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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.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo receives US Special Rep

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo received US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell at the Credentials Hall of the President Residence here at 11 am today.

Also present at the call together with Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo were Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-

Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General at the President Office U Min Zaw and officials.

US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell was accompanied by Chargé d' Affaires ai of US Embassy in Myanmar Mr Michael E Thurston and embassy staff.

They frankly exchanged views on bilateral relations and cooperation.—MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo receives US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell.—MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell.—MNA



US Special Rep meets UEC Chairman



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Commander-in-Chief calls on Chief of Defence Forces of Royal Thai Armed Forces

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Tarmacking of Shwebo-Sabenantha road section inspected

PAGE 8

Nicotine therapy doesn't help smokers quit



PAGE 4

Significant night temperature (10-1-2012)

Heho	(4° C)
Haka	(4° C)
Pinlaung	(5° C)

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 11 January, 2012

Everyone has the duty to follow civic rules

A city once known for its tidiness and cleanliness can become a dirty one due to a lack of proper maintenance. Yangon, the commercial capital of Myanmar, used to be the best city in Southeast Asia. Yet with the passage of time, its city characteristics have declined with a want of maintenance and good discipline.

As times flew alongside undisciplined people, Yangon has become an ugly city. So, there have come calls for making the city clean and tidy and holding everybody accountable for beautifying.

It is not an easy task, indeed. Although a series of civic rules have been introduced in successive eras, the project didn't come a long way as expected. It is the duty of all city dwellers to realize the ambition and supervisors are responsible as well.

It has been learnt lately from the news that according to the Yangon City sanitation and beautifying project, action will be taken against reckless disposal of garbage, roadside urinating and defecating and spitting. Interested retired civil servants will be assigned duty to watch such incidents and paid 10 percent of a fine.

This system has already been practised by a neighbouring country. Senior citizens take their pride to be responsible for keeping their own country clean and tidy. In a country that once copied Myanmar, it so happened that if a person threw out a piece of rubbish, another would pick it up. It is a great pride for the one who picked the garbage up. But it is a shame for the thrower.

Public notices must constantly be issued so that the people can respect and follow the civic rules and disciplines.

A city being clean and tidy brings glory and grace to its nation as well as its people. Overall, everyone has a responsibility to respect and follow civic rules.

Innocent civilian injured in KIA's mine blast

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Maung Nyi Paung, 21, villager of Shaduzuk Village in Phakant Township of Kachin State was injured in mine blast as he stepped a mine planted by KIA (Kachin) Group near Moekaung Creek on his way back to home from gold-panning site around 11.30 pm on 8 January.

The mine victim was injured under his right armpit with his left toe cut off. The victim was rushed to Tanai People's Hospital by authorities concerned who were giving him necessary assistance.—MNA

LOCAL SPORTS

Myanmar shooters to compete in Kuwait International Shooting Grand Prix

YANGON, 10 Jan—The Myanmar shooting team led by President of Myanmar Shooting Federation U Htet Nyi will take part in the Kuwait International Shooting Grand Prix to be held in Kuwait in March 2012.

The team will comprise shooters Maung Kyue, Nay Htet Aung, Lin Aung, Aung Nyein Ni and Aye Aye Thin.

MNA

US Special Rep meets UEC Chairman



NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell and party called on Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye at the election commission here this morning.

Also present together with the commission chairman were commission members. They discussed matters related to by-elections, political parties and establishing friendly ties between the institutions of the two countries.

MNA

Foundation stone of new library laid in Dekkhinathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—The foundation stone of the new library was laid this morning in Htantabin Monastery precinct in Htantabin Village, Kyabin Village-tract in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, attended by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, abbot of Htantabin monastery Bhaddanta Kavala, donors U Maung Shein, U Khin Maung Aye of KMA Co and U Thein Aung of Shwe Pyi Taw Hotel.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing and wife Daw Khin Thant Zin presented uniforms to 12 teachers who are teaching Buddhist culture, English and computer science at the free

school of Htantabin monastery.

The Union Minister and party then inspected 63-day-old hybrid Palethwal paddy plantations on 40-acre farmer educative farm near Kyaing Village in Dekkhinathiri Township and 369-acre farm in Ahlyinlo Village in Pynmana Township. He there called his staff to provide farmers with on-farm technical assistance.

He then visited 10000-acre mechanized farming project in Zabuthiri Township and 500-acre Nyaungbingyisu farmer educative farm in Pobbathiri Township.

MNA

Dy Culture Minister receives Asia Society Vice-President



NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Daw Sanda Khin received delegation led by Vice-

President of New York-based Asia Society Mrs Suzanne Di

Maggio at the ministry here this afternoon.

The meeting focused on cooperation in arts, museum, library and periodical fields.

Also present at the call were Director-General of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture U Yan Naing Oo, Director-General of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department U Kyaw Oo Lwin, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information U Ye Htet and Head of Office of the Ministry of Culture U Aung Naing Myint.—MNA

A-1 Cup U-21 Invitational Football Tournament held



MYITTHA, 10 Jan—In commemoration of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the final match of the 9th A-1 Cup U-21 Invitational Football Tournament was held at the sports ground in Thalun Model Village in Myittha Township on 4 January.

A-1 football team secured the champion with a 5-3 victory over Kon Village.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyi Maung, Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Kyi, local authorities and departmental officials presented medals and cash awards to the winners.

Daw Kyin Ku and son U Soe Nyunt of sponsor A-1 Brokerage awarded championship trophy to first prize winning A-1 team.

Myanma Alin

Possible tornado damages Houston-area mall

HOUSTON, 10 Jan—City roads were flooded and thousands of Houston residents lost power Monday after powerful thunderstorms plowed through the area, with a possible tornado damaging and shutting down a nearby mall.

The skies over Houston turned pitch black as the massive storms raced through the drought-stricken area, dropping several inches of rain over a two-hour period. Roads rapidly flooded and drivers became stranded on major arteries that connect the city's sprawling neighbourhoods and suburbs.

In Texas City, a town about 40 miles southeast of

Houston, a possible tornado damaged the roof and wall of the Mall of the Mainland, and Fire Chief Joe Gorman evacuated and shut down the building. In North and West Texas, meanwhile, the National Weather Service said a cold, steady downpour will drop an inch or two of much-needed rain.

The drought, however, is far from over. "We're not going to end the drought this winter even if we have above-normal rainfall," said State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon. According to preliminary data, Texas got about 14.89 inches of rain in 2011, compared to a normal average of 29.39 inches —

levels that compare to 1917 and 1956, some of the driest years in recorded history, Nielsen-Gammon said. Recovering from that will take a wet winter, and a wetter-than-normal spring, he said.

Internet



A stranded motorist surveys the situation at the intersection of Fondren and Harwin Drive as a storm continues to move through the area on 9 Jan, 2012, in Houston.

INTERNET

Malaysian customs foils plot to smuggle in 500 kilogrammes worth of elephant tusks

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Jan—Malaysian custom officers seized a container with 500 kilogrammes of elephant tusks at a major port on Monday and foiled what appeared to be an unprecedented attempt by an international syndicate to smuggle the tusks into the country. Selangor State Customs director Azis Yacub was quoted by local media as saying the elephant tusks, worth 2.4 million ringgit (764,330.4 US dollars), were hidden in 53 television set boxes in a container that arrived at Port Klang from Cape Town, South Africa. "The goods were declared as polyester and nylon strand matting in the ship's bill of lading. The boxes were kept at the back of the container, along with some used tyres," Azis was quoted as saying. Police believed that Malaysians are involved in the traffic and are now investigating a local forwarding company. Azis said this would be the first time a syndicate had tried to smuggle in elephant tusks. Previously, traffickers had only used Malaysia's ports to transit such contraband, usually from Africa to far east countries.—Xinhua

Life sentence sought for Frankfurt airport shooter

FRANKFURT, 10 Jan—Prosecutors are asking for a sentence of life in prison for an alleged Islamic extremist who has admitted killing two US airmen at Frankfurt airport last year.

Dapd news agency reported that Prosecutor Jochen Weingarten told the Frankfurt state court in closing arguments Monday that Arid Uka deserved the maximum possible sentence due to the brutal nature of the crime.

The 21-year-old ethnic Albanian from Kosovo confessed as the trial opened to killing two men at point-blank range before wounding two more airmen and taking aim at a third before his gun misfired. Under German law the court still has to review all the evidence despite the confession.—Internet



In this 2 March, 2011 file photo police investigate the scene after a gunman fired shots at US soldiers on the bus outside Frankfurt airport, Germany. Prosecutors are asking for a sentence of life in prison for the alleged Islamic extremist who has admitted killing two US airmen at the Frankfurt airport last year.—INTERNET

NATO neutralizes two pirate mother ships off coast of Oman, Somalia

NAIROBI, 10 Jan—NATO's counter piracy taskforce said on Monday it has successfully neutralized two ocean going dhows that had been pirated over the past three days off the coast of Somalia and Oman. NATO's Counter Piracy Task Force 508 said the two ocean going dhows were subsequently being used as mother ships from which Somali pirates were intending to launch attacks on merchant shipping in the sea lanes off Somalia and the southern Arabian coasts.

NATO said in the first incident last Friday, the *USS Carney* acting on intelligence from other counter piracy forces intercepted the Indian flagged dhow AL Qashmi off the south western coast of Oman.

"Following the dhow until it was safe to intercept her, the *USS Carney* carried out a text book approach to persuade the suspected pirates that they should stop and allow a compliant boarding of the dhow," the taskforce said in a statement.

It said the dhow the *USS Carney's* Board and Search Team quickly discovered once aboard that all evidence of potential piracy had been disposed of and questioning of the dhow's crew revealed that they had been hijacked with the nine suspected pirates launching from a different dhow.

Xinhua

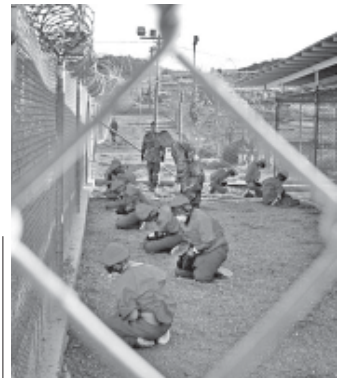
Guantanamo closure hopes fade as prison turns 10

SAN JUAN, 10 Jan—Suleiman al-Nahdi waits with dozens of other prisoners in a seemingly permanent state of limbo five years after he was cleared for release from Guantanamo Bay. "I wonder if the US government wants to keep us here forever," the 37-year-old al-Nahdi wrote in a recent letter to his lawyers.

Open for 10 years on Wednesday, the prison seems more established than ever. The deadline set by President Barack Obama to close Guantanamo came and went two years ago. No detainee has left in a year because of restrictions on transfers, and indefinite military detention is now enshrined in US law. The 10th anniversary will be the subject of demonstrations in London and Washington. Prisoners at the US Navy base in Cuba plan to mark the day with sit-ins, banners and a refusal of meals, said Ramzi Kassem, a lawyer who represents seven inmates. "They would like to send a message that the prisoners of Guantanamo still reject the injustice of their imprisonment," said Kassem, a law professor at the City University of New York.

Human rights groups and lawyers for prisoners are dismayed that Obama not only failed to overcome resistance in Congress and close the prison, but that his administration has resumed military tribunals at the base and continues to hold men like al-Nahdi who have been cleared for release.

Critics are also angry over the president's 31 Dec. signing of the National Defence Authorization Act, which includes a provision allowing indefinite military detention without trial. "Now, we have Guantanamo forever signed into law," said Andrea Prasow, senior counterterrorism counsel for Human Rights Watch. "Instead of pushing forward with the agenda of closure, he has accepted the idea of indefinite detention for the duration of some undefined hostilities." White House press secretary Jay Carney said Monday that Obama still wants to close Guantanamo because "it's the right thing to do for our national security interest," a view that he says is shared by senior members of the military. He noted President George W. Bush and Sen. John McCain, while running for president in 2008, also supported closing the prison.—Internet



In this 11 Jan, 2002 file photo, released by the US Department of Defence, detainees wearing orange jump suits sit in a holding area as military police patrol during in-processing at the temporary detention facility Camp X-Ray on Guantanamo Bay US Naval Base in Cuba. Open for 10 years on 11 Jan, 2012, the Guantanamo Bay prison seems more established than ever. The deadline set by President Barack Obama to close it came and went two years ago. No detainee has left in a year because of restrictions on transfers, and indefinite military detention is now enshrined in US law.—INTERNET

Pakistan bomb kills 35 in deadliest attack in months

ISLAMABAD, 10 Jan—A remote-controlled bomb blast killed 35 people and wounded more than 60 others on Tuesday in the deadliest attack in months in the Taliban-hit tribal region of northwest Pakistan.

