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Thursday, 22 December, 2011

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.

President U Thein Sein and wife extend warm welcome to Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung and wife



NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec— A ceremony to extend a welcome to Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and wife, who were on a goodwill visit to Myanmar at the invitation of U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, took place on the lawns in front of the Presidential Residence here at 9:00 am today.

Upon arrival at the Presidential Residence from Shwe Nan Daw Hotel where they were staying, the Vietnamese Prime Minister and wife received a warm welcome from President U Thein Sein and wife.

Afterwards, President U Thein Sein and the Vietnamese Prime Minister went onto the dais and took the salute of the guard of honour as national anthems of the two countries were being played.

After that, President U Thein Sein and Vietnamese Prime Minis-

ter Mr Nguyen Tan Dung inspected the Guard of Honour.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung presented members of the Vietnamese goodwill delegation to President U Thein Sein who presented members of the welcoming party—Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu and Charge d'affairs of Myanmar Embassy to Vietnam Daw Hmwe Hmwe Khaing to the Vietnamese Prime Minister.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam taking the salute of the Guard of Honour.

MNA



UEC Chairman attends opening of new school building of Zayatgwin BEPS



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Guangxi Zhaung Autonomous Region Governor calls on Union NPED Minister



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Bank of England warns of possible recession in 2012

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Wambach handily wins Female Athlete of the Year



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PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 22 December, 2011

Towards a brighter future

Changes of scene of the world move so fast with the times. Today's global economic, social and science trends minimize chances of isolationism and encourage closer ties among individual nations. Chasing dreams of future prosperity, Myanmar maintains friendly ties with various institutions, regional or international.

Being an active member of Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), Myanmar successfully hosted 4th GMS Summit where GMS leaders reached an agreement on new GMS Strategic Framework (2012-2022).

The participating countries frankly exchanged views on cooperation for future development. The Summit reflects the theme "Beyond 2012: Towards a New Decade of GMS Strategic Development Partnership".

While the Summit produced positive outcomes, Myanmar could ink three significant Memorandums of Understanding, namely MoU on Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Related to Population Movement, MoU on Joint Cooperation in Further Accelerating the Construction of the Information Superhighway Network Phase III and its Application in the GMS and MoU on Formation of GMS Freight Transporters Association.

We could now see the light at the end of the tunnel for Myanmar's new political configuration. This proved her dynamic participation in regional and global community.

New school building handed over in Chauk

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—A ceremony to hand over Wady Kahlar building of Basic Education Primary School (Branch) in new Thwenat Village, Thwenat Village-tract, Chauk Township, Magway District, Magway Region was held at the school on 18 December.

Donors U Soe Naing, Assistant Director of Development Affairs Department, and wife Daw Htay Htay Yi of Golden Hours Co Ltd explained purposes of the donation. Other wellwishers contributed cash assistance to the school totaling K 290,000.

The RC type school building measures 60 by 26 feet and costs 12.5 million kyats. Other wellwishers and villagers also furnished the school with water tanks, desks and wash room.—MNA

Three injured in Paung head-on crash

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Three people were injured in a head-on collision on a bridge on Yangon-Myeik road in Paung Township in Mon State on 17 December.

The Mawlamyine-bound Townage crashed head-on with tricycle heading to Thaton as both sides lost patience with the queue of traffic waiting to pass the bridge. Both were damaged.

The wounded passengers of the tricycle are not in a critical condition.—MNA

Model rice field in Mawlamyine produces nearly 74 baskets per acre

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — A model rice field in Mawlamyine produced 73.91 baskets per acre during harvesting on 12 December.

The harvesting took place at the 6.43 acre rain-fed field

UEC Chairman attends opening of new school building of Zayatgwin BEPS

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—The new school building of Zayatgwin Basic Education Primary School in Zayatgwin Village of Toungoo Township in Bago Region was opened today, attended by Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye.

Also present at the opening ceremony were Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win, Speaker of Bago Region Hluttaw U Win Tin, Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Nyo Saw, Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Kyaw Oo, Director-General U Kyaw Thu of No. 1 Basic Education Department under the Ministry of Education, departmental personnel, senior citizens, teachers and students.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Tin and Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Kyaw Oo formally opened the new school building.

Next, UEC Chairman U



UEC Chairman U Tin Aye presents documents related to the primary school to Director-General U Kyaw Thu.—MNA

Tin Aye unveiled the stone plaque of the school building. At the handing-over of school building, UEC Chairman U Tin Aye explained the donation and handed over relevant documents to Director-General U Kyaw Thu.

A responsible person of Shwe Su Pan Co provided teaching aids to the school and Director-General U Kyaw Thu presented certificate of honour to Shwe Su Pan Co. The ceremony came to an end with words of thanks by a

senior citizen for the new school building.

After the ceremony, the UEC Chairman greeted those present. The school building measures 90 by 30 feet and is a one-storey building.

MNA



Chief Justice of the Union: Lawyers responsible to keep judicial pillar up

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Lawyer as a career is a noble profession representing for justice in judicial affairs and personalities who have chosen this career are not only to have required educational qualifications but also to be ethical, said Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo at the conferring of advocate licenses at Supreme Court of the Union here this morning.

