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Saturday, 7 January, 2012

True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Resignation of Union Minister allowed

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—The President Office issued Order No. 2/2012 dated 6-1-2012.

The translation of the order is as follows;

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Order No. 2/2012
13th Waxing of Pyatho, 1373 ME
6th January, 2012

Resignation from the post of Union Minister allowed

Union Minister at the President Office U Kyaw Swa Khaing who has submitted resignation letter to resign from his post on health grounds, was allowed to resign according to Section 235, Subsection (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Article 68, Subsection (a) of the Union Government Law.

Sd/
Thein Sein
 President
 Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Resignation of Taninthayi Region Chief Minister allowed

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—The President Office issued Order No. 3/2012 dated 6-1-2012.

The translation of the order is as follows;

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Order No. 3/2012
13th Waxing of Pyatho, 1373 ME
6th January, 2012

Resignation from the post of Region Chief Minister allowed

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Khin Zaw who has submitted his resignation letter to resign from his post on health grounds, was allowed to resign according to Section 264, Subsection (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Article 52, Subsection (a) of the Region or State Government Law.

Sd/
Thein Sein
 President
 Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army and party



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing receives a delegation led by Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman, here, this

morning.

At the call, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said that Myanmar and India are neighbouring countries maintaining friendly relations. He said that the visit of the Indian Chief of the Army Staff will help further strengthen

friendly ties between the armed forces. He added that both armed forces would focus on bilateral relationship, peace and stability at the border areas and regional development tasks, and exchange of sports teams of both armed forces between the two countries. He noted

that Myanmar can serve as a bridge between South Asian countries and Southeast Asian nations. Moreover, he said that both armed forces will make coordination between the two countries in a cordial manner.

The Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian

Army said that Myanmar and India share same culture and both armed forces have been maintaining friendly relations between them and further strengthening the relationships between the two countries. He confirmed that India does not support any armed groups that oppose

Myanmar. He said that India will cooperate in border affairs, enhance friendly ties between the two armed forces, make coordination and cooperate in regional development tasks.

Also present at the call were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command.

The Indian Chief of the Army Staff was accompanied by Major-General SK Gadeock, senior military officers of the Indian delegation and the Indian Defence Attaché.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 7 January, 2012

Challenges of the nearest future

On the wall of the global house, 2012 calendar has taken the place of 2011.

The global panorama seems to be less tensions, conflicts and revolutions for the moment. The nations big or small across the world are playing different roles on global political stage, whose background has undergone a change.

The drive for global development has shifted from the West to Asia and South America. East-looking policy has become hot among the global powers. However, dialogues, debates, demands, alliance and grouping of nations strong or weak go to the one ultimate objective — own national interests.

Rejoining the global family, Myanmar has to seek opportunities for her national interests taking advantages of interests shift of superpowers and fostering relations with neighbours and from regional organizations.

Urgent challenges are awaiting Myanmar on its road to democracy. Making eternal peace with national armed groups, optimistic participation of all in nation-building endeavours, continued implementation of modernization plans, creditability of clean government and good governance are urgent needs for Myanmar whose democracy is its infancy.

No doubt, Myanmar currently is not on par with governments, peoples and practices of old democracies, but the democracy sapling grown on its land is showing encouraging signs. And all we need to do is to give a loving and caring hand in nurturing the sapling to become a deeply-rooted big tree.

We have eaten and are eating the fruits grown by our forefathers. Trees grown by our predecessors have given and are giving shelters to us. Whenever we enjoy this kind of benefits, we bow to our older generation with much appreciation. You are holding the present and what would you leave for your younger generation?

Myanmar, China to cooperate in science and technology sector

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—A Chinese delegation led by Vice-Chairman of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Professor Dr Ding Zhongli, accompanied by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Geo-Sciences Association Dr Win Swe and party, called on Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, at Minister's office yesterday. Both sides discussed matters related to development of qualified human resources and mutual cooperation in the sectors of sciences and technology between two countries.

MNA

State Flag hoisted in Magway on 64th Anniversary Independence Day

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—A ceremony to hoist the State Flag in commemoration of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012 was held at Magway Region Sports Ground in Magway at 4.20 am on 4 January.

It was attended by Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe and region ministers, regional level departmental officials, rectors and faculty members of universities, service personnel, students and local people, totalling over 14,000.

Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe read the message sent by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the ceremony. After the ceremony, the sports competitions to mark the Independence Day took place at the sports ground. The Region Chief Minister and officials awarded the winners.

The Region Chief Minister also attended the opening ceremony of fuel station No. 002 of Magway Economic Group Co Ltd.

MNA

Myanmar Gazette

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following heads of service organizations to the heads of service organizations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Khin Maung Lay Director-General Directorate of Trade Ministry of Commerce	Director-General Border Trade Department Ministry of Commerce
(b) U Aung Min Director-General Border Trade Department Ministry of Commerce	Managing Director Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading Ministry of Commerce
(c) U Kyaw Htoo Managing Director Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading Region Ministry of Commerce	Director-General Directorate of Trade Ministry of Commerce

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Win Shein of Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department of the Ministry of Labour on expiry of the one-year probation period.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed General Manager U Sein Lwin of Myanma Pearl Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines as Managing Director of the same enterprise on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Mohnyin dwellers get eighth water tank

MOHNYIN, 6 Jan—A water tank, donated by Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Sai Tin

Aung of Mohnyin Township was opened in Helon Village of Mohnyin Township on 2 January.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Sai San Win, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Soe Lay and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives U Pe Thuang and U Sai Tin Aung.

Township Development Affairs Committee has laid water pipelines to supply natural water and the water tank. The local people built seven water tanks on a self-reliant basis.

The eighth facility was built by Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Sai Tin Aung for water supply to local people.

NLM 001

Fire breaks out at fried potato factory in Insein

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—A fire occurred at U San Min's fried potato factory on Yadanathukha road, Kannarale ward, Insein Township, Yangon North District, at 2:20 am today while plastic was being heated up.

The fire destroyed one warehouse and was under control at 3:30 am. The 33 fire engines, five management vehicles and one ambulance were brought to the spot.

MNA

Tachilek opens new Pyidawtha Market

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, new Pyidawtha Market was opened in Hsanh sai (B) Ward in Tachilek on 4 January.

The market is constituted with 72 shops and 96 benches in three complexes.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

LOCAL SPORTS

Mini-Marathon organized in Thanbyuzayat

THANBYUZAYAT, 6 Jan—The Thanbyuzayat Township Committee of Child Rights Chairman's Trophy Mini-Marathon Race was organized for the third time by Township General Administration Department and World Vision on 20 December morning.

The senior event (13-16 aged) started from the Setse beach to Thanbyuzayat Township Sports Ground and the junior event (9-12 aged) from Basic Education High School in Kyonkakat Village to the same finishing point.

A total of 666 runners actively took part in the senior and junior mini-marathon race events.

Township administrator U Ye Kyaw Khaing (R), members of the race organizing committee and in-charge of World Vision (Thanbyuzayat) U Saw Nay Thar awarded the winners from the first to the 10th positions in the two events.

Township IPRD

People enjoy tug-of-war contest

YANGON, 6 Jan—To mark the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the Inter-Township Men's and Women's tug-of-war contest of Yangon West District was organized at Basic Education High School No. 1 in Lanmadaw Township on 31 December.

A total of 26 teams of the district participated in the contest. Among the spectators were Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Thu Zaw and officials.

Myanma Alin



Thai elephant killed, mutilated 'for restaurants'

BANGKOK, 6 Jan—Thai wildlife officials on Thursday said body parts from a dead wild elephant found without its tusks, tail and penis were likely destined for restaurants in tourist areas.

The creature, which was discovered in Kaeng Krachan National Park in central Thailand on Monday, is believed to have died at the hands of a local gang of poachers. "They cut its tusks,

trunk, sexual organ and tail. Those parts must be sold to the middleman and will be sent to restaurants in the main tourist spots like Phuket, Surat Thani and Hua Hin," park head Chaiwat Limlik-hitakorn told AFP.

The wildlife department has found four elephant carcasses killed by poachers in the past three years.

Chaiwat blamed ineffective laws for the increase in the crime and putting more than 250 wild elephants and the officers in danger. Thailand is known as a global hub for the illegal ivory trade, with a dramatic rise in seizures of tusks in recent years as the decimation of the kingdom's elephants has seen poachers turn to Africa for their plunder.

Internet



An elephant walks past a security check point in Thailand's restive southern Yala Province, May 2007.

INTERNET



Firefighters work in an area of the Torres del Paine national park in Torres del Paine, Chile on 1 Jan, 2012. Firefighters are making progress against a major blaze that has burned at least 48.—INTERNET

Chile wildfires kill six firefighters, one missing

SANTIAGO, 6 Jan—Shifting winds caused flames to sweep over a group of firefighters battling wildfires in Chile on Thursday, killing six of them, badly burning two and leaving another missing.

A 10th firefighter listed as missing after his brigade was trapped in the flames was later found unhurt, said Gov Miguel Mellado of Cautin, a state about 450 miles (730 kilometres) south of the capital, Santiago.

Nearly 50 wildfires have sprung up in southern Chile, destroying hundreds of houses, forcing the evacuations of thousands of people and causing millions of dollars in damage to the forestry and tourism industries that fuel the economy in the country's

Patagonia region. The wildfires alongside the Cordillera de la Costa are being fueled by strong winds, unusually high temperatures and dangerously dry conditions.

A sudden shift in the high winds left the group of firefighters overwhelmed by flames.

"The wind trapped them and the flames passed over" the firefighters, Mellado said.

Mellado originally said five firefighters were killed, but President Sebastian Pinera raised the toll to six. Fires have blackened much of the Torres del Paine park, which attracts 150,000 tourists annually, most during the brief southern summer, and destroyed at least part of a mill run by Chile's leading timber company.—Internet

Crews gaining ground on northwestern Montana fires

BROWNING, 6 Jan—A pair of rare winter wildfires fueled by 60 mph gusts burned buildings and forced hundreds from their homes overnight on Montana's Blackfoot Indian Reservation, but better weather conditions on Thursday helped firefighters get a handle on the blazes.

The grass fires started around sundown Wednesday and together grew to 16,000 acres by early Thursday, said tribal spokesman Wayne Smith. At least 300 people were evacuated from homes and a boarding school, though no injuries had been reported.

"It's probably the biggest grass fire in reservation history," Smith said. "It was just a wall of fire heading east." Smith estimated between 10 and 15 buildings were damaged or destroyed on the northwestern Montana reservation east of Glacier National Park. Fire incident commander Robert LaPlant confirmed Thursday evening that one home had been destroyed but did not yet know the total number of structures damaged.

JR Clark, a rancher who lives off Boarding School Road north of Browning, the site of the larger fire, said he and a hired hand ignored the

mandatory evacuation order and stayed to fight the blaze.

"I said, 'You're going to have to throw me



in jail because I'm not leaving,'" Clark said. "I had to save my ranch."

The two of them used a tractor with an attached plow to attack the fire as it approached the main house. After working from 6 pm until

In this photo taken on 4 Jan, 2011 showing smoke and fire rising over Browning, Mt Blackfoot tribe officials say firefighters are starting to get a handle on two wind-fueled fires that have burned buildings and forced evacuations on the northwestern Montana reservation.—INTERNET

3 am, the danger had passed. They were able to save Clark's house and another one across the highway, but a neighbour's house was destroyed, as was one of Clark's barns.

Internet

One NATO service member killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 6 Jan—A soldier with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed in the Taleban-linked attack in Afghanistan on Friday, bringing the number of casualties to four since Thursday, a statement of the alliance said. "An International Security Assistance Force service member died following an militant attack in southern Afghanistan today," the statement said.

However, it did not identify the nationality of the victim, saying it is ISAF policy to defer causality identification procedures to the relevant national authorities. Three more service members of the NATO-led forces were killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan on Thursday.

The southern Afghan Provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan have been regarded as the hotbed of Taleban militants.

Since the beginning of 2012, six foreign soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan.

Xinhua

Russian, Iranian leaders discuss nuclear issues over phone

MOSCOW, 6 Jan—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his Iranian counterpart, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, had a telephone conversation on Thursday to discuss a series of regional issues including Iran's nuclear programme.

"Medvedev pointed out with satisfaction that Teheran showed positive attitude to the Russian plan for the step-by-step restoration of trust in international negotiations on Iran's nuclear issues," the Kremlin Press service said.

