Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

Volume XIX, Number 267 | 5th Waning of Pyatho 1373 ME | Friday, 13 January, 2012

Amnesty granted to 651 male and female prisoners in accordance with Section 401, Sub-section (1) of Code of Criminal Procedure aimed at enabling them to participate in national reconciliation and political processes

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar granted amnesty to 651 male and female prisoners who were serving their appropriate prison terms at respective jails in accordance with Section 401, Sub-section (1) of Code of Criminal Procedure as of 5th Waning of Pyatho, 1373 Myanmar Era (13 January, 2012) with the aim of ensuring stability and eternal peace of the State, fostering national reconciliation, enabling them to participate in the political process, and on humanitarian grounds and turning them into the citizens to participate through whatever way they can in the nation-building tasks by realizing the magnanimity of the State.

MNA

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.

General Min Aung Hlaing visits Wing-7 of Royal Thai Air Force in Suratthani Province of Thailand

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing takes salute of Guard of Honour of Wing-7 of Royal Thai Air Force in Suratthani Province.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Accompanied by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Air Force Air Chief Marshal Itthaporn Subhawong, the Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing went to Wing-7 of Royal Thai Air Force in Surathtani Province by special aircraft of Royal Thai Armed Forces yesterday morning.

The special aircraft was flanked as a warm welcome by two Gripen 39 C/D fighters of Royal Thai Air Force in the sky along the route to Wing-7.

At the Wing-7, they were welcomed by Commander of the Wing-7 Colonel Panpakdee Pattanakul and officials. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services took the salute of the Guard of Honour of the Wing-7.

While General Min Aung Hlaing was taking the salute, a combat aircraft also saluted him in the air. Next, the General inspected the Guard of Honour.

At the briefing hall, the Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Air Force extended greetings and explained the history of Wing-7 and officials concerned, its tasks.

General Min Aung Hlaing signed the visitors' book.

Next, skill demon-stration of Gripen 39 C/D combat aircraft was presented to the General and party.

After viewing the aircrafts at the Wing-7, the General and party posed for documentary photo.

The Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Air Force hosted a lunch to Commander-in-Chief General Min Aung Hlaing and party.

Next, they left for Phukhet by special aircraft of the Royal Thai Armed Forces.

In the evening, Chief of Defence Forces of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Tanasak Patimapragorn and wife hosted a dinner to the Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led

(See page 9)

Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives a delegation led by Mr Joseph F Crowley, member of Congress, United States House of Representatives, at No. 1 hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Hall of Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Dy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives US House of Representatives

NAY PYI TAW,12 Jan—A delegation led by Mr Joseph F Crowley, member of Congress, United States House of Representatives paid a call on Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, at No.1 Meeting room of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Hall in Hluttaw Building here this afternoon.

They discussed and exchanged views on duties of Hluttaw, drafting law, implementation of people's desires and hopes by Hluttaw, cooperation with International Hluttaws and cooperation on national races affairs with respective organizations.

Also present at the call together with the Deputy Speaker were Chairmen of Hluttaw Committees, secretaries and officials from Hluttaw office. Mr Joseph F Crowley was accompanied by staff of US embassy.—*MNA*

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 13 January, 2012

Dusk of life

An old grandma was found on a bench by Yangon-Insein Road, with some small notes clenched in her hands and tears welling up in her eyes. When I inquired about her believing she is no beggar, I began to learn that she is an old woman taking care of a paralyzed vagabond. For the sake of two empty bellies, she is finding generous donors for food on roads in her ripe age. How many similar stories are there?

The same day I was taken aback by the news that "Singapore will need almost four times the number of people to work in elder care sector". A ministerial committee was formed in Singapore for elder care and homes for the aged were established. The article says the country is planning to increase the number of workers in this sector from 4000 to 10000. Being a developed country, Singapore could make the move. Myanmar should try to provide more care to such homeless older persons as well.

NGOs alone are taking care of the aged in Myanmar with strict rules and there may be many old tramps beyond the rules. Social organizations should throw themselves into the elder care sector.

The later life is the most important of all three phases of life. However much struggles they have come across in the younger life, it is important to own a life of ease in the advanced age. The grassroots have to struggle only to fill bellies while young and end up being destitute in the great age.

Caring the elderly facing difficulties is a meritorious deed by any religion. The Lord Buddha taught His disciples to nurse the sick rather than Himself. Care of old and sick persons is a noble social service.

The new administration takes care of the old retirees by doubling pension rates. Wellwishers and social organizations are helping the elderly who remain in deep trouble in their own ways.

We should make a vow to help the destitute elderly spend the remainder of their lives comfortably.

Socio-economic development of rural people undertaken in Monywa District

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan presenting publications for village library in Mwayton Village, Pale Township.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, who was in Monywa District to carry out improvement of socio-economic life of rural people including education, health, human resource development, transport, communication and supply of safe water of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation, viewed the construction of Eikmetalin library in Kongyi village, Zeetaung village-tract, Salingyi Township, Monywa District, on 8 January morning.

The Union Minister then proceeded to Shwelaung village, Mwayton village, Nwarkuu village, Pan village, Tanel village, Hlawgar village, Kanpauk village and Nweshauk village in Pale Township, and visited construction of village libraries and basic education schools there.

In meeting with the local people, the Union Minister asked education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding and regional development of the villages. He urged them to continue to cultivate reading habits for general knowledge, to effectively realize book borrowing system for sustainable development of libraries, to repay loan for development of micro finance institutions that help improve socio-economic life of rural people and to save surplus money in these institutions.

The Union Minister donated K 0.5 million for construction of Gongyi village library, K 0.5 million for supply of electricity to Shwelaung village, K 1 million for construction of new school in Tanel village, K 0.5 million for Hlawgar village library, K 0.5 million for Kanpauk village library, K 0.5 million for school in Nweshauk village, clothes for villages and books and journals for libraries.—*MNA*

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General Dr Ye Myint Swe of the Geological Survey and Minerals Exploration Department under the Ministry of Mines on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Union Health Minister meets Samsung Corporation GM

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin receives Samsung Corporation General Manager Mr. Chang Young Jun and party of Republic of Korea.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin received General Manager of Samsung Corporation from the Republic of Korea Mr Chang Young Jun and party, at his office this morning.

Both sides discussed use of modern medical equipment for diagnosis and medical treatment in upgrading of hospitals and cooperation opportunities with the assistance of the ROK.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Director-General Dr Tun Naing Oo of Health Department, Director-General Dr Than Zaw Myint of Medical Science Department and officials.—*MNA*

Two diesel engines handed over to IWT

YANGON, 12 Jan—A ceremony to hand over two diesel engines (260 kw @ 1200 RPM) to Inland Water Transport of Ministry of Transport took place at Ahlon Dockyard here yesterday afternoon.

It was attended by Managing Director U Soe Tint of Inland Water Transport and deans, Chief Engineer Mr Huang Meng of Zibo Diesel Engine Palent Co., Ltd and officials, engine donor Managing Director U Thura Soe of Pearl Land Travel Co., Ltd and officials, the deputy superintending engineer and engineers of Ahlon Dockyard.

Managing Director U Soe Tint presented certificate of honour to Chief Engineers Mr Huang Meng who invented two marine diesel engine and spoke words of thank. The total cost of two engines including freight charges amounted to US$ 54000.—*MNA*

Myanmar Medical Research Conference goes on

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan —The fourth day session of Myanmar Medical Research Conference continued at the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), Ziwaka Road, Dagon Township, here this morning. A total of 16 papers were submitted and symposium on Healthy Life Style and Obesity and on Combat Antimicribial Resistance: No Action Today, No Cure Tomorrow were also held. Medical experts at home and abroad raised the questions and discussed the medical science development. The conference will go on till tomorrow and the best papers and best poster awarding ceremony will be held.—*MNA*

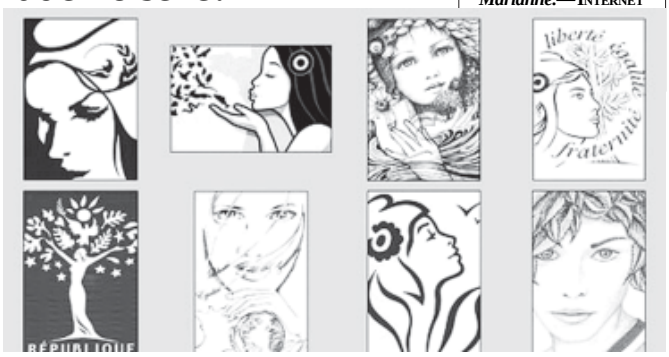
Sports events hail Kayah State Day

YANGON, 12 Jan—Starting from 8 January, 2012, the sports events have been taking place to mark the 60th anniversary of Kayah State Day which falls on 15 January, 2012.

Chess contest is being held at the Information and Public Relations Department, table tennis contest at pre-primary school, volleyball, Sepak Takraw and greasy pole, beating game with pillow, tug-of-war, wrestling and pounding paddy contests at the sports ground in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Kayah State Day, golf contest at Kandarawady Sports Ground, Karatedo contest at the town hall, track and field contest at Kandarawady Sports Ground, Taekwondo contest at State Gymnasium (DawUku), body building and physical culture contest at the town hall, badminton contest at State Gymnasium (DawUku).

MNA

The beginning of the end for the mademoiselle?



The symbol of French liberty — and "egalite"— is a young woman, Marianne.— INTERNET

PARIS, 12 Jan — A town in Western France has banned the word "mademoiselle" — the French equivalent of "miss". The move comes as feminist groups campaign for the word to be consigned to the dustbin of history everywhere.

Could its days be numbered? There are no longer any "mademoiselles" in the town of Cesson-Sevigne. The small Brittany community has banned the use of the term in all its official documents, arguing that women, like men, should not be defined by their marital status. From now on, teenagers, greying grandmeres and 30-something career girls there will all be known as "madame", just as men of all ages become "monsieur" as soon as they grow out of shorts. The Germans waved goodbye to their "fraulein" in 1972. In the English-speaking world the use of "Miss" is in decline - and on occasions when an honorific is required, "Ms" provides a convenient way of avoiding being pigeon-holed as either "Miss" or "Mrs".

But in France- just as in Spain with their "senorita" and Italy with their "signorine" - things are a bit different. "Madame" or "mademoiselle" can even be used to address someone in the absence of a name - "Would Madame care to be shown round the church?" a verger asks Flaubert's Madame Bovary.

These forms of address are not just about formality and respect, but also about flirtation and familiarity. Doyennes of the stage and screen retain their "mademoiselle" status, regardless of how long in the tooth they are. Waiters can gently flatter a lady of a certain age by calling her "mademoiselle", and officials can patronise by refusing to call a woman "madame". But for the mayor of Cesson-Sevigne, Michel Bihan, the key thing is eliminating "discrimination".—*Internet*

ASEAN FMs reiterate call for lifting eco sanctions on Myanmar

SIEM REAP (Cambodia), 12 Jan—Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign minister concluded a meeting here Wednesday with agreements on a number of regional and international issues of common concern, said, a Press release issued after the event.

Those issues included the Korean Peninsula, the implementation of the declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DoC), the progress of democratization in Myanmar, and others, according to the Press release. On Myanmar, the ASEAN foreign ministers agreed to reiterate their call for the lifting of economic sanctions against Myanmar, saying lifting the sanctions would significantly contribute to the country's socio-economic development. The ministers also agreed to call for an end of the role of good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, since Myanmar has pledged to continue to work closely with the UN. "We, ASEAN foreign ministers, hailed the good progress of the democratization process in Myanmar, so it is no longer necessary to convene any international conference on Myanmar outside this country," said Cambodia's Foreign Minister Hor Namhong. The foreign ministers vowed to finalize the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration in 2012. They have also discussed disaster prevention, assistance cooperation, maritime security and other issued.—*MNA/Xinhua*

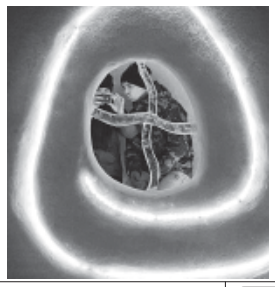
US condemns bomb attack on Iran nuclear scientist

WASHINGTON, 12 Jan — The US has condemned the killing of an Iranian nuclear scientist in a car bomb attack in north Teheran. National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor said the US "had absolutely nothing to do" with the attack. Mostafa Ahmadi-Roshan, who worked at the Natanz uranium enrichment facility, died along with the driver of the car. years, with Iran blaming Israel and the US. Both deny any involvement.

A magnetic bomb was attached to the car by two motorcyclists, Iran says.—INTERNET

Washington and its allies suspect Teheran of secretly trying to develop a nuclear weapons capacity but Iran insists its nuclear programme is peaceful. "The United States had absolutely nothing to do with this. We strongly condemn all acts of violence, including acts of violence like this," said Mr Vietor. Iran's Atomic Energy Organization described the killings as "a heinous act".

Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi said on state TV that the bomb attack would not stop "progress" in the country's nuclear programme. Mr Ahmadi-Roshan, 32, was a university lecturer who supervised a department at the Natanz plant, the semi-official news agency *Fars* reported. Iranian officials said two men on a motorcycle attached a magnetic bomb to his car during the morning rush hour and detonated it outside a university campus. Mr Ahmadi-Roshan died immediately while his driver died later of his wounds, *Fars* reported. A third occupant of the Peugeot 405 was injured and taken to hospital. The blast left debris hanging in nearby trees. Iran says the attack was similar to the killings of three other scientists over the past two years.—*Internet*



People visit the so-called "Moroz-city" (Frost city) at the Sokolniki City park in Moscow on 10 Jan, 2012. The city, made of ice, consists of streets, a bank, a theatre, a prison, a registry office, a hotel and other sights, according to local media.— INTERNET

US military moves carriers, denies Iran link

WASHINGTON, 12 Jan— The US military said on Wednesday that a new aircraft carrier strike group had arrived in the Arabian Sea and that another was on its way to the region, but denied any link to recent tensions with Iran and portrayed the movements as routine. The shift in the powerful US naval assets comes at a moment of heightened tensions with Iran, which has threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz — the world's most important oil shipping lane — if US and EU sanctions over its nuclear programme cut off its oil exports.

The US military has said it will halt any blockade of the strategic strait and the top US naval officer acknowledged on Tuesday that preparing for a potential conflict there was something that "keeps me awake at night." Still, the Pentagon denied any direct link between recent tensions and the movement of aircraft carriers."I don't want to leave anybody with the impression that we're somehow (speeding) two carriers over there because we're concerned about what happened, you know, today in Iran. It's just not the case," said Captain John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman.

Military officials said the *USS Carl Vinson* arrived in the Arabian Sea on Monday to replace the outgoing *USS John C. Stennis* carrier strike group, which Iran last week warned not to return to the Gulf after departing in late December. The *Stennis* was due to return to its home port in San Diego but the Pentagon did not say when that would happen.

Another carrier strike group, led by the aircraft carrier *USS Abraham Lincoln*, concluded a port visit to Thailand on Tuesday and was now in the Indian Ocean.—*MNA/Reuters*

Kim Jong Il's body to be permanently displayed

SEOUL, 12 Jan — North Korea says late leader Kim Jong Il's body will be permanently laid in state in a memorial palace in the capital.

Kim's body will be displayed at Pyongyang's Kumsusan Memorial Palace, where the embalmed body of his father — North Korea founder Kim Il Sung — has been lying since 1995. He died in 1994.

North Korea has sought to show Kim Jong Il's son and successor, Kim Jong Un, as firmly in control since his father died of a heart attack on 17 December.

The official *Korean Central News Agency* said Thursday that North Korea will also erect a Kim Jong Il statue, set up portraits of Kim and build "towers to his immortality" across the country.

Internet

47,515 Killed in drug violence in Mexico from 2006 to 2011

MEXICO CITY, 12 Jan—A total of 47,515 people were killed in drug related crimes from December 2006 to September 2011 in Mexico, the Attorney General's Office announced on Wednesday.

The office said the death toll in the first nine months of 2011 was 12,903, an increase of 11 percent compared with the same period in 2010, which registered 11,583 deaths in drug violence.

The most violent month in 2011 was April when 1,630 people were killed. The most violent Mexican city last year was again Ciudad Juarez, which borders the United States.

Due to the dispute between the drug cartels of Sinaloa and Juarez, the city witnessed 1,206 killings in the first nine months of last year.

The resort city of Acapulco ranked second with 795 deaths linked to organized drug crimes, which was followed by the northern cities of Torreon (476), Monterrey (399), Durango (390), Culiacan (365) and San Fernando (292).

MNA/Xinhua

The police chief of the northern border City of Ciudad Juarez, Julian Leyzaola, centre, walks past the body of a top municipal police officer after he was gunned down by unknown attackers in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on 10 Jan, 2012.— INTERNET

New cream could treat cancer without surgery

ROME, 12 Jan—Italian scientists have discovered a painless, non-surgical skin cancer treatment using radioactive cream that could treat cancer in as little as two hours. According to media reports in recent days, the breakthrough treatment was tested on 700 patients with basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, less aggressive forms of skin cancer, with a success rate of 95 percent after one to three treatments.

While basal cell carcinoma — caused by exposure to harmful UV rays — accounts for about 80 percent of skin cancer cases, it isn't metastatic, meaning it doesn't spread to other organs in the body.

But treatment usually requires surgery that can leave scars, particularly problematic on the face.

While trials are currently being held in Germany and Australia, researchers believe that the cream could be available for market within two years. Other nonsurgical treatments already used to treat skin cancer is a light-induced technique called photodynamic therapy (PDT), in which chemical cream is applied to the skin cancer tumor. The *Guardian* in the UK reports that it is usually suitable for lumps that do not penetrate too deeply into the skin.—*Internet*

New cream could treat cancer without surgery. **INTERNET**

***This 8 Nov, 2011 photo shows a glass of red wine in Concord, NH. The best wines for holiday parties are like good hosts, accommodating enough to handle a variety of scenarios, but with enough personality to keep everyone entertained.*—INTERNET**

Fake data behind red wine benefit claims, experts allege

HARTFORD, 12 Jan–A US university says a researcher known for his work on red wine's benefits to cardiovascular health falsified his data in more than 100 instances.

Nearly a dozen scientific journals are being warned of the potential problems after publishing the University of Connecticut professor's studies. University officials say dismissal proceedings have started against Dipak Das, director of the UConn Health Centre's Cardiovascular Research Centre.

UConn says it started investigating Das' work after receiving an anonymous complaint of potential irregularities in his research, and that it found 145 instances of fabricated, falsified and manipulated data. Das has gained attention for research into an ingredient in red wine that's shown potential for promoting health, though the university did not say whether the falsifications occurred in research on that topic. Das could not immediately be reached for comment.—*Internet*

Nicotine patches may not help smokers quit

BOSTON, 12 Jan—Nicotine patches and nicotine gum do not appear to be effective in helping smokers quit long-term, US researchers say. Lead author Hillel Alpert, research scientist at Harvard School of Public Health, and co-author Lois Biener of the University of Massachusetts Boston's Centre for Survey Research, tracked 787 adults in Massachusetts who had recently quit smoking.

The participants were surveyed during three time periods —2001-2002, 2003-2004 and 2005-2006— and asked whether they used a nicotine replacement therapy in the form of the nicotine patch, nicotine gum, nicotine inhaler or nasal spray.

The results, published in Tobacco Control, showed almost one-third of recent quitters reported to have relapsed during each time period — and there was no difference in the relapse rate among those who used nicotine replacement therapy for more than six weeks, with or without professional counseling, and that of smokers who did not use nicotine replacement therapy. In addition, no difference in quitting success with use of nicotine replacement therapy was found for either heavy or light smokers.

"This study shows that using nicotine replacement therapy is no more effective in helping people stop smoking cigarettes in the long-term than trying to quit on one's own," Alpert said in a statement.

Even though clinical trials found nicotine replacement therapy to be effective, the new findings demonstrate the importance of empirical studies regarding effectiveness when used in the general population, Alpert said.—*Internet*

Health Tip: When your child cries at night

Though it's tempting for parents to run to their child at the slightest cry during the night, experts say that's not always the best reaction. The American Academy of Pediatrics offers these suggestions for when your child cries at bedtime:

* Wait a few minutes before responding; if the crying continues, wait longer each time before you respond to the cries.

* Offer reassurance that you're there, but don't play, linger or turn on a light if you do enter the room.

* Each time you enter the room, stay a little farther from the bed; eventually, reassure your child without entering the room.

* When your child calls for you, offer a gentle reminder that it's time to go to sleep.—*Internet*

Infosys net up 33 percent in third quarter

BANGALORE, 12 Jan—Infosys Ltd posted net profit of Rs.2,372 crore (Rs.23.7 billion) for the third quarter (October-December) of this fiscal (2011-12), registering a record 33 percent year-on-year (YoY) growth as per the Indian accounting standard.

In a regulatory filing Thursday, the IT bellwether said its consolidated revenues for the quarter (Q3) under review increased to Rs.9,298 crore (Rs.92.98 billion), posting 31 percent YoY.

Under the International Financial Regulatory System (IFRS), net income grew 15 percent YoY to USD 458 million and gross income to USD 1.81 billion, up 14 percent YoY for the third quarter.—*Internet*

***This file photo shows the campus of Indian software giant Infosys Technologies Ltd headquarters in Bangalore. Infosys posted a 33.3 percent rise in consolidated third quarter net profit, as a weak rupee helped it beat forecasts.*—INTERNET**

Business

Priced at RS 30,250, Samsung Electronic on Wednesday announced the launch of Samsung Galaxy Tab 620 built on Android Honeycomb 3.2 platform with 1.2 GHz dual core processor. **INTERNET**

Samsung launches new tablet in Indian market

BANGALORE, 12 Jan —Global consumer electronics major Samsung Wednesday launched in the Indian market its next-generation tablet Galaxy Tab 620, with a 1.2GHz dual core processor and Android Honeycomb 3.2 operating system.

"Our latest tablet will enable customers to manage their work and life while on the move. Value added features of GalaxyTab will offer faster browsing, downloading and transmission," Samsung Electronics Ltd head Ranjit Yadav said in a statement here.

Besides content viewing and gaming, users can download movies and songs and surf the web with high data speeds of 21Mbps (megabits per second) "The new tablet can download a 1GB (gigabit) movie in 6.5 minutes and a 1.5MB (megabit) photo in one minute. Similarly, a 10MB music file can be transmitted in one second through a 40MHz channel," Yadav asserted.

Priced at Rs.30,250 and weighing 345 gm, the tablet is one of the lightest in its category. At 9.96 mm, its sleek design makes it convenient to carry.

With integrated communication service, users can aggregate contacts, calendar and email with instant messaging and social networking service (SNS). Contacts can be synched with online portals and social networks and manage schedules and events from multiple accounts.

"The tablet's Android operating system (OS) provides a greater user experience with a compatibility zoom for non-tablet sized applications," Yadav added.

The USD 136-billion Korean multinational is a global leader in semiconductors (chips), telecom, digital media and digital convergence technologies. It employs about 190,000 people in 206 offices across 68 countries, including India.

Internet

2012 oil price to be about 100 USD per barrel

HOUSTON, 12 Jan—The price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil is expected to be about 100 US dollars per barrel in 2012, five dollars per barrel higher than the average price in 2011, the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) said Tuesday.

The EIA, a unit of the US Department of Energy, said in its monthly report that it also expects WTI to continue rising, reaching 106 per barrel in the fourth quarter of 2013.

The forecasts represent an increase of oil price prices from last year, when WTI averaged 94.86 dollars a barrel, according to the EIA. WTI, also known as Texas light sweet, is a grade of crude oil used as a benchmark in oil pricing, alongside the price of Brent crude from the North Sea.

The forecast said that US real gross domestic product grows by 1.8 percent in 2012 and 2.5 percent in 2013, while world real GDP (weighted by oil consumption) grows by 2.9 percent and 3.8 percent in 2012 and 2013 respectively, the EIA said.—*Xinhua*

The price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil is expected to be about 100 US dollars per barrel in 2012. **XINHUA**

Canaveral has busy 2012 launch schedule

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla), 12 Jan—The director of Florida's Cape Canaveral rocket range says a busy 2012 launch schedule is proof there's life after the end of NASA's shuttle programme.

A dozen launches from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station are set for the coming months, including missions critical to the International Space Station, *Florida Today* reported Wednesday.

"We are alive and well, and we are in business here in Central Florida," said Brig. Gen. Anthony Cotton, commander of the Air Force 45th Space Wing.

Cotton is director Cape Canaveral's Eastern Range, the nation's main rocket-launching region.

"With the exception of the month of March, there is something going on at the cape throughout the year," he said.

A United Launch Alliance Delta IV rocket with a new-generation military communications satellite will launch 19 Jan, followed by a 7 Feb launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with a Dragon spacecraft to demonstrate its ability to deliver cargo to the International Space Station, officials said.—*Internet*

A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket launches from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. **INTERNET**

science

This artist's concept depicts an itsy bitsy planetary system — so compact, in fact, that it's more like Jupiter and its moons than a star and its planets.— **INTERNET**

Astronomers find smallest planets yet

PASADENA, (Calif), 12 Jan—US astronomers say three of the smallest planets ever detected outside the solar system have been discovered orbiting around a single star.

The three planets are smaller than Earth and appear to be rocky with a solid surface, the team of astronomers, led by scientists at the California Institute of Technology, says.

Until now, astronomers have found at most only four other rocky planets, also called terrestrial planets, around other stars, a Caltech release said Wednesday.

While the new planets are too close to the star to be in its habitable zone — the narrow region around a star where the temperature is mild enough for liquid water, and possibly life, to exist — the planets are the first rocky ones to be found orbiting a type of dim, small star called a red dwarf, the most common type of star in the Milky Way.

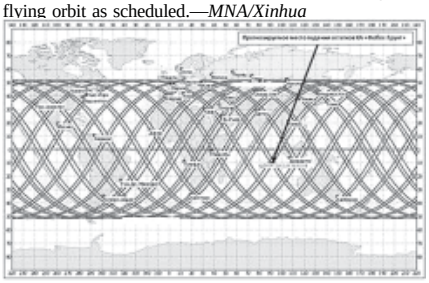
That suggests our galaxy could be teeming with similarly rocky planets, with the possibility that many are in the habitable zone, astronomers said.