The explosion took place in a market in Jamrud, one of the towns of the troubled Khyber tribal region, which also used to serve as the main

supply route for NATO forces operating in Afghanistan.

"The total number of deaths in the blast is 35 while 69 people were wounded, and of them the condition of 11 is critical," a senior administration official, Shakeel Khan Umarzai, told AFP. Another top official in Khyber, Mutahir Zeb, said the target of the attack was not immediately clear. "According to initial information, it was a remote controlled device planted in a passenger pickup van," he said. Pakistan's remote and lawless northwestern region is a stronghold of Taliban and Al-Qaeda operatives and other militants opposed to the government.

Militants largely based in the tribal borderlands have carried out bomb and gun attacks killing more than 4,700

people across Pakistan since July 2007. But the market attack was the first major Islamist militant attack in Pakistan since a suicide bomber killed 46 people, targeting anti-Taliban militia at a funeral in the northwestern District of Lower Dir on 15 September.

Pakistan has battled a homegrown insurgency for years, with more than 3,000 soldiers killed in the battle against militancy. On Monday Pakistani authorities recovered the bodies of 10 soldiers in an exchange of bodies with Taliban militants following a clash two weeks ago in the tribal belt. An official with the military's media wing said the soldiers had been missing in Orakzai District since 21 December when rebels attacked a checkpoint and killed 13 others.—Internet

Pakistani security personnel inspect the site of explosion in Pakistani tribal area of Khyber near Peshawar, Pakistan on 10 Jan, 2012. A bomb targeting a militia opposed to the Pakistani.

INTERNET



Cholesterol meds raise diabetes risk in women

NEW YORK, 10 Jan—Post-menopausal women who take medication to lower their cholesterol face a higher risk of getting diabetes than women who do not take the popular drugs, known as statins, said a US study on Monday. The risk was apparent even after researchers adjusted for variables such as age, race/ethnicity and body mass index, said the study in the Archives of Internal Medicine, a publication of the Journal of the American

Medical Association (JAMA). The link appeared regardless of what type of statin, or what dosage, the women were taking, said the study which included 153,000 women with an average age of 63.

The researchers from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota called for more study on the matter but said in the meantime there was no need to revise the guidelines for statin use in non-diabetic people, pointing out that statins aim to fix the negative heart consequences of diabetes.



A person has their cholesterol levels checked at a clinic. Post-menopausal women who take medication to lower their cholesterol face a higher risk of getting diabetes than women who do not take the popular drugs, known as statins, said a US study on Monday.

INTERNET

"Women who are taking statins should be aware of the need to check their blood sugars, along with their liver function tests," said Suzanne Steinbaum, director of women and heart disease at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York.

"Due to the extensive use of statins in the aging female population, it is critical that more studies are done to help understand the association with statins and the development of diabetes," added Steinbaum, who was not part of the study.

Statins have been dubbed "the aspirin of the 21st century" for their perceived benefits in cardiovascular health and relatively few side effects. Worldwide sales total more than \$20 billion annually.

Popularly known names such as Lipitor, Pravachol, and Crestor are among the most widely prescribed drugs in the United States. About 42 million Americans suffer from high cholesterol.

The drugs help reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke by lowering a person's low-density lipoprotein (LDL), sometimes known as "bad cholesterol."

Internet

Electronic health records improve nursing



PHILADELPHIA, 10 Jan—US nurses working with electronic health records consistently reported improvements in nursing care and better health outcomes, researchers say.

Lead author Ann Kutney-Lee and co-author Deena Kelly, both of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, said the study involved more than 16,000 nurses working at 316 hospitals in four states.

The study, published in the Journal of

Nursing, found having a basic electronic health records system was associated with better outcomes independently of nurse staffing — indicating that both play an important role in quality of care.

In addition, nurses in hospitals with fully implemented basic electronic health records were significantly less likely to report unfavorable patient safety issues, frequent medication errors and low quality of care, the study said.—Internet

Nicotine therapy doesn't help smokers quit



NEW YORK, 10 Jan—Gums, patches and nasal sprays that supply smokers with nicotine do not help people quit cigarettes over the long term any better than going it alone, a US study said on Monday.

The research by the Harvard University School of Public Health followed 787 adults in the state of Massachusetts who had recently quit smoking, and found that over time just as many relapsed after nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) as without — about a third. "This study shows that using NRT is no more effective in helping people stop smoking cigarettes in the long term than trying to quit on one's own," said lead author Hillel Alpert, a research scientist at Harvard.

Study participants were surveyed over three time periods: 2001-2002, 2003-2004, and 2005-2006.

Not only were relapse rates about the

Gums, patches and nasal sprays that supply smokers with nicotine do not help people quit cigarettes over the long term any better than going it alone, a US study said on Monday.—INTERNET

same among those who used NRT and those who did not, the study found that heavily dependent smokers who took NRT without professional therapy were twice as likely to relapse as those who did not use NRT.

"This may indicate that some heavily dependent smokers perceive NRT as a sort of 'magic' pill, and upon realizing it is not, they find themselves without support in their quitting efforts, doomed to failure," said the study in the journal Tobacco Control.

Internet

SEC wants banks to say more on European debt exposure

GENEVA, 10 Jan—The Securities and Exchange Commission has urged banks to publish more details about their exposure to European sovereign debt, a factor in the recent bankruptcy of the futures brokerage MF Global Holdings Ltd.

In guidance issued on Friday, the regulator's Division of Corporation

Finance said disclosures by publicly-traded financial institutions have been "inconsistent in both substance and presentation." It said this could make it harder for investors to discern how much risk the banks are taking, both individually and relative to each other, and how the exposures will affect operating results or financial

health.

The SEC urged that banks reveal direct and indirect exposures "separately by country, segregated between sovereign and non-sovereign exposures." It said they should also provide more details on hedging, through such instruments as credit default swaps, and sums they might need to raise

if forced to close out their positions.

"In determining which countries are covered by this guidance, registrants should focus on those experiencing significant economic, fiscal and/or political strains such that the likelihood of default would be higher than would be anticipated when such factors do not exist," the SEC said.—Reuters



A man rides his motorcycle past shipping containers at the Port of Shanghai on 14 February, 2011.

INTERNET

HW Park (2nd R), managing director and chairman of Hyundai Motors, and Hyundai's North American CEO John Krafcik pose after the Hyundai Elantra won the 2012 North American Car of the Year award during a press preview of the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit, the United States, on 9 Jan, 2011.

XINHUA



Swatch sees more growth after record sales in 2011

ZURICH, 10 Jan—Swatch Group, the world's largest watchmaker, shrugged off the impact of the strong Swiss franc to post record sales in 2011 and said it is confident of more growth in 2012. The group, which is best known for its colorful plastic Swatch watches, said on Tuesday sales rose 21.7 percent at constant rates in 2011 compared with the previous year to a new record of 7.143 billion Swiss francs (\$7.50 billion).

This compares with a forecast for 6.8 billion francs in 2011 sales by analysts at Kepler. Dampening expectations of a slowdown in the watch industry, Swatch said in a statement it experienced the strongest turnover in the group's history in December 2011, while all regions and price segments had got off to a positive start in January. But analysts cautioned sales growth had weakened slightly compared to the first half. "The outlook statement is not as typically bullish as the company has been in the past," Kepler analyst Jon Cox said in a statement.

By 0832 GMT shares in Swatch were up 3.4 percent, outperforming a 1.1 percent firmer STOXX European personal and household goods index <SXQP>. Exporters were heavily burdened in 2011 by the strong Swiss franc, which hit multiple records against the euro and dollar and flirted with parity against the single currency in August.—Reuters

More policy support seen as China import growth flags

BEIJING, 10 Jan—China's exports and imports grew at their slowest pace in more than two years in December as foreign and domestic demand ebbed, data showed on Tuesday, bolstering expectations of more policy action from Beijing to support the world's number two economy.

Annual export growth of 13.4 percent in December was in line with expectations, albeit the slowest since November 2009 except for a February distortion caused by Lunar New Year holidays.

But it was a big downside surprise for import growth that caught investor attention, sinking to a 26-month low of just 11.8 percent year-on-year

versus the 17 percent forecast by economists in the benchmark Reuters poll. "We thought imports would surprise quite a bit on the downside and generally the implication is negative. Domestic demand is slowing down very quickly," Zhang Zhiwei, chief China economist at Nomura in Hong Kong, told Reuters.

Zhang said the scale of drops in annual import growth for domestic consumption, at 13.5 percent in December versus November's 27.4 percent, and imports for processing trade at 6.2 percent versus about 11 percent in November, were crucial. "That means going forward for the

next couple of months exports will decline with a very high certainty," he said. "This trade data basically confirms our view that the first quarter is going to be very tough."

The December trade data is a key link in a series of activity indicators to be published by China over the next two weeks, including fourth-quarter gross domestic product that is likely to show the world's second-largest economy suffering its worst quarter in 2 years.—Reuters

Business

Europe's Vega rocket launch set for early February



The Vega rocket is seen in Kourou, French Guiana, in 2007. The maiden voyage of Europe's Vega rocket, designed to launch small payloads of about 1.5 tonnes into low-Earth orbit, is set for 9 February, the head of the European Space Agency said Monday.—INTERNET

PARIS, 10 Jan—The maiden voyage of Europe's Vega rocket, designed to launch small payloads of about 1.5 tonnes into low-Earth orbit, is set for 9 February, the head

of the European Space Agency said Monday.

"The target date for the Vega launch, set with all the partners involved — Ariespace, industry, other space agencies — is 9 February," ESA's Director General Jean-Jacques Dordain said at a Press conference. The rocket is scheduled to lift the LARES (Laser Relativity Satellite), along with several other micro-satellites, from the Ariane launch site in Kourou, French Guiana.

The ESA had hoped to put the first Vega into space as early as 2009, and in October set a 30 January date for the light rocket's first voyage. "Goodness knows it is a very difficult campaign. Everything is new," Dordain said, adding that he was confident the new date would hold.

Bringing Vega on line means that Europe will have completed its three-pronged launch capability.

Heavy-lifter Ariane ES can hoist the 20 tonnes Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV) supply module to the *International Space Station*, while the Ariane ECA is designed mainly to lift communications satellites weighing up to 10 tonnes into geostationary orbit.

The Russian workhorse *Soyuz* rocket, launched for the first time from the Ariane site in October, carries mid-sized loads.—*Internet*

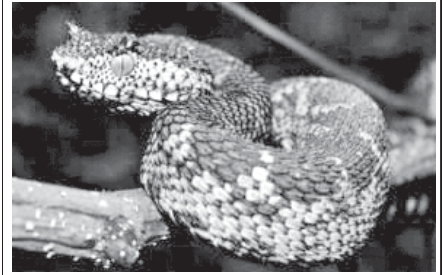
Astronomers make biggest map of dark matter in universe

LONDON, 10 Jan—International astronomers said Monday they have created the largest map of dark matter ever observed in the universe, using data from potent telescopes that scanned 10 million galaxies. The mysterious substance is believed to make up about a quarter of the universe, but its nature is a puzzle because it can be detected only indirectly through the gravitational pull it exerts on visible matter.

To make the new map, astronomers studied how light emitted from galaxies is distorted as it passes by big clumps of dark matter in its travel toward Earth.

The result is an "intricate cosmic web of dark matter and galaxies that spans more than one billion light years," said the findings by astronomers at the University of British Columbia and University of Edinburgh. "It is fascinating to be able to 'see' the dark matter using space-time distortion," said Ludovic Van Waerbeke of UBC who worked on the project, known as the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Lensing Survey (CFHTLenS).

"It gives us privileged access to this mysterious mass in the universe which cannot be observed otherwise." It looks like "a network of gigantic dense (white) and empty (dark) regions, where the largest white regions are about the size of several Earth moons on the sky," said the findings, presented at the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Austin, Texas.—*Internet*



Matilda's Horned Viper.—INTERNET

New snake identified in Tanzania

NEW YORK, 10 Jan—The US-based Wildlife Conservation Society has announced the discovery of a spectacularly colored snake species in a remote area of Tanzania in East Africa.

The 2-foot-long, striking black-and-yellow snake with horn-like scales above its eyes has been named Matilda's horned viper, the society said in a release Monday.