During the conversation, Teheran backed Moscow's diplomatic efforts to settle the dispute over its nuclear programme, said the Kremlin, adding that the two sides have agreed to go ahead with consultations on the matter.

According to the Kremlin, the phone talks were initiated by the Iranian side, concerning the development of bilateral cooperation in 2012.

The two presidents also exchanged views on regional issues, stressing that the Middle East situation should be solved by political methods and by establishing a dialogue between all sides concerned.

Xinhua

British ICRC worker kidnapped in Pakistan

QUETTA, 6 Jan—Unidentified gunmen on Thursday kidnapped a British employee of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Pakistan's militancy-hit southwestern Province of Baluchistan. The ICRC said its health programme manager Khalil Rasjed Dale was seized around lunchtime in Quetta, the main town of the province, which borders both Iran and Afghanistan.

Violence in Baluchistan has surged in recent years, and it has seen a number of abductions of Westerners, including the local head of the UN refugee agency in 2009 and two Swiss tourists last year.

The ICRC said Dale was

taken as he returned home from work but police, quoting witnesses, said he was abducted in front of his office by eight masked gunmen who were lying in wait for him.

One opened the door of Dale's Land Cruiser and kidnapped him at gunpoint, police said. "The moment Dale reached in front of his office, unknown gunmen riding a Land Cruiser picked him and took him away," Nazir Kurd, a senior police official in Quetta told AFP.

Kurd said Dale — initially named by police as Khalil Ahmad Dale — is a British Muslim and has been working in Quetta for a year.

The ICRC office is in a high security neighbourhood

along with offices of other international organizations.

A statement from the humanitarian organisation called for Dale's "swift and

unconditional release" and said it had no information about the identities or motives of his captors.

Internet



A security guard enters the building of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Quetta, southwest Pakistan, in 2010.—INTERNET

S'pore scientists identify gene responsible for lung cancer



*Singapore scientists have, for the first time, identified a gene responsible for lung cancer. The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) said the finding, reported in the advanced online issue of Cell on 5 Jan, is a huge step towards finding a cure for the disease.—INTERNET*

SINGAPORE, 6 Jan—Singapore scientists have, for the first time, identified a gene responsible for lung cancer.

The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) said the finding, reported in the advanced online issue of Cell on 5 January, is a huge step towards finding a cure for the disease. The team is headed by Dr Bing Lim, associate director of Cancer Stem Cell Biology

at the Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS), a research institute under the umbrella of A*STAR, and Dr Elaine Lim, medical oncologist affiliated with Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) and



National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS).

A*STAR said a small number of cells, known as cancer stem cells or tumour-initiating cells (TIC), are responsible for the promotion of tumour growth. And the team was successful in finding a marker, known as CD166, to identify these cells.

With the finding of this marker, the team then made more inroads into the genomic study of the TICs, and discovered several genes that

were important for the growth of cancer cells.

The metabolic enzyme known as glycine decarboxylase (GLDC) is a normal occurring enzyme in cells, present in small quantities.

The scientists discovered that in abnormal instances when the level of GLDC rises significantly, it causes changes in the behaviour of the cell, making it cancerous.

Internet

Researchers create healthier cigarette

Ithaca, (NY), 6 Jan—US researchers found lycopene and grape seed extract drastically reduced the amount of cancer-causing free radicals produced in cigarettes.

Dr Boris Dzilkovski at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, said from a healthcare perspective, the best cigarette is no cigarette, but a less toxic cigarette may be helpful for the millions of people a year who try to quit smoking.

"The implications of this technique can help reduce the hazardous effects

of tobacco smoke because free radicals are a major group of carcinogens," said Dzilkovski, a co-author of the study.

Using the natural antioxidant extracts — lycopene, the bright red pigment and phytochemical found in tomatoes and other red fruits and vegetable and grape seed extract—in cigarette filters, drastically reduced the amount of cancer-causing free radicals passing through the filter, the researchers said.

Internet

Health Tip: When aggressive behavior signals a problem

Children may act out in an aggressive way because they're frustrated or just don't know how to express their emotions. But there are times when it's wise for a parent to call the pediatrician during an aggressive outburst.

The American Academy of Pediatrics says you should call the child's doctor if:

- * Aggression causes physical injury to other people or himself/herself.
- * Aggression lasts longer than a few weeks, and you are unable to manage your child's behavior.
- * Your child attacks you or someone else.
- * Your child is sent home from school or is barred from playtime as a result of aggression.
- * You feel afraid for your safety.

Internet



US researchers found lycopene and grape seed extract drastically reduced the amount of cancer-causing free radicals produced in cigarettes.—INTERNET

Samsung operating profit hits new high in Q4



A model poses with the new Samsung Galaxy S II LTE smart phone during its launch ceremony at the headquarters of Samsung Electronics in Seoul, South Korea, on 26 Sept, 2011.—XINHUA

SEOUL, 6 Jan—Samsung Electronics, the world's largest maker of memory chips, televisions and flat screens, estimated Friday that its operating profit hit a new high in the fourth quarter last year due to brisk sales of smart-phones. The preliminary Samsung operating profit was estimated at fresh record high of 5.2 trillion won (4.5 billion US dollars) in the October-December period, up 22.35 percent from the previous quarter, and increasing 72.76 percent from a year earlier.

The fourth-quarter result was the largest in the company's history. The previous record was 5.01

trillion won tallied in the second quarter of 2010.

The fourth-quarter sales were estimated at a new high of 47 trillion won (40.63 billion US dollars), up 13.88 percent from the previous quarter, and up 12.25 percent from a year before. Samsung's revenue kept expanding last year, with 36.99 trillion won in the first quarter, 39.44 trillion won in the second quarter and 41.27 trillion won in the third quarter.

For the whole year of 2011, sales were estimated at a fresh record of 164.7 trillion won (142.39 billion US dollars), up from 154.63 trillion won in 2010. The preliminary estimate for operating profit was 16.15 trillion won (13.96 billion

US dollars), down from 17.3 trillion won in 2010.

"A total of 900 billion won was estimated to be reflected in the fourth-quarter operating profit as one-off factors. Samsung was estimated to sell its HDD business at a profit of 700 billion won, while reversing its allowances worth 200 billion won earmarked for royalty costs after reaching an amicable settlement on cross-licensing with Microsoft," said Seo Won-seok, an analyst at Korea Investment & Securities in Seoul.—Xinhua

Nikkei opens lower on euro's fall

TOKYO, 6 Jan—Tokyo stocks opened slightly lower Friday with the key Nikkei index down 0.27 percent after the euro's fall against US dollar and Japanese yen overnight. At 9:15 am, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average dropped 22.91 points, or 0.27 percent, from Thursday to 8,465.80. The broader Topix index was down 2.34 points, or 0.32 percent, to 733.94.—Xinhua

Indian stocks open lower

MUMBAI, 6 Jan—Indian main stock index Sensex opened at 15,789.08 points Friday, 68 points or 0.42 percent lower from previous close of 15,857.08 on global cues.

Capital goods, metal, banking and realty sector dropped 1.13 percent, 1.12 percent, 1.05 percent and 0.95 percent, respectively.

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel, copper refiner Sterlite Industries, property developer Jaiprakash Associates and DLF lost 2.42 percent, 2.34 percent, 2.15 percent and 1.84 percent.

Still, Tata Power, automobile maker Maruti Suzuki, software outsourcing player Infosys and Reliance Industries gained 0.59

percent, 0.36 percent, 0.47 percent and 0.72 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

Oil clings to new plateau

NEW YORK, 6 Jan—Crude oil prices clung to a new plateau above \$101 per barrel Thursday in New York as forecasts called for

temperatures to remain above normal.

With temperate weather expected to continue in the Northeast, West Texas

Intermediate crude oil for February delivery dropped 30 cents to \$101.51 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Home heating oil added 0.86 cents to \$3.0474 per gallon, while reformulated blendstock gasoline lost 0.02 cents to \$2.7375 per gallon.

Henry Hub natural gas prices shed 0.1 cents to \$2.96 per million British thermal units.

At the pump, the national average price of unleaded gasoline climbed sharply, reaching \$3.319 per gallon from Wednesday's \$3.228, AAA said.—Internet



With gasoline prices falling below three dollars, area residents fill their cars and trucks during an ongoing winter storm that has left more than a foot of snow on the ground on 22 Dec, 2011 in Denver.—INTERNET

Business

science



Acamptoneustes densus.—INTERNET

German fossil find changes timeline

BRAUNSCHWEIG, 6 Jan—German paleontologists say they identified a species of prehistoric marine giant from a time when that family of reptiles was thought mostly to have died out.

Researchers from the State Natural History Museum in Braunschweig said the rare fossil ichthyosaur find from northern Germany is 130 million years old, dating from the Lower Cretaceous era. Most ichthyosaur fossils previously found date from the Jurassic era, millions of years earlier.

The newly discovered ichthyosaur species, unearthed during road work in 2005, has been called *Acamptoneustes densus*, “Stiff Swimmer.”

The neck vertebrae were so tightly arranged the species “couldn’t move its neck, so it must have shot through the water like a dart,” museum paleontologist Ulrich Joger told the BBC.

“It’s a spectacular find,” he said. “It raises new questions about the [Jurassic] extinction theory.”

The marine predator fed on fish and would have looked something like a dolphin, experts said, though the species are not related.—*Internet*

Fish mimics octopus that mimics a fish

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 Jan—A researcher has captured video in Indonesia of a fish mimicking an octopus known for mimicking other fish, in a circular case of copycat.

The mimic octopus, *Thaumoctopus mimicus*, can change its shape and modify its movements and color to impersonate toxic lionfish, flatfish and even sea snakes, allowing it to swim in the

open with relatively little fear of predators. The other actor in the researcher’s video, known as a jawfish, is a small timid fish that almost never ventures out of a burrow it digs in the sand. During a diving trip in Indonesia in July, researcher Godehard Kopp of the University of Göttingen in Germany filmed an unexpected partnership between the pair of animals, the *Christian Science*

Monitor reported Thursday.

A black-marble jawfish closely tagged behind the octopus as it moved across the sandy seafloor, its brown-and-white markings similar to marking on the octopus, making it difficult to spot among the octopus’ arms.

“It’s a pretty unique observation of mimicry — most of the time, a mimicking animal doesn’t actually follow the model it is

mimicking,” researcher Luiz Rocha, an ichthyologist at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, said. “But the mimicry wouldn’t work otherwise for this jawfish.” The jawfish found a way to get around in the open and not get eaten by anything else,” Rocha said. “It’s not a good swimmer, so any grouper or snapper or predatory fish would easily grab it otherwise.”—*Internet*

Mars rover to settle in for long winter

PASADENA, 6 Jan—NASA says its *Opportunity* Mars rover will spend its fifth martian winter working at a location informally named “Greeley Haven.”

The site is named as a tribute to planetary geologist Ronald Greeley, a member of the science team for the Mars rovers who died in October, a NASA release said Thursday.

The site features a sun-facing slope that will help the rover maintain adequate solar power during its fifth martian winter.

Opportunity’s solar panels have accumulated a thick coating of dust, so although it did not need to



NASA’s Mars Exploration Rover *Opportunity* used its navigation camera to capture this view of a northward-facing outcrop, “Greeley Haven,” where the rover will work during its fifth Martian winter.—INTERNET

stay on sun-facing slopes during previous martian winters, researchers say they want to give the rover as much help in the coming winter as they can.

While at Greeley Haven *Opportunity* will inspect mineral compositions and textures on the outcrop and record a full-circle, colour panorama of the area. The winter site is located on the rim of the 14-mile-wide Endeavour Crater, where *Opportunity* arrived five months ago after three years of driving from the smaller Victoria Crater, which it studied for two years.—*Internet*



LG will show off the world’s largest 3D Uatltra Definition (UD) TV, an 84” immersive 3D TV, at CES in 2012.—INTERNET

Apple planning ‘important’ event in Jan-end

NEW YORK, 6 Jan—Technology giant Apple is expected to make an “important” announcement at an event the company is planning here later this month, according to a report.

A report in “All Things D” said the Apple event in the city will not be about a new version of the iPad tablet or its TV venture, though the event is sure to set the rumour mill spinning that the company will introduce

another blockbuster product.

“Apple is planning an important — but not large-scale — event to be held in New York at the end of this month that will focus on a media-related announcement,” the report said. Sources in the report said the event is not related to an upcoming version of the iPad 3 or the rollout of Apple’s interactive TV initiative, with such events traditionally held in Silicon Valley.