"Red dwarfs make up eight out of every ten stars in the galaxy," Caltech astronomy Professor John Johnson said. "That boosts the chances of other life being in the universe—that's the ultimate result here."—*Internet*

Russia's Mars probe may fall into Indian Ocean on Sunday

MOSCOW, 12 Jan—Russia's failed Mars probe Phobos-Grunt may fall into the Indian Ocean during daytime on Sunday, Russia's Federal Space Agency Roscosmos said Wednesday. According to a statement posed on its website, Roscosmos said the debris of the interplanetary spacecraft may hit the Earth during 14-16 Jan, most probably at 13:18 Moscow time (0918 GMT) on 15 Jan. "The approximate location where the debris will fall is between latitude 10 degrees South and longitude 90 degrees East," Roscosmos said. As of Wednesday, the Phobos-Grunt's maximum distance to the Earth was about 204 km. "The location and time (of the probe's falling) are to be adjusted during its descent," Roscosmos said.

The space agency added that some 200 kilogrammes of the Phobos-Grunt's fragments may fall onto the Earth, while other fragments of the probe would burn down in the dense layer of the atmosphere at an altitude of approximately 100 km. Roscosmos confirmed in November that the Phobos-Grunt probe carrying China's *Yinghuo-1* satellite, which was launched on 9 Nov, failed to reach the intended orbit, as the vehicle has not used its own booster to reach the designated flying orbit as scheduled.—*MNA/Xinhua*



The failed Russian Mars probe Phobos-Grunt is predicted to crash back to Earth in just days. The spacecraft will fall between 51.4 degrees north latitude and 51.4 degrees south latitude, as shown in the diagram.— **INTERNET**

Gadget Watch: HP Envy 14 PC has smart-tag sensor

LAS VEGAS, 12 Jan—Thin, light laptops —known as "ultrabooks"— are a much-hyped category at this year's International Consumer Electronics Show, an annual showcase for the latest smartphones, tablet computers and other consumer-electronic devices.

Deep-pocketed chipmaker Intel Corp created the term to push PC makers to make laptops that are more like Apple's Macbook Air, and help them market them. Practically every PC maker is showing off at least one ultrabook at the show. Hewlett-Packard Co is talking up its own ultrabook, dubbed the HP Envy 14 Spectre, this week. The HP model has a few features that set it apart.

WHY IT'S HOT: HP's Envy includes a sensor for Near-Field Communications, the radio standard used by security cards and so-called "smart tags," which are small chips with flat, stamp-sized radio antennas. That means that it can read information from NFC tags and upcoming smartphone models when they're bumped against the laptop. For instance, a promotional flyer might include a tag with a special Web address that appears on-screen when touched to the laptop.

THE UPSIDE: There's a movement to make NFC the basis for tomorrow's payment cards, and to build NFC into smartphones. That means someone with an NFC-enabled laptop could, in the future, pay securely for an online purchase by tapping a payment card to the computer. Intel Corp demonstrated this procedure at a Press conference at the show, with a prototype laptop.

THE DOWNSIDE: The Envy's NFC capability may never progress beyond the ability to grab Web addresses from phones and promotional materials. The business relationships and networks needed to make NFC-enabled payments ubiquitous have been slow to emerge, as many different players are jockeying for position.

IDC analyst Williams Stofega said NFC has a lot of potential as part of the trend of "tangible computing" — getting the things around us to talk to each other intelligently, to make our lives easier. But the lack of standards is a big obstacle. "If NFC is not integrated with everything else, it's going to die," Stofega said.

WHAT ELSE MAKES IT HOT: The Envy 14 comes with super-fast "solid state" hard drives. It includes a chip that can communicate wirelessly with some stereo headphones, with an audio quality that's much better than Bluetooth. The Envy is also covered in scratch-resistant glass.

AVAILABILITY: Starting 8 Feb in the US, at $1,400 and up.

Internet

Hewlet Packard displays the Envy 14 Spectre ultrabook in Las Vegas, on 10 Jan, 2012. **INTERNET**

World's first wind-up tablet introduced

LAS VEGAS, 12 Jan—A US group aiming to bring low-cost computing to the developing world says it wants to put a tablet computer into the hands of the world's poorest children.

One Laptop Per Child introduced what it says is the world's first wind-up tablet computer at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, NewScientist.com reported on Wednesday.

The organization's XO 3.0 laptop has an 8-inch touchscreen and is designed for outdoor use, sporting a rugged green rubber case.

Running either Android or Linux software, the XO 3.0 can be powered by a hand crank, a built-in solar panel or a regular power adaptor. Spinning the crank for 6 minutes creates 2 watts of power, sufficient to run the low-energy tablet for about an hour, OLPC said.

While OLPC's long-standing aim is to produce a computer for $100 it has yet to confirm a price for the new tablet.

Internet

Apple to hold event in New York on 19 Jan, hardware launch not expected

NEW YORK, 12 Jan—Apple has sent out invitations for a media event to be held in New York City on 19 January. But banish from your mind images of CEO Tim Cook strutting around a stage holding aloft the iPad 2 successor or iPhone 5—the tagline on the invitation reads, "Join us for an education announcement in the Big Apple."

According to AppleInsider, the event is rumored to involve the announcement of improvements to the iBooks platform, possibly connected to education and digital book publishing. The launch of some piece of new hardware is not expected.

Unnamed sources have told All Things Digital's John Paczkowski that the Cupertino company will be using the event "to talk about a textbook initiative" that could be "related to iBooks in education, presumably with some sort of tie-in to iTunes U." iTunes U is part of Apple's iTunes store and features more than 150,000 free educational media files from universities and cultural institutions around the world. However, All Things Digital also reports that none of the major textbook publishers are known to be working with Apple's iBooks platform or iOS at this time.—*Internet*

The world's poorest children could soon have a tablet of their very own, thanks to One Laptop Per Child (OLPC), the organization which aims to bring low-cost computing to the developing world.— **INTERNET**

TECHNOLOGY

South Africa loses eight rhinos in one day

JOHANNESBURG, 12 Jan — South African rangers say they have found eight dead rhinos that had been stripped of their horns, an unprecedented one-day toll. Reynold Thakhuli, South African National Parks spokesman, said rangers found the rhinoceros carcasses Tuesday at two sites in Kruger, the country's flagship national park. Thakhuli said Wednesday, "This is the first time that we've had so many in one day, and it's really a concern for us."

Thakhuli says 448 rhinos were poached across South Africa in 2011, a record loss. The eight found Tuesday were the first recorded deaths for 2012.

An Asian economic boom in recent years is believed to be behind the spike in poaching, with a growing middle class in countries like China and Vietnam able to afford exotic purported remedies like powdered rhino horn.

Internet

World's smallest vertebrate creature named

NEW YORK, 12 Jan — An article on Wednesday in the journal *PLoS One* named Paedophryne amanuensis as the world's smallest animal with a spine. The adult frogs are about three-tenths of an inch long, and a millimetre or so smaller than a carp found on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

The frogs are so small that Louisiana State University herpetologist and environmental biologist Christopher Austin had to enlarge close-up photos to describe them.

But the males of a species of deep-sea anglerfish are about 2mm smaller, said University of Washington ichthyologist Theodore Pietsch, who described them in 2006. The males don't have stomachs and live as parasites on 1.8-inch (4.57-centimetre)-long females. Mr Austin discovered the tiny frogs – along with another small frog species – in August 2009 while on a trip to Papua New Guinea to study the extreme diversity of the island's wildlife. He said he knew about the anglerfish but felt that average species size made more sense for comparison.

The frog, Paedophryne amauensis, sits on a dime.
INTERNET

Steven J Beaupre, a University of Arkansas scientist and president-elect of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, said many vertebrates have males and females of very different sizes, "so it is reasonable that the world's smallest vertebrate may end up being either the males or the females of some specific fish or amphibian species."

Internet

Vietnamese crewmen killed in Antarctic ship fire

The South Korean Jeong Woo 2 fishing boat is still burning in the Antarctic.—INTERNET

WELLINGTON , 12 Jan — Three Vietnamese crewmen died when a South Korean fishing boat caught fire in Antarctica, New Zealand officials confirmed, as a US vessel treated seven injured sailors. Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) said the men did not make it out of the Jeong Woo 2's accommodation area when the fire started. The incident happened 3,700km (2,000 miles) from New Zealand on Wednesday.Seven injured men are being taken to an Antarctic base.

MNZ said of the seven - who are all Vietnamese and Indonesian — three men had serious injuries. They are on board the American research vessel Nathaniel B Palmer, which reached the burning boat on Wednesday. The US vessel is now making its way to the US McMurdo Antarctic base, located about 600km (375 miles) away. The injured men are scheduled to be evacuated to a hospital in Christchurch, New Zealand once they reach the base.

New Zealand officials report that the Jeong Woo 2 is still ablaze and there are plans for her sister ship Jeong Woo 3 to tow the boat out of Antarctic waters to minimise the impact on the environment.

The cause of the fire will be determined by Korean maritime authorities. The Jeong Woo 2 was built in Japan and is registered in Busan, South Korea, according to the *Associated Press* news agency.

Internet

Cheetah seized at Heathrow Airport by UK Border Agency

LONDON , 12 Jan — A cheetah has been stopped at London's Heathrow Airport by border officials who were suspicious about the animal's missing identity microchip. The African cheetah, called Isaac, was on his way from a South African safari park to Russia when he was seized. He is being kept in the UK until it is known why his microchip was missing, the UK Border Agency said. The agency said all endangered animals had to be clearly identifiable by a unique marking to be allowed to travel.

The markings are used to tackle the trade in illegal animals and stop smugglers cheating the system. Transporting endangered animals without microchips is a breach of the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species. Marc Owen, head of UK Border Agency operations at Heathrow, said: "The illicit trade in animals is a serious contributory factor in the threat of extinction faced by many endangered species, and that is why the rules around moving them are so strict.

"Each animal has to be clearly identifiable by a unique marking, for instance a microchip, to ensure they can be tracked and traced, and to prevent them being sold illegally. "At this stage we do not know whether this was simply an error or whether there were other reasons for it." He said that Isaac was in good health and would be kept at a UK wildlife park while investigations continued. The big cat was one of four cheetahs which landed at the airport on 22 December to South Africa, the agency said.— *Internet*

The agency said Isaac would be kept at a UK wildlife park while investigations continued.—INTERNET

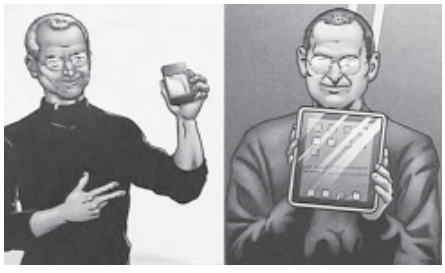
Apple's Steve Jobs immortalized in comic

NEW YORK, 12 Jan — A comic book documenting the life of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs has gone on sale in the US. It depicts the life of the technology mogul from his adoption as a baby to his unveiling of products such as the iPhone and iPad. The Silicon Valley icon, who has been described as the Michelangelo of the digital age, died in October at the age of 56 following a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Thor Parker, of Midtown Comics in New York, said: "The Steve Jobs comic is basically an overview of his whole life, kind of a short biography for someone that knows of him but doesn't know all the details. It really briefly hits on all the bigger points in his life." He added: "The artwork is pretty basic for a comic. You see a lot of iconic images that are related to Steve Jobs. You see comic renditions of his Forbes magazine cover, a lot of his keynote addresses."

Comic book fans have given mixed reviews. One, Zane, told *Reuters*: "I think it's great. I think he's a interesting guy, interesting point of view in his life and in my opinion everything translates well into comics." But Michael said: "I think I would rather read an autobiography about him than a comic book." The comic was produced by Bluewater Productions, which has previously given the same treatment to Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg and celebrities such as Lady Gaga. Mr Jobs founded Apple in 1976 with Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne.

Internet



World heritage Mogao Grottoes receives record visitors in 2011

LANZHOU, 12 Jan—The renowned world heritage site Mogao Grottoes in northwest China's Gansu Province has reported record high visitor numbers for 2011.

One of the country's three major Buddhist art treasures, the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang received 680,000 tourists in 2011, up 23.6 percent from 550,000 in 2010, according to the Dunhuang Academy, which is in charge of the research, protection and management of the heritage site, in a statement on Wednesday. Tourist numbers fell in 2008 and 2009 due to the global financial crisis, but started to recover in 2010, according to the statement.—*Xinhua*

Micro blogs keep travelers informed

BEIJING, 12 Jan — Railway agencies across the country are posting up-to-date information on their micro blogs to provide better service to passengers going home in the Spring Festival peak travel season. To date, 19 railway bureaus and 35 train stations have opened official micro blog accounts on Sina weibo, China's most popular micro-blogging website, to publish information on the Spring Festival travel rush.

"On our micro blog, we provide the train schedule, the number of tickets available and other information that may affect passengers' travels, to give our followers the latest news," Tang Yizhi, an official who is responsible for the micro blog of Nanning Railway Bureau in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, told *China Daily* on Tuesday. She added that if passengers lost their luggage in the railway station, they can also visit the micro blog to see whether there was any information about the luggage.

The bureau opened micro blog accounts on some big Web portals, including Sina and People.com.cn, at the end of 2010, and has attracted more than 700,000 followers.

"Our micro blog mainly targets people departing from or going to Nanning," Tang said, adding that the site got 50,000 additional followers before the Spring Festival rush this year. "We post railway information on times, but also answer our followers' questions," she said.