The discovery has been published in journal *Zootaxa* but the authors of the research study say they are keeping the exact location of the new species a secret since the

snake could be of interest to illegal pet collectors.

The snake's habitat of just a few square miles is already severely degraded by logging and charcoal manufacture, they said.

The species is expected to be classified as critically endangered, and researchers say they have already established a small captive breeding colony.

The species has been named *Atheris matildae* after the daughter of study co-author Tim Davenport, director of society's Tanzania programme, the release said.—*Internet*



Intel to launch biggest ad campaign in eight years

LAS VEGAS, 10 Jan—Intel Corp says it is betting big on its "ultrabook" concept with its largest advertising campaign since 2003.

The campaign to push the new thinner and lighter notebook computers will start in April, says Kevin Sellers, Intel's head of advertising. Sellers didn't say how much Intel Corp would spend on the ads and other initiatives. He spoke to the Press on Monday, ahead of the opening of the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Intel hasn't planned a launch this big since the company introduced Centrino chips for Wi-fi-capable laptops eight years ago. Though it chiefly makes processors, Intel often prods PC makers to build their products in certain ways. The "ultrabooks" are similar to Apple's MacBook Air, which launched three years ago. PC makers have responded well to the ultrabook idea, and Intel says there are 75 models on the way. The Consumer Electronics Association expects 30 to 50 ultrabook models to be on display at CES. More news is expected out of Intel on Tuesday, when CEO Paul Otellini speaks at the show. Intel watchers expect that the news will have something to do with the company's long-standing ambition to get its chips into smartphones.—*Internet*



An Intel exhibitor checks the exhibit booth for the Consumer Electronics Show, on 9 Jan, 2012, in Las Vegas. The 2012 International CES tradeshow, the world's largest consumer electronics exhibition starts Tuesday.—INTERNET

TECHNOLOGY

A model poses with Canon's new digital camera Power Shot G1 X during its unveiling ceremony in Seoul, South Korea, on 10 Jan, 2012. The price of the new digital camera with 1.5 inch CMOS sensor, hasn't been unveiled.

INTERNET

TVs you can talk to, without sounding crazy

LAS VEGAS, 10 Jan—Talking to the TV is usually a sign of extreme agitation, mental instability or loneliness. TV manufacturers are set to make it a more rational behavior this year, with a range of sets that respond to speech.

LG Electronics on Monday said it will sell a remote with its high-end flat-panel TVs that contains a microphone. You'll be able to speak into the microphone to enter text on the TV for Twitter updates and Web searches. You still won't be able to change the channel or control the volume by yelling at the TV.

Samsung Electronics

also said it would have TVs that responded to voice commands. In addition, it's launching its first TV with a built-in camera. As you watch the ES8000 set, it will watch you back, looking for hand gestures that prompt it to move the onscreen cursor or launch apps.

The two Korean rivals were the first to show new models at a preview day ahead of the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, which opens Tuesday. The show will feature many variations of so-called "smart" or Web-connected TVs.

Google Inc. has tried to break into the living room

AT&T to bring out Nokia phone with Windows

LAS VEGAS, 10 Jan—AT&T on Monday said it will sell a Nokia smartphone running Microsoft's Windows Phone software. The device represents Nokia and Microsoft's best chance yet to break Apple and Google's hold on the US smartphone market, the world's most lucrative.

Nokia Corp CEO Stephen Elop joined Microsoft Corp CEO Steve Ballmer in unveiling the phone a Press event in Las Vegas ahead of the International Consumer Electronics Show. The presence of both CEOs was a sign of the importance the companies place on the device.

The phone, the Lumia 900, will use AT&T Inc's new "LTE" wireless data network, for faster downloads. It's a slab-like touch-screen phone in the vein Apple Inc's iPhone. The companies said it will be available "in coming months." They didn't reveal the price.—*Internet*

LG Electronics USA showed the new large-screen Cinema 3D Smart TV line-up on 9 Jan, 2012, a day ahead of the opening of the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

INTERNET



China launches Ziyuan III satellite

TAIYUAN, 10 Jan—China successfully launched the Ziyuan III satellite Monday from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in northern Shanxi Province. The satellite, a high-resolution remote-sensing satellite for civilian use, was launched at 11:17 am aboard a Long March 4B rocket, according to a statement from the centre.



The satellite, weighing 2650 kg, entered an orbit of 500 km above the Earth about 12 minutes after it was launched. It has a designed life expectancy of five years.

According to the centre, the satellite is tasked with offering services to aid the country's land-resources surveys, natural-disaster prevention, agriculture development, water-resources management, and urban planning. The rocket also carried a satellite from Luxembourg, according to the launch centre.

The orbiter was developed and produced by the China Academy of Space Technology, a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).

The Long March 4B rocket is developed by Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology, another CASC subsidiary. Monday's mission marked the 156th flight of China's Long March series of carrier rockets. —Xinhua

China successfully launched the Ziyuan III satellite Monday from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in northern Shanxi Province. —XINHUA

Record-setting sales for Jaguar Land Rover China

BEIJING, 10 Jan — Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) China sales exceeded 42,000 units for the first time in 2011 as it equaled, then surpassed, its previous sales record in just the first nine months of the year. The company has registered exponential growth in deliveries since first entering the China market, when only a few hundred vehicles were sold. Surpassing its 2011 target for exports to China of 40,000 vehicles, the auto company also made a significant contribution to Sino-UK economic and trade cooperation. Its final tally of 42,063 vehicles represents growth of 61 percent over 2010, outperforming the overall average in the China luxury auto sector. Jaguar set a single-month high with 945 cars sold in December alone. Land Rover delivered 36,087 vehicles last year, a 54 percent sales increase over 2010.

"JLR China's strategy and investments have led to breakthrough growth and have established us as one of the leading luxury car manufacturers in this market," said Bob Grace, the company's president. "Building on our momentum, we will continue to pursue strong and steady growth and fulfill our long-term commitment to China. In this endeavor, we will provide our customers with more value and strive to contribute to an even more prosperous and sustainable auto industry in China." —Xinhua

Indian auto sector 'to pick up next year'

MUMBAI, 10 Jan — Sales of new cars in India are likely to pick up in the next financial year, an industry body predicted on Tuesday, after months of flatish growth due to high borrowing costs and fuel prices.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) estimated that car sales would grow by 11 to 13 percent in 2012-13, well above the zero to two percent growth it currently expects this fiscal year. "The current quarter and the next fiscal year should be better," SIAM senior director Sugato Sen told AFP. Sen said he expected India's central bank to announce "some policy measures" in coming months that would help boost economic growth and kick-start demand for cars.

India, which has been one of the world's fastest growing car markets in recent years, saw sales plummet by 24 percent year-on-year in October, the biggest slump in more than a decade. Since November, car sales have improved slightly but remain subdued with many potential buyers deciding to defer their purchases or cancel them altogether because of costly auto loans and rising fuel costs.

The cost of borrowing has risen due to high inflation, which the Reserve Bank of India has tried to rein in by raising interest rates 13 times since March 2010 until pausing last month. New car sales in India rose 8.5 percent year-on-year to 159,325 in December, up from 146,856 in the same period in 2010, as the industry showed further signs of a recovery from its worst slump late last year, SIAM data showed.

Scalpers dial up trouble for iPhone release

BEIJING, 10 Jan — Conflicts among hundreds of scalpers raring to stock up on the new iPhone 4S are casting a shadow over the gadget's launch on the Chinese mainland on Friday. Over the weekend, scalpers from two groups bickered and shoved each other when standing in line to purchase iPhone 4 at Apple's Sanlitun store, said witnesses. Workers from two Apple stores in Beijing told *China Daily* the stores have not started online bookings for the iPhone 4S so far.

"More than 1,000 of us have gathered to buy all the available iPhone 4 this morning," said a scalper hawking the phone outside the Sanlitun store on Sunday. "We'll come again on Friday for iPhone 4S. You'll have no hope of getting an iPhone 4 or 4S from the store, but only from us." The scalpers are asking 4,450 yuan (705 US dollars) for an 8-gigabyte iPhone 4, and 5,450 yuan for a smuggled iPhone 4S. Apple sells an 8-gigabyte iPhone 4 on the mainland for 3,988 yuan. An Apple employee at the Sanlitun store who declined to give her name told *China Daily* on Monday that the store was aware the scalpers may be planning to besiege the iPhone 4S launch, and the store has prepared for that. Calls to the public relations office of Apple China went straight to voice mail. Police of the Sanlitun police station refused *China Daily*'s interview request. —Xinhua



New car sales in India rose 8.5 percent year-on-year in December as the industry showed further signs of a recovery from its worst slump late last year, an industry body said on Tuesday.

INTERNET

The figure represents the second straight monthly gain. Discounts helped to partially offset weaker demand for cars over the second half of the year.

SIAM also expects demand for commercial vehicles and motorbikes to improve in the next financial year starting April 1. Commercial vehicle sales are expected to grow by 12 to 14 percent and two-wheelers by 11 to 14 percent.

Mahantesh Sabarad, an auto sector analyst with Fortune Equity Brokers in Mumbai, broadly agreed with SIAM's 2012-13 estimates. "We expect to see a softening of interest rates in coming months, which would boost consumer spending and demand for cars," he said. —Internet



Handicapped children made a debut of their pantomime named Chasing the Sun in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 9 Jan, 2012. —XINHUA

China, India should make more efforts to develop economic ties

NEW DELHI, 10 Jan — Chinese ambassador to India Zhang Yan on Monday proposed that China and India make more efforts to develop economic ties. At a meeting on China-India relations attended by Indian National Security Advisor S

Menon, the ambassador said the Chinese side is fully aware of the necessity to narrow the trade gap between the two sides in order to ensure the sustainability of bilateral trade cooperation.

"China will take measures to increase the import of Indian products which have market demand in China. But our cooperation should not be limited in trade only," said the ambassador. He suggested that China and India should diversify their trade structure, expand the scope and items, and increase the technical content and added value to the products, while expanding into financial, service and investment sectors. The envoy said

China and India should initiate policy dialogue and coordinate their economic development strategy in order to ensure steady growth of respective economy, encourage mutual investments, consider the free trade agreement or regional trade arrangement, and increase tourism cooperation.

Zhang said that as an encouraging sign of economic ties, the bilateral trade volume is set to hit 70 billion US dollars in 2011, an over 20 percent increase over the previous years, while China set up its first branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China in Mumbai last year.

Xinhua

China, Kazakhstan hail sound development of bilateral ties

ASTANA, 10 Jan — Chen Zhili, special envoy of Chinese President Hu Jintao, met here Monday with Kazakh Prime Minister Karim Masimov to further strengthening bilateral relations. Chen, vice chairwoman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, said China and Kazakhstan opened a new chapter in relations when the two countries established diplomatic ties in January 1992. Bilateral relations have enjoyed rapid and comprehensive development in the past two decades, making contributions not only to the development of the two countries but also to peace and stability of the region and the world as a whole, she said.

Last year, Hu and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev jointly announced that China and Kazakhstan would develop a comprehensive strategic partnership, which further broadened the prospects of the development of bilateral relations, Chen said. China would make concerted efforts with Kazakhstan to continuously enhance political trust, deepen cooperation in an all-around way, further shore up bilateral relations and bring real benefits for the two countries and two peoples, she said. Masimov said Kazakhstan-China relations have grown swiftly in recent years and exchanges in various fields had reached unprecedented levels. Kazakhstan and China signed a series of important agreements and reached important consensus on their cooperation in the non-resource field, Masimov said.

Kazakhstan is satisfied with the achievements flowing from the growing ties between the two countries, Masimov said, stressing Kazakhstan is willing to work with China to further strengthen cooperation in such fields as economy and trade, and science and technology, and add fresh inputs to bilateral ties.

On Monday night, the Chinese embassy in Kazakhstan held a reception to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between the two countries. Chen and Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Yerzhan Kazykhanov attended the reception. Kazakhstan gained independence after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. —Xinhua



Chefs throw their hats to the air with attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people throwing chefs hats at the Grand Place in Brussels.
XINHUA

Dinosaur footprints discovered in Beijing

BEIJING, 10 Jan — Paleontologists say several hundred fossilized footprints in a Beijing suburb are those of dinosaurs. The footprints, unearthed in a geological park in Yanqing county, are the first dinosaur traces the city has found, according to Zhang Jianping, researcher at the China University of Geosciences. They were left by dinosaurs that lived some 140 to 150 million years ago in the late Jurassic period,

said Zhang.