The New York event could be about “some kind of advertising or even publishing announcement”, the sources said.

Apple Senior Vice-President of Internet Software and Services Eddy Cue is reportedly involved in the event. Cue is in charge of Apple’s media units, including the iTunes Store, App Store, iBookstore, as well as iAd and its iCloud services.

Apple recently opened



a massive new retail store in Manhattan’s Grand Central Terminal and is renovating its flagship glass cube outlet on Fifth Avenue.—*Internet*

Samsung to build 10-nano NAND flash plant in China

SEOUL, 6 Jan — Samsung Electronics, the world’s largest maker of memory chips, planned to build a semiconductor plant in China to produce NAND flash memory chips based on 10-nanometre class technology, the economy ministry said Wednesday.

According to the Ministry of Knowledge Economy, Samsung submitted an application for the factory construction to the ministry on 6 Dec, before getting approval Wednesday. The ministry made the decision after holding two meetings of the industrial technology security committee in a bid to assess the potential

technology leaks and the need for the firm to expand to China.

Samsung planned to start building the plant within the first half of this year after being approved by the Chinese government, according to the ministry. The company aimed to begin the factory’s operation in the second half of next year.

The Chinese plant, where 10-nano class NAND flash memory chips were planned to be manufactured, would be able to produce 100,000 wafers of 12-inch size per month after being built. Samsung began operating its latest factory in South Korea from September last year to mass produce 20-nano NAND

flash memory chips.

NAND flash memory refers to chips that store information in mobile devices such as table computers and smartphones. Demand for the chips has been fast growing in line with brisk sales of smartphones and tablet PCs.

Samsung planned to build the factory in China as the world’s No 2 economy is emerging as a major chip market. According to Gartner, global demand for NAND flash memory chips was expected to surge to 35.4 billion US dollars in 2015 from 20.6 billion dollars in 2010, with China’s portion of the global demand set to grow from 43 percent in 2010 to 55 percent in 2015.—*Xinhua*

Android Market achieves new milestone with 400,000 active apps

LOS ANGELES, 6 Jan—Google’s Android Market now has over 400,000 apps available, thanks in large part to its status as the largest provider of free apps for mobile tech consumers.

The report on Google’s app milestone was released this week by app analytical firm Distimo, and though it took the company longer to hit the 400,000 mark than Apple’s App Store — it took Google 31 months to reach the mark, and Apple only 22 months — Google’s growth from 300,000 to 400,000 apps (and from 200,000 to 300,000 apps) occurred in less time than it did for Apple.

In contrast, Apple’s App Store now features over 500,000 active apps, though the two stores differ greatly in terms of revenue.

More than 68 percent of the Android Market apps are free, and the store generates



Android Market gains momentum in mobile app marketplace thanks to wide array of free apps.—INTERNET

the bulk of its revenue from the “freemium” model — in which users pay for additional content beyond what’s provided in the basic, free app. Less than half of Apple’s revenue comes from free apps, and the store relies more on paid apps for revenue.

Overall, Apple collects almost four times as much revenue from its App Store as Google receives from the Android Market.—*Internet*



High water in north sparks Dutch evacuations

THE HAGUE, (Netherlands), 6 Jan—Dozens of farmers were warned to evacuate land north of the Dutch Capital on Thursday as a dike protecting the area threatened to collapse.

Local Mayor Ben Plandsoen told national broadcaster NOS that a polder — reclaimed land that is drained by pumps and mills — would likely be submerged under some 40 centimetres (16 inches) of water if the dike

protecting it breaks.

"You just don't know how the dike will hold up," he said. "It is saturated, so you don't know how much pressure it can take."

Late Thursday the dike was holding, but in the far north of the country authorities were still battling rising water levels by strengthening dikes with sandbags.

Staff at the Groninger Museum in the city of

Groningen also began moving exhibits, including a recently opened show of clothes by Tunisian designer Azzedine Alaïa, from its ground floor halls because of the rising level of a moat that surrounds the building.

The museum said it would be closed Friday.

Elsewhere, riverside residents were offered sandbags, as the low-lying Netherlands appeared to be largely winning the latest



Inundated farms land is seen near the village of Tolbert, northern Netherlands, on 5 Jan, 2012. Farmers were told Thursday to evacuate a village in the Netherlands' low-lying north after days of driving rain and strong winds sparked fears of a dike breach.—INTERNET

skirmish in its never-ending battle to stay dry.

The densely populated nation of nearly 17 million, 25 percent of which lies below

sea level, has been drenched by heavy rain and buffeted by strong northwesterly winds for days.

Internet

Antarctica not free of earthquakes

BEIJING, 6 Jan—Surveillance data on the size and frequency of earthquakes in Antarctica collected by China's Great Wall Station show that the continent is not earthquake-free, a Chinese seismic expert said Thursday. "China's newly-built seismic observatory in Great Wall Station has documented a hundred-odd earthquakes occurring in the region over the past year," said Chang Lijun, a member of China's 28th Antarctic expedition team. The discovery challenges the prevailing notion that the Antarctic has no earthquakes, as many earthquakes have gone undetected due to lack of seismological observation in the region.

However, thanks to technological advances, scientists have discovered that the continent is still subject to some minor tremors.

Xinhua



Police stand outside the Altamira prison, in the town of Altamira, Mexico, on 5 Jan, 2012, after a prison riot broke out leaving 31 inmates dead.—INTERNET

Police detain 20 in deadly Mexico prison riot

MEXICO CITY, 6 Jan—Mexican authorities have detained 20 inmates for alleged involvement in a prison riot that killed 31 in a state bordering Texas and are investigating whether prison staff were also responsible.

No prison officials had been dismissed so far over the fight in which one cell block invaded another Wednesday afternoon, causing a brawl among prisoners armed with makeshift knives, clubs and stones, said Morelos Canseco, interior secretary of Tamaulipas State.

The fight at a penitentiary in the Gulf coast city of Altamira also injured 13 people.

Canseco told reporters Thursday the bloodshed had nothing to do with prison overcrowding. He said the facility, with a capacity of 1,626 prisoners, housed 1,058 inmates at the time of the brawl.

He said state police moved in to control the riot.

The area near the border with the state of Veracruz has seen a spike in drug violence in the last two months from warring cartels.

In late December, five gunmen attacked three buses in Veracruz, killing seven passengers, including three US citizens, and four others in separate attacks. Twenty-three bodies were found along the border between the two states in the following days.—Internet

New Pentagon strategy stresses Asia, cyber, drones

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan—President Barack Obama unveiled a defence strategy on Thursday that would expand the US military presence in Asia but shrink the overall size of the force as the Pentagon seeks to slash spending by nearly half a trillion dollars after a decade of war.

The strategy, if carried out, would significantly reshape the world's most powerful military following the buildup that was a key part of President George W Bush's "war on terrorism" in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Cyberwarfare and unmanned drones would continue to grow in priority, as would countering attempts by China and Iran to block US power projection capabilities in areas like the South China Sea and the Strait of Hormuz.

But the size of the US Army and Marines Corps would shrink. So too might the US nuclear arsenal and the US military footprint in Europe.

Troop- and time-

intensive counter-insurgency operations, a staple of US military strategy since the 2007 "surge" of extra troops to Iraq, would be far more limited.

Reuters



The Virginia-class attack submarine USS Texas moors alongside the submarine tender USS Emory S Land in Subic Bay on 10 November, 2011.

INTERNET

Storms destroy dam in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 Jan—The storms in the mountain region in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state in recent days have caused the burst of a dam and 4,000 people to flee their homes.

The destruction of the dam, located in the town of Campos, in the northern part of the state, caused the Muriae River to flood and destroy a highway, making a 20 metre wide hole in the road and isolating some areas. The residents of a nearby neighbourhood were told to leave their homes, as the region was about to be flooded. The Army was called to help, and five trucks were sent to collect the residents. According to Campos' Civil Defence Secretary Henrique Oliveira, the water level in the area may rise 3.5 to four metres. "Only the

(house's) roofs will be left," he said. Other municipalities were damaged by the flood in the Muriae River. Six towns have already declared state of emergency in Rio state. Two people died and some 20,000 were forced to leave their homes due to the danger of floods and mudslides.

In the neighbouring states of Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo, the storms caused deaths and damages as well. In Minas Gerais, the death toll rose to eight, 71 municipalities declared the state of emergency and 9,000 people left their homes. In Espirito Santo, 21 municipalities declared the state of emergency and over 1,000 people have been evacuated.

Xinhua

African Union asks UN to raise Somalia force to 17,700

MOGADISHU, 6 Jan—The African Union on Thursday asked the United Nations to authorise an increase of its peacekeeping force in war-torn Somalia by 5,700 to 17,700 amid mounting attacks by Islamist rebels.

Monica Juma, Kenya's ambassador to the UN, made the announcement. The African force, called AMISOM, has been functioning under UN mandate since 2007 in the lawless Horn of Africa nation.

"The highlights were: the

need to increase the AMISOM troops from 12,000 to 17,700, the need to fast track the creation of an administrative unit in the liberated areas," Juma said, after presiding over a meeting of the AU's Peace and Security Council in the Ethiopian capital.

She also highlighted the need for "logistical support in order to optimise the capability of the AMISOM troops", and to beef up the "capability of the TFG (transitional government forces) and allied forces in order... to begin to

create a Somali security force." Regional states strive to battle the extremist Shebab insurgents who control much of southern Somalia.

The AMISOM currently comprises Djiboutian, Ugandan and Burundian soldiers, who have been deployed since 2007 to protect the Western-backed government from the Shebab in the war-shattered capital.

The hardline militants control large parts of southern Somalia but are facing increasing pressure from

regional armies and government forces, with the rebels leaving fixed positions in Mogadishu in favour of guerrilla tactics.

The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security Ramtane Lamamra said the African forces were now in a position to quell both the Shebab and the pirates.

"Whatever investment the international community is ready to make for Somalia, it would be really serving both causes. And in the same time assist nation building and a post-conflict peace consolidation," he said.—Internet



In a photograph released by the African Union-United Nations Information Support Team in 2011, a Ugandan gunner serving with the African Union Mission in Somalia rides out the top of an armoured vehicle as an AMISOM convoy passes through Mogadishu.—INTERNET

Israel and US to stage major defence drill



In this 29 July, 2004 file photo an anti-ballistic missile, under development by the United States and Israel, lifts off from Point Mugu Sea Range, off the California coast, as a test of an improved version of the Arrow missile. The Israeli military says it will soon hold a major missile defence exercise with US forces.—INTERNET

JERUSALEM, 6 Jan—The Israeli military is gearing up together with US forces for a major missile defence exercise, the Israeli military announced Thursday, as tension between Iran and the international community escalates.

The drill is called "Austere Challenge 12" and is designed to improve defence systems and cooperation between the US and Israeli forces. It follows a 10-day Iranian naval exercise near the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Israel's military said the drill with the US was planned long ago and is not tied to recent events.

Both Israeli and US officials said the exercise would be the largest-ever joint drill

by the two countries.

The Iranian war games came as the West was adopting new sanctions against Teheran over its nuclear programme, charging it is making weapons. Iran insists its programme is peaceful.

Israel considers Iran a strategic threat because of its nuclear and missile programmes and support of violent groups in Lebanon and Gaza, as well as frequent references by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Israel's destruction.

The Israeli military spokesman did not give a date for the drill Thursday, but a senior military official said it would be in the next few weeks. He said it would be the biggest missile defence drill ever held. He was speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue. The Israeli official said thousands of American and Israeli soldiers from different units would take part. He said the drill would test multiple Israeli and US air defence systems against incoming missiles and rockets. Israel has deployed the "Arrow" system, jointly developed and funded with the US, designed to intercept Iranian missiles in the stratosphere, far from Israel.

"The US European Command and the Israel Defence Forces periodically conduct routine exercises in Israel," the Israeli military said in a statement. "US European Command routinely works with partner nations to ensure their capacity to provide for their own security and, in the case of Israel, their qualitative military edge," it said. Thousands of US and Israeli troops held a similar exercise in 2009, code-named Juniper Cobra 10, designed to test missile defence technology.

Martin Van Creveld, a military historian at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, said Thursday that the drill was intended not only to practice military maneuvers but also to pressure Iran.—*Internet*

Turkey to buy F-35 fighter jets from US

ISTANBUL, 6 Jan—Turkey will purchase two F-35 fighter jets and 15 helicopters from the United States, Defence Industry Implementation Committee (SSIK) said Thursday.