Xinhua

The Greek parents too poor to care for their children

ATHENS, 12 Jan — Greece's financial crisis has made some families so desperate they are giving up the most precious thing of all- their children. One morning a few weeks before Christmas a kindergarten teacher in Athens found a note about one of her four-year-old pupils. "I will not be coming to pick up Anna today because I cannot afford to look after her," it read. "Please take good care of her. Sorry. Her mother." In the last two months Father Antonios, a young Orthodox priest who runs a youth centre for the city's poor, has found four children on his doorstep - including a baby just days old. Another charity was approached by a couple whose twin babies were in hospital being treated for malnutrition, because the mother herself was malnourished and unable to breastfeed. Cases like this are shocking a country where family ties are strong, and failure to look after children is socially unacceptable - they feel to Greeks like stories from the Third World, rather than their own capital city. One of the children cared for by Father Antonios is Natasha, a bright two-year-old brought to his centre by her mother a few weeks ago.

The woman said she was unemployed and homeless and needed help - but before staff could offer her support she had vanished, leaving her daughter behind."Over the last year we have hundreds of cases of parents who want to leave their children with us - they know us and trust us,"

Unemployed and homeless, Natasha's mother said she could no longer cope. INTERNET

Father Antonios says. "They say they do not have any money or shelter or food for their kids, so they hope we might be able to provide them with what they need." Requests of this kind were not unknown before the crisis-but Father Antonios has never until now come across children being simply abandoned.— *Internet*

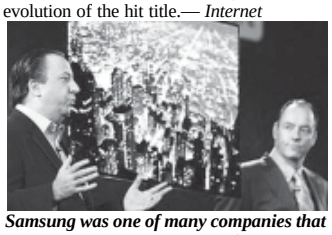
Samsung's 'future-proof' voice-controlled television

LAS VEGAS, 12 Jan — A "smart" internet-connected television that has the ability to have its hardware upgraded every year has been unveiled by Samsung. It has an expansion slot allowing new kit to be added to boost processing performance and introduce new features. The innovation may help reassure shoppers concerned about their screen becoming outdated.

The move is aimed at helping the South Korean tech giant retain its lead as the world's best-selling TV maker. Samsung's president of consumer electronics, Boo-keun Yoon, unveiled the firm's flagship LED television at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas noting that his firm currently sells two televisions every second. In addition to its "smart evolution capability" Samsung has also added gesture, voice and face recognition features to the ES8000 model.

A built-in camera allows users to browse the internet with a wave of their hand and to change channel by speaking in one of the more than 20 languages that the set can "understand". A facial recognition facility also allows the set to recognise users, pulling up the relevant selection of their favourite apps. The device is the latest in a run of so-called Smart TVs launched by the firm since 2008.

Samsung is on course to hit a milestone of 20 million global TV app downloads before the end of January, said its president of consumer electronics America Tim Baxter. New apps announced at the trade show included Rovio's Angry Birds video game. Samsung also announced its users would be given free access to a new Angry Birds on-demand animated television channel, marking the latest evolution of the hit title.— *Internet*



***Samsung was one of many companies that unveiled new connected TV facilities at CES.*— INTERNET**

A journalist went to meet Uggie and his trainer Omar Von Muller.— Internet

Can Hollywood's top dogs really act?

WASHINGTON , 12 Jan — Animals have been stealing scenes since movies began - but can Hollywood's top dogs really act or is it all down to clever training?

The Artist is being tipped to sweep the board at this year's Oscars - but there will be no Academy Award for one of the silent film's biggest stars. In fact, he will be lucky to get a pat on the head and a consoling bone to chew on.

Uggie is a nine-year-old Jack Russell terrier — and the Academy is famously sniffy when it comes to handing out prizes to animals. Lassie, Cheetah and Rin Tin Tin may have been among the biggest stars of their day- but not one of them ever gripped the famous gold statuette in their jaws.

The nearest a "non-human" performer has come to Oscar-night glory was in 1998, when Bart the Bear, a 1,480-pound Kodiak and star of films such as The Edge and Legends of the Fall, presented the Oscar for Best Achievement in Sound Effects Editing.

Fans of Uggie — who has already won the coveted Palm Dog at the Cannes film festival for his performance as the faithful sidekick of a fading matinee idol — have launched a campaign on Twitter and Facebook for the Academy to recognise his talents. But the chances of this latest Doggie De Niro jumping the celluloid species barrier into the world of human acting honours appear remote.

The Academy appears to have had a downer on dogs since the first Oscar night in 1929 when, legend has it, German Shepherd Rin Tin Tin was voted best actor, only for the statue to be mysteriously handed to a human actor, Emil Jannings, instead.

Some think today's Hollywood establishment are no less wary of sharing the awards night spotlight with a furry rival." There is a good chance that a certain number of serious thespians would be very offended to be on a stage with, say, a cute golden retriever who happened to make a very popular film," says author Susan Orlean, who is campaigning for Rin Tin Tin to be awarded a posthumous Oscar.

Internet

Cayman vents are world's hottest

LONDON, 12 Jan — The world's deepest known volcanic vents are also the hottest, a UK-led expedition has indicated. The seafloor vents are located 5km below the surface of the Caribbean, in the Cayman Trough.

The researchers say the structures are shooting jets of mineral-rich water more than a kilometre into the ocean above. The vents' features suggest the water is warmer than 450C — hot enough to melt lead. are teeming with new species including a type of pale shrimp with a light sensing organ on its back.

Details of the research have been published in the journal *Nature Communications.* Researchers from the UK's National Oceanography Centre in Southampton first investigated the vents in April 2010.

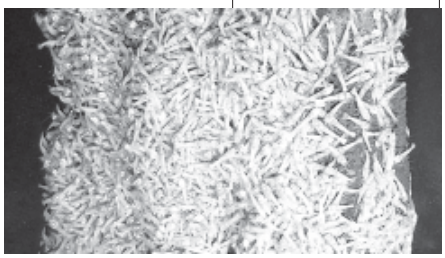
The vents are known as "Black Smokers" on account of the smoky-looking hot liquids that gush out of them. One of the vents, which the team named the Beebe Vent Field, was almost a kilometre deeper than anything previously found.

According to Dr Jon Copley, from the University of Southampton and one of the leaders of the expedition, the discovery was surprisingly moving.

"When we came across the black smokers on the sea floor there were honestly tears among the science party, there was this sort of moment of overwhelming wonder at the marvel of the world," he said."

The Beebe Field is a mound of mineral rubble on the bottom of the ocean estimated to be about 80m across about 50m high. On top of the mound are naturally formed chimneys, estimated to be about six metres tall with hot fluid gushing out." The scientists say the fluid is rich in minerals, particularly copper. "As soon as it hits the cold sea water, it starts to form particles of copper that build up the chimneys we've seen," Dr Copley explained.

***The world's deepest known volcanic vents are also the hottest, a UK-led expedition has indicated.*—INTERNET**



The researchers weren't able to directly measure the temperature of the water with their equipment. "We analysed the chemistry of what was gushing from the vents and from that we estimated that these vents could be hotter than 450 degrees Celsius, which means they're not only the deepest known they're also possibly going to be the hottest known."

The height of the plume is also indicative of extremely high temperatures.

Internet

Middle-aged surgeons 'are safest'

***"Trust me - I'm a doctor". But should age come into it?*— INTERNET**

LONDON , 12 Jan— If you are due to have an operation, it might be worth checking the age of your surgeon beforehand, say researchers who claim age influences acumen.

Although inexperience is an obvious disadvantage, having been in the profession for decades is not desirable either, they say. Middle-aged surgeons in their 40s and late 30s are safest, they suggest. The small study, published at bmj.com, looked at operative complications across five hospitals in France.

This revealed that patients undergoing one surgical procedure - thyroid gland removal — were more likely to have complications when operated on by inexperienced surgeons and those who had been in the job for more than 20 years. The analysis looked at more than 3,500 of these operations carried out by 28 surgeons.

The researchers chose to look thyroidectomy because the procedure is, generally, carried out in the same way by all surgeons and has not changed substantially over the past few decades.

The link they found between a surgeon's age and complication rates was irrespective of how complex the surgical case list was, which suggests it wasn't because the older, more experienced surgeons were seeing the "harder-to-treat" patients. But experts stress the studies findings are not conclusive and more investigations are needed to ensure surgeons stay on top form.

The researchers from the University of Lyon said: "Optimum individual performance in thyroid surgery cannot be passively achieved or maintained by accumulating experience. "Factors contributing to poor performance in very experienced surgeons should be explored further." Prof Mike Larvin, of England's Royal College of Surgeons (RCS), said it was important for surgeons to keep honing their skills.

"Given the pace of change in medical innovation it is certain that a surgeon at the end of his career will be undertaking a nearly completely different range of operations than at the outset.

"This interesting study shows the importance of lifelong learning for surgeons — something the RCS supports by directly running courses for trainees and consultants and quality assuring courses run by others. "We have also set out requirements for continuing professional development for medical revalidation, a system of regular five-year check-ups on doctor competence, which starts at the end of this year."

Internet

First Vice-President of Islamic Republic of Iran sends felicitations to Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan— The following are messages of felicitations from First Vice-President of Islamic Republic of Iran to Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo 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 First Vice-President of Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Reza Rahimi

Your Excellency,

My most intimate congratulations to Your Excellency and to the Government and the people of Myanmar on the beginning of the year 2012.

I hope that in the New Year and with our redoubled and collective efforts we will be able to witness more justice in the world based on kindness and peace, elimination of double standards and animosities as well as the expansion of amity and friendship.

I wish Your Excellency proud and happy New Year and pray to God Almighty to bestow prosperity and happiness upon the government and the people of Myanmar.

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Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) Retreat

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan— At the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia Mr. Hor Namhong, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin attended ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) Retreat, held from 10th to 11th January in Siem Reap, Cambodia, and arrived back in Yangon by air this evening.

The meeting exchanged views on regional and international issues, the ASEAN Community Building and important issues of ASEAN.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers also discussed on the establishment of ASEAN Community in 2015, successful implementation of Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC). The Ministers reaffirmed their commitments for the realization of the Cambodia's theme for the 2012 Chairmanship "ASEAN: One Community, One Destiny".

On the regional and international issues of common concern to ASEAN, the Ministers discussed the Korean Peninsula and the implementation of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and stressed the need to maintain ASEAN's centrality in the evolvement regional architecture.

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin briefed the meeting on the developments in Myanmar and sought ASEAN's continued support the economic sanctions imposed by the western countries on Myanmar. He also requested ASEAN not to support the convening of any regional or international meeting on Myanmar outside the country. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers acknowledged the positive developments in Myanmar and renewed their call for the lifting of economic sanctions on Myanmar which would significantly contribute to the socio-economic development of Myanmar. They shared their view that there is no longer necessary to convene any international conference on Myanmar outside the country.

While in Siem Reap, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin had bilateral meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia Mr. Hor Namhong, in the afternoon of 10 January, 2012 at Grand Soluxe Angkor Palace Resort Hotel. Matters of mutual interests and cooperation in ASEAN were discussed during the meeting.

Before the AMM Retreat, U Nyan Lynn, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Myanmar to ASEAN attended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, and delegation led by U Aung Lynn, Director-General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs attended the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and related SOM Working Group Meetings.—*MNA*

Workshop on ASEAN-ROK Film Community Project, One Asia in Film held

***Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprises addresses One Asia in Film workshop.*—MNA**

YANGON, 12 Jan—A workshop on ASEAN-ROK Film Community Project, One Asia in Film, jointly organized by Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism and Film production of Vietnam in cooperation with Myanma Motion Picture Enterprises under the Ministry of Information and Busan Film Commission of the Republic of Korea, was held at Sedona Hotel here this morning.

Director of Busan Film Commission President of Asian Film Commissions Network Oh Seokgeun extends greetings at One Asia in Film.
MNA

It was attended by Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprises, officials from News and Periodicals Enterprise, Myanma Radio and Television, National Culture and Fine Arts University, Chairman of Myanmar Motion Pictures Asiayon and executives, officials from MRTV-4, Family Entertainment, Sky Net, journalists, officials, film artistes from Busan Film Commission and from Cambodia, Laos and Philippines and Thailand.

Director of Busan Film Commission, President of Asian Film Commissions Network Oh Seokgeun extended the greeting at the workshop.

After that, Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint delivered an opening speech.

At the workshop, Secretary of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon U Soe Htaik Aung, Romeo Noh, CEO of Nobis Entertainment East Gate Partners, LLC parther and Keum Sungkeun, Senior Research Fellow of Busan Development Institute and Michael LAKE, CEO of Pinewood Iskandar Malaysia Studios discussed "what is a film commission?"; Worateera Suvarnson, Chief of Film Business Promotion Section of Thailand Film Office, Ubolwan Sucharitakul, Chief of Filming Permit Consideration Section, Thailand Film Office, department of Tourism Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Thailand, Cerdri Eloy, CEO, Cambodia Film Commission, "Invigorating Tourism through Films Thailand & Cambodia"; KIM Jiseok, Programme Director of Busan International Film Festival, "Busan International Film Festival and Asian Film's Trend" and KIM Taekyun, Director/producer/professor of Korean Academy of Film Arts (KAFA), "The Necessity & Direction of Film Education in Korea".

LEE Joonik, Director, CEO at Cine World gave a special talk.

Forever Group hosted a lunch to those present and Busan Film Commission, a dinner.—*MNA*

Human trafficking exposed through hot line

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan— Central Committee for prevention against trafficking in person opens Hot Line phone numbers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Muse as of 13 September 2011 in order that public may easily inform the human trafficking news through phone.