A group of scientists from Zhang's university first discovered the footprints in July 2011 in the Guihuamu Geological Park, which is known for its concentration of petrified ancient woods. In one spot where most of the footprints are concentrated, the paleontologists counted several hundred footprints as well as seven to eight lines formed by consecutive steps. Thyreophoras, thero-

pods, ornithopods, and probably sauropods are believed to have left the footprints. The discovery will benefit the study of China's dinosaur categories at late Jurassic and early Cretaceous periods, Zhang said. "It's the first time China has found thyreophora, ornithopod, and sauropod footprints of that period, which provides us with more knowledge on how such species spread across China," said Zhang. —Xinhua

Philippines disconnects mobile phone signals during Black Nazarene feast

MANILA, 10 Jan — Philippine telecommunication companies cut off the signal of mobile phones in parts of Manila where millions of people are expected to converge for the feast of the Black Nazarene on Monday. Philippine Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valtesaid that the move was part of the precautionary measures that the government has been undertaking following terror threats. "Malacanang (Palace) confirms that the government asked the telcos to temporarily disconnect their services in the route of the Black Nazarene procession as part

of the security measures agreed upon during the meeting on Sunday," she said in a regular news briefing.

She said that the disruption in mobile services would last for the entire duration of the procession of the Black Nazarene. She admitted that the signal of the cellular phones was disconnected in the past, and terrorists used the mobile phones as triggering device for bombs. Asked if the government considered the possible losses of telecommunication firms due to the disconnection of signals, Valtesaid, "as holders of a franchise, the public safety is paramount."

President Benigno Aquino III personally warned on Sunday the public to be cautious in joining the feast of the Black Nazarene amid possible terrorist attacks. The government is expecting 9 million devotees to participate in the celebration. The Black Nazarene is the patron saint of Quiapo church.

The statue was brought to Manila by a Spanish priest in 1607. It was aboard a ship that caught fire, the image was burned, and it came to be known as the "Black Nazarene" which people have since decided to preserve and honour.

Xinhua

European leaders explore ways to alleviate debt crisis

BERLIN, 10 Jan — German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy met here Monday to thrash out new measures to solve the euro debt crisis. The meeting came ahead of Merkel's meeting Tuesday with International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde on the same issue. Merkel and Sarkozy, who were also preparing for a European Union (EU) summit scheduled for here on 30 Jan, agreed that boosting economic growth was a priority in efforts to fight the ongoing crisis.

The two leaders said they would consider speeding up payments into the European Stability Mechanism in order

to bolster market confidence. Merkel said countries should resolve the debt crisis "step by step," adding "there is no single-dimension solution." At a joint news conference after the meeting, Merkel said she "personally" supported Sarkozy in his campaign for a tax on financial transactions, but favoured its introduction in the 17 eurozone nations if there was no agreement among all 27 EU nations.

Sarkozy on Friday said France was determined to implement a financial transaction tax and "will not wait for everyone else to agree." However, British Prime Minister David Cameron said Sunday that he would block the introduction

of an EU-wide financial transaction tax for fear of harming jobs and prosperity in Europe. "The idea of a new European tax when you are not going to have that tax put in place in other places, I don't think is sensible, and so I will block it unless the rest of the world all agreed at the same time that we were all going to have some sort of tax," Cameron said.

Tuesday's Merkel-



Xinhua

Shipping limits widened as stricken ship begins to sink off New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 10 Jan — New Zealand shipping authorities Tuesday imposed new navigation restrictions around the wreckage of a Liberian-flagged cargo ship that has begun sinking after it grounded on an offshore reef for more than three months. Three quarters of the stern section of the 47,000-tonne Rena, holding an estimated 400 cargo containers, was under water and two tugs were at the site to contain drifting containers, Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) said.

The vessel's situation on the Astrolabe Reef, about 12 nautical miles off the east of

the North Island, "began to change rapidly" from 8:30am Tuesday, said a statement from the MNZ. The harbourmaster for the nearby Bay of Plenty region ordered all vessels to stay at least 200 meters clear of all containers from the Rena and from any salvage vessel. The temporary exclusion zones were in addition to the existing 3-nautical-mile exclusion zone around the Astrolabe Reef and any part of the Rena, said a statement from the harbourmaster's office.

"The on-water situation is evolving and remains hazardous," said the

statement. "The harbourmaster urges vessel operators not to go out on to the water unless it is necessary. If the trip is unavoidable, vessels must proceed at slow speed, keep a good lookout and travel through the area in daylight only. The debris field is extensive, its movement is unpredictable and could extend further." The MNZ said a small amount of oil had spilled from the stern section, along with debris — mostly timber — and "a small number" of containers. The MNZ national on-scene commander Alex van Wijngaarden said the situation was "not unexpected." — Xinhua

TV chef 'sorry' for shoplifting cheese and wine

LONDON, 10 Jan — A British celebrity television chef apologized on Monday for being "stupid and irresponsible" after he was arrested for shoplifting cheese and wine from a supermarket. Antony Worrall Thompson, 60, who stars in the show "Ready, Steady, Cook", was cautioned by police after he was caught at the Tesco store in the upmarket town of Henley-on-Thames, west of London.

In a message on his website, he said: "I am so sorry for all my recent stupid and irresponsible actions. I am, of course, devastated for my family and friends, whom I've let down, and will seek the treatment that is clearly needed. "I am not the first and I certainly won't be the last person to do something without rhyme or reason — what went through my head, only time will tell." Worrall Thompson apologised to Tesco, the world's third-largest retailer, saying that



A British celebrity television chef apologized on Monday for being "stupid and irresponsible" after he was arrested for shoplifting cheese and wine from a supermarket. Antony Worrall Thompson was caught shoplifting at a Tesco store. — INTERNET

they had had a "long and genuine working relationship", and to staff at his local branch.

Thames Valley Police confirmed they had issued a 60-year-old man with a formal caution after reports of shoplifting offences. Tesco said it was a matter for the police. The Sun newspaper said he was caught on a

hidden camera stealing cheese from a deli counter and wine by failing to scan some items on a self-service machine. The camera was set up amid suspicions he had done it before. Worrall Thompson recently had to sell up several restaurants that he owned as they fell prey to the financial crisis, The Sun reported. — Internet

EU launches 30-year long-term bonds

BRUSSELS, 10 Jan — The European Commission issued three billion euros (3.8 billion US dollars) of 30-year maturity bonds Monday on the back of strong and wide demand from investors. The issuance was conducted on behalf of EU and under the European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM), and would be used to finance Portugal and Ireland even as part of their financial assistance packages, according to the Commission.

The bonds will mature on 4 April, 2042, and bears a coupon of 3.75 percent. This long dated funding will further extend the average maturity of the EU loans to Ireland and Portugal and thereby improve debt sustainability and the long term outlook of both countries, the Commission said.

The issuance meets strong demands from investors within the EU, with German investors comprising 70 percent of demand, followed by United Kingdom of 13 percent. 81 percent of bonds were sold to insurance and pension funds, while 18 percent went to banks. — Xinhua

Journalists gather around a Press preview of the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit, the United States, on 9 Jan, 2011. — XINHUA

Commander-in-Chief calls on Chief of Defence Forces of Royal Thai Armed Forces



NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing called on Chief of Defence Forces of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Tanasak Patimapragorn at the latter's office yesterday morning.

They later held a meeting at the Hall (63) of the same venue.

General Min Aung Hlaing discussed matters related to drug issues and transnational crimes along Myanmar, Thailand and Laos borders, issues of military stations in each

territory, and construction of retaining walls on river bank along the border.

Exchanging visits and cooperation between the two armies and stability of the border area were also discussed.

General Tanasak Patimapragorn said Thailand will work entirely in cooperation with Myanmar in its bid for development and stability.

They exchanged commemorative medals and posed for documentary photo.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing calls on Chief of Defence Forces of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Tanasak Patimapragorn.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services visits Special Warfare Command

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Myanmar Tatmadaw high-ranking goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing, paid a visit to Special Warfare Command in Lopburi Province, Thailand yesterday afternoon.

Myanmar delegation, accompanied by Chief of Intelligence of Royal Thai Armed Forces Lt-Gen Attanop Sirisak went to Special Warfare Command by helicopter of Royal Thai Army.

The guard of honour from Special Warfare Command welcomed General Min Aung Hlaing and party. General Min Aung Hlaing laid wreath at Special Warfare Command (RAMA-V). At the briefing hall of the Special Warfare Command, the commandant explained training at Special Warfare Command. After that, Myanmar delegation enjoyed demonstration of free-fall parachute jump and units.—MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing at Special Warfare Command in Lopburi Province.

MNA

Tarmacking of Shwebo-Sabenantha road section inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint inspected roadworks along Shwebo-Sabenantha road section of Shwebo-

Myitkyina Road being undertaken by Shwebo District Public Works, Road Construction Project Special Group (13) and Special Project Group (1).

The Union Minister called for systematic use of asphalt, standardized tarmacking and proper flow of drains on either side of the road.—MNA



Mon State Minister for Economy Dr Min Nwe Soe awarded a winner in a 64th Anniversary Independence Day commemorative sports event in Mawlamyine on 4 January.
MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Air) on goodwill visit to Pakistan

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Myanmar Army delegation led by Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, at the invitation of Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman of Pakistan, left here for Pakistan yesterday morning.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, and the commanders of Ayeyawady Naval Region Headquarters and

Mingaladon Air Base.

The delegation comprises senior military officers and Pakistani Military Attaché to Myanmar Colonel Muhammad Tariq Farid Khan.

MNA

Bomb blast kills one, wounds 11

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—A blast occurred in Anangwin Village pagoda festival in Kyainseikgyi Township, Kayin State on 7 January evening, killing one and wounding 11.

Following a bomb dropped from the bag of a festival-goer and exploded about 10.15 pm, Anangwin villager Ma Cho Cho Myint, aged 25 was killed and 8 women and three men were

injured, who were receiving treatment at Thanbyuzayat Hospital and Mawlamyine Hospital. The authorities concerned are probing into the case.

MNA

MMRC continues for second day

YANGON, 10 Jan—Myanmar Medical Research Conference 2011 of the Ministry of Health continued for second day at Medical Research Department (Lower

Myanmar) on Ziawaka Street in Dagon Township here today. Scholars submitted 17 papers and medical professionals at home and abroad had the symposiums—"From oral

health to overall health" and "Developments in cancer treatment", participated by researchers as well. The conference continues till 13 January.

MNA

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

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

From Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam Excellency,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest congratulations to you, the Government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of your country's 64th Independence Day.

I am pleased with the warm and friendly relations between our two countries. I look forward to further enhancing these relations for the mutual benefits of our countries and peoples.

I send Your Excellency my personal best wishes for your good health and happiness as well as for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency our warmest felicitations and best wishes on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close friendly relations. I am confident that the mutually beneficial ties existing between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead.

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

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

On behalf of the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and on my own behalf, I am pleased to convey to Your Excellency our sincere greetings and warm felicitations on the auspicious

occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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

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

From Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Dear Mr President,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend to Your Excellency my message of felicitations for the progress and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its people.

I am hopeful that the relations and cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened.

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

From Dr Ram Baran Yadav, President of

Nepal

Your Excellency,

On the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to Your Excellency cordial felicitations and best wishes for Your Excellency personal health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

From Baburam Bhattarai, Prime Minister of Nepal Your Excellency,

On the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the government and people of Nepal, and on my own, I extend to Your Excellency and through you to the people of Myanmar my sincere congratulations.

I wish Your Excellency's good health and happiness as well as progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

I am confident that the friendly relations existing between our two countries will grow further in the years ahead.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services meets Thai Defence Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing, who was on a State visit to Bangkok in Thailand, held a discussion with General Yutthasak Sasiprapa, Defence Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, at the Defence Minister's Office, Thailand, at 10:10 am yesterday.

Also present at the call together with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services were Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Commander-in-Chief's Office, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe of the Commander-in-Chief's Office (Army) and Myanmar military attaché to Thailand Col Win Maung. The Thai Defence Minister was accompanied by the senior officers of Thai Government.

At the meeting the Commander-in-Chief focused on matters related to construction of border-cross roads of the two countries as soon as possible, and creating job opportunities for locals by investing in the industries on Myanmar's side, and expressed words of thanks for kindness of Thai people and government for providing relief aids to Myanmar victims who faced natural disasters such as Storm Nargis in 2008 and the earthquake occurred in Tahlay, Tachilek in 2011.

MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Thai Defence Minister General Yutthasak Sasiprapa.—MNA

A breath to the poor

Myanmar's new administration is realizing microfinance scheme, one in eight poverty alleviation tasks targeted at the poor. Township development affairs committees under the Ministry of Border Affairs are disbursing small loans to vendors, hawkers and slow moving vehicle drivers.

As loans have been disbursed to hawkers Region- and State-wise, K 1737.18 million have been loaned to 179 groups nationwide. It includes K 158.24 million disbursed to 3035 hawkers in Mandalay Region.

Our news corps reached out to vendors and slow moving vehicle drivers around Mandalay Region to learn how these small loans helped them enjoy a boost in their living standards.

Ma San San Yi, an onion and garlic vendor in Natogyi, said, "I am happy with DAC's loan disbursement. It is the very first time in my lifetime that I was borrowed K 20000 at low interest trustfully. My

family lives more convenient life, better than ever."

U Win Myint, a bread earner of a seven-member family, is a trishaw driver in Myittha who has engaged in the business for three years. He experienced hardship and struggled with his daily income of over K 2000. "I am grateful to DAC for giving K 30000 loans to each trishaw drivers," he expressed thanks with a beam of satisfaction.

"I struggled to feed an eight-member family with my daily income of over K 2000 from my pony cart business," a bony cart driver in Thazi, Ko Maung Ko, recalled his bitter experience. He is starting a poultry farm with K 60000 loaned by DAC. "My family life will become somewhat convenient by extra incomes," he said.

A number of vendors in Wundwin, Mahlaing, Taungtha, Myingyan, NyaungU, Meiktila showed their gratitude for providing loans.

"Starting capital for fishes is over K 0.1 million. I thank DAC for giving K

Article: Ko Tin Hlaing (Meiktila); Photo: Ko Thant Zin (Htilamyay)

Ma Nilar Than, a tailor in Meiktila, is happy with DAC's loan disbursement.



50000 loan," Ma Cherry Oo, a fish seller in PyinOoLwin said.

U Zaw Lin, a used cloth vendor in Yamethin from five-member family engaging in the business for five years, was first taken aback by the news DAC was disbursing K 0.1 million loans to vendors. "Now, I do believe it is right by my own

experience," he shared his joy.

Microcredit scheme is the breath for the poor population. It helps them overcome various difficulties. They never fail to say, "Thanks," to those who helped them beat poverty.

Translation: HKA Kyemon; 9-1-2012



Plant found in Brazil capturing worms underground

BEIJING, 10 Jan—Scientists have found a plant in Brazil using leaves to capture the tiny worms in the soil, according to Monday's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in the US. The plant, named *Philcoxia*, was found in the tropical grassland of Brazil, where the biodiversity is well conserved.

As the scientists searching for the answer of why the plant grows the leaves underground, they found the 1.5 millimeters-wide leaves can trap the worms and produce a digestive enzyme to help its roots to absorb the nutrition.

Although it is not the first meat-eating plant to be discovered, the finding has still "broaden our perception about plants," according to researcher Rafael Silva Oliveira, a plant ecologist at the State University of Campinas in Brazil. It suggests that carnivorous plants "may have evolved independently more times in plants than previously thought," he added.—Xinhua

People play in a fountain in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 9 Jan, 2012. Heat wave hit Buenos Aires area on Monday, with temperatures reaching 40 degrees Celsius.—XINHUA

Healthy diet may help children with ADHD

China vows to continue development of west, northeast

BEIJING, 10 Jan—China will continue to boost the development of the country's less-developed western and northeastern regions, according to a statement released after an executive meeting of the State Council on Monday. The meeting, presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao, has approved guidelines for the development programme of China's west and the revitalization of the northeast old industrial bases in the country's 12th Five-Year Plan period (2011-2015), according to the statement. The two regions have been at a new starting point in history, said the statement. The vast western region is still a "short plate" in the country's regional development, and achieving its prosperity is an important but difficult task in the building of an all-round well-

off society, it said. Priority should be given to the implementation of the strategy of large-scale development of the western region in the country's overall regional development scheme, to maintain its continued stable and rapid economic and social development, said the statement.

Efforts should be undertaken to keep the growth of the regional GDP and the residents' income higher than the national average in the five-year period, it said. More emphasis should be put on the construction of "development priority zones" with their own development focus and priority according to their environmental features, natural resources, current development stage and development potential, according to the statement. The State Council also

underscored the importance of infrastructure construction, environment protection, promotion of advanced industries and agriculture, and the development of small towns and villages, education and opening-up.

The statement said that there were still unsolved systematic and structural problems that have restricted the development of China's northeastern region, and that local governments should continue to deepen reform and accelerate transformation of development pattern in the 12th Five-Year Plan period. The State Council urged those involved to make vigorous efforts to promote agricultural development, further perfect modern industries, and optimize regional development strategy in the northeastern provinces.—Xinhua

BEIJING, 10 Jan—Keeping a healthy diet may help children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in their treatment, a new study revealed. The study was published Monday in the American medical journal *Pediatrics*. After analyzing 70 previous study on the ADHD children, the researchers from Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago suggested foods such as fish, vegetables, fruit and whole grains which contain heavy fiber, folate and omega-3 fatty acids can help decrease the hyperactivity symptom.

Though typical "Western-style" diet that's high in fat, salt and refined sugars should be avoided in eating. However, diet change cannot replace the medicinal treatment, the researchers warned. "It (changing diet) is usually not a first choice," said study author Dr J Gordon Millichap. There are at least 5.4 million children aged 4 to 17 in the world have been diagnosed with ADHD. And the conventional therapies are medical treatment and behavior changes.

Xinhua



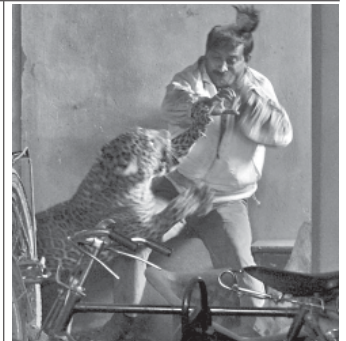
A man pours water into a container for sheep in an open livestock market near Bala Hissar, an old fortress, in Kabul on 10 January, 2012. — INTERNET

Guinea-Bissau President dies in Paris as new election planned in three months

BISSAU, 10 Jan—Guinea-Bissau's President Malam Bacai Sanha died in a hospital in Paris of diabetes complications on Monday as a new presidential election was planned in three months, according to a statement released by Guinea-Bissau's presidency. The statement said that the 64-year-old president, who has been hospitalized by the French Val de Grace hospital since late last year, died on Monday morning.

It said a presidential is planned to be held in three months, during which the head of the country's National Assembly Raimundo Pereira will take over as the acting president of Guinea-Bissau. Sanha, a diabetic, has been in poor health and frequently hospitalized abroad since he won the presidential election in 2009 after the assassination of former president Nino Vieira and ex-army chief Batista Tagm na Wai in March of the year.

Xinhua



In this photo taken on 7 Jan, 2012, a wild, full-grown leopard scalps the head of a man as it attacks after wandering into a residential neighbourhood in Gauhati, in the northern state of Assam, India. — INTERNET

A trainer's horse whispers fall on deaf ears in South Korea

BUSAN, 10 Jan—Joseph Michael Murphy had the defeated look of a man on a losing streak at the track, because that's precisely what he was.

So far on this sunny Sunday afternoon, the ponies just weren't cooperating. In the first race, his best bet of the day, a 7-1 shot named De Bora, had finished a dismal sixth.

But Murphy's problems ran deeper than those of a racing-form junkie who smokes too many cigarettes and throws down too much cash at the betting window:

He trained De Bora and a slew of other horses here that have rarely seen the light of win, place or show.

Murphy comes from racing blood: His father and brother were successful US jockeys. He learned the sport at famed Belmont Park and spent years guiding winning horses in track-crazy Hong Kong

and Macao.

Now he faces the longest odds of his career. For two seasons, the 47-year-old with the clipped Brooklyn accent has tried to make his mark in South Korean horse racing, a subculture famously resistant to outsiders.

To succeed, experts say, foreign trainers and jockeys must conquer a rank-and-file track culture in which the biggest worry is the prospect of newcomers outshining native talent. The Korean Racing Authority wants to change that.

In 2010, officials offered Murphy airfare and a contract in an effort to raise the quality of South Korean racetracks to better meet international standards and keep pace not just with the US, but also with regional competitors. Murphy leaped at the chance for a new challenge.—Internet

Joseph Michael Murphy laments that too many of the South Korean jockeys who ride his horses behave as mere passengers, and he urges his riders to take charge right out of the gate: "Get in the animal's ear; take control with your gestures. You have to yell," he says.

INTERNET



Leopard kills man, scalps another in Indian city

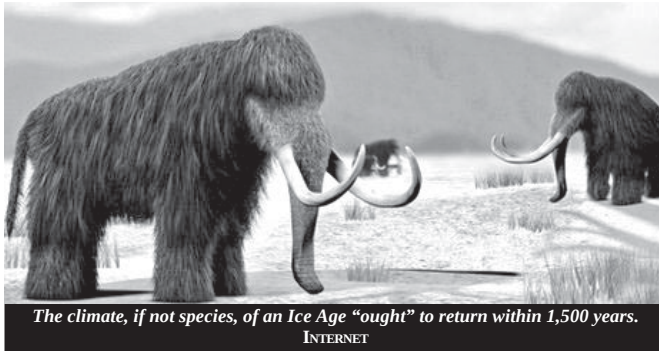
GAUHATI, 10 Jan—A leopard that wandered into a city in eastern India went on a rampage, killing one man, swiping off part of another man's scalp and injuring three other people before authorities tranquilized it. Neighbours in Gauhati say the leopard attacked a 50-year-old lawyer as he talked on his cellphone Saturday evening outside his house. He was rushed to a hospital where he died Sunday.

Four other people were injured, including a man. Gauhati wildlife official Upal Bora says authorities plan to release the animal at a wildlife park 120 miles (200 kilometres) west of the city. Conservationists say deforestation is increasingly pushing leopards into populated areas.—Internet

Carbon emissions 'will defer Ice Age'

LONDON, 10 Jan—Human emissions of carbon dioxide will defer the next Ice Age, say scientists. The last Ice Age ended about 11,500 years ago, and when the next one should begin has not been entirely clear. Researchers used data on the Earth's orbit and other things to find the historical warm interglacial period that looks most like the current one. In the journal *Nature Geoscience*, they write that the next Ice Age would begin within 1,500 years — but emissions have been so high that it will not. "At current levels of CO₂, even if emissions stopped now we'd probably have a long interglacial duration determined by whatever long-term processes could kick in and bring [atmospheric] CO₂ down," said Luke Skinner from Cambridge University.

Dr Skinner's group — which also included scientists from University College London, the University of Florida and Norway's Bergen



The climate, if not species, of an Ice Age "ought" to return within 1,500 years. INTERNET

University — calculates that the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ would have to fall below about 240 parts per million (ppm) before the glaciation could begin. The current level is around 390ppm. Other research groups have shown that even if emissions were shut off instantly, concentrations would remain elevated for at least 1,000 years, with enough heat stored in the oceans potentially to cause significant

melting of polar ice and sea level rise.

The root causes of the transitions from Ice Age to interglacial and back again are the subtle variations in the Earth's orbit known as the Milankovitch cycles, after the Serbian scientist Milutin Milankovic who described the effect nearly 100 years ago.

The variations include the eccentricity of the Earth's orbit around the Sun, the degree to which its axis is

inclined, and the slow rotation of its axis. These all take place on timescales of tens of thousands of years. The precise way in which they change the climate of the Earth from warm interglacial to cold Ice Age and back every 100,000 years or so is not known. On their own, they are not enough to cause the global temperature difference of about 10C between Ice Age and interglacial.

Internet

Chinese box office takings reach 13 bln yuan in 2011

BEIJING, 10 Jan — China's film industry made over 13.1 billion yuan (2.07 billion US dollars) in box office takings in 2011, an increase of 28.93 percent from 2010, a film official said on Monday. In 2011, the country made 791 domestic films of various kinds and these movies took in 7.03 billion yuan in box office earnings, about 53.6 percent of total ticket sales, said Tong Gang, head of the movie bureau at the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television.

Domestic production of blockbusters has become more mature, with remarkable improvements in quality, Tong said, taking the recent success of famed director Zhang Yimou's "The Flowers of War" as an example. Moreover, China's film industry has promoted small-budget films, including romantic comedy "Love is Not Blind", which has swept a box office receipt of 350 million yuan despite costing less than ten million yuan to produce, Tong added.