The committee said that it authorized the Defence Ministry Undersecretariat to order the purchase of two F-35 fighter jets for the Turkish Armed Forces. The fighter jets will be delivered to Turkey

in 2015, the committee added.

The committee said it would also start contract talks with Bell Helicopter Textron for the purchase of 15 helicopters for the country's police force.

The purchase comes as part of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Programme, an internationally oriented programme consisting of partnerships with a number of countries.

Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding on Turkey's involvement in the production process of new generation F-35 warplanes in 2007. The decision to buy the new generation fighter planes came at a time when numerous other countries, including Denmark, Holland and Canada, have suspended their orders.

Xinhua

Rescue work resumes in Philippine landslide

MANILA, 6 Jan—Philippine officials say they have resumed the search for victims of a landslide that killed more than 20 people at a remote gold mining area, but that they are uncertain how many more remained buried in the rubble.

The landslide took place early Thursday in Pantukan township of Compostela Valley Province. Civil Defence chief Benito Ramos says early reports of about 100 people still buried were inaccurate.

Ramos says those estimates were far too high, but that the exact number is uncertain. He says local authorities do not record the number of mostly migrant miners who work there.

Rescue work was



In this photo released by the Philippine Army, residents search for victims following a landslide that occurred at the small-scale mining community of Pantukan, Compostela Valley in southern Philippines on 5 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

suspended Thursday because heavy rains threatened to unleash fresh slides in the area. Geologists warned

months earlier that the area is highly susceptible to sudden landslides.

Internet

Dog found alive four days after Montana avalanche

BILLINGS, 6 Jan—A dog that was feared dead after he was swept away in a weekend avalanche that killed his owner showed up four days later at the Montana motel where his owners had stayed the night before going backcountry skiing. Search and rescue team member Bill Whittle said he was "positive" that the Welsh corgi — named Ole — had been buried in Saturday's avalanche.

"The avalanche guys were up there on Monday investigating and they were looking for the dog too and never seen any signs," he said. But on Wednesday, Ole showed up exhausted and hungry back at the motel, four miles from where the slide occurred, the *Billings Gazette* reported. "When I first saw the dog, it was sitting in front of their room staring at the door,"

Cooke City Alpine Motel owner Robert Weinstein said in an email to *The Associated Press* on Thursday.

Dave Gaillard of Bozeman was skiing with his

wife when the avalanche struck near Cooke City, an old mining town just outside Yellowstone National Park.

"His last words to me were, 'Retreat to the trees.' I think he



In this photo released by Natasha Baydakova on 4 Jan, 2011 showing a Welsh corgi dog named Ole that showed up at a Cooke City motel four days after the dog and its owner were swept up in an avalanche. The dog's owner died. The dog returned to this motel where they had been staying before going backcountry skiing.

INTERNET

saw what was coming from above, that I did not see," Kerry Corcoran Gaillard told the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*. Gaillard's daughter, 11-year-old Marguerite, was putting photos of Ole on poster board as a memorial Wednesday afternoon.

"She found out when she was halfway done with that that Ole was still alive," said Gaillard's step-daughter, Silver Brelsford. Whittle drove the dog back to the family in Bozeman. "He was tired," Brelsford told the AP. "He's doing really well now." Sidney resident Jody Ray Verhasselt, 46, also died Saturday in another avalanche while snowmobiling north of Cooke City. The two New Year's Eve avalanche deaths have taken a toll on the small mountain community.

Internet



This 5 Jan, 2012 photo released by the Wellesley Police Department shows one vehicle that landed on top of a parked car in a parking garage in Wellesley, Mass. Police said a driver trying to stop at an office parking lot stepped on the accelerator instead of the brake, causing the car to jump the curb and land inside the nearby parking garage. The parked car was unoccupied. There were no injuries.

INTERNET

Car ends on top of another in Mass parking garage

WELLESLEY, 6 Jan—Police say a driver coming to a stop at a Massachusetts office parking lot stepped on the accelerator instead of the brake, causing the car to jump over a curb and land inside a nearby parking garage on top of a luxury sedan.

Lt Marie Cleary says no one was injured in the Thursday morning crash in Wellesley, just west of Boston. The sedan in the parking garage was empty.

Police have cited the driver for failure to use care when stopping. Officers can't explain how he got out of his car while it was perched on top of the other vehicle.

Internet

At least five killed as ferry capsizes in SE Bangladesh

DHAKA, 6 Jan—An overcrowded ferry carrying over 50 passengers in a canal flowing beside Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong City capsized on Thursday afternoon, with dozens of people missing, local police said. "Rescuers have so far retrieved 5 bodies from the sunken ferry that capsized on Thursday," said Zohirul Haque Sobuj, officer-in-charge of Boalkhali Police Station in Chittagong, some 242 km southeast of Capital Dhaka. He said fire brigade personnel and locals including fishermen were still searching for those missing people.

He said many passengers were able to swim ashore after the accident at about 1:15 pm local time on Thursday but could not tell immediately about the exact number of ill-fated missing passengers. He said a rescue vessel has been called in to boost local efforts to salvage the ferry. Ferry and boat disasters are common in Bangladesh, which is crisscrossed by about 250 rivers. Ferry is still a key means of transport in the South Asian country. Most of them are often overcrowded.—*Xinhua*

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 6 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 the occasion of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

From Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on our own behalf, we have great pleasure to extend our warmest congratulations to Your Excellency on the auspicious occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

We are hoping that the existing good traditional friendly relations and close cooperation between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar would continue to be further enhanced and strengthened for mutual benefits of our two countries, the peoples of Laos and Myanmar as well as for peace, friendship and cooperation for the development in the region and the world at large.

May we wish Your Excellency good health and happiness in order to lead the people of the Union of Myanmar towards the progress and constant prosperity.

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

From Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic

On the occasion of the celebration of Your National Day, on behalf of the Italian People and my own I wish to convey the most sincere wishes for the wellbeing of the People of Myanmar.

I take this opportunity to express my congratulations

on the positive developments ongoing in Myanmar and to encourage the Government of Myanmar to keep pursuing unwaveringly the restoration and protection of fundamental freedoms. In this perspective, I look forward with confidence to a further deepening of the relations between our two Countries.

In this spirit, I extend best wishes of prosperity to Your personally and to Your People.

From Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

As you celebrate the independence anniversary of your friendly country, it gives me pleasure to offer you, in my own name and on behalf of the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain, sincere congratulations and best wishes on this national occasion.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to wish Your Excellency personally continued good health and felicity and to your people greater progress and advancement under your wise leadership.

The following is a message of felicitations to Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Xi Jinping, Vice-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 the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend to Your Excellency my warmest congratulations and best wishes.

China attaches great importance to developing relations with Myanmar, highly values and cherishes the "Pauk-Phaw" friendship between our two countries. This

relationship not only complies with the fundamental interest of our two peoples, but also benefits the peace, stability and prosperity of the region. China will continuously consolidate and strengthen the China-Myanmar good neighbourly friendship and pragmatic cooperations. I am willing and ready to understand joint efforts with Your Excellency to facilitate pragmatic cooperations in all areas, promote greater development of bilateral relations, and bring more benefits to our two peoples.

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.

The following is a message of felicitations to Vice-Presidents of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and Dr Sai Mauk Kham, on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Bounnhang Vorachit, Vice-President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

I have great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellencies on auspicious occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am very pleased to note that the friendly relations and close cooperation between Laos and Myanmar have been continuously enhanced and strengthened over the recent years and I look forward to closely cooperating with Your Excellencies in order to continue developing and deepening such bonds of relations and cooperation to the new heights.

May I wish Your Excellencies good health and greater success in your noble tasks.

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

Marketable brinjal fruits of Nweyit Village gaining high demand

Article: Myint Maung Soe; Photos: Kyaw Thu Win



Vast brinjal plantation with seedless strain in Nweyit Village of Tatkon Township.

Nweyit Village in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is an agro-based village engaging in cultivation of large acres of cold season crops.

The fertile farmlands around the village are suitable for cultivation of cold season crops. These

farmlands are put under chilli, onion, potato, tomato, cauliflower, cabbage and so on. Due to thriving plantations, the local people always grow cold season vegetables every year.

We, the news crew of Myanma Alin, had the opportunity to visit Nweyit Village. We saw brinjal plantations on the vast farmland. Some of them were green and some were dark purple.



Long brinjal fruits without seeds seen at plantation of farmer U Win Hlaing.

In an interview, farmer U Win Hlaing explained, "In the past, our village grew least sown acre for brinjal plants. This year, larger acre of farmlands were put under brinjal plantations as a test for work. I also cultivated brinjal plants on test this year and these plantations are thriving now on about three acres of land. I have spent about K 50,000 on agricultural cost plus value of seeds. I pluck brinjal fruits once a week and sell them worth about K 250,000 to K 300,000."

We saw thriving brinjal plantations with fruits. The fruits were long. Significantly, the fruits were very delicious with lack of seeds.

We also visited the thriving brinjal plantation

of farmer U Soe Lwin. His plantations were seen with plenty of fruits. The dark purple colour fruits were round.

"I took the seeds for this brinjal strain from Nyaungnapin of Yangon Region. The fruits of the plants can be picked out after two and a half months of cultivation. The fruits are sold at K 150 to K 200 in the market. The roasted brinjal fruits are delicious. One roasted brinjal is enough for

one family. The plant prefers silted soil. I have thought I will regrow brinjal plants next season with the use of present seeds," said U Soe Lwin.

Brinjal fruits produced from Nweyit Village were delicious and marketable. Better quality of goods can attract consumers. Best quality of agricultural products will be higher in demand. Thus, all producers and customers must understand the significant point of market-oriented economic system.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
31-12-2011

Photo shows thriving round brinjal fruit strain of farmer U Soe Lwin in Nweyit Village .

Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representative substituted

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—The Union Election Commission issued Notification No. 2/2012 today.

The translation of the notification is as follows:-

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 2/2012**

**13th Waxing of Pyatho, 1373 ME
(6 January, 2012)**

Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representative substituted

According to the request made in accord with Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substitute a Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representative nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in first multi-party democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representative stated hereunder in Notification No. 1/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 with personnel shown against him.

BC 32084
Major Lin Tun

(Substitution) BC 33084
Major Tin Kyaw Oo

By order

(Win Ko)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Independence Day Flag-hoisting ceremony held in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—Flag-hoisting ceremony of 64th Anniversary Independence Day, took place at sport ground in Hpa-an of Kayin State on 4 January.

At the ceremony, Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw

Min read out the message sent by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Afterward, he enjoyed sports competitions and awarded the winners.

The State Chief Minister and wife, and officials pre-

sented awards to winners at baby show. It was also attended by State Hluttaw Speaker, State Chief Justice, Deputy Hluttaw Speaker, ministers and state/district/township departmental officials. —MNA

H & T Ministry opens spoken English proficiency course

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung addressed the opening of Spoken English Course No. 1 at Sky Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone this noon.

The deputy minister yesterday evening discussed the curriculum with course instructors Ms Linda Doeden, Ms Aleta Loftis of English Language Institute, Fort Collins, Colorado of the USA and principal U Khin

Maung Lwin of Asia Master Hotel Management School, at his office.

A total of 30 trainees—five from the ministry and 25 from Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone are attending the four-week course.—MNA

British delegation wraps up visit to Myanmar

YANGON, 6 Jan—British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Affairs Mr William Jefferson Hague gave an in-

terview on his visit to Myanmar to members of Foreign Correspondents Club and local journalists at British Council on Strand Road

here this evening.

Mr William Jefferson Hague and party visited Shwedagon Pagoda and left here by special flight.—MNA

Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik reassessing the exhibition arts of Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2011 held at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. (News reported)—MNA



Athletes to receive intensive training for 27th SEA Games

YANGON, 6 Jan—General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik called for launching intensive training for athletes for the 27th South East Asian Games.

During the coordination meeting for camping for athletes to receive intensive training at the department here today, he also urged officials concerned to step up the intensive training at the central training camp (Shwekyarpin) in Nay Pyi Taw.

He also stressed the importance of right techniques and intensive training to achieve success in the 27th SEA Games.

A resident representative of Dongluc Joint Stock Co Ltd contributed sports gear worth over K 4.5 million to athletes.—MNA

Chin State observes Independence Day with State flag hoisting ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—The State flag hoisting ceremony was held in Haka of Chin State on 4th January, the 64th Anniversary Independence Day. The ceremony was attended by Chin State Hluttaw Speaker

U Hauk Khin Kham, local authorities and departmental personnel.