During three months, there were 108 phone calls—105 times from local, three from abroad. Four people were seized out of four cases and six victims could be saved. In 33 people lost cases, 22 victims including children were found by Special Forces.

A complaint about low salary and working overtime for many hours was received through hot line. In connection with the case, a total of 51 victims were handed over to Myanmar on 14 December and three brokers, charged with existing laws.

Hot Line Phone numbers are Nay Pyi Taw (067-412555 and 067-412666), Yangon (0949555888 and 0949555999), Mandalay (0949555777) and Muse (0949555666).—*MNA*

General Min Aung Hlaing visits Wing-7 of Royal Thai Air Force…

(from page 1)

by General Min Aung Hlaing and wife at Hilton Hotel Ballroom-A.

After the dinner, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Armed Forces exchanged gifts. General Min Aung Hlaing presented cash awards to artistes who presented songs and dances.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Armed Forces launched fireworks in honour of General Min Aung Hlaing. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party left Phukhet International Airport of Thailand today and arrived back here in the afternoon.—*MNA*

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister U Win Myint and officials view land reclamation of 1000-acre advanced farmlands in Zabuthiri Township.

MNA

Union Ministers on inspection…

(from page 16)

20-hactare mechanized farm in Bonigyi farm near Chyaing Village of Dekkhinathiri Township.

At 500-acre farmer educative model farm in Nyaungbingyisu Village of Pobbathiri Township, they viewed transplanting of 20-day Palethwe hybrid paddy strain.

They also observed packaging of agricultural machinery and packets of seeds to be distributed to farmers and milling of paddy at modern rice mill.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing said that industrial crops, sugarcane, cotton and paddy, and cost effective vegetables are being grown in the farmer educative mechanized model farm. Cultivation task is being carried out in Nay Pyi Taw as centre of the nation to disseminate knowledge to across the nation, he said. Competitions will be held for State and Region managers of Myanma Agriculture Service, the rector, faculty members of University of Agriculture, principals and teachers of institutes of agriculture and schools to produce above 200 baskets of paddy per acre and deserved prizes will be awarded to them, he said.

The Union ministers provided Palethwe hybrid strain paddy seeds for 10 acres each to State and Region managers of Myanma Agriculture Service and principals of Institutes of Agriculture.

The Union Ministers looked into thriving flowery plants, vegetables and rare orchids through green house system. Union Minister U Myint Hlaing explained educative tasks being carried out in cultivation of plants for domestic use and exporting purpose.

They viewed thriving of farmer educative vegetable and fruits plantations.

Later, they observed thriving Palethwe special yield hybrid paddy F-1 being nurtured by Myanma Agriculture Service and Vietranimex of Vietnam, 10-acre quality sugarcane strain plantation that can produce above 60 tons of sugarcane and soil preparations for cultivation of Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton plantation that will produce 1000 viss per acre.

MNA

Work-coordinating meeting for constructions held

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan— A work-coordinating meeting for constructions in 2011-2012 financial year, between the Union Ministries and the scrutinizing committee for Constructions, was held at the Ministry of Construction here yesterday noon.

It was involved by Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Ministers U Soe Tint and U Kyaw Lwin, managing director of Public Works and officials concerned, directors-general of twenty nine ministries and other four departments and managing directors and officials concerned.

At the event, Union Minister U Khin Maung Myint delivered a speech citing that that meeting intended to complete the tasks being carried out in time, and unfastened them to present any difficulties in doing their work.

After the Union Minister had heard reports presented by those present on their work being carried out, the meeting came to an end.—*MNA*

Construction of sports grounds, gymnasiums inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan— Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan yesterday morning inspected progress in construction of management office for cycling ground of the Ministry of Sports on Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road in Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Township, building of the shooting range and stand for the XXVII SEA Games, boxing gymnasium in the Nay Pyi Taw volleyball ground and the Futsal training hall in the compound of Nay Pyi Taw Basketball Ground.

At the sports ground upgrading worksite in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township, the Union Minister inspected construction of the drainage facility at the football ground, building of No. 2 training gymnasium and extension of two-storey stands.

The Union Minister and party went to the Office of the Supporting Committee for the XXVII SEA Games Organizing and Ensuring Success being opened at the guest house of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee in Shwekyarbin Ward and gave necessary instructions to officials on works.—*MNA*

Dy Construction Minister looks into Kyaukse-Yeywa-PyinOoLwin Road

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan— Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin paid an inspection tour of Kyaukse-Yeywa-PyinOoLwin Road on 9 January.

At Shwechaung briefing hall, he gave necessary instructions to the officials concerned of the Public Works and companies.

Then, he proceeded to his inspection tour of the construction site of bridge No. 2/33, being carried out by Asia Hi-Tech Group Co, and the construction site of Ingyi Creek Bridge, being built by Aye ko Co, and inspected the alignment of Dohthtawadi River.

And he looked into the chosen places for Taunghla Bridge and a two-storey science practical building at Kyaukse University, which are being constructed by Construction Project Special Group 6, and left necessary instructions.—*MNA*

Myanmar, UNICEF to cooperate in education works

NAY PYI TAW,12 Jan—Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu received deputy resident representative of Yangon UNICEF Office Ms Juanita Vasquez and party, at his office here yesterday afternoon. They had a discussion on education works being undertaken by Ministry of Education in cooperation with UNICEF. After that, head of Education branch under Myanmar-UNICEF Ms Ni Ki Abrishamian explained education works to be implemented from 2012 to 2015 by Ministry of Education and UNICEF.

The Deputy Minister discussed cooperation in education works and Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department, cooperation between the ministry and the UNICEF.

MNA

LOCAL SPORTS

Myanmar Open Chess 25 Jan-3 Feb

YANGON, 12 Jan—The Sports and Physical Education Department and the Myanmar Chess Federation will jointly organize the Myanmar Open Chess Tournament at Aung San Gymnasium, here, from 25 January to 3 February.

Those wishing to take part in the tournament may enlist at the federation, not later than 22 January.

Those who qualified in the qualifier will be allowed to participate in the National Chess Championship, and then, outstanding players of the championship will be chosen as selected players.—*MCF*

Achievement in chess event discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Secretary of Myanmar National Sports Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu received Secretary of World Chess Federation and President of ASEAN Chess Federation Mr Ignatius Leong and President of Myanmar Chess Federation U Maung Maung Lwin at the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

They discussed cooperation in achieving success of chess event in the XXVIII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar in 2013 and provision of necessary assistance.—*MNA*

Village football tournament wimps up in Htantabin Township

YANGON, 12 Jan—In commemoration of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the football tournament was held in Tuchaung Village of Htantabin Township of Yangon Region on 4 January.

Township Administrator U Ngwe Doe awarded the first prize to Tuchaung Village and Village Administrator U Win Zaw Oo, the remaining prizes to respective winning teams.

Myanma Alin

James Bond villains blamed for nuclear's bad image

LONDON, 12 Jan — The evil villains in James Bond movies are being blamed for casting a long-lasting shadow over the image of nuclear power, says the president of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Prof David Phillips says that Dr No, with his personal nuclear reactor, helped to create a "remorselessly grim" reputation for atomic energy. Prof Phillips was speaking ahead of the 50th anniversary of the movie. The chemistry organization says it wants a "renaissance" in nuclear power. Prof Phillips says the popularity of the Dr No movie from 1962 created an enduringly negative image of nuclear power — as something dangerous that could be wielded by megalomaniacs with aspirations to world domination.

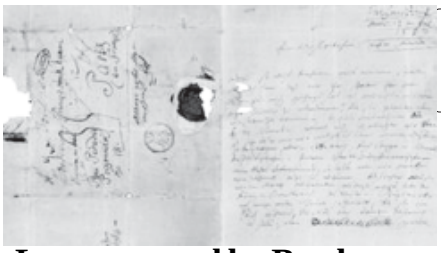
***The evil Dr No was foiled by James Bond: Sean Connery and Ursula Andress in the 1962 movie.*— INTERNET**

The villain of the movie, planning mass destruction from his secret Caribbean hideout, eventually dies in the cooling pool of his nuclear reactor, having been foiled by James Bond, played by Sean Connery. Against a background of the cold war and a nuclear arms race, the movie showed a world of intelligence agencies, glamorous spies, secretive assassins and underground laboratories.

But the Royal Society of Chemistry, which promotes the work of chemical sciences, says that it also meant that millions of people who saw the film saw nuclear technology being presented as a "barely-controllable force for evil". Later Bond villains, as part of their cat-stroking, laser-pointing, world-destroying repertoire, also had nuclear ambitions.

When there are worries about nuclear safety - such as following the tsunami in Japan - the Royal Society of Chemistry fears that the public reaction is still shaped by such emotive, negative associations.

As such, Prof Phillips says that when nuclear power is discussed "it is not at all surprising that the public at home and abroad are sceptical".—*Internet*



***The value of the letter has been estimated at over 100,000 euros (£82,000).*— INTERNET**

Letter penned by Beethoven uncovered in Germany

BONN, 12 Jan — A letter written by composer Ludwig van Beethoven has emerged in Germany after being left in a will. In the six-page document of Beethoven's scrawled corrections, he complains about his illness and a lack of money. Experts were already aware of the 1823 letter's existence, but say it is of historic value. Broadcaster John Suchet, who has written books on Beethoven, said finding the letter was "hugely significant".

Speaking to BBC News, he said: "We've always known it existed, therefore the information in it isn't new, but anything in its original form to do with Beethoven is hugely significant.

"It means we can look at his handwriting, which was always untidy, because his father took him out of school very early so he could concentrate on music."

***John Suchet says finding the original document is hugely significant.* INTERNET**

Stefan Weymar, from the Brahms Institute in Lubeck where the letter will be displayed, added: "Beethoven was not a composer with beautiful handwriting. "It is spontaneous and he wrote things, then crossed them out, his thoughts changed as he went on."

In the letter, Beethoven asks harpist and composer Franz Anton Stockhausen to help find advance buyers for his Missa Solemnis mass. He also wrote about an eye disorder from which he was suffering at the time.

"My low salary and my illness demand efforts to make a better fortune," said Beethoven.

The letter ended up in the hands of music teacher Renate Wirth, a descendant of the recipient.

The value of the document has been estimated at more than 100,000 euros (£82,000). Michael Ladenburger, head of the Beethoven House Museum in Bonn, told *Reuters* news agency that the appeal of the document was "certainly very great".

Suchet added: "Beethoven, in my view, is one of the greatest artists who ever lived. His music and legacy will be known to every single generation in the world, until the end of time.

Internet

Twitter unhappy about Google's social search changes

LONDON, 12 Jan — Twitter has complained about changes made by Google to integrate its social network Google+ into search results. The new feature, called Search plus Your World, will automatically push results from Google+ up the search rankings. Tweeting on the news, Twitter's lawyer Alex Macgillivray described it as a "bad day for the Internet". Google is determined to push its social network in the face of continued rivalry with Facebook.

The current changes were about even greater personalization, it said. It already includes personal search history in its search algorithms. The three changes are: Personal Results — which enable users to find information such as Google+ photos and posts, both their own and those shared specifically with them, that only they will be able to see on their results pages

Profiles in Search — both in autocomplete and results, users will be able to find people they are close to or might be interested in following People and Pages — helps users find people profiles and Google+ pages related to a specific topic or area of interest, and enable people to follow them with just a few clicks.

"Search is pretty amazing at finding that one needle in a haystack of billions of webpages, images, videos, news and much more," said Amit Singhal in the firm's official blog. "But clearly, that isn't enough. You should also be able to find your own stuff on the web, the people you know and things they've shared with you, as well as the people you don't know but might want to... all from one search box," he added.

***Google wants to make search more social.*— INTERNET**

Twitter's general counsel Alex Macgillivray tweeted in response to the changes: "Bad day for the internet.

Having been there, I can imagine the dissension @Google to search being warped this way." Mr Macgillivray had previously been employed at Google. Twitter expanded his point in an official statement.

Internet

Google persuades Spanish bank BBVA to use the cloud

LONDON, 12 Jan — Spanish banking giant BBVA is switching its 110,000 staff to use Google's range of enterprise software. The deal is the biggest that the search giant has signed with one company for its cloud-computing services, where software is offered as a service via the Internet.

The bank told the BBC it would use Google's tools only for internal communication. But the deal can be seen as a breakthrough in corporate adoption.

***BBVA will keep Google applications separate from customer data.*— INTERNET**

Banking—with its high security needs and strict regulations—was always considered to be one of the last industries to accept cloud-computing. BBVA's director of innovation, Carmen Herranz, stressed that all customer data and other key banking systems would "stay in our own data centres" and be completely separate from the cloud solution.

The bank would use Google applications like email, calendar, docs, chat, video conferencing and other collaboration tools to "achieve a cultural change" and get "the whole company working together" across the 26 countries where BBVA is based.

Ms Herranz said the project — with roll-out across all employees to be complete by the end of the year - was not about saving cost. "The main goal is to promote innovation and making decisions and increase productivity. We are in a challenging market and need to make faster and more accurate decisions... and eliminate duplication," Ms Herranz told the BBC. Also driving the change was the increasing mobility of the bank's workforce. A lot of the bank's computing needs had moved to smartphones, tablets, laptops and computers at home, she said.