In 2011, China had 20 domestic films that made over 100 million yuan each in ticket sales. Also, with the successes of the small-budget films, the market is getting more diversified, and filmmakers of a younger generation are starting to make their mark, he said. According to Tong, China recorded an average daily increase of 8.3 new cinema screens this year, and by the end of 2011, the number of screens in cities nationwide had exceeded 9,200. Moreover, around 803 cinemas have been opened this year, 90 percent of which have equipped with digital projectors.

Furthermore, the country is working to bring movies to residents in rural areas. As of the end of 2011, China has arranged over 8 million film screening in rural areas. However, Tong noted that despite the surge in the domestic market, the box office income of Chinese films in overseas markets was smaller compared to that in 2010, reaping only 2.05 billion yuan and indicating a stall in the industry's international competitiveness. — *Xinhua*

Heavy snow blankets West Austria region of Vorarlberg



The Vorarlberg area has seen up to three metres of snow since Thursday. INTERNET

VIENNA, 10 Jan—Heavy snow blocked roads and rail services to Austria's western Province of Vorarlberg for hours on Monday. Officials said that up to 60cm (23in) snow had fallen overnight into Monday and the risk of avalanches was high, assessed at four on a scale of five. Although road links were re-established, Austrian rail service OeBB said the Arlberg train route

was closed. Several ski resorts including Lech and Zuers have been cut off.

Emergency workers were busy on Monday trying to clear routes to isolated areas. Although Bregenzer Wald was reported to be cut off, roads into Montafon were said to have been cleared. Since Thursday, the Vorarlberg region has seen two to three metres (6-10ft) of snow. The authorities have been

blasting some areas of heavy snow to prevent avalanches from becoming too large.

Snow has also blocked off roads in the Salzburg region, and rail services in the Innsbruck area have been affected. Rescue teams resumed a search on Monday for a 15-year-old skier missing

from a resort south-west of Innsbruck since Saturday, Austrian media said. Thousands of tourists and residents were snowed in at resorts on the Arlberg mountain on Friday and a major east-west railway line in Tirol Province was closed over the weekend. — *Internet*



12 killed as bus falls into river in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 10 Jan—At least 12 people were killed as a passenger bus fell into a river in Pakistan on Monday, reported local media APP.

According to the report, the disaster took place on Monday morning when a bus carrying some 42 passengers on board fell into the Indus River in Pakistan's central district of Rajan Pur.

When the bus was passing through a bridge temporarily set up over the river the bridge suddenly broke down, sending the bus into the river. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Brain surgery robots developed by China, Japan

BEIJING, 10 Jan — Chinese and Japanese researchers have jointly developed a robotic system which will likely improve the success rate of surgical brain vascular intervention. The research team has completed the process of testing the system on animals, proving its feasibility and efficiency during vascular intervention surgery (VIS) to treat cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, said Professor Wang Tianmiao with the Robotics Institute from Beihang University.

The system is composed of a master controller, a terminal and a screen with an image navigation system. Doctors operate from the master controller, with the three-dimensional blood vessel image on the screen, and transmit movement to the robotic terminal, capable of inserting a tube into a blood vessel. Sensors are installed on the tube, transmitting contact information between the tube and the vessel wall so as to ensure the accuracy of the insertion, which significantly improves the effect of the intervention. Initiated in 2009, the system was co-developed by Japan-based

Kagawa University, the Beijing-based PLA Navy General Hospital (NGH) and Beihang University.

Prof Tian Zengmin, director of the Neurosurgery Department of the NGH, said the system allows doctors to perform vascular intervention operations accurately and eliminates their risk of radiation exposure. Tian said the project had cost the three parties nearly 20 million yuan (3.17 million US dollars), mostly from the two countries' government scientific research funds, and that the system can be put into application within one year if research goes smoothly. During the tests on animals, the remote control function allowed surgery to be carried out by Kagawa on subjects in Beijing. Prof Guo Shuxiang with the Kagawa University said the system also helped with communication between doctors from different places and training young doctors, as remote control allowed more people outside the surgery room to monitor the surgery process.

Xinhua

Restricted embryo growth 'predicts miscarriage risk'

LONDON, 10 Jan — The growth of an embryo during the early stages of pregnancy is linked to its risk of miscarriage, says a University of Nottingham study. Scientists found that 78% of single-baby pregnancies which ended in miscarriage were in the smallest 5% of embryos. Researchers measured the length of more than 500 single and twin embryos during the first trimester. An expert said the study added to our knowledge of miscarriage risk.

The research was presented at the British Fertility Society annual meeting in Leeds. The Nottingham researchers tracked the growth of 247 singleton and 264 twin embryos conceived through IVF, because this allowed them to know the embryos' precise gestational age. For each embryo, the distance from top of the embryo's head to the bottom of its buttocks (the crown-rump length), was measured once during the first trimester using an ultrasound scan. The pregnancy was then monitored until birth.

Using the measurements, the researchers discovered that poor growth in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy was a good predictor of miscarriage. They calculated that 77.8% of single embryo pregnancies that miscarried were growth restricted, while 98.1% of single embryo pregnancies that did not miscarry were not growth restricted. This was not the case in twin pregnancies, however, where only 28.6% of pregnancies that miscarried were growth restricted.

Ninety-eight percent of twin pregnancies that did not miscarry were not growth restricted. Dr Shyamaly Sur, who led the research, said the findings should help to identify pregnancies at risk of miscarriage. — *Internet*



The study looked at the growth of embryos up to the age of 12 weeks old. — INTERNET

Debris from grounded ship washes up on New Zealand beach

WELLINGTON, 10 Jan — Debris from a cargo ship that ran aground off the coast of New Zealand last year, and split in two over the weekend, washed up on a local beach on Monday.

Four shipping containers also came ashore on Waihi Beach, and another seven are within a mile of the shore, Maritime New Zealand said in a statement.

Police closed public access to the beach. People are being encouraged to steer clear of the water, and to report whatever debris they see. So

far, the reported debris includes timber, milk powder and plastic material.

"There is inevitably going to be a lot of mess and disturbance for the next few days while this is cleaned up and we would like people to use common sense and stay well away from the debris — in some cases this will mean staying out of the water as well as away from material washed up on the beach," National On Scene Commander Alex van Wijngaarden said in the statement.

The Rena, a Liberian-flagged vessel, struck the Astrolabe Reef, about 12 nautical miles off the city of Tauranga, on the North Island, in October. It split in two over the weekend, triggering fears of a fresh oil spill.

Hundreds of tonnes of oil have already leaked from the ship, leading New Zealand's environment minister to call the spill the country's most significant maritime environmental disaster. But on Monday, maritime officials said there is "no indication of a significant release of oil from the Rena, although a sheen of oil is still visible off the vessel." Between 200 and 300 containers on the ship were lost overboard when it broke in two, Maritime New Zealand said. — *Internet*

Debris spews from split cargo ship. — *INTERNET*



Nicotine 'can slow mental decline'

LONDON, 10 Jan — Nicotine patches can improve the memory of elderly people experiencing early mental decline, research has shown. The small pilot study, though not conclusive, may point the way to new treatments that delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

Half the participants in the study were treated daily with 15mg of nicotine administered via a skin patch. The others were given a placebo. By the end of the study the nicotine-treated group had regained 46pc of normal long-term memory for their age. Their ability to pay attention also improved. The authors of the research were, however, quick to scuttle any suggestion that smoking might stave off Alzheimer's.

— *Internet*

Man charged over 'Florida bombing plan'

NEW YORK, 10 Jan — A suspected Islamic extremist has been charged over an alleged plan to attack businesses and a police station in Florida, US authorities have said. Sami Osmakac, 25, a naturalised US citizen who was born in the former Yugoslavia, was arrested in Tampa on 7 January following a sting operation. He allegedly tried to create a car bomb and obtain an assault rifle and explosives, according to the US justice department. He was detained following a months-long surveillance during which the Kosovo-born suspect was closely monitored by law enforcement officials. Officials said Mr Osmakac has been charged with one count of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, which they identified as explosives. — *Internet*



Couples of senior citizens who have been married for over 50 years enjoy cakes in Beijing, capital of China, on 6 Jan, 2012. More than 38 couples of citizens who have been married for more than 50 years attended a gathering to celebrate their anniversary of wedding in Beijing on Friday. — *XINHUA*

Missing woman alive in desert

LONDON, 10 Jan — An Irish woman missing in a remote part of Australia has been found severely sunburned and disorientated. The woman, named as Kelly Carter, was found sitting under a tree in dense bushland in a remote part of far western New South Wales. A search plane spotted the 25-year-old. Ms Carter had been missing since Sunday night in bushland 100 kilometres from Wanaaring, west of Bourke.

Australian police said Ms Carter walked into the bush after her dog jumped from her car and ran away. Authorities were contacted by her partner when she failed to return. It was not immediately clear last night where in Ireland Ms Carter is from. Ms Carter is being treated for severe sunburn and dehydration in Bourke Hospital. Her dog, a maltese, was also found with her. — *Internet*



Rescue personnel work at the site of a mudslide that killed at least eight people in Jamapara, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil. — *INTERNET*

Rain kills at least eight in Rio de Janeiro

JAMAPARA, 10 Jan — Heavy rains caused mudslides that killed at least eight people in Rio de Janeiro State Monday, raising the number of dead in Rio and neighbouring Minas Gerais state to 23 so far this year, civil defence officials said. Mud loosened by the rain swallowed about 10 houses in the town of Sapucaia Monday morning.

Seven residents were confirmed dead by rescue crews that are still searching for survivors. The eighth victim died when a house collapsed nearby. Up to 20 other people are still missing, according to Rio state's civil defence department. Local authorities are still compiling a list of the disappeared. Among the missing is a family whose car was caught in the mudslide as they tried to escape, said municipal spokesman Sergio Campante.

Last week, torrential rain burst a dam, leading to the evacuation of 4,000 residents of the town of Tres Vendas. Elsewhere in the state, another 4,000 people were forced from their houses and three people were killed by heavy rains and mudslides. In the neighbouring state of Minas Gerais, more than 10,000 people have left their homes, and 12 have died in floodwaters or mudslides, according to the state's civil defence department. — *Internet*



Police comb the scene of the heist for clues.

— *INTERNET*

Thieves carry out 'Spectacular' art heist



The famous 'Woman's Head' by Pablo Picasso was stolen in the heist.

— *INTERNET*

LONDON, 10 Jan — An international manhunt has been launched after a gang of thieves stole oil paintings by 20th century masters - among them Pablo Picasso - in what police have called a 'spectacular' heist. Senior police officials told Sky News Online that burglars burst into the poorly guarded Athens National Gallery through a balcony window, in the rear of

the sprawling building early on Monday. The alarm system had previously been knocked out, and even before then, the thieves tampered with the security system late on Sunday, triggering its alarms on several occasions, at various entry points of the gallery.

In the course of the seven-minute, pre-dawn heist, police said the burglars snatched the 1939 Picasso work "Woman's Head", which the Spanish painter donated to the Greek state in 1949 in homage of Greece's resistance to Nazi occupation forces during World War II. Piet Mondrian's "Mill", a 1905 oil painting of a windmill, was also stolen along with an etching of St Diego de Alcalá by 16th century Italian artist Guglielmo Caccia, better known as Moncalvo. A fourth piece by Mondrian was also peeled off the walls of the National Art Gallery, but thieves left it behind, tossing

DNA can predict how long you'll live

LONDON, 10 Jan — Scientists have made a major breakthrough in determining how long people may live. According to new research, an individual's DNA, early on in life, can help predict how long they will live. A team of scientists studying zebra finches found the best indicator of longevity came from examining a piece of DNA called a telomere when the birds were 25 days old.

Telomeres occur at the ends of the chromosomes, which contain an individual's genetic code. They are caps on the end of chromosomes that protect them from damage and function a bit like the plastic caps at the end of shoelaces. This method of DNA protection is the same for most animals and plants, including humans, and the eventual loss of the

telomere cap is known to cause cells to malfunction.

For the first time, scientists have now measured telomere length in the same individuals throughout their life span from early life onwards. Researchers, led by a team at the University of Glasgow, studied 99 zebra finches whose life-span ranged from 210 days to almost nine years. The scientists found that the best predictor of longevity was telomere length at 25 days. It is known that the variation in telomere length is partly inherited, but also varies due to differences in environmental factors such as exposure to stress.