The State flag was saluted and tributes were paid to late martyrs on the occasion. This was followed by reading of the message sent

by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Afterwards, State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai presented prizes to the winners in commemorative essay contests.—MNA

DISTRICT NEWS

Loans disbursed to agricultural society



MYAUNGMYA, 6 Jan—A ceremony to provide cash assistance for agricultural purpose was held in Pyin Village of Myaungmya Township on 23 December.

Myaungmya Naga Co, formed by Myaungmya Township Rice Millers' Association, disbursed K 23.15 million for 463 acres of summer paddy to Yway Nadi Agricultural Production Society of Pyin Village.

The farmers of the village have completely repaid loans to the company, and the said disbursement was the second time.

District IPRD

Cash donated to eye patients

YANGON, 6 Jan—Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization donated cash for surgical operations of eye patients at Eye Specialist Hospital on 31 December.

Patron of Yangon

Region WAO Daw Khin Thet Htay accepted K 5 million by wellwisher U Aung Myat of Mother Trading Co Ltd. The Patron handed over the cash donation to Medical Superintendent Dr Than Lwin.—Myanma Alin

Talks on danger of fire given

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 6 Jan—A talks on fire preventive measures was given at Aungthaya Market in Mawlamyinegyun in Ayeyawady Region on 29 December morning.

Head of Mawlamyinegyun Township Fire Services Department U Than Zaw Lwin explained points of fire preventive measures in cold season at the market to shopkeepers.—Myanma Alin

Village library opened

KYONPYAW, 6 Jan—Yaunggyi U Library was put into service in Mayanyoe Village in Kyonpyaw Township on 25 December.

Departmental officials gave talks on benefits of reading and then donated 250 books in various genres to the librarian. The library was built at a cost of K 2.6 million by Child Care Society and K 500,000 by the village.—Township IPRD

Book-lovers' refuge closes its doors in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 6 Jan—South Africa may have produced two Nobel laureates in literature but a famous bookshop in Johannesburg is nevertheless about to close, a victim of the country's poor reading culture. The Boekehuis, whose Afrikaans name means "book house", is in an old four-bedroom house a stone's throw from the city's two main universities.

Its waxed parquet floors, moulded ceilings, garden and coffee shop became the book-lovers' refuge. The shop's literary events where readers could interact with writers were especially popular.

"This is like a house, not only a bookshop. People come here to buy books, but not only. They come for the ambience, to have a nice time. And especially for the talks," says shop manager Corina van der Spoel.

Boekehuis which opened in 2000 has been widely portrayed as independent, but it is in fact owned by Media24, the country's largest media company.

The giant multimedia group, which owns most of the country's magazines and major newspaper titles, announced in December that the Boekehuis would be



Shop manager Corina van der Spoel stands inside of the Boekehuis bookshop in Johannesburg. Boekehuis which opened in 2000 has been widely portrayed as independent, but it is in fact owned by Media24, the country's largest media company.—INTERNET

closing its doors at the end of January.

Leading figures such as award-winning author Andre Brink, photographer David Goldblatt and

internationally acclaimed painter William Kentridge were among those who signed a petition to try to get Media24 to change its mind.

Internet

Brazilians optimistic about country's economic situation

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 Jan—Brazilians are now more optimistic than ever about the country's economic situation, a survey released Thursday by the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) said. The index measuring Brazilians' optimism about the country's current economic situation rose to a record-high 67.2 points in December from 63.7 points in November, the survey said, whereas it stood at 64.6 points in the same period in 2010.

According to IPEA's Families' Expectation Index (IEF), 78.2 percent of Brazilian families were better off financially in December than a year before. In total, 86.6 percent of Brazilian families were confident about their economic situation in 2012. The majority, 64.4 percent, also believed Brazil's economy will improve in the near future.

IPEA President Marcio Pochmann attributed this optimism to the country's continuing growth, improving job market and rising income. He also noted there was a seasonal effect, as people received their Christmas bonuses in December.

The share of Brazilians who said they were now out of debt rose to 56.1 percent in December from 55.6 percent in November.—Xinhua

Beijing backtracks on pollution data after outcry

BEIJING, 6 Jan—Authorities in Beijing said Friday they will start publicising data on the tiny particles that make up much of the city's pollution, after a public outcry over air quality measurements.

The Chinese capital currently bases its air quality information on particles of 10 micrometers or larger, known as PM10, and does not take into account the smaller particulates that experts say are most harmful to human health. But authorities have come under pressure from the public to change the way they rank air quality after thick smog blanketed Beijing late last

year, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights and triggering a surge in face mask sales. Official data showed the air was only slightly polluted, while figures published by the US embassy in Beijing, which measures the smaller particles, ranked it as "very unhealthy".

On Friday the Beijing Environmental Bureau said it would start publicising measures based on the smaller particles—known as PM2.5—ahead of the Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, which starts on 23 January.

"The authorities plan to release air-quality monitoring data using PM2.5 before Spring Festival," a



A woman waits for a bus in the haze in Beijing in December 2011. Authorities in Beijing said Friday they will start publicising data on the tiny particles that make up much of the city's pollution, after a public outcry over air quality measurements.—INTERNET

bureau official surnamed Jiang told AFP.

"The government has to consider the pleas of the

people, so yes, the anger of Beijing citizens these days is a big contributor to our action."—Internet



This 1998 image provided by RMS Titanic, Inc, shows a 17-ton portion of the hull of the RMS Titanic as it is lifted to the surface during an expedition to the site of the tragedy. The piece along with 5,000 other artifacts will be auctioned as a single collection on 11 April, 2012 100 years after the sinking of the ship.—INTERNET

Titanic items to be sold 100 years after sinking

RICHMOND, 6 Jan—Items as small as a hairpin and as big as a chunk of the *Titanic*'s hull are among 5,000 artifacts from the world's most famous shipwreck that are to be auctioned in April, close to the 100th anniversary of the disaster.

Nearly a century after the 15 April, 1912, sinking of the ocean liner that hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic, a New York City auction is being readied by Guernsey's Auctioneers & Brokers. That auction house has garnered headlines in the past by selling off such historical curiosities as prized Beatles photos, famous jewels of the late Princess Diana, beloved Jerry Garcia guitars and a police motorcycle used in the Texas motorcade when John F Kennedy was slain. But nothing as Titanic as the so-called Titanic collection.

On 11 April, all of the salvaged items are to be sold as one lot in what Guernsey's President Arlan Ettinger describes as the most significant auction ever handled by that house.

"Who on this planet doesn't know the story of the Titanic and isn't fascinated by it?" he asked. "Could Hollywood have scripted a more tragic or goose-bump-raising story than what actually happened on that ship?"

"It is as poignant to my 12-year-old son as it is to me and generations before me. There's no end to the fascination about it." The auction will be conducted 100 years plus a day after the *Titanic* set sail from Southampton, England, embarking on the ill-fated maiden voyage that had New York as its destination.

The collection was appraised in 2007 at \$189 million, including some intellectual property alongside the myriad items plucked by remote controlled probes from the pitch-black depths, some 2 and ½ miles below the ocean's surface.

Those artifacts include the massive hull section called "The Big Piece" as well as personal belongings of passengers and crew, such as a mesh purse and eyeglasses.

Internet

NH dealer selling 1878 Bell note with phone sketch



This image released on 5 Jan, 2012, shows a page of an 1878 letter sent to his parents by Alexander Graham Bell. The drawing and accompanying discussion instructs how to ground the telephone Bell had invented. The letter is being auctioned by Amherst, NH, dealer RRAuction. INTERNET

CONCORD, (NH), 6 Jan—A New Hampshire dealer is auctioning an 1878 letter from Alexander Graham Bell to his parents instructing them to ground the telephone he invented by running a copper wire from their house to the duck pond.

The seven-page letter contains two drawings by Graham of the phone and how to run its elaborate wiring system to avoid harm from lightning strikes.

Bell was responding to a

letter from his parents telling him about how a lightning strike had damaged their wiring between several poles. Bell writes that he was "quite troubled" by the news and proceeds to instruct them how to avoid such an incident in the future.

"If you have good connection with a permanently moist stratum of earth, you need never fear lightning and your posts will be safe," Bell writes. His drawing shows a long strand of wire running to a rectangular box, above which is written, "Bury in duck pond."

The letter is more than a tutorial on how to ground his new invention.

He opens with "My dear Papa and Mama" and tells them their new granddaughter is developing into "a healthy-fat-nice-looking baby with tremendous eyes." He describes family friends they visited. He signs the letter, "Your loving son, Alec"—a nickname used only by the family.

Internet

Singapore supermarket to stop selling shark's fin

SINGAPORE, 6 Jan—Singapore's largest supermarket chain FairPrice will stop selling shark's fin products from April this year, local media reported on Friday. The announcement on Thursday followed an outcry over a post on the Facebook page of one of its suppliers.

The supplier, Them Da Seafood, used the words "screw the divers" in an apparent reference to diving enthusiasts who had been campaigning against the shark's fin trade, the *Straits Times* said. The post drew much criticism and went viral on the social networking site.

Many who commented called for a boycott of both the supplier and FairPrice. Comments also made their way onto FairPrice's Facebook page. Among them were calls for FairPrice to look again at its corporate social responsibility policy and to stop selling shark's fin.

FairPrice chief executive Seah Kian Peng said the supermarket chain would stop selling shark's fin products by the end of the first quarter of this year across its more than 230 outlets.

Seah said FairPrice had been looking into the sale of shark's fin products in the past few months as part of its commitment to being a socially responsible retailer. He also said it would be withdrawing all products from Them Da Seafood.—Xinhua



5-Magnitude tremor shakes in Christchurch, risks continue

WELLINGTON, 6 Jan—New Zealand's quake-battered second city of Christchurch was shaken by a 5-magnitude tremor Friday as scientists were telling a special hearing that earthquakes and aftershocks could continue for decades. The quake struck at 2:20 pm and was centered 5 kilometres below ground and 10 km northeast of Christchurch, according to the government-run GNS Science GeoNet monitoring service.

It came just one minute after a 3.5-magnitude tremor, at a depth of 10 km, centered 20 km east of the city, according to the GeoNet. The quakes occurred the day GNS scientists were briefing Christchurch City councilors and Members of Parliament on the possibility of more strong aftershocks after those that struck on 23 Dec.

Kelvin Berryman, of GNS Science, told the hearing that the sequence of quakes in Christchurch and the surrounding Canterbury region would diminish over decades rather than years, *Fairfax NZ News* reported. "Christchurch City has had a lot of quake activity. A lot of the stress must have been released in the city area, but around Canterbury there may well be an ongoing sequence over a period of a few decades," Berryman was quoted as saying.

Xinhua



Image provided by Venezuela's President office shows Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez (R) greets Miss World 2011 Ivian Sarcos of Venezuela as she visits the Miraflores Palace in the city of Caracas, capital of Venezuela, on 4 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

Five bodies found inside van in SW Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 6 Jan—At least five charred bodies were found on Thursday in a van on a rural road of Tiquicheo, a town in the southwestern Mexican State of Michoacan, local police said.

According to earlier reports, the finding was reported at about 07:00 am local time (1300 GMT) near the rural community of San Miguel Canario.

Unofficial accounts indicated that the murderers had left a message inside the vehicle, but its content was not disclosed.

Michoacan is a state with vast mountainous areas favorable for drug production and trafficking, and is part of the route between South America and the United States. It has often been claimed by various drug cartels.

In recent months, organized criminal groups had made the state one of the major areas where they fought against federal police and armed forces.—Xinhua

People take part in the annual Rose Parade in Pasadena, California, the United States, on 2 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

Tourists visit a panda-themed souvenir shop on the historical Jinli Street in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 2 Jan, 2012. The number of visitors in 77 scene sites in Sichuan Province, including the Jinli Street, approached 530,000 on the New Year's Day alone, marking a travel peak during China's first public holiday in 2012. XINHUA

Doctors to remove Vietnamese man's 90kg tumour

HO CHI MINH CITY, 6 Jan—A man left unable to walk by a tumour on his right leg that weighs more than the rest of his body went under the knife in Vietnam on Thursday to have the growth removed, hospital officials said. Nguyen Duy Hai's massive 90 kilogramme (198 pounds) tumour is to be cut away by a team of doctors in a risky 10 hour procedure that has only a 50 percent chance of success, the France-Vietnam (FV) hospital in Ho Chi Minh City said.