Internet

PIP breast implants: Harley medical group will not replace implants

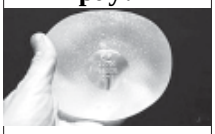
LONDON, 12 Jan — The Harley Medical Group, which fitted more PIP breast implants than any other UK cosmetic surgery firm, says it will not replace them free of charge. It claimed replacing the banned implants would put the company out of business. The government says private clinics who fitted implants have a "moral duty" to remove them. However, the NHS will pay to remove, but not replace, implants if a private clinic refuses or no longer exists.

Around 40,000 women in the UK have been fitted with PIP implants. The Harley Medical Group said it fitted 13,900 women with the implants between September 2001 and March 2010. Its chairman Mel Braham said the company had neither the resources, the surgeons, nor the operating facilities needed to do the surgery. He said the government must accept "moral responsibility" for replacing the PIP implants.

Internet

***Mel Braham, Harley Medical Group: "We don't have the resources to re-implant".*— INTERNET**

Who is going to pay?



* Women fitted with implants by the NHS for breast reconstruction can have their implants removed and replaced by the NHS.

* Eight cosmetic surgery companies, including Nuffield Health, Spire Healthcare and BMI Healthcare, have offered the same deal to their patients.

* If clinics refuse the patient, or have already gone out of business, the NHS will pay to remove breast implants, but it will not replace them.

* Except in Wales, where the government said it would cover the cost for removing and replacing implants for private patients.

* It raises the prospect of the NHS picking up a bill which could reach tens of millions of pounds.

Internet

UN chief welcomes Chinese New Year by exhibiting calligraphy at UN

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Jan— UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon displayed one of his Chinese calligraphy work on Tuesday at an exhibition held at the UN headquarters, sending his good wishes to the Chinese people as the Year of the Dragon is coming. Ban's work contains two Chinese characters, which means "peace." Although the strokes seem a little bit immature, the calligraphy as a whole is well-balanced and beautiful.

In his remarks at the opening ceremony of the Chinese calligraphy exhibition sponsored by the Chinese Permanent Mission to the UN and the Office of Chinese Language Council International, Ban recalled his complex with calligraphy. "Calligraphy is one of the world's long and great artistic traditions. It is also common cultural heritage of China, Japan and Korea," he said.

Calling himself a "long-time fan of calligraphy," Ban told the audience that he began to practice calligraphy when he was a little boy at elementary school. Furthermore, the UN chief generously shared his experiences in taking calligraphy lessons from a Chinese professor in the past few weeks. "Calligraphy is simply a lovely form of handwriting. But let me tell you, calligraphy is difficult, hard, very hard."— *Xinhua*

A worker moves while installing dragon-shaped lanterns on a lake for upcoming Chinese New Year, the year of the dragon according to Chinese zodiac, in Suining, in southwestern China's Sichuan Province. The 2012 Chinese New Year, known as the spring festival in China, begins on 23 Jan, 2012. — **INTERNET**

Dirk the Giant Galapagos Tortoise (Chelonoidis nigra) reacts as he is weighed by keeper Sebastian Grant on a giant set of weighing scales at London Zoo in London. The zoo is carrying out it's annual check on over 750 species, recording weights and heights. The information is recorded into the International Species Information System which can be shared with zoos across the world.
INTERNET

Singapore youth counselors call for sex education to start earlier

SINGAPORE, 12 Jan — Some youth counselors called for sex education in schools to start earlier and be more specific, following a court case of underage sex.

The 15-year-old girl in the court case said she was told by his boyfriend that his menthol cigarettes would kill his sperm, local daily *Straits Times* reported on Wednesday.

Some counselors said sexuality education should start at the lower-primary level, given that children hit puberty earlier now.

"When dating couples get more intimate, some guys will come up with all sorts of explanations for not having to worry about pregnancy after sex," said Rachel Lee, head of a family service centre that gives sexuality education courses in several schools.

A senior expert involved in efforts to contain the spread of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) in Singapore also said recently that sex education should start earlier to prevent unsafe sex.

A call was also made for sexuality education to be less abstract.

"The programmes need to include more real-life scenarios and case studies, so teens can relate to these and apply them to the situations they are in," said psychologist Daniel Koh of Insights Mind Centre.

Xinhua

Ford Fusion targets midsize market

DETROIT, 12 Jan—US auto giant Ford seems to have pinned its future sales hopes on the debut of its latest Fusion model after winning the North American International Auto Show's EyesOn Design top prize earlier this week. Ford hopes prospective customers will have the same reaction to the vehicle's new look. A panel of judges composed of a variety of auto industry experts voted the 2013 Ford Fusion best designed in production vehicle, beating out fellow finalists the BMW 3 Series and Cadillac ATS models to take the yearly prize.

Unlike the BMW and Cadillac models, the Fusion is not a luxury car. Although the 2013 Fusion pricing has yet to be set, Ford leaders say it will be close to the current model's price tag, which starts around 20,200 US dollars. That the Fusion could target Cadillac and BMW's customers is highly doubtful, as despite its award-winning design, the Fusion is not of the same high performance caliber as luxury brands. However, Ford executives hope that the Fusion's futuristic design featuring an elegant aerodynamic shape could finally give the brand an advantage over leading competitors Toyota and Honda in the midsize sedan market segment, where Ford has traditionally lagged behind.

"It's a beautiful car — I think that's something that you see right away," Ford Executive Chairman Bill Ford told reporters about the new Fusion's design concept. "It's a very highly-styled car both internally and externally, and that's something that traditionally in the past you wouldn't have expected to see from this segment of the market," Ford continued, revealing how Ford aimed to win an advantage by combining style with pricing.

Xinhua

UK university to open campus in Thailand

LONDON, 12 Jan—A UK university is to open a campus in Bangkok — in what is claimed as the first such UK branch university to be established in Thailand.

The University of Central Lancashire has signed a deal with a Thai-based entrepreneur to open a university campus in Bangkok in 2014. Degrees will be taught in English and validated by the UK university.

This will be the latest example of universities "globalising" with overseas branches.

It follows a path set by the University of Nottingham which set up a branch university in China.

The greatest concentration of such branch universities, from UK and US universities, has been in Asia and the Gulf states.

Newcastle University is establishing a medical school in Malaysia, where Nottingham also has a campus. University College London has a campus in Qatar.

The announcement of the University of Central Lancashire's plans will give this "new" university an international identity and an opportunity to expand.

Thai students will be able to study for a UK university degree taught in English in Bangkok.
INTERNET

The University of Central Lancashire's vice-chancellor, Malcolm McVicar, said its market research showed "strong demand" for undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Thailand.

Thailand has been identified as a hub for South East Asia, which it expects to bea "key area for future global growth".

The UK university will invest £7.5m and will work alongside the entrepreneur Sitichai Charoenkajonkul.

There are other UK universities which have partnerships with universities in Thailand, but the University of Central Lancashire is claiming to be the first from the UK to set up a full university there.

It expects to have 5,000 students in 10 years and will offer courses in areas such as business, built and natural environment, engineering, creative and performing arts and languages.

Kevin Van-Cauter, higher education adviser at the British Council, says this is part of an increasing pattern of globalisation in higher education.

Internet

Children's Society finds unhappy childhoods afflict one in 10 youngsters

LONDON, 12 Jan — Almost one in 10 children over the age of eight are unhappy, according to a landmark survey by the Children's Society, which questioned more than 30,000 youngsters aged eight to 16 in the UK. The charity's researchers found that family had the biggest impact on children's happiness. Relationships within a household rather than the family "structure" most affected the emotional wellbeing of young people, they found.

The Children's Society said its evidence showed that "at any one time, one in 11 (9%) eight- to 15-year-olds had low levels of subjective well-being". Across the population, that equated to just over 500,000 having low levels of subjective well-being on any one day. Almost a quarter of children who had moved home more than once over 12 months had low levels of well-being, compared to the average of about 10% in the survey. And the study showed that unhappiness increased dramatically with age; the number of those saying they felt "low" doubling from the age of 10 (7%) to the age of 15 (14%).

Relationships at home, rather than the structure of the family, most affect emotional well-being, finds the Children's Society survey.— **INTERNET**

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (471)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (471) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PATTANA MI VOY NO (6)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATTANA MI VOY NO (6) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

Passengers from Taipei of southeast China's Taiwan wave to camera after arriving at Zhongchuan Airport of Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province, on 11 Jan, 2012. A regular direct flight route was opened between Lanzhou and Taipei by the Hainan Airlines on Wednesday.
XINHUA

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for NOHMI BOSAI LTD.
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 13 January 2012

Police in Birmingham hunt for couple's killer

***The Singh-Kolars lived in Handsworth Wood for most of their lives.*— INTERNET**

BIRMINGHAM, 12 Jan — A team of more than 60 detectives is working to track down the killer of a married couple found dead in their Birmingham home by their policeman son. The bodies of Avtar Singh-Kolar, 62, and his wife Carole, 58, were found at their house in Friary Road, Handsworth Wood, on Wednesday morning. It is believed that the couple, who had four children and eight grandchildren, had been assaulted.

Police have said they are working "around the clock" to catch the killer. The couple's son, a serving officer with the West Midlands force, went to his parents' house after being unable to contact them on the phone. Police have said they are keeping an open mind about the motive for the killings and about what kind of weapon was used.

Internet

UK films urged to be more 'mainstream' in new report

Ken Loach: "Public money should go to fund a wide variety of projects".
INTERNET

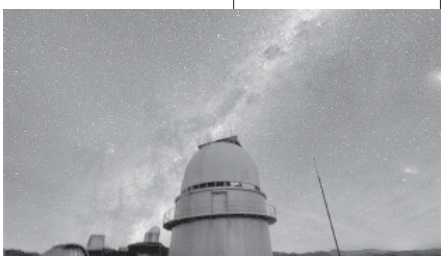
LONDON, 12 Jan — The British film industry should back more mainstream movies, a report is expected to recommend next week. Ahead of a visit to Pinewood Studios on Wednesday, Prime Minister David Cameron said the film industry should support "commercially successful pictures". His comments come before the publication of Lord Smith's review into the government's film policy on Monday. The review was commissioned to find out how the industry could offer better support to UK film-making.

Mr Cameron praised the UK film industry but said "we should aim even higher, building on the incredible success of recent years". He acknowledged the British film industry had made "a £4bn contribution to the UK economy and an incalculable contribution to our culture". Lord Smith, the former Labour culture secretary, is also expected to recommend developing an export strategy to increase the profits of British films. Speaking to the BBC, director Ken Loach said it was important to have a diverse film industry with a wide range of films to choose from.

"If everyone knew what would be successful before it was made, there would be no problem," he said. "What you need to do is fund a lot of different, varied projects and then you'll get a really vibrant industry." Loach added he would encourage more independent cinemas, saying: "The market does not provide choice if you don't intervene." Oscar-winning screenwriter Julian Fellowes, who was a member of Lord Smith's panel, said it was necessary to support mainstream films.—*Internet*

Exoplanets are around every star, study suggests

***There may be billions of Earth-sized planets out there.*— INTERNET**



LONDON, 12 Jan — Every star twinkling in the night sky plays host to at least one planet, a new study suggests. That implies there are some 10 billion Earth-sized planets in our galaxy. Using a technique called gravitational microlensing, an international team found a handful of exoplanets that imply the existence of billions more. The findings were released at the 219th American Astronomical Society (AAS) meeting, alongside reports of the smallest "exoplanets" ever discovered.

Gravitational microlensing is a method that uses the gravity of a far-flung star to amplify the light from even more distant stars that have planets. Astronomers used a number of relatively small telescopes that make up the Microlensing Network for the Detection of Small Terrestrial Exoplanets, or Mindstep, to look for the rare event of one star passing directly in front of another as seen from Earth. The team witnessed 40 of these microlensing events, and in three instances spotted the effects of planets circling the more distant stars.

While the number of actual events and detected planets was low, the team was able to estimate how many such exoplanets must exist. Most news of exoplanets in recent years has come from the Kepler telescope, which spots planets by looking for the slight dimming of their host stars' light as planets pass in front of them. That method is better at finding large planets close to their host stars. While a more difficult effect to catch, gravitational microlensing is better at finding planets of all sizes and distances.

It can currently spot a planet as small as Mercury, orbiting at a similar distance to its host star, or as far away as Saturn.

Internet

Direct flight launched between Chinese mainland's Lanzhou, Taipei

LANZHOU, 12 Jan — A direct flight was launched between the Chinese mainland's far western City of Lanzhou and Taipei Wednesday to meet increasing market demand. The mainland-based Hainan Airlines operates the new direct air route between Taipei and Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province, with a round-trip flight each week, a company spokesman said.

The flights will be offered until 24 March this year, the spokesman said, without specifying the reason for the given date or whether the company would continue providing the service after that point. Far Eastern Air Transport, based in Taipei, plans to launch two direct flights between Taipei and Lanzhou every week, but the date of the maiden flight is yet to be decided, a spokesman with the Gansu Airport Group said in November last year.

