant Events of 2011)
- * News
- * Myanmar As Told By History
- * Bagan, Our Pride and Glory of the Past
- * The Conspicuous Dhammayangyi
- * News
- * Song
- * News
- * Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-3)
- * News
- * Myanmar Traditional Identity (Episode-2)
- * Myanma Chinthe
- * News
- * Record Album
- * News
- * Shwe Myanmar (The Golden Land)
- * News
- * Myanmar Tradition of Lotus Flower
- * Myanmar Movies
- * "Runaway Righteous Guy"

MYANMAR TV

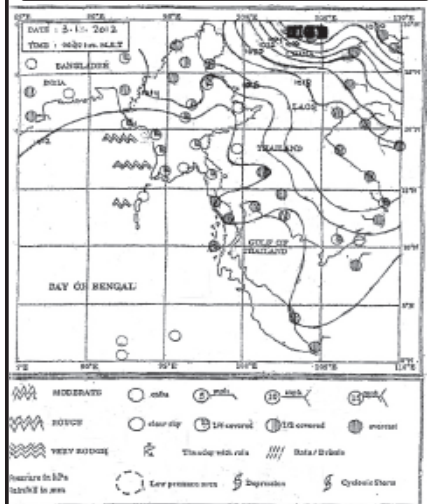
(4-1-2012) (Wednesday)

- 6:45 am
- 1. 64th Anniversary Independence Day-flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony (Live Broadcast)
- 8:45 am
- 2. Documentary
- 8:55 am
- 3. International News
- 4:00 am
- 4. Martial Song
- 4:05 am
- 5. Song of National Races
- 4:10 am
- 6. Cultural Dances
- 4:30 pm
- 7. Teleplay (Health)
- 5:20 pm
- 8. International Science News
- 5:40 pm
- 9. "ASEAN" Programmes
- 6:00 pm
- 10. Evening News
- 8:00 pm
- 11. News
- 8:00 pm
- 12. Independence Day Programme
- 13. Korea NG Award
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 15. Teleplay



Physical activity boosts academics.—INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 4th January, 2012

S. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	23/73	14/57	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	26/82	15/59	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
3	Kayah	30/87	21/70	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	20/68	07/45	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	20/68	13/55	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	30/86	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
7	Tanintharyi	34/93	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	33/91	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
9	Magway	33/91	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	32/90	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Mon	35/95	22/72	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	35/95	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
13	Rakhine	32/90	19/66	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	34/75	14/57	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	26/79	11/52	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	26/82	15/59	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyarwady	33/91	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	34/93	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	32/90	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

During the past (24) hours, rain have been fairly widespread in Tanintharyi Region and Kachin State, scattered in Mandalay and Yangon Regions, isolated in Sagaing and Bago Regions, Shan State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Tanintharyi Region. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above January averages temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Mon State, (5°C) to (6°C) above January averages temperatures in Mandalay, Magway and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature was Patheingyi (7°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthaung (3.15) inches.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman sea and Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of isolated rain are likely in the Upper Myanmar Areas.

Condolences

Mr. Jiro Iwasaki (Aged 92)

We would like to tender our heartfelt condolences for the passing away on December 30, 2011, of Mr. Jiro Iwasaki, aged 92, beloved father of Mr. Toru Iwasaki, Chief Coach, Myanmar Baseball Federation and an alumnus of the International University of Japan, Niigata, currently residing at No. 10, Nicole Street, Ward 7, Mayangone Township, Yangon.

**Myanmar Alumni Chapter
International University of Japan**

All study, no play making your Jack a dull boy

LONDON, 3 Jan—Ever thought why does your child fail to perform better in classroom or be cheerful? Well, you can get your answer the sooner you understand the old saying—all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, a new study has suggested.

A study conducted by scientists in the Netherlands has indicated that the schoolchildren may be able to boost their classroom performance by getting out on the playing field.

A review of previous research found evidence that physical activity can improve academic achievement in

children and teenagers.

Scientists pooled data from 14 studies with sample sizes ranging from 53 to 12,000 participants aged between six and 18.

After the study, the researchers said exercise may help mental faculties by increasing blood and oxygen flow to the brain, reducing stress and improving mood.

Physical activity could also boost levels of growth factors that help generate new nerve cells and assist the 'rewiring' of neurons.

The study authors, led by Amika Singh, from Vrije University Medical Centre in

Amsterdam, wrote in the journal Archives of Paediatrics & Adolescent Medicine: 'According to the best-evidence synthesis, we found strong evidence of a significant positive relationship between physical activity and academic performance.'

'The findings of one high-quality intervention study and one high-quality observational study suggest that being more physically active is positively related to improved academic performance in children.'