Hai, 31, who suffers from a rare genetic disorder, has been living with the tumour since he was four years old, FV hospital's statement read. He had part of his leg amputated when he was 17, but the tumour, which is not cancerous, continued to expand, making it difficult for Hai to walk and sleep.

The growth is thought to be the largest ever recorded in Vietnam, according to state media, who have followed Hai's condition for years. "This is a huge procedure with many



Vietnamese Nguyen Duy Hai, 31 lies on a bed with his 90-kilogramme tumour next to his mother at FV hospital (France-Vietnam hospital) in Ho Chi Minh City.—INTERNET

risks, including the risk of death during surgery or post-operative care," the hospital said, adding that the patient and the family decided to proceed with the removal nonetheless.

Internet

Wave of shootings baffle Swedish police

STOCKHOLM, 6 Jan—A new wave of execution-style shootings in Sweden's third largest city has left police puzzled, raising concerns that Malmö has become a magnet for gang-related killings.

On Thursday dozens of police took to the streets in the southern Swedish city of 250,000 to try calm the public and to collect tips about the attacks, which come only a year after a suspected serial shooter was arrested there.

"We've never experienced anything like this before. It's exceptional that there have been so many murders in such a short period of time," police spokesman Lars-Hakan Lindholm said. "People are worried of course and want to talk about it."

In less than six weeks, five people have been shot dead in execution-style killings, prompting local police to ask for back-up from national investigators and for Malmö Mayor Ilmar Reepalu to call on the country's justice minister to implement tougher gun laws.

Sweden's gun control laws are fairly strict. Penalties for possessing illegal arms typically involve fines or up to one year in prison, but serious breaches of the law can result in a four-year sentence.

Lindholm said that due to the fast escalating death-toll police presence has now been bumped up by about 30 extra officers in the city on weekdays and by around 40 on the weekends. Malmö is an eclectic city, where about 40 percent of its residents are first- or second-generation immigrants.—Internet

Global IT spending not to grow as expected in 2012

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 Jan—Research firm Gartner on Thursday revised downward its outlook for global information technology (IT) spending in 2012, citing eurozone crisis and hard-disk drive shortage. Gartner said all four major technology sectors including computing hardware, enterprise software, IT services as well as telecommunication equipment and services are expected to experience slower spending growth in 2012 than previously forecast. Its latest forecast revised the annual worldwide IT spending growth in 2012 to 3.7 percent from the previous 4.6 percent, projecting the spending in 2012 to total 3.8 trillion US dollars. "Faltering global economic growth, the eurozone crisis and the impact of Thailand's floods on hard-disk drive production have all taken their toll on the outlook for IT spending," Richard Gordon, research vice president at Gartner, said in a statement.

The company said that the Thailand floods are having serious implications for businesses worldwide, particularly with computer and storage purchases, noting that no company will be wholly immune to the effects on the hard-drive disc supply chain.

Xinhua

Mother of three girls killed in Conn fire speaks

NEW YORK, 6 Jan—The mother of the three young girls who died during a Christmas morning fire delivered a heartbreaking eulogy to her "girl tribe" at their somber funeral in New York City on Thursday. "My girls are in my heart," Madonna Badger told more than 500 mourners at St Thomas Church in Manhattan. "They're right here. And that's where they live now."

Badger broke down several times as she described each girl in turn — Lily, 9, and 7-year-old twins Sarah and Grace — then wailed as she followed their coffins out of the cavernous Gothic church. She was accompanied by her estranged husband, Matthew Badger, and a friend, Michael Borcina.

Borcina was with Madonna Badger and her family when the lethal fire tore through her Connecticut home. He walked behind the grieving parents as the coffins were brought out of the church.

Badger's parents, Lomer and Pauline Johnson, also died in the fire. Badger told mourners, "In all the incomprehensible loss and chaos, all I can hang onto is that love is



Matthew Badger, left, and Madonna Badger, the parents of three children that were killed in a fire, react as their caskets are carried into a church during the funeral in New York, on 5 Jan, 2012. INTERNET

everything." The pallbearers were 18 firefighters from Stamford, Conn, who responded to the fire. Among the more than 500 people attending the service in New York City were fashion designers Calvin Klein and Vera Wang, rocker Lou Reed and actor Philip Seymour Hoffman.—Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (12001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (12001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S T.S LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



A snowy owl clings to a powerline, on 4 Jan, 2012 near Lake Andes, SD. The Arctic creatures have been seen from coast to coast more frequently this winter and have reached further south than in past years.

INTERNET

Like magic, Harry Potter's owl spotted across US

LAKE ANDES, 6 Jan—Famous for its role as Harry Potter's companion in the books and movies, a species of majestic, mostly white owls is being sighted in abundant numbers this winter far from both Hogwarts and its native Arctic habitat.

It's typical for snowy owls to arrive in the US every three or four winters, but this year's irruption is widespread, with birders from the Pacific Northwest to New England reporting frequent sightings of the yellow-eyed birds. As many as 30 were spotted in December around South Dakota's Lake Andes. "Thirty in one area, that's mind numbing," said Mark Robbins, an ornithologist with the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute.

The arrival of the birds, which can top 2 feet in height with a wingspan of nearly 5 feet, is the result of a plentiful population of Arctic lemmings this summer, which led to a strong breeding season, said Denver Holt, director of the Owl Research Institute in Charlo, Mont.

Lemmings are snowy owls' main food source, and the baby boom is sending many of the youngsters across the border to scrounge for voles, field mice, rats, rabbits and shore birds. "It's very unusual, because it's coast to coast," said Holt, who has been researching the owls' Arctic habitat for 25 years.—Internet

Antiestrogen therapy may decrease risk for melanoma

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan—Women with breast cancer who take antiestrogen supplements may be decreasing their risk for melanoma, according to a study published Wednesday in *Cancer Prevention Research*, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Christine Bouchardy, professor at the University of Geneva and head of the Geneva Cancer Registry, and colleagues analyzed data from 7,360 women who had breast cancer between 1980 and 2005. About half (54 percent) of these women received antiestrogen

therapy.

The researchers followed the patients until 2008 and recorded 34 melanoma cases during the follow-up period. Risk for melanoma was 60 percent higher among patients who did not receive antiestrogen therapy compared with patients who received antiestrogen therapy.

According to Bouchardy, the increased focus on estrogen's role in breast cancer has led scientists to start questioning what role estrogen is playing in other cancers. "These data reinforce the hypothesis that estrogens play a role in melanoma

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (425)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (425) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Google search home page revamp promotes other services

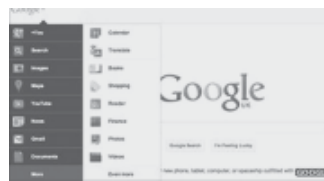
NEW YORK, 6 Jan—Google is rolling out one of its biggest home page changes to date. The revamp strips its front page of the black bar that currently runs horizontally along its top, and replaces it with a grey logo. When clicked or highlighted, it reveals seven alternative services to the site's search page with an option to reveal a further eight. Analysts said the move was designed to promote more of the firm's businesses without cluttering its webpage.

The new look, which was first announced last year, is only being offered to a limited number of users at the moment. A spokesman for Google said that the roll-out is designed to improve the user experience. "Constant revision and improvement is part of our overarching philosophy," he said. "If you compare the original Google home page to today's version, you will see that a makeover every so often can certainly be refreshing."

Chris Green, principal technology analyst at Davies Murphy Group, said the move allowed the site to use icons without resem-

bling Yahoo's busier design. "They are trying to deal with how to service all the different Google properties without making the page cluttered, because Google is always very keen to hang onto the plain minimalist front page that they have always had," he said. "The other thing that they are doing with those menus is making the page look like their Chrome netbook operating system. 'So whether you are using a Chromebook or the Google website the interface is the same.'"

Internet



Google's pull-down menus should help highlight the firm's non-core search services to users.—INTERNET

Gold settles higher for fourth day

CHICAGO, 6 Jan—Gold futures on the COMEX Division of the New York Mer-



cantile Exchange further hiked on Thursday, extending the metal's rally into the fourth trading day, as a weaker euro spurred buying of gold. The most active gold contract for February delivery climbed 7.4 US dollars, or 0.5 percent, to 1,620.1 dollars per ounce, the highest settlement since 13 Dec.

Market analysts said that the biggest influence was the weakening euro, which prompted investors to flee the euro and bought gold. The euro fell under 1.28 against dollar on Thursday as investors focused on concerns about euro zone banks and a French bond sale that was met by cold reception. Moreover, gold gained strength from safe-haven demands after British Defence Secretary said the country may take military action if Iran carries out its threat to block the Strait of Hormuz. A trader noted that Iran is gradually becoming a big source of concern and people are worried what

could happen next. The four-day advance, which marks the longest rally in 10 weeks, has added 5.2 percent to gold prices.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MINDORO VOY NO (119)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MINDORO VOY NO (119) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 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: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD, JAPAN

Phone No: 256924/256914



Death toll from deadly rat fever reaches 15 in S Philippines

COTABATO, 6 Jan—The death toll from the deadly rat fever outbreak that struck flood-hit areas in southern Philippines reached 15 while hundreds were infected, local health officials said Thursday.

Five people have already died while as many as 200 were confined in hospitals in the city of Cagayan de Oro. While in the nearby city of Iligan, a hard-hit area by floods, three died and less than 100 people have been infected with the deadly disease, said regional health minister Jaime Bernades.

Health authorities on Monday declared an outbreak of the deadly rat fever leptospirosis, a fatal animal-borne disease that can result in high fever, internal bleeding and organ failure.

The death toll from tropical storm Washi currently stands at 1,257 with many still believed missing.

Xinhua



Visitors tour the Ice and Snow World in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 5 Jan, 2012. The 28th China Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival and the 13th Harbin Ice and Snow World opened here on Thursday. Made of 180,000 cubic meters of ice and 160,000 cubic meters of snow, the Ice and Snow World will put on show a wide range of ice and snow sculptures, including those of many cartoon figures worldwide.—XINHUA

Battle of the brushes in Japan

From small children to octogenarians, thousands came together in Tokyo on Thursday for a new year's battle of the brushes in an annual national calligraphy contest.

In what has long been a ritual for the start of the year, people all across Japan write down their resolutions and hopes, or good luck characters, using a traditional horse-hair brush and ink made of charcoal. This year's contestants brushing their welcome to the Year of the Dragon included children from Fukushima prefecture, which is still struggling with the world's worst nuclear crisis in 25 years, set off by last year's massive

earthquake and tsunami.

"I wasn't sure if I would be able to write well, but I did better than I thought so I think it's good," said Natsumi Yazawa, a 14-year-old from Fukushima who travelled hundreds of kilometres to take part.

Contestants, who ranged from those aged four all the way up to 85, were assigned Chinese characters such as "Spring Wing" and "Year of the Dragon" and given 24 minutes to complete their masterpieces.

One of the older participants was Etsuko Saotome, who said she had looked forward to taking part as it gave her energy. "I'll be 74, and while that's embarrassing, this gives me a

chance to feel youthful again, writing with all of these children," she said.

The pieces were



collected to be reviewed by judges according to rules such as their flow, line strength and angles. The winners will be announced on 22 Jan.

company used its largest rig to get the car down, *The Fresno Bee* reported. The driver reportedly suffered a broken leg. No one in the house was seriously injured.

News Album

Closed store destroys unsold bridal gowns

Neighbours of a closed Minnesota bridal shop said they were shocked to find the store had destroyed its leftover inventory with spray paint.

Bessie Giannakakis, owner of Bessie's Boutique, located near Pricilla of Boston in Edina, said the closed shop spray-painted "thousands of dollars of gowns" and threw them in a dumpster, KARE-TV, Minneapolis/St Paul, reported Wednesday.

Judy Mjones, who works at a nearby salon, said

the gowns should have been donated to "needy people." "Priscilla of Boston has always donated quality bridal gowns to a variety of charitable causes. We do not, however, donate unsaleable dresses that are damaged, soiled or in otherwise poor condition," company President Patrick Walsh said. The women who witnessed the gowns being disposed of said they appeared to be in good condition before they were spray-painted by workers.

Teen sleeps through plane stop

A 15-year-old boy who slept through his airline destination in Oklahoma said he had difficulty finding help when he exited the airplane in Missouri. Erik McBee and his mother, Keena, said he boarded a Southwest Airlines flight from Phoenix to Tulsa at 10:15 am 28 Dec to attend a boarding school, but he had headphones on and slept through the Tulsa stop and found himself in St Louis, the *St Louis Post-Dispatch* reported Thursday.