This is the first time that flights will be offered between Zhongchuan Airport in Lanzhou and Taipei since the airport was established in 1970. The regular flights are expected to be popular not only with people in Gansu wishing to travel to Taipei, but also with people in the neighbouring provinces. Gansu is home to Dunhuang, which boasts the world-renowned Mogao Grottoes and beautiful oases. — *Xinhua*

***A sculpture by Japanese artist Takashi Murakami entitled "Oval Buddha" is displayed in the Versailles Palace gardens, west of Paris.*— INTERNET**

Mother arrested for tattooing baby

A local New York State resident, Franny Trokerns was arrested early this morning after being turned in by her babysitter. She works as a dancer at a local strip bar and apparently during a night of heavy drinking she allowed her on-and-off-again boyfriend Derrek Honsteads (a tattoo artist) to tattoo her 9 month old baby!

Police want to know if you recognize this bottom

Police have released an image of a would-be thief's bum in the hope it could help them crack (sorry) an armed robbery case.

Officers from Durham Constabulary say the man threatened staff at a petrol station with a kitchen knife and demanded cash. However the woman at the Total Garage in Newton Aycliffe refused to comply and the crook was forced to flee empty-handed.

Because the man had been wearing a black balaclava, the CCTV footage didn't show his face, so police hope someone will recognize him from his bottom. Anyone with information should call Newton Aycliffe CID on 101 or call Crimestoppers on 0800-555111 to help cops get to the bottom of it.

Hunter accidentally shot in his bum… by dog

Not the hunter's best friend.

A 46-year-old hunter from Utah has been left red-faced (and sore arsed) after being shot in the rear by his dog. Police say the unfortunate man had been duck hunting when the accident happened as he exited a boat. While he did this his pooch stood on a 12-guage gun shotgun and fired the weapon, directly at the man.

This unloaded 27 pellets of birdshot into his bottom and left him needing to be taken to hospital to have them removed.

However, docs say he'd been lucky — if he hadn't been wearing his waders, he would have been seriously injured.

Handcuffed man steals police car, radios about key

Authorities say a handcuffed man has stolen a police cruiser in northwest Indiana, and he radioed police for help in finding the car's cigarette lighter and a key to unlock his hands.

Investigators were still looking for 22-year-old William Francis Blankenship early Wednesday morning.

Police say he somehow escaped from the back of the vehicle and fled Tuesday evening after he was arrested on drug charges in Kouts, a small Indiana town about 50 miles southeast of Chicago.

Police say it's the only Kouts police car on the road and that there are loaded guns in the vehicle.

The Merrillville Post-Tribune reports that the man can be heard asking police over a radio about a key to the handcuffs and where the car's cigarette lighter was located.

News Album

Police arrest convicted felon with gun in her bra

A convicted felon has been arrested by police in a Phoenix suburb after telling officers that she was hiding a handgun in her bra.

Angela Lynn Milhoan is not allowed to possess a firearm. But police in Mesa, Ariz, say the 20-year-old admitted to concealing a .22-caliber semi-automatic handgun in her undergarments when a car she was riding in was stopped by officers early Tuesday.

The Arizona Republic (http://bit.ly/y6QqlZ) reports that police had stopped the car while looking for a suspect on a weapons violation warrant.

They seized the gun and arrested Milhoan on charges of being a prohibited possessor of a firearm and concealing a deadly weapon while under 21 years of age.

Recording artists Jay-Z and Beyonce watch the men's final game at the US Open held at the National Tennis Centre on 12 Sept, 2011 in New York.
INTERNET

Beyonce and Jay-Z bring baby Blue home

NEW YORK, 12 Jan— Singer Beyonce and her newborn daughter Blue Ivy have been discharged from New York's Lenox Hill Hospital, the medical centre said.

The New York Daily News said the celebrity mom and her also-famous husband, rapper Jay-Z, took their first child home early Tuesday. The baby was born Saturday.

The couple released a statement describing her birth as "emotional and extremely peaceful," People.com said.

"We are in heaven," the statement said. "It was the best experience of both of our lives. ... We are thankful to everyone for all your prayers, well wishes, love and support."

Internet

Justin Bieber seeks Jackson-like fame, and no drugs

Singer Justin Bieber performs on NBC's "Today" show in New York on 23 Nov, 2011.
INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 12 Jan— Teen idol Justin Bieber turns 18 in March with a long and ambitious to-do list — to still be around at 30, to be as famous as Michael Jackson, and to avoid singing about sex and drugs.

"Hopefully by the time I'm 30 people will remember me," the Canadian singer told V Magazine in an lengthy interview. "I don't want people to just think of me as a teen sensation." But the "Baby" singer said he was determined to maintain the squeaky clean persona that has brought him millions of mostly young female fans, and their mothers.

"I'm never going to make myself so the kids and the parents don't respect me," he said. "I want to be able to do what Michael (Jackson) did — he always sang clean lyrics...I don't want to start singing about things like sex, drugs, and swearing."

Bieber, who has been dating Disney Channel star Selena Gomez for several months, added that he still had some growing up to do.

Reuters

Lindsay Lohan in talks for Elizabeth Taylor TV movie

Actress Lindsay Lohan

LOS ANGELES, 12 Jan— Lindsay Lohan might not have ended up playing XXX actress Linda Lovelace — but she just might end up portraying another iconic screen presence.

Lohan, 25, is in talks to play Elizabeth Taylor in the upcoming Lifetime biopic "Elizabeth & Richard: A Love Story." An individual familiar with the negotiations told *TheWrap* that Lohan is in early conversations about the project. The film will chronicle the romance between Taylor and Richard Burton, to whom she was married twice, from 1964 to 1974 and again from 1975 to 1976.

Improbable as it might seem, Lohan has had her experience playing — or at least channeling — screen legends lately, namely in her Marilyn Monroe-inspired nude pictorial for the January/ February 2012 issue of Playboy.

Taylor died of congestive heart failure last March, at the age of 79.

Lohan's representative offered no comment. Deadline first reported the news.

Internet

In this 16 Jan, 2011 publicity image released by NBC, host Ricky Gervais is shown during the 68th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.
INTERNET

Rihanna is set to star on Cheryl Cole's new album.
INTERNET

Bryan Ferry marries for second time

Singer Bryan Ferry, solo artist and former frontman for Roxy Music, smiles during an autograph session in New York, on 27 June, 2007.
INTERNET

LONDON, 12 Jan— Veteran British rocker Bryan Ferry married girlfriend Amanda Sheppard in the luxury Caribbean beach resort of Amanyara on the Turks and Caicos Islands on 4 January, British media reported on Tuesday.

It is the "Let's Stick Together" and "Slave to Love" singer's second marriage. His first was to Lucy Helmore, with whom he had four sons, which lasted from 1982 until their divorce in 2003.

The debonair Roxy Music frontman, 66, also famously dated Jerry Hall before she left him for Mick Jagger.

Sheppard, who has worked in PR, is 29, according to the reports.

Ferry's London publicist was not immediately available for comment.

Reuters

Golden Globe nominees ready for Gervais' wrath

LOS ANGELES, 12 Jan—When Golden Globes host Ricky Gervais took sharp swipes at Mel Gibson, Bruce Willis, Robert Downey, Jr and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association at last year's ceremony, some criticized the comedian for going too far.

Downey described the vibe as "hugely mean-spirited, with mildly sinister undertones." With Gervais back for his third turn as Globes host on Sunday, nominees are already preparing themselves for the British funnyman's pointed jabs.

"I'll probably get the piss taken out of me, but it's fine with me," said Elton John, nominated for his song from "Gnomeo & Juliet." "I'm British. I can take it." Johnny Galecki, who is up for his first Golden Globe for his work on TV's "The Big Bang Theory," said that when he got word he was nominated, "one of my first five thoughts was, 'Oh Christ, Gervais is going to make fun of me.'"

But the actor isn't really worried. "I'll be flattered by it," said the 5-foot-5-inch Galecki. "I'm looking forward to it. I hope he doesn't just zero in on the height. That's just easy pickings."—*Internet*

Man Utd quality inspires Hernandez

LONDON , 12 Jan — Striker Javier Hernandez says he is inspired by the quality of his Manchester United team-mates as he tries to emulate his excellent first season in the Barclays Premier League. The Mexican has been frustrated by injuries this season after an excellent 2010/11 campaign in which he netted 20 times in 45 appearances — including 13 Barclays Premier League goals. Despite problems with his ankle ligaments, Hernandez has scored six goals this season, but the 23-year-old admits he will need to work hard to equal the success of last season.

"There are different circumstances because I have had more injuries this season than last year, but I am still enjoying it," Hernandez told MUTV. "I am still learning and working hard, trying to improve day by day."

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has plenty of attacking talent at his disposal as, along with England star Wayne Rooney, the likes of Dimitar Berbatov and Danny Welbeck have shown form. And Hernandez said that although competition was stiff, the other players around him inspired his own game.—*Internet*

Hernandez (left) has scored six times for Man Utd so far this season. **INTERNET**

International Sports

Moyes hails Redknapp's Spurs

LONDON, 12 Jan — Everton boss David Moyes has hailed the progress of Tottenham under Harry Redknapp - but insists Spurs will find the Toffees no pushover in Wednesday's Barclays Premier League match. Tottenham will move within three points of League leaders Manchester City with a win over Everton at White Hart Lane. Moyes saluted the positive changes that Redknapp had made at Spurs. "Harry has got a team. They've kicked on and he has brought in some really good players over the years like [Rafael] Van der Vaart and Scott Parker," he said.

Redknapp's Spurs have enjoyed an excellent season in the Barclays Premier League. **INTERNET**

"He has got a really good team and yeah they are title contenders. "We're looking at them going away from us. But football always comes around sometime and some day hopefully they will be looking at the back of us.

Internet

Liverpool beats Man City 1-0 in League Cup semi

Liverpool's Steven Gerrard, left, beats Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Hart to score a penalty goal during the first leg of their English League Cup semi final soccer match at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester, England, on 11 Jan, 2012. **—INTERNET**

MANCHESTER, 12 Jan— Steven Gerrard gave Liverpool a 1-0 win over a lackluster Manchester City on Wednesday in the first leg of their League Cup semifinal before being involved in an angry tunnel exchange with home manager Roberto Mancini. The pair clashed twice with Gerrard annoyed at Mancini's response to a two-footed tackle by Liverpool defender Glen Johnson on Joleon Lescott late in the game.

Still annoyed at the four-match ban City captain Vincent Kompany must serve following his dismissal against Manchester United on Sunday, Mancini felt an even greater sense of injustice on Wednesday. "This (Johnson) tackle was worse," Mancini said. "Gerrard came to me and said I said something. It was not for Johnson. It is for the tackle. This tackle was worse than Vinny's. Everyone can see it."The incident completed a bad night for Mancini and his City side, which slumped to back-to-back home losses for the first time since February 2008.— *Internet*

Wozniacki loses, Kvitova into Sydney semis

SYDNEY, 12 Jan— Caroline Wozniacki lost her quarterfinal at the Sydney International on Wednesday, opening the way for Petra Kvitova to take over the No 1 ranking before next week's Australian Open. Wozniacki, who needed a medical timeout in the final set to have her left wrist taped, lost 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 to seventh-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland.

In the previous match at the Olympic Tennis Centre, Wimbledon champion and No 2 Kvitova continued her pursuit of the top ranking by beating Daniela Hantuchova 6-0, 6-4 to move into the semifinals against French Open winner Li Na.

She defeated Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 7-6 (3).

Internet

Caroline Wozniacki lost her quarterfinal at the Sydney International on Wednesday. **INTERNET**

Low risk of heart incidents found for marathoners

NEW YORK, 12 Jan—It's dramatic news when a marathon runner collapses with no pulse. Now a big study finds such calamities are rare and usually due to a pre-existing heart problem. The study also found such incidents are increasing as more runners try to go the distance. "You hear about this more and more," said Dr Aaron Baggish, senior author of the study Baggish, who runs a programme for athletes with heart issues at Massachusetts General Hospital, and co-authors present their analysis in Thursday's issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine.*

The study covers 10.9 million runners who participated in marathons or half-marathons in the United States from 2000 to 2010. By scouring media reports and checking with medical staff of races, the researchers identified 59 cases of cardiac arrest, where a runner became unconscious with no pulse during the race or within an hour of finishing. Cardiac arrest is when the heart stops because of a heart attack, a rhythm problem or other disorder.—*Internet*

In this 5 Nov, 2006 file photo, runners make the turn off Bedford Avenue onto Manhattan Avenue in the Greenpoint neighbourhood of Brooklyn in the New York City Marathon. **INTERNET**

Maxwell on brink of joining Paris Saint Germain

PARIS, 12 Jan—Brazilian leftback Maxwell looks set to sign for French Ligue 1 leaders Paris Saint Germain after the club reached agreement with his present side Barcelona over the transfer on Wednesday. The 30-year-old — a Champions League winner with Barcelona last year — is due in Paris to discuss personal terms and undergo a medical with PSG according to the Spanish champions. "After reaching agreement in principle with PSG over the transfer of Maxwell, the player will fly to Paris today (Wednesday) to sort out the final details of the contract," read a statement by Barcelona.

"Once these details are ironed out, he will undergo a medical and finalise his transfer." Earlier Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola had admitted that the former Ajax and Inter Milan player — never capped at senior level - had sought a move away after being frozen out by Frenchman Eric Abidal and another Brazilian Adriano. "He is not happy here, simply because he has not had the playing time he would have liked," said Guardiola, who was earlier this week named world coach of the year.