Professor Pat Monaghan, who led the team, said: "Our study shows the great importance of processes acting early in life." — *Internet*

Rabbits stolen from meat instructor



A rabbit, via Wikimedia Commons.

An Oregon man who teaches a class on how to raise and butcher rabbits said 23 rabbits were stolen from his property.

Levi Cole, a farmer and instructor for the Portland Meat Collective, said the rabbits were taken from his property Saturday, the day before a planned class on raising, slaughtering and food preparation of rabbits, *The (Portland) Oregonian* reported Monday.

Cole said the thieves left nine nursing baby rabbits behind and the young rabbits died Sunday when he was unable to find a foster animal.

He said he believes the incident was a politically motivated theft.

Camas Davis, owner of the Portland Meat Collective, said the theft was a first for the group. "We get an occasional comment on the Web site, some people who are angry at our existence," she told the newspaper.

"Something like that is not about a dialogue at all; it's the opposite," she said. "I don't want involvement with the Portland Meat Collective to mean your animals are in danger of being stolen."

Cole said police were investigating the theft.

National Geographic's photo of the year winners

National Geographic has released the winners of this year's worldwide photography competition. Back in November, we showed you some of the more compelling entries in the competition. Here is the photo that won both the Grand Prize and "Nature" categories, taken by Shikhei Goh in Batam, Riau Islands, Indonesia:

This photo was taken when I was taking photos of other insects, as I normally did during macro photo hunting. I wasn't actually aware of this dragonfly since I was occupied with other objects. When I was about to take a picture of it, it suddenly

rained, but the lighting was just superb. I decided to take the shot regardless of the rain. The result caused me to be overjoyed, and I hope it pleases viewers. The other main categories were "People" and "Places." Water is a regular theme in the top-placing photos; nine of the 14 featured pictures used water in the shot. More than 20,000 photos were entered in the competition, with entries coming in from more than 130 countries. Both professional and amateur photographers submitted their work.

National Geographic says that its judges evaluated the submitted entries on the



basis of creativity and photographic quality.

The panel of judges included field biologist and

The winner of this year's National Geographic photo competition.

a knife and cut the store clerk on the arm.

The clerk needed stitches. What would have been a misdemeanor theft charge suddenly became felony for assault with a deadly weapon. The three escaped, but were apprehended in short order, the TV station said.

wildlife photojournalist Tim Laman, National Geographic photographer Amy Toensing and National Geographic nature photographer Peter Essick.

News Album

Beer theft suspects busted at scene

Three suspects were arrested after allegedly stealing beer from a California convenience store — then returning to sloppily erase their tracks, police say. Oscar Jimenez, 19, Eduardo Salgado,

18, and a juvenile whose name was not reported allegedly stole beer from Dooley's Liquor Store & Market in Santa Clarita about 10:30 pm Sunday. Detectives allege they returned a half-hour later, drunk, and

asked the clerk to hand over the surveillance video.

Los Angeles County sheriff's Lt. Tom Bryski said "a scuffle ensued," KNBC-TV, Los Angeles, reported. One suspect allegedly brandished



Director Steven Spielberg and actor Jeremy Irvine pose with Joey, equine star of the film 'War Horse' at its UK premiere in London on 8 January, 2012.

INTERNET

UK royals, Joey the horse share Spielberg red carpet

LONDON, 10 Jan—Britain's Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge shared the red carpet late on Sunday with Hollywood royalty and a horse called Joey who appeared in Steven Spielberg's latest movie "War Horse."

The film, based on a novel by Michael Morpurgo which was turned into a hit West End and Broadway stage show featuring puppet horses, has opened in US theatres already and reaches British cinemas on Friday.

Spielberg said he had been inspired to take on the World War One drama both by the book and the play.

"What attracted me to it beyond my admiration for the puppeteering was simply the amazing story that Michael Morpurgo first told in his 1982 children's book," he told Reuters.

Jeremy Irvine, the British newcomer who stars in War Horse, said he was overwhelmed to have found success so suddenly.

"I wasn't getting any work so suddenly just to have a job, let alone have lines, let alone be in a film with Steven Spielberg, is kind of more than I can really take in and I still haven't really taken it in," said the 21-year-old.

"I'm still trying to take in how on earth I could have fooled them to let me be in this movie."

The highlights of the red carpet premiere in London's Leicester Square were Joey the horse and the Duchess of Cambridge, formerly Kate Middleton, who celebrates her 30th birthday on Monday.

Reuters

French actress Denise Darcel dies at 87

LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan—Denise Darcel, the French-born actress known for vampy roles in such films as "Vera Cruz" and "Thunder in the Pines," has died. She was 87.

Darcel's son, Craig, said Monday that she died 23 Dec at a Los Angeles hospital from complications from an emergency surgery to repair a ruptured aneurysm.

After coming to the US in 1947, Darcel starred opposite several leading men in a string of films in the '50s, including "Battleground" with Van Johnson, "Tarzan and the Slave Girl" with Lex Barker, "Westward the Women" with Robert Taylor and "Young Man with Ideas" with Glenn Ford.

She most famously played a vivacious double-crossing countess in 1954's "Vera Cruz" opposite Burt Lancaster and Gary Cooper.

Darcel is also survived by another son, Chris.—*Internet*



In this 8 Aug, 1951 file photo, French actress Denise Darcel poses in Paris, France.—INTERNET

Directors Guild chooses film award nominees

LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan—Filmmakers Woody Allen, David Fincher, Martin Scorsese, Alexander Payne and France's Michel Hazanavicius were nominated for Directors Guild film awards Monday — a honour that is often a key indicator of Oscar success.

Hazanavicius, 44, scored his first Directors Guild of America (DGA) nomination for his black and white silent movie about old Hollywood, "The Artist," which has wowed critics since its premier at the Cannes film festival in May.

The French director joined US veterans Scorsese



Writer/Director Michel Hazanavicius accepts the the Sonny Bono Visionary Award onstage during The 23rd Annual Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala in Palm Springs, California, on 7 January.—INTERNET

and Allen, who were nominated for their work on 3D family film "Hugo" and comedy "Midnight in Paris," respectively.

Fincher scored his third DGA nomination for the US version of Swedish writer Stieg Larsson's thriller "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," while Payne notched up his second nod for dysfunctional family drama "The Descendants" starring George Clooney.

The DGA has a strong track record of foreshadowing the eventual winner of the best director Oscar, and the Academy Award for best movie also goes to the winner of best director. Since 1948, there are only six occasions when the DGA award winner has not gone on to win the corresponding Academy Award.

The DGA hands out its award at ceremony in Los Angeles on 28 Jan in Hollywood, and it will be hosted this year by former "Frasier" star Kelsey Grammer.—Reuters



In this 27 Feb, 2011 file photo, actress Jennifer Lawrence arrives before the 83rd Academy Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan—Jennifer Lawrence will help announce this year's Academy Awards nominees.

The 21-year-old actress will join Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

Jennifer Lawrence to announce Oscar nominations

President Tom Sherak at the nominations announcement on 24 Jan. Lawrence earned her first Oscar nomination last year for "Winter's Bone." She stars in the anticipated adaptation of "The Hunger Games," set for release in

March. Sherak and Lawrence will announce 10 of Oscar's 24 categories at the early-morning Press conference.

The 84th annual Academy Awards will be presented on 26 Feb.

Internet

FIFA honour Manchester United trio



Wayne Rooney missed out on the best goal of 2011 for his overhead kick against Man City. INTERNET

LONDON, 10 Jan — Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson and players Wayne Rooney and Nemanja Vidic have all been honoured by FIFA at their annual awards ceremony in Zurich.

Ferguson, 70, was the winner of the Presidential Award at the FIFA Ballon d'Or gala, while Rooney and Vidic were named in the FIFPro World XI for 2011. The United boss, who lost out on coach of the year to Barcelona manager Pep Guardiola, received his award from FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

"No matter the honour I get, I feel it's recognition for the last 25 years at Manchester United," said Ferguson, who celebrated a quarter of a century at Old Trafford in November 2011. "United have always shared my vision and my passion and I am a very lucky manager because that's what makes Manchester United such a special club."

"The courage to play and the courage to try and win is more important than anything, and I've had some incredible players in my time at the club. This award is very much appreciated." Rooney

and Vidic, meanwhile, were the Barclays Premier League's representatives in the FIFPro XI for 2011, with the other nine players coming from Real Madrid and Barcelona in Spain's La Liga.

"It was a great year and it was incredible to win the 19th League title for Manchester United last year, that was the highlight and a great moment for the club," said Rooney. Rooney missed out on the FIFA Puskas Award 2011 for the best goal of the year, his brilliant overhead kick against Manchester City in the Barclays Premier League failing to beat Santos star Neymar's effort against Flamengo. Barcelona's Lionel Messi won the prestigious FIFA Ballon d'Or award, while Japan's Homare Sawa won the women's prize.

Internet

Essien begins Chelsea comeback

LONDON, 10 Jan — Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien has started his comeback after a serious knee injury by turning out for the club's reserve team. The 29-year-old Ghanaian has been out for the entire Barclays Premier League season after rupturing his anterior cruciate ligament and meniscus during pre-season training in July.

But Essien has started his bid to win back a first-team place with the Blues by playing for 75 minutes in their 3-2 reserve defeat at the hands of West Brom on Monday. Essien played in his usual central midfield role, and

according to the official Chelsea website (chelseafc.com), he emerged unscathed when he was taken off with 15 minutes to go and replaced by Connor Clifford.

"It was a comfortable outing for Essien and was another step in his rehabilitation," it said on the Chelsea website. "He is not yet working with the first team and is expected to be back training with the squad towards the end of the month." Essien joined Chelsea for £24m from Lyon in August 2005 and has since made 149 Barclays Premier League appearances for the club. — Internet

Michael Essien has not played in the Barclays Premier League since last season. INTERNET



Henry the hero as Arsenal beat Leeds

LONDON, 10 Jan — Arsenal legend Thierry Henry rolled back the years to earn the Gunners victory over Leeds and a place in the fourth round of the FA Cup. Henry, who has rejoined the club he graced from 1999-2007 on a two-month loan, came off the bench in the second half to make his second Arsenal debut.

Within 10 minutes of coming on Henry scored the only goal of the game, collecting a pass from Alex Song and slotting coolly past Leeds goalkeeper Andy Lonergan. Arsenal had the better of most of the match, but they found Championship side Leeds difficult to break down and Arsene Wenger's side also wasted some promising openings. The Gunners will now play fellow Barclays Premier League side Aston Villa in the fourth round of the FA Cup at the Emirates Stadium. — Internet



Thierry Henry wheels away to celebrate his match-winning goal for Arsenal. — INTERNET

Woods to start PGA Tour season at Pebble Beach

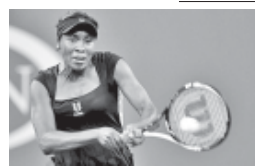
KAPALUA, 10 Jan — Tiger Woods is returning to the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am for the first time in 10 years. Woods announced on his website Monday he will start his PGA Tour seas on 9 to 12 Feb at Pebble Beach, which he said "might be the prettiest place on earth." It has not been pretty enough to get him back to the Monterey Peninsula, except for the 2010 US Open where he tied for fourth. Woods stopped playing because of greens that were exceptionally bumpy from a 180-man field. He also was worn out by the long rounds and having Poppy Hills as part of the rotation.

Now, the field is 156 players, and the Shore Course at Monterey Peninsula Country Club is in the rotation, and has been very well received. The greater incentive for Woods to play, however, was AT&T as the title sponsor. — Internet

International Sports

Venus Williams skips Australian Open due to illness

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — Venus Williams of the United States, the seven-time Grand Slam singles champion, announced her withdrawal from the Australian Open on Monday. The US star is still struggling to return from the autoimmune disease Sjogren's syndrome. Williams said on her website that



Venus Williams of the United States.

she has been making progress and plans to return to WTA Tour play in February.

"I regret to announce that I am withdrawing from the 2012 Australian Open," Williams said. "After several months of training and treatment, I am making steady progress to top competitive form. 'My diet and fitness regimen have allowed me to make great strides in terms of my health and I am very close to being ready to return to WTA competition. I have every intention to return to the circuit in February,'" she said. The 31-year-old also pulled out of the Auckland WTA tournament last week due to the illness. — Xinhua

Kimi Raikkonen eyes track return in 2010-spec Renault

VALENCIA, 10 Jan — Former champion Kimi Raikkonen will have his first taste of a Formula 1 car in over two years later this month. The 32-year-old Finn, who is returning to F1 after two years in rallying, will drive a 2010 Renault car at Valencia's Ricardo Tormo track on 23 to 24 January. Raikkonen, who won the 2007 world title with Ferrari, will be driving for Lotus, who raced as Renault in 2011.