McBee said he approached a man in a yellow uniform outside of the terminal at Lambert-St Louis International Airport but the man did not offer him any assistance. McBee said he had no luck with other airport employees.

The teenager said a helpful stranger gave him a ride to a police station and officers later took him back to the airport. Southwest, which said it is investigating how the count ended up incorrect when departing Tulsa, flew the teen back to Phoenix free of charge.

Keena McBee said she will be driving the Eric to school in Oklahoma in the future.

Car lands on roof in Fresno, Calif

A Fresno, Calif, towing company was called to remove a car that landed on a roof after it went airborne during a crash.

Police said the driver lost control of the car on a

turn early Wednesday, hit a tree stump and somehow launched into the air, landing right side up on top of a house, the *Los Angeles Times* reported. John DeCicco, owner of Action Towing, said the



Marc Anthony performs in concert at the American Airlines Arena in Miami on 16 September, 2011. INTERNET

Marc Anthony dating Shannon De Lima

LOS ANGELES, 6 Jan—American singer Marc Anthony, who recently split from his wife, Jennifer Lopez, has confirmed via Twitter he is dating Venezuelan model Shannon De Lima.

Anthony, 43, and Lopez, 42, separated in July after seven years of marriage. They have 3-year-old twins — a boy and a girl — together. Since the breakup, Lopez has been dating 24-year-old backup dancer Casper Smart.

UsMagazine.com said Anthony posted a message in Spanish to De Lima, 24, on Twitter Tuesday that said, translated into English: "To Shannon, my statue of liberty. Kisses baby!"

Anthony's adopted son, Chase Muniz, mentioned the relationship in his own tweet. "To all my followers and all Twitter peeps, follow the best couple of 2012 and for many for years Marc Anthony and Shannon De Lima!" UsMagazine.com said Muniz posted via Twitter.—Internet



Actresses Regina King (L) and Judy Greer (R) announce Viola Davis as outstanding performance by a female actor in a leading role nominee for her work in "The Help" for 18th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in West Hollywood, California on 14 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET



US television personality Maria Shriver and her estranged husband, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, have no plans to reconcile, sources told People.com. INTERNET

Shriver and Schwarzenegger not reconciling

LOS ANGELES, 6 Jan—US television personality Maria Shriver and her estranged husband, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, have no plans to reconcile, sources told People.com.

The broadcast journalist filed for divorce from the former California governor last summer after 25 years of marriage, following Schwarzenegger's admission he fathered a child during an extramarital affair with a member of the family's household staff more than a decade ago.

However, TMZ reported last month Shriver was having second thoughts due to her strong connection to the Catholic church, which forbids divorce. Schwarzenegger also has been pulling out all the stops in trying to win her back, the celebrity news Web site said.

But that account is now being dismissed by people who say they have knowledge of the situation.

Internet

'Spider-Man' musical breaks records

NEW YORK, 6 Jan—"Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" rang in the new year as the highest grossing show on Broadway, the musical's producers said.

The stage version of the iconic superhero tale, which features music by U2's Bono and The Edge, set a new record for the highest single-week gross of any show in history with a total gross of \$2,941,790.20, besting the previous record of \$2,228,235 set

by "Wicked" in 2011. Playing in the last week of 2011 to 17,375 audience members — 100.02 percent capacity with standing room at The Foxwoods Theatre—"Spider-Man" also enjoyed the highest single-week attendance by any show in Broadway history, playing a nine-show holiday schedule, the producers said in a news release.

"What a fantastic bit of news to kick off 2012," Bono and The Edge said in a joint statement Wednesday. "It



People gather outside the site of Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark the day after the official opening is postponed again as the musical will undergo an overhaul which could delay the opening until June at Foxwoods Theatre in New York City on 9 March, 2011.—INTERNET

just goes to show that you can't keep a good superhero down. We are raising our glasses to our indefatigable cast and crew, and the theatergoers who watch them every night. Broadway is a very special place; we love being a small part of it."

The \$70 million show began preview performances 28 Nov, 2010. It later closed for three weeks so its creative team could work out technical bugs and story issues. It officially opened in June 2011 and has been a hot ticket ever since.—Internet

"Bridesmaids" in, "War Horse" out of writers awards

LOS ANGELES, 6 Jan—"Bridesmaids," "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" and "The Help" were among the film nominees chosen on Thursday for annual Writers Guild Awards, but the screenwriters behind "War Horse" failed to make the cut in Hollywood's race toward Oscars.

In a list of surprises, "The Descendants" and Woody Allen's "Midnight in Paris" also earned screenplay nominations from the Writers Guild of America (WGA), which represents film and television writers.

But likely Oscar contender "The Artist"—a French-made silent movie in black and white—was ineligible under WGA rules, as were other high-profile films including "My Week with Marilyn" and the Margaret Thatcher movie "The Iron Lady."

Writers Guild nominations are restricted those movies made under the trade association's rules on pay and working conditions, or pacts struck with affiliated foreign groups.

Reuters

Ferguson retains faith in title hopes

MANCHESTER, 6 Jan—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson insists his team can cope with the challenge of winning the Barclays Premier League despite defeat at Newcastle on Wednesday.

The champions were well below their best as they slipped to a 3-0 loss at the Sports Direct Arena, with Demba Ba and Yohan Cabaye scoring for the Magpies before a Phil Jones own goal wrapped it up.

Ferguson's side have now lost their last two matches in the League after a shock 3-2 reverse against bottom club Blackburn at Old Trafford in their previous fixture.

And with Manchester City beating Liverpool 3-0 on Tuesday, that leaves United three points adrift of their neighbours going into the FA Cup third round tie between the two teams at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

"It's advantage to them, of course," said Ferguson. "They won, we lost. But it's not a time to panic, we've got the experience and

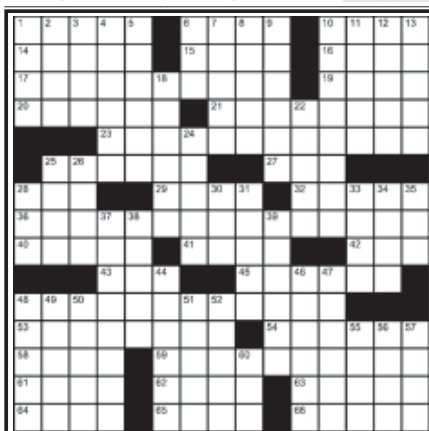
the patience to cope.

"Losing a match at this time of year can sometimes happen. We need to get the show on the road for the run-in, particularly for March and April, because they are key months."

The Red Devils have been plagued by injury problems all season, but Ferguson is hopeful that the return of some of their senior players will enable United to get stronger as the season progresses.—*Internet*



Sir Alex Ferguson acknowledges Man Utd's Wayne Rooney after taking him off at Newcastle.
INTERNET



Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Gyro wrappers
6. Goya's "Duchess of ____"
10. Become unhinged
14. "Haste makes waste," e.g.
15. Function customarily served by another
16. Blue hue
17. Joined together again
19. City on the Yamuna River
20. Keen
21. Football playing field
23. Male hormone
25. Magical drink
27. "Dear" one
28. "____ Ng" (They Might Be Giants song)
29. "Buenos ____"
32. "____ go!", slang
36. Words interpreted two ways (2 wds)
40. Any Platters platter
41. "Cut it out!"
42. Common deciduous tree
43. ____ v. Wade
45. Wanderers
48. Reinforcement
53. Woman who receives patron's support
54. Kvetch
58. Bringing up the rear
59. Malign
61. Hip bones
62. ____-friendly
63. Member of Quechuan people in Peru
64. Beach shades
65. ____ Station
66. Cast out

Down

1. Legal prefix
2. Bad day for Caesar
3. Boor's lack
4. Rabbitlike rodent
5. Pliable plastic explosive
6. "Aladdin" prince
7. Fast talk
8. Fermented alcoholic beverages
9. Examinations of financial accounts
10. Carpet runner holder
11. The "N" of U.N.C.F.
12. Composer Copland
13. 747, e.g.
18. Near
22. Condescend
24. Attempts
25. Carbon compound
26. Extol
28. "Much ____ About Nothing"
30. Amazon, e.g.
31. Backgammon piece
33. Put one's foot down?
34. After-dinner selection
35. "Don't ____!"
37. Catholic clergy's caps
38. Freetown currency unit
39. Word derived from person's name
44. Small dish for serving poultry product
46. Bully
47. Equipping with weapons
48. Divided
49. Start of a refrain
50. Pine sap derivative
51. Bait
52. She had "the face that launched a thousand ships"
55. Defensive spray
56. Flight data, briefly (acronym, pl.)
57. Cost of living?
60. Ashes holder

Coyle pays tribute to match-winner Cahill

LONDON, 6 Jan—Bolton manager Owen Coyle reserved special praise for defender Gary Cahill after his late winner in the 2-1 victory over Everton at Goodison Park.

Cahill's 78th-minute strike was enough to earn three points for the Trotters and move them off the bottom of the Barclays Premier League to within a point of QPR in 17th place.

The England centre-back has been in talks with Chelsea over a potential move to Stamford Bridge since the transfer window re-opened, and Coyle believes it reflects well on Cahill that he has still been able to produce such good performances in a Bolton shirt.

"It can't have been easy for Gary when it is a club of Chelsea's stature and a fee has been agreed," said Coyle. "I can't say whether this will be Gary's last game for Bol-



Chelsea target Gary Cahill fires in Bolton's winner at Everton on Wednesday.—INTERNET

ton. "To be fair to Chelsea, I think they've respected the fact that we had a huge game and have not had further dialogue, but we expect that they will possibly in the next few days. But while that continues, Gary has shown tremendous mental character and desire for Bolton Wanderers."

The Trotters went 1-0 down at Everton thanks to a

freak goal from Toffees keeper Tim Howard, who saw his second-half clearance get caught in the wind, bounce once and loop over Bolton stopper Adam Bogdan.

Coyle, who then watched David Ngog level before Cahill's late winner, says he has never seen anything like it in all the time he has been in football.

Internet

Inter's Marco Branca: No Wesley Snejder talks with Manchester City

MILAN, 6 Jan—Inter sporting director Marco Branca has rejected suggestions that his side is locked in talks with Manchester City over the transfer of Wesley Snejder to England.

British sources had claimed that Inter was willing to use the Dutchman as makeweight in a deal for Carlos Tevez, who is desperate to find a new club before the end of the month.

"There were no discussions whatsoever regarding Wesley Snejder today during our meeting in London with representatives of Manchester City," Branca told Inter's website.

AC Milan seem to be



Wesley Snejder

frontrunners in the race to sign Tevez, but Italian sources have claimed in the last days that Inter is also vying for the Argentine's services.

However, with City refusing to accept loan offers for the striker, Inter is reportedly pessimistic about its chances to land the 27-year-old.—*Internet*

FIFA targets informers to help fight match-fixing

ZURICH, 6 Jan—FIFA is working with informers inside organized crime syndicates to help protect the World Cup from match-fixing and betting plots.

FIFA's security director Chris Eaton outlined a strategy on Thursday for soccer's world governing body to attempt to stop the fixing of international matches that results in millions of dollars in profit.

"What we're doing now is developing sources both in criminal organizations and football that will advise us," Eaton said in an interview published by FIFA's website.

"We are creating a hostile environment for match-

fixers to make them realize we will expose them, name them, and make them subject to investigation somewhere in the world."

FIFA's pro-active plan to get information from inside crime syndicates is a direct response to its 208 national member bodies being targeted to help fixing plots.

"The infiltration of serious criminals into our associations and football generally is the most pressing issue," Eaton said.

FIFA believes crime gangs have received inside help from soccer officials to organize international matches and select corrupt referees.

Internet

Federer, Nadal reach semis in Qatar



Roger Federer

DOHA, 6 Jan—Defending champion Roger Federer extended his winning streak to 20 straight matches Thursday to reach the semifinals of the Qatar Open, despite being stretched by Andreas Seppi of Italy to three sets in a 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 victory.

The third-ranked Federer set up a rematch of last year's semifinal against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. The sixth-ranked Frenchman defeated Albert Ramos of Spain 6-2, 6-1.

Rafael Nadal also reached the semifinals, playing some of his best tennis this

week in dispatching of Mikhail Youzhny 6-4, 6-4. He will face Gael Monfils, who won the last four games in each set to beat Viktor Troicki of Serbia 6-2, 6-3 and ensure that the top four seeds reached the semifinals for the second year in a row.