Internet

Brazilian leftback Maxwell, looks set to sign for French Ligue 1 leaders Paris Saint Germain after the club reached agreement with his present side Barcelona over the transfer on Wednesday. **INTERNET**

Top Canadian skier critically hurt in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, 12 Jan— World-class Canadian freestyle skier Sarah Burke was in critical condition and sedated at a Salt Lake City hospital on Wednesday, a day after she was badly injured during a training run, doctors said. Burke, 29, was taken by air ambulance to the University of Utah hospital on Tuesday after falling during a half-pipe run at Park City Mountain Resort.

Burke, considered one of the top female half-pipe athletes in the world, has reached the podium at every career World Cup start, the Canadian Freestyle Ski Association said on its website. "Sarah sustained serious injuries and remains intubated and sedated in critical condition," Dr Safdar Ansari, a physician at the hospital, said in a statement released by Burke's spokeswoman.

Reuters

Canada's Sarah Burke celebrates after winning Ladies' halfpipe freestyle FIS World Cup Grand Finals 2008 in Chiesa Valmalenco. **—INTERNET**

Canadian gets Danica Patrick's Indy ride

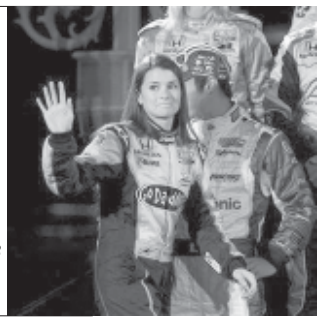
TORONTO, 12 Jan — It was James Hinchcliffe's winning personality that landed him IndyCar's most prized drive, but the Canadian will now have to prove he is also a winner on the track if he is to keep the seat left vacant by Danica Patrick's move to NASCAR.

Andretti Autosport said on Wednesday that Hinchcliffe landed the coveted Go Daddy ride that was originally supposed to go to two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dan Wheldon, who died in a horrific crash at last season's IndyCar finale in Las Vegas.

Instead, it will be Hinchcliffe trying to fill Patrick's spot when the series opens in March in St Petersburg, Florida.

Hinchcliffe had three fourth place finishes last season for Newman/Haas Racing, earning rookie of the year honors, but much more will be expected from the Canadian, on and off the track, who takes over one of IndyCar's most recognized and lucrative sponsorships, driving for one of the series' top teams.—*Reuters*

IndyCar driver Danica Patrick waves to fans during driver introductions in front of the Bellagio Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 13 Oct, 2011. **INTERNET**



Stolen meteorite recovered in Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, (New Mexico) 12 Jan—A meteorite that landed in Russia in the 1940s and was recently stolen from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque has been located.

After the meteorite went missing, the museum contacted an association of meteorite collectors and a Missouri man responded that he had bought it for $1,700, KRQE-TV reported. It's worth between $20,000 and $40,000.

The Meteorite Museum at UNM flew an employee to retrieve the nearly 9.5-kilogram chunk of space — and lug it through security.

School police believe someone stole the meteorite from the display case and walked out the front door. Investigators have a suspect, but no one has been arrested.

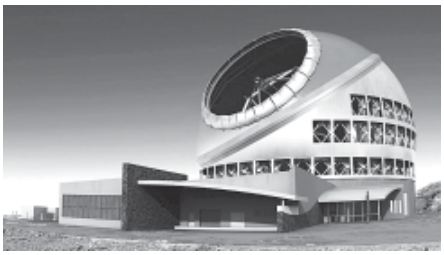
The meteorite was once part of the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and crashed in Siberia. It was a gift from a Soviet scientist.

The Meteorite Museum is closed for a security review.

Internet

In this 21 Jan, 2010 photo released by the Smithsonian Institution s National Museum of Natural History, a meteorite, size of a tennis ball, is seen in a lab, in Washington.
INTERNET

China, India to help fund world's largest telescope



In this artist rendition provided by TMT, the Thirty Metre Telescope is seen.—INTERNET

HONOLULU, 12 Jan—China and India are signing on as partners in a telescope that will be the world's largest when it is built at the summit of Hawaii's Mauna Kea volcano in 2018.

Their participation in the Thirty Metre Telescope will catapult the two nations to the forefront of astronomy research. It's the first time either nation has participated in such an advanced telescope.

As partners, China and India will pay a share of the construction cost, which is expected to top $1 billion. They will have a share of the observation time.

Shude Mao, an astrophysics professor at the National Astronomical Observatories of China, says China has lagged behind in observational astronomy, but the country has ambitious science goals and wants to catch up as fast as it can.

A group of California and Canadian universities founded the telescope project.—*Internet*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(13-1-12 09:30 am ~ 14-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

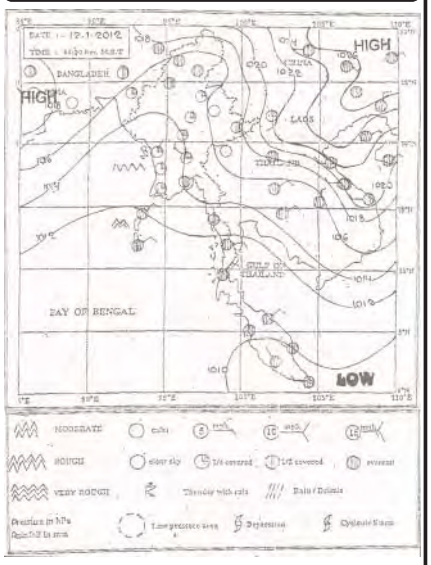
* News
* Paintings decorated with Pencil's waste materials
* News
* How to choose where to eat
* Serene and Scenic Magwe
* News
* Record Album
* News
* Shrimp Cold Storage from Kyauk Phyu
* All about Orchids
* News
* Youth of the Future (Episode-1)
* News
* Usefulness of Nipa Palm
* Music Gallery
* News
* Agaarwood: Myanmar's Valued fragrance
* News
* ''Me N My Travel'' (Episode-4) Pyay (Part-1) ''Wonderful Pagodas on the Mount Akauk''
* Myanmar Movies ''Matchmaking Wreath''

MYANMAR TV

(13-1-2012) (Friday)

4:00 pm
1. Martial Song
4:10 pm
2. Song of National Races
4:15 pm
3. Myanmar Traditional Performing arts Competition
4:30 pm
4. Teleplay (Argi)
4:45 pm
5. Musical Programme
5:00 pm
6. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) First Year (Physics)
5:15 pm
7. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
5:20 pm
8. Myanmar Language
5:45 pm
9. Sports Highlight
6:00 pm
10. Evening News
6:20 pm
11. Internet Gargen
7:00 pm
12. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
13. News
14. Just for Laughs (Gags Asia)
15. TV Drama Series
16. Song Lovers

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 13th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F) Maximum	Minimum	For Tomorrow Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	26/79	14/57	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	27/81	14/57	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	36/97	18/64	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	16/61	05/41	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	24/75	14/57	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	29/84	17/63	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	21/70	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	31/88	18/64	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	31/88	16/61	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	30/86	16/61	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	34/93	22/72	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	33/91	21/70	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	31/88	16/61	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	24/75	11/52	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	26/79	07/45	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	22/72	14/57	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	31/88	20/68	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	31/88	15/59	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	33/91	21/70	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	16/61	Partly cloudy	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today	During the past (24) hours, light rain have been isolated in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Kachin and Mon States, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Magway, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, Southern Shan, Chin and Rakhine states, (5°C) to (6°C) above January averages temperatures in Eastern Shan and Mon States and (5°C) below January average temperatures in Kayah State and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Pinlaung (4°C), Heho, Hakha and Moekok (6°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Machanbaw (0.24) inch and Putao inch.
Bay Inference	Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
State of the Sea	Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama off and along Mon- Tanintharyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for sub-sequent two days	Likelihood of slight increase of night temperature in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Dalla Township gets new road, bridge

YANGON, 12 Jan—A ceremony to open the reinforced concrete bridge and concrete road was held on Maggin Yeiktha Road of Thabyegon Village in Dalla Township on 7 January.

Deputy Commissioner U Sai Thaw Win of Yangon South District and officials formally opened the road and bridge.

The bridge was built at a cost of K 2,083,100 by local people and the road, K 3.2 million by U Thet Naing-Daw Khin Mya Yi and family.

Kyemon

DISTRICT NEWS

Fire preventive measures taken

DANUBYU, 12 Jan—Staff of Danubyu Township Development Affairs Committee, Auxiliary Fire Brigade members and personnel of Township Fire Services Department exercised fire drill at Myoma Market of Township DAC and inspected shops on 8 January.

Local authorities and departmental officials supervised the fire preventive measures.

Township IPRD

Health knowledge shared

YAMETHIN, 12 Jan—A talk on health knowledge was disseminated to the aged and local people of Hsutat Okpo and Hsegyi Nyaung-aing villages of Yamethin Township on 30 and 31 December.

Moreover, free health care was given to 94 patients. Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Yi Yi Thaung and officials presented commodes and pipes to the local people.

Myanma Alin

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.

Union Ministers on inspection tour of self-reliant library, high yield Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan giving encouragement to the youths reading in Myetwunthit self-reliant library in Ayinlo Village of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation viewed round renovation of self-reliant Myetwunthit Library in Ayinlo Village of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township this morning.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan donated general knowledge and aesthetic books and publications to the library, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing one set of Sky Net TV receiver and Union Minister U Win Myint cash to the funds of the library through a townselder.

At the 369-acre farmer educative plantation near Ayinlo Village, they viewed transplanting of Palethwe paddy saplings from the nursery to the paddy farms through good agriculture pattern.

The Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation was observed by State and Region managers of Myanma Agriculture Service, the rector, faculty members of University of Agriculture, principals and faculty members of institutes of agriculture and schools and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Director-General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing of Irrigation Department reported on arrangements made for supply of water to summer paddy and the earmarked paddy farms through GAP in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in 2011-2012 and Managing Director U Kyaw Win of Myanma Agriculture Service on cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation that can produce 200 baskets of paddy per acre.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing explained cultivation of Palethwe high yield hybrid paddy strain in eight townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to increase income of farmers, applying of GAP to save about two baskets of paddy seeds per acre and 40 million baskets per 20 million sown acres and quality of the paddy strain for firm market.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan called on State and Region managers of Myanma Agriculture Service, the rector, faculty members of University of Agriculture, principals of institutes of agriculture and schools and teachers to dutifully carry out the tasks for ensuring rural development and poverty alleviation.

Union Minister U Win Myint presented foodstuffs to female paddy transplanters of 369-acre paddy farm.

The Union ministers and party viewed cultivation of paddy, condition of production roads, feeder canals, drainage system, main drain, thriving Palethwe F-1 plantation and completed cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing explained nurturing of F-1 Palethwe hybrid paddy plants.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan presented foodstuffs and gifts to female paddy transplanters.

They also visited reclamation of 100-acre modern paddy farm in Zabuthiri Township, 100-acre modern paddy farm in Tegyigon region of Zabuthiri Township and

(See page 9)

Chelsea receive Alex offer

LONDON, 12 Jan—Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas has confirmed the club have received an offer from a Premier League rival for defender Alex and has implied the bid must be increased.

Sky Sports sources on Wednesday revealed new QPR boss Mark Hughes had set his sights on the Brazilian and the Loftus Road side are believed to be the origin of the bid.

Alex wants to leave Chelsea and in December the centre-back had a transfer request accepted at Stamford Bridge.

He does not feature in the plans of Villas-Boas, who hopes this week to complete the signing of Bolton's Gary Cahill, and Chelsea are now aiming to receive an acceptable offer.

Chelsea's manager said on Thursday afternoon: "From what I know from my chief executive, there has been an approach from a Premier League club.

Offers

"We have respected Alex's transfer request so the market's open for him.

"We're just trying to reach the level of proposal we think is good for the player. Nothing has happened up to now, but we'll listen to all offers.

"We'll present anything to the player. He has to make a decision. He has generated interest from a lot of clubs."

Alex had been connected with QPR earlier in January when Neil Warnock was still in charge, and it appears a move could still go ahead.

QPR owner Tony Fernandes on Wednesday revealed he was ready to spend money in the transfer market and hoped to sign somebody before the weekend match against Newcastle.

It seems that new arrival could now be Alex, who has proven his Premier League credentials at Chelsea since a loan spell with PSV Eindhoven came to an end in 2007.

Internet

Emergency traditional medicine kits distributed

KYAUKPYU, 12 Jan—Kyaukpyu Township Traditional Medicine Department of Rakhine State distributed emergency traditional medicine kits at the hall of Kyaukpyu on 30 January.

District Head of TMD Daw Thin Thin Sein explained the purpose of distributing the kits and its usage. Next, the emergency traditional medicine kits were presented to 50 villages of 18 village-tracts.—*Kyemon*

Personnel, farmers observe thriving Palethwe paddy plantation

THANLYIN, 12 Jan—Officials and staff of Yangon Region, District and Township Myanma Agriculture Service and local farmers observed reclamation of 10 acres of farmlands, thriving 10-day Palethwe paddy nursery and preventive measures against pests in Thanatpin Village-tract of Thanlyin Township on 2 January.

Township level officials conducted them round the plantation. This summer paddy cultivation season, altogether 16 farmers in Thanlyin Township are growing 51 acres of Palethwe hybrid paddy strain.—*MAS*

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) Retreat

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Myanmar, UNICEF to cooperate in education works

PAGE 9

Workshop on ASEAN-ROK Film Community Project, One Asia in Film held

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New cream could treat cancer without surgery

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Maxwell on brink of joining Paris Saint Germain

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Wozniacki loses, Kvitova into Sydney semis

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