Internet

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issues notifications on conferring titles and medals of commendation

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued the Notification No. (1/2012) on conferring religious titles on Sayadawgyi, Sayadaws who are engaged in the teaching of Buddhist literature, Sayadaws who are engaged in the teaching of meditation, mobile Dhamma preachers and those who are engaged in local and foreign missionary and those who are outstanding in the support of Buddha Sasana with four essential requisites, No. (2/2012) on conferring honorary titles and medals, No. (3/2012) on conferring Good Military Service Thingaha Medals, No. (4/2012) on conferring Good Military Service Medals, No. (5/2012) on conferring Good Civil Service Medals, No. (6/2012) conferring Good Police Service Medals, No. (7/2012) on conferring Police Service Medals and No. (8/2012) on conferring Civil Service Medals and Law and Order Restoration Medals on military, police and service personnel today, 64th Anniversary Independence Day.—MNA

Third regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw to commence on 26th January

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Pyithu Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Announcement No. 1/2012 dated 3-1-2012.

The translation of the announcement is as follows;

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Pyithu Hluttaw

Announcement No. 1/2012

10th Waxing of Pyatho, 1373 ME
3rd January, 2012

Third regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw summoned

In accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 34 of Pyithu Hluttaw Law, it is hereby announced that the third regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw shall be convened at 10 am on 3rd Waxing of Tabodwe 1373 ME (26th January, 2012) Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Sd/

Thura Shwe Mann
Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw

Third regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw to commence on 26th January

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Amyotha Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Announcement No. 1/2012 dated 3-1-2012.

The translation of the announcement is as follows;

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Amyotha Hluttaw

Announcement No. 1/2012

10th Waxing of Pyatho, 1373 ME
3rd January, 2012

Third regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw summoned

In accord with Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 34 of Amyotha Hluttaw Law, it is hereby announced that the third regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw shall be convened at 10 am on 3rd Waxing of Tabodwe 1373 ME (26th January, 2012) Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Sd/

Khin Aung Myint
Speaker
Amyotha Hluttaw

Darren Clarke hails 'golden era' for European golf



Darren Clarke, right, and Rory McIlroy helped Europe win the 2010 Ryder Cup.

LONDON, 4 Jan—Open champion Darren Clarke believes European golf is experiencing another "golden era".

The 43-year-old won his first major last summer while fellow Northern

Ireland player Rory McIlroy stormed the US Open and England's Luke Donald finished on top of the money lists.

"Golf over here is very strong at the moment," Clarke said.

"It's like the sort of dominance we had in the late 80s and early 90s, we're back to that golden era."

Nick Faldo, Seve Ballesteros, Ian Woosnam, Bernhard Langer and Jose Maria Olazabal were regular co-habitants in the world's top 10 during that period and, fast forward to 2011, four Europeans occupied the top four spots in the final week of the year.

"We're incredibly fortunate," added Clarke, who ended a 20-year wait to land his first major, at Royal St George's, last July.

"You look at Rory and the way he's been playing, and what he did at the

US Open.

"And you've got Luke, who finished number one in the money list in the United States and Europe. I don't think that will be done again. What Luke achieved was monumental."

The Northern Ireland player, who has played in four Ryder Cup-winning teams, and was a victorious vice-captain in 2010, said it was only a matter of time before world number two Lee Westwood would join the elite.

"My good mate is knocking on the door - he'll win a major, or majors, sooner rather than later," he added.

Another friend Clarke believes will again be challenging for the big prizes is Tiger Woods.

Internet

Hluttaw representatives to report to Hluttaw Office

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Invitation letters have been sent to Hluttaw representatives as they were called by the Speakers of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw to attend the third regular session of First Hluttaws which commence at 10 am on 26th January (Thursday).

Hluttaw representatives, whether they got the invitation letter or not, are to report to the Hluttaw Office here exactly on 23rd January and by 24th January, bringing along with them representative certificate and representative identity card in order that necessary preparations can be made ahead of the Hluttaw sessions.

MNA

Pyay Road to be closed temporarily on Independence Day

YANGON, 2 Jan—As Yangon Region is going to hold flag-hoisting ceremony of 64th Anniversary Independence Day at the People's Square on 4th January, Pyay Road (from Shinsawpu junction to Ahlon junction) will be closed temporarily, starting 3:30 am till the end.

MNA

A new nation with new strength

Hailing
the 64th
Anniversary
Independence
Day

Studying democratic transition of global nations, any could not be carried out successfully without difficulty. They had to go through a series of hardships, obstacles and challenges.

However difficult our journey is, we have to march towards the destination with no turning back if it is in the interests of our own nation and people. Such a commitment to reach the goal with no turning back has not been made without rationality.

YANGYI AUNG

PAGES 8+9

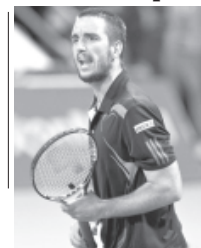
POEM:

Independence and joy

- * Independence Myanmar restored
After a long period of enslavement
Never to fall under subjugation again
Means patriots tried to find
Adopting system of their very own
Prosperity for entire Myanmar
Her future in golden age
Democracy on the march to flourish
Shaping country nationalities
Union's sons and daughters
- * Unity Myanmar restored
All in coherence and kindness

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

Federer, Nadal start season at Qatar Open



PAGE 9

PAGE 14