His first taste of the team's 2012 car will come at the first pre-season test on 7 February in Jerez, in south Spain.

Testing in F1 is banned, apart from three official pre-season tests and one during the season in May, but teams are allowed to run cars that are at least two years old outside that schedule. Raikkonen is the second former champion to return to F1 in the last two years,

following Michael Schumacher's comeback for the start of the 2010 season with Mercedes.

The German legend, who turned 43 earlier this month, struggled in his first season and even after two years is yet to recapture his former greatness. Raikkonen, who never managed to get onto the pace in his two-year sojourn in the World Rally Championship, will encounter a new type of tyre than he



Barcelona's coach Pep Guardiola, nominee for FIFA Men's Football Coach of the Year Award, attends a Press conference ahead of the FIFA Ballon d'Or Gala 2012 at the congress hall in Zurich, Switzerland, on 9 Jan, 2012. — INTERNET

Guardiola awarded FIFA Coach of the Year

ZURICH, 10 Jan — Spanish first division soccer league giant Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola was named FIFA Coach of the Year for 2011 on Monday. The 40-year-old Spanish led Barcelona to five trophies in 2011, including the Champions League, the FIFA Club World Cup and a third consecutive Spanish La Liga title.

"I want to dedicate this award to the thousands of people who, through more than a hundred years, have worked for FC Barcelona and helped develop one of the best clubs in the world," said Guardiola. "It's a privilege and an honour for me to be a part of this excellent, amazing club," he added. — Xinhua



Raikkonen won the world title with Ferrari in 2007.

was used to - Pirelli replaced Bridgestone as F1's sole supplier at the start of 2011. But he has said that he is confident he will not face the same problems as Schumacher.

Internet

Stricker opens the year with a win in Hawaii

KAPALUA, 10 Jan — Steve Stricker always believed experience would go a long way toward winning the PGA Tour season opener at Kapalua. This wasn't the kind he was thinking about. No other player is more accustomed to building a big lead, blowing a big lead, and then settling down to win. That's just what Stricker did Monday on Maui, when he won the Tournament of Champions with a final round that only looked easy on paper. "I've been there before. It's not a great feeling, either," Stricker said after closing with a 4-under 69 for a three-shot victory over Martin Laird. "It's just the nature of our game. I realize that, and I've gone through it before. It always seems close, and you always have to perform to get it done." Ultimately, that's just what he did.

It took only six holes for him to see his five-shot lead dwindle to one. After another mental mistake led to bogey, Stricker stood behind the sixth green staring at the ground, shaking his head, disgusted with himself. It was during that



A gallery along the first green watches Steve Stricker hit from the fairway during the final round of the Hyundai Tournament of Champions PGA Tour golf tournament in Kapalua, Hawaii, on 9 Jan, 2012. — INTERNET

long walk down the seventh fairway, the Pacific Ocean on the horizon, when Stricker reminded himself that at least he was still in the lead. And that's where he stayed. He buried a 25-foot birdie putt on the par-3 eighth, hit a pitch to tap-in range for birdie on the ninth to build his lead back to three, and then it was a matter of hanging on. — Internet

Phase one of high-speed rail line set for go-ahead

LONDON, 10 Jan — A controversial new high-speed rail line between London and Birmingham is expected to be given the go-ahead by the government later. Transport Secretary Justine Greening is set to back the 100-mile (160km) link, which would be built by 2026 and is the first phase of High Speed Two (HS2). The government says it is the only way to cope with overcrowding but opponents along the route are considering legal action which could delay the scheme.

The first phase will cost £17bn. The entire cost of the project - including a second phase Y-shaped section extending to Manchester and Leeds, by 2033 - is expected to be £32bn. Supporters say the fleet of 225mph trains will cut the journey time from London to Birmingham to 49 minutes and take pressure off the busiest lines. The government also argues the project will generate £44bn of benefits to the economy over 60 years. In future decades, the line could be extended further north to Scotland, ministers are expected to say.

The transport secretary is expected to announce more measures to mitigate the worst affects of the line. The BBC has been told miles of extra tunnelling has been added to the route to try to appease some of the opponents. It is understood



Undated handout image issued by HS2 of the Birmingham and Fazeley viaduct, part of the new proposed route for the HS2 high speed rail scheme. The 100-mile first-phase of HS2 would be built between 2016 and 2026 — INTERNET

that tunnels in west London and in some areas along the line will now be proposed. The government was due to make an announcement on HS2 in December but delayed it while it considered the possibility of including a 1.5-mile tunnel through the Chilterns in the plans. — Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(11-12 09:30 am ~ 12-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

- * News
- * Kyauk Gu Umin Cave Gu Pha Ya
- * News
- * Great Artist U Lun Gywe & His Prolific Art
- * News
- * Yangon - Mandalay Expressway saves Time Who's more graceful?
- * 2012, A Banner Year in the Making
- * News
- * Songs for you
- * ES4E Parents' Day
- * News
- * Kid's Talent
- * A DAY IN ZALUN
- * Products of Myanmar
- * "Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar"
- * Music Gallery
- * Enjoy Rakhine Traditional Food in Yangon
- * Mural Painting (Bagan)
- * The Beauty in the North of Myanmar
- * Myanmar Movies
- * "Misdeed"

MYANMAR TV

(11-12) (Wednesday)

- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
- 2. Song Of National Races
- 4:15 pm
- 3. Documentary
- 4:30 pm
- 4. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (Botany)
- 4:45 pm
- 5. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 4:50 pm
- 6. Classical Song
- 5:00 pm
- 7. Joint Performance by State Orchestra & The Radio Myanmar Morden Music Troupe
- 5:50 pm
- 8. "ASEAN" Programmes
- 6:20 pm
- 9. Traditional Boxing
- 6:30 pm
- 10. Shwe Yin Chone Than
- 7:30 pm
- 11. Pianist Kun Zaw Music Troupe (Part-3)
- 8:00 pm
- 12. News
- 13. Korea NG Award
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 15. TV Quiz



US sailor Thomas Louis Corogin waves to reporters after arriving at the port of Valparaiso, Chile on 9 January. The 84-year-old American who put out an emergency distress signal on 2 Jan, 2012 after cracks in his mast made it impossible for him to raise his sails, is in good condition.

INTERNET

'Age is nothing,' rescued 84-year-old sailor says

VALPARAISO, (Chile), 10 Jan — An American sailor rescued in the remote South Pacific isn't ruling out another effort to navigate alone around the tip of South America. After all, he's tried only six times now to achieve the feat, and he's just 84 years old. "Age means nothing. What is important is that you are alive, so I don't worry about numbers. I worry about life. That, I think, is more important," Thomas Louis Corogin said Monday after the Chilean navy brought him to shore.

Corogin had set sail 27 Dec from Easter Island on the last and most difficult part of his attempt to sail around Cape Horn, preparing to weather some of the world's most dangerous seas. But then a key piece of rigging snapped. He did what he could, but the fix wouldn't hold. In a week of sailing, he had ventured 500 miles (800 kilometers) south of Easter Island. Few places on Earth are more remote.

"The backstay broke," Corogin said, describing the key piece of rigging that runs from the top of the mast to the stern, keeping the sails trim.

Internet

13 bodies found at gas station in western Mexico

MORELIA, 10 Jan — Police in western Mexico have found 13 bodies at a gas station in the state of Michoacan. Michoacan state prosecutors' spokesman Jonathan Arredondo says the bodies were dumped Monday near a convenience store on the gas station lot in the town of Zitacuaro.

Arredondo said

threatening messages were found with the bodies, but he wouldn't comment on their content or give any other details. Michoacan is home base to The Knights Templar cartel, a pseudo-religious gang specializing in methamphetamine production, drug smuggling, extortion and other crimes. — Internet



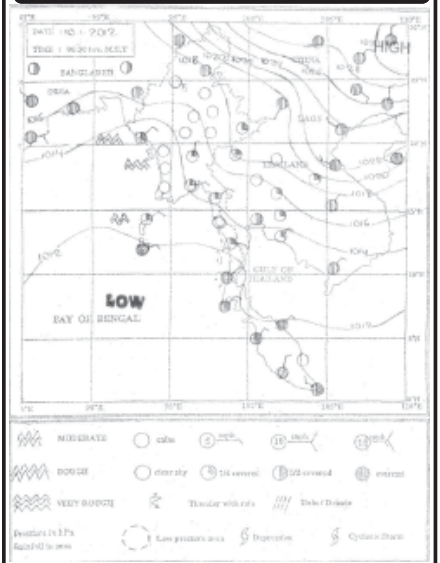
Wakema gets rural dispensary

WAKEMA, 10 Jan — A rural dispensary was opened in Kyungon Village of Wakema Township on 3 January morning.

Local authorities formally opened the dispensary.

The facility was built at a cost of K 3 million by Ayeyawady Region Government and K 3.9 million by local people. — Myanma Alin

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 11th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		Forecast	
		Maximum	Minimum	Likelihood of isolated light rain	Percent
1	Kachin	19/66	11/52	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	28/82	11/52	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayah	36/97	19/66	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	17/63	03/37	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	21/70	13/55	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	29/84	17/63	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	17/63	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	32/90	17/63	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	30/86	18/64	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	28/82	16/61	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	35/95	20/68	Partly cloudy	
12	Vangon	34/93	19/66	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	31/88	18/64	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	24/75	08/46	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	26/79	07/45	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	26/79	11/52	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring New Pyi Taw	33/91	15/59	Generally fair	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	34/93	19/66	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	28/82	16/61	Partly cloudy	

During the past (24) hours, light rain have been fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region weather has been partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing and Tanintharyi Regions, Shan and Chin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (7°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Eastern Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, (8°C) above January averages temperatures in Magway Region and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Helio and Haha (4°C) each and Pailung (5°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Hema (0.20) inch.

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

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

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

Farmers observe plantations of paddy, sunflower, maize

WUNDWIN, 10 Jan — A total of 211 farmers from Mandalay, Kyaukse, PyinOoLwin and Meiktila districts and 34 staff observed production of hybrid paddy seeds, cultivation of hybrid paddy, hybrid sunflower and hybrid maize in Shwedaung Farm of Myanma Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise in Wundwin on 8 January.

Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than gave instructions. It was reported that Mandalay Region plans to produce hybrid paddy seeds as of 2011-2012 summer paddy cultivation season.

MAS



Chief of Defence Forces of Royal Thai Armed Forces welcomes General Min Aung Hlaing



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and Chief of Defence Forces of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Tanasak Patimapragorn taking salute of the Guard of Honour.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Chief of Defence Forces of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Tanasak Patimapragorn organized a welcoming ceremony to Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing at the parade ground in Bangkok yesterday morning.

The Thai General welcomed the Myanmar General on his arrival at the parade ground and introduced high-ranking military officers of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to

the latter.

The two generals received the salute of the Guard of Honour on dais and inspected the Guard of Honour.

The Myanmar General introduced his entourage to the Thai General who hosted a luncheon to the Myanmar delegation at Royal Thai Navy Institute in Bangkok. The luncheon was also attended by Commander-in-Chief of the

Royal Thai Army General Paryuth Chan O Cha, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Navy Admiral Weerapol and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force Air Chief Marshal Srichown.

The Thai Chief of Defence Forces hosted a dinner to the Myanmar delegation led by General Min Aung Hlaing at Dusit Thani Hotel in Bangkok in the evening.

MNA

Meeting between UEC and Region/State, District sub-commissions held

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Taking lesson from the experience gained in previous elections, measures are to be taken to ensure free and fair election in the upcoming by-election. It is also necessary to supervise the political parties in accord with the law, said U Tin Aye, Chairman of Union Election Commission, at a work coordination meeting between UEC and respective State/Region and District sub-commissions for holding by-elections to fill vacant seats in Hluttaws, held at the UEC office here this morning.

The UEC chairman added that a systematic measure needs to be adopted to disseminate knowledge about the election to the people and develop check and balance system among the political parties. Election



process must be carried out in accordance with the law without any bias and malpractices, said the chairman.



Next, the participants discussed processes of by-election. The coordination meeting came to an end with the concluding

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye delivers an address at the work coordination meeting between UEC and Region/State and District sub-commissions.

MNA

remarks by the UEC chairman.

MNA

Europe's Vega rocket launch set for early February



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FIFA honour Manchester United trio

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