The 30-year-old Federer, who is 26-3 at the Qatar Open and is looking to win his fourth title in Doha, hasn't lost since falling to Novak Djokovic in the US Open semifinals.—*Internet*

Clijsters reaches semis at Brisbane International

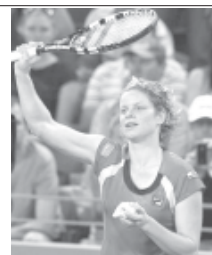
BRISBANE, 6 Jan—Australian Open champion Kim Clijsters advanced to the semifinals of the

Brisbane International with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Iveta Benesova on Thursday.

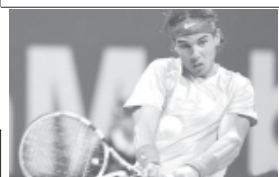
Clijsters won the Brisbane title in 2010 and, after missing the 2011 edition, now has an 8-0 record in the Australian Open tuneup.

She raced to a 5-0 lead before Benesova, who ousted US Open champion Sam Stosur in the second round, launched a comeback with a run of three straight games.

Internet



Kim Clijsters of Belgium



Rafael Nadal

International Sports

Continued from yesterday...

January transfer window

We, the **NLM-ner** profiles the most likely transfer targets during the January window - at home and abroad.

Last January, the headlines were made on deadline day when Chelsea spent £50m on Fernando Torres and Liverpool replaced the Spaniard with £35m striker Andy Carroll.

Here are our top 50 suggestions for high-profile moves this time.

Potential South American Movers . . .

NEYMAR (19, forward) Santos: Outrageously talented wonderkid whose desire for a move may have been boosted by the mauling his Brazilian club suffered against Barcelona in the World Club Cup.

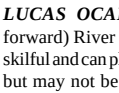


DEDE (23, centre-back) Vasco da Gama: Tall, strong and very quick. A giant in defence who also likes to make an attacking contribution. Linked with Real Madrid.

LEANDRO DAMIAO (22, forward) Internacional: Tall target man who enjoyed a wonderful 2011. Has been attracting interest from Tottenham, Arsenal and Juventus.



CARLOS LUQUE (18, winger) Colon: Displays pace and tricky dribbling skills. A hit in the World Youth Cup, which Brazil won, the Argentine has been doing well at senior level.



LUCAS OCAMPO (17, midfielder/forward) River Plate: Tall, dynamic and skilful and can play up front or in midfield, but may not be sold until his club have been promoted back to the First Division.



ANDY POLO (17, forward) Universitario: Strong and stocky bullet-fast support striker who made a huge impression in 2011. The appalling financial position of his Peruvian club could force a sale.

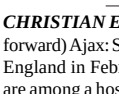


Potential European Movers . . .

WESLEY SNEIJDER (27, midfielder) Inter Milan: Inter may decide to cash-in on their Dutch star but a destination isn't clear. His sky-high wages and a hefty transfer fee could put clubs off.



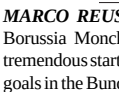
MARIO GOTZE (19, midfielder/forward) Borussia Dortmund: 'The German Messi' as described by Franz Beckenbauer. Extremely skilful and attracting plenty of interest from Arsenal and Manchester United.



CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN (19, midfielder/forward) Ajax: Starred for Denmark against England in February. Manchester United are among a host of major clubs who have been tracking him.



RASMUS ELM (23, midfielder) AZ Alkmaar: The talented Swede has attracted plenty of interest from Premier League and Serie A clubs, including Arsenal, Manchester United and Spurs.



MARCO REUS (22, midfielder/forward) Borussia Monchengladbach: Has made a tremendous start to the season and scored 10 goals in the Bundesliga so far. May favour a move to German giants Bayern Munich.



XHERDAN SHAQIRI (20, midfielder) FC Basel: The talented Swiss impressed against Manchester United in the Champions League and both United and Liverpool may target the £10m-rated player.



To be continued . . .

NLM-ner Joke

One afternoon, a man was riding in the back of his limousine when he saw two men eating grass by the road side. He ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate. "Why are you eating grass?", he asked one man.

"We don't have any money for food.", The poor man replied.

"Oh, come along with me then."

"But sir, I have a wife with two children!"

"Bring them along! And you, come with me too!", he said to the other man.

"But sir, I have a wife with six children!" The second man answered.

"Bring them as well!"

They all climbed into the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as the limo. Once underway, one of the poor fellows says "sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you."

The rich man replied "No, you don't understand, the grass at my home is about three feet tall!"

Bum in need of food

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(7-12 09:30 am ~
8-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

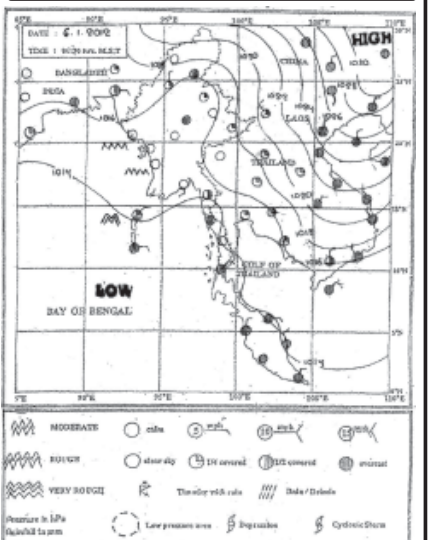
- * News
- * Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation (Rural Areas)
- * News
- * Winter Crops
- * The Foundation of Strength for Gentle Sunset of Cancer Patients
- * Towards e-Government News
- * Record Album
- * A Glory of Myanmar News
- * Yatana Thinga City & Shwe Bon Yatana-mingalar Palace
- * The Home of Colourful Sweaters
- * Music Gallery
- * Secret Places for Yummy Food
- * The Heritage of Kyin (or) Wrestling
- * Endless Wonders.....(Htukkant Thein Temple)
- * Myanmar Movies "Who Really Won"

MYANMAR TV

(7-12) (Saturday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:30 am
- 2. Morning News
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:35 am
- 4. Internal News
- 8:50 am
- 5. 2011 Sports Yearend
- 11:00 am
- 6. Martial Song
- 3:405 pm
- 7. TV Drama Series
- 41:30 pm
- 8. Dance of National Races
- 4:25 pm
- 9. Teleplay(Health)
- 5:00 pm
- 10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:20 pm
- 11. International Science News
- 5:45 pm
- 12. Beautiful "ASEAN"
- 7:00 pm
- 13. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. Cartoon Series
- 16. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather for 6th January, 2012

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past (24) hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Region and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Yangan and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan (Eastern and Southern), Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, (5°C) to (6°C) above January average temperatures in Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Northern Shan State and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Namhsam, Pinlaung and Haka (7°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.04) inch.

Nay Pyi Taw weather: Maximum temperature on 5-1-2012 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 6-1-2012 was 64°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 6-1-2012 was 82%. Total rainfall hours on 6-1-2012 was (Nil).

Nay Pyi Taw (Airport) weather: Maximum temperature on 5-1-2012 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 6-1-2012 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 6-1-2012 was 82%. Total rainfall hours on 6-1-2012 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 6-1-2012 was (Nil) at Nay Pyi Taw, Yangan (Kaba-Aye) and Mandalay each. Total rainfall since 1-1-2012 was (Nil) at Nay Pyi Taw, (Tr) at Yangan (Kaba-Aye) and Mandalay. Maximum wind speed at Nay Pyi Taw was (4) mph from West at (12:30) hours MST on 6-1-2012.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 7th January 2012: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Shan (Eastern and Northern) States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of isolated light rain are likely in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 7-1-2012: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangan and neighbouring area for 7-1-2012: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-1-2012: Partly cloudy.

Loans disbursed to vendors in Shwegu

SHWEGU, 6 Jan—Sibin Thayar Yay Bank Ltd disbursed loans to vendors in Shwegu Township on 25 January.

Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Khin Aung Ni explained purpose of disbursing the loans, and then presented K 20 million to 100 vendors.

Myanma Alin

Monsoon paddy harvested on model plot

MANDALAY, 6 Jan—Model plot of Ayeyamin strain monsoon paddy was harvested in Myayi Nanda field of Chanmyathazi Township on 29 December.

Township departmental officials supervised the harvesting task. The model plot produced 90 baskets of paddy per acre.

Local authorities and farmers participated in harvesting works.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

Gravel road commissioned in Wakema

WAKEMA, 6 Jan—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, a gravel road to Kyungon Village was put into service in Wakema Township on 3 January.

Local authorities formally opened the new road.

The gravel road, 1550 feet long, was constructed at a cost of K 9.6 million by local people and Township Development Affairs Committee.

Myanma Alin



Agricultural knowledge disseminated to farmers from Mobye Village in Pekhonn Township

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing met a excursion group of 54 Kayan national farmers from Mobye Village-tract in Pekkonn Township, Shan State (South) at mechanized farming 500-acre plantation in Nyaungbingyisu in Pobbathiri Township this morning and explained production and cultivation of Palethwe special high-yield hybrid paddy strain.

Next, Deputy Minister U Ohn Than and departmental heads presented the farmers with Palethwe paddy strains and the Union Minister, with samples of Palethwe rice. Then, the excursion group studied production of Palethwe paddy strains, farm machinery

produced by the Industry Ministry, thriving of Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations and fruits and vegetables grown in greenhouses.

Afterwards, the Union Minister in meeting with the farmers at the briefing hall stressed the need for use of quality strains and scientific cultivation of paddy with the use of natural fertilizers.

Later, the Union Minister and party visited the 100-acre plantation of Tegvigon region advanced farmland reclamation project in Zabuthiri Township and the 40-acre plantation in Gyaing Village in Dekkhinathiri Township. He then inspected research plantations of dragon fruits and left necessary instructions.—MNA



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing gives sample of Palethwe rice to an observer farmer from Southern Shan State.—MNA



Photo shows white baby elephant, daughter of Baddawaddy is now over one month old. MNA

One-month-old white baby elephant adds fun to elephant park

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—Born on 27 November last year at Yadana Elephant Shed in the precinct of Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda, daughter of Baddawaddy has now over one month old.

Living in happiness and in pink, she has now grown to three feet and two inches in height and four feet and six inches in circumference.

The white baby elephant lends visual pleasure to the white elephant park, making the visitors amused with her lovely manners. Her mother is breastfeeding her who loves playing with the ball.

The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry is taking close care of the mother and the kid.

MNA

Road inaugurated in Mudon to hail 64th Anniversary Independence Day

YANGON, 6 Jan — As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, a road which was built on self-reliant basic was commissioned into service in Mudon township on 2 January.

The asphalt road linking two villages was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Mon State U Ohn Myint. The road is 5470 ft long

and 12 ft wide and the road was built at the cost of K58.5 million contributed by the local people.

After the ceremony, the State Chief Minister visited the rice plantation on the irrigated field of the Central Agricultural Farm in Mudon, Mon State.

MNA

Fergie rejects Lampard rumours United boss would not expect Chelsea to sell England midfielder



CHELSEA, 6 Jan—Sir Alex Ferguson says there is 'no foundation' to reports linking Manchester United with a move for Frank Lampard and would not expect Chelsea to sell the midfielder.

Speculation in Friday's tabloids had

idea of a move to Old Trafford.

Lampard has been in and out of the Chelsea side this season and there have been rumours of a strained relationship with manager Andre Villas-Boas.

The England international, who has 18 months left on his contract at Stamford Bridge, has recently stressed his commitment to the Blues amid reports of a possible exit.

However, Ferguson has ruled out a move to bring in the 33-year-old to boost a United midfield which has been depleted by injuries this season.

"Do you really think Chelsea would sell to United in January?" said Ferguson.

"There's no foundation in that.

"Chelsea want to do something in the second half of the season so they want to keep their best players."

Ferguson also reiterated that he is not currently planning to add to his squad in January as he does not believe he will be able to land the players he wants.

He added: "What can you get in January? I've said this many times now. The players we'd like we can't get.

"If the alternative is to sign a second-rate player, we don't want to do that.

"Our injuries have led to fans wanting us to sign someone, but I don't want to sign a player who won't get a game when everyone's fit because he's not good enough."

Internet

Myanmar, China to cooperate in science and technology sector

PAGE 2



PAGE 4

Researchers create healthier cigarette

Ferguson retains faith in title hopes



PAGE 14