The Chief Justice called lawyers to try to be acknowledged as good lawyers. They then took oath before the Chief Justice. Next, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo and Chairman of Advocates Council Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin presented advocate licenses to 144 barristers.

MNA

Staff Officer U Tin Win Thein of District Information and Public Relations Department presented publications worth K 100,000 donated by Myanmar Libraries Foundation to Ayone U Library in Nanma Village in Mohnyin Township through Village Administrator U Aye Min Oo at the ceremony on 17 December. NLM 001



of Farmer U Par Par in Naung Khayi Village in Mawlamyine and was attended by officials of Mawlamyine District Land Records Department and the district and township agricultural offices and local farmers.

MNA



Israeli soldiers detain a Palestinian man at Hawara checkpoint near the West Bank city of Nablus on 20 Dec, 2011. Israeli army arrested 10 Palestinians in the West Bank, Palestinian sources said on Tuesday. —XINHUA

‘Underwear bomber’ wants new lawyer

DETROIT, 21 Dec—The man who admitted trying to blow up a plane as it approached the Detroit airport has asked a federal judge to appoint a male Muslim to represent him. While Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab did not ask for a specific lawyer, he suggested Elsayed Mostafa, a lawyer based in Dearborn, Mich, *The Detroit News* reported. Mostafa said he will represent Abdulmutallab if US District Judge Nancy Edmunds appoints him.

“I find there is more understanding when the person is of the same religion,” Abdulmutallab said in a letter delivered to the court Monday. Abdulmutallab, who pleaded



Underwear bomber

guilty mid-trial to setting off explosives in his underwear, told Edmunds that Anthony Chambers, who was advising him while he represented himself, had not met with him and had lied to him. Edmunds scheduled a hearing for 6 Jan,

six days before Abdulmutallab's scheduled sentencing.

Abdulmutallab, a Nigerian trained in Yemen as an al-Qaeda agent, was arrested at Detroit Metro Airport on Christmas Day 2009. He set off his “underwear bomb” on a flight from London, but it failed to do any significant damage.

Internet

A man walks past a damaged house after a bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad on 18 December, 2011. Bombs planted near the house of a judge wounded his son and two of his neighbours in southern Kirkuk, police said.—INTERNET

Mass man convicted of helping terrorists

BOSTON, 21 Dec—A Massachusetts man faces the possibility of life in prison after a federal jury in Boston Tuesday convicted him of helping support terrorism.

Tarek Mehanna, 29, of Sudbury, was found guilty on four terrorism-related charges and three charges related to providing false information to the government.

It took a US District Court jury 10 hours to convict Mehanna following a nearly eight-week trial.

US Attorney Carmen Ortiz said in a release the jury “rendered a just verdict of guilty.”

“From his travel to Yemen to receive training to kill American soldiers to his material support for terrorism at home, Mr Mehanna’s efforts to use and support violence

followed no predefined path and knew no bounds,” said Richard DesLauriers, the special agent in charge of the Boston FBI. “The FBI fulfilled its most important mission by stopping Mehanna’s conspiracy to support terrorism, the goal of which was an unlawful affront to our nation’s cherished ideal of peaceful dissent.”

Authorities said Mehanna traveled to the Middle East in February 2004, seeking military-type training at a camp where terrorists were prepared for armed jihad against US interests. Once back in the United States, Mehanna provided material support by, among other things, translating and posting on the Internet al-Qaeda recruitment videos and other documents, prosecutors said.—Internet



Joint operation finds weapons, ammo cache

BANGKOK, 21 Dec—Law enforcement officials found and seized weapons and ammunition hidden at a rubber plantation in Narathiwat province, Thailand, officials said Tuesday.

A joint police and military team searched the plantation after a member of the Runda Kumpulan Kecil, Abdulromae Harae, who was arrested Monday, told the authorities the munitions were hidden there, Thai news agency MCOT reported.

Authorities found six guns, including four M16 assault rifles and an HK rifle, and dozens of rounds each of M-60, M-16 and carbine bullets. They also found three military helmets, armor vests, fertilizer components used in bomb-making, and propaganda literature.

MCOT said an initial investigation identified the guns as ones used by insurgents to attack and killed four members of a teacher protection unit in September.

Internet



Afghan police conduct an investigation after a suicide attack at a Shi'ite Muslim gathering in Kabul recently. A suicide bomber attacked a Shi'ite Muslim shrine in central Kabul on Tuesday where a crowd of hundreds had gathered for the festival of Ashura, killing up to 20 people in what appeared to be an unprecedented sectarian attack.—INTERNET

One killed, eight wounded in Iraq's violence

BAGHDAD, 21 Dec—An Iraqi soldier was killed and eight people injured Tuesday in separate gunfire and bomb attacks in and near Baghdad, the police said. Gunmen using pistols fitted with silencers attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint in Baghdad’s northwestern district of Sab al-Bour, killing one soldier and wounding two others, an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, two government employees were wounded when a sticky bomb attached to their car detonated in Adhamiyah district in northern Baghdad, the source said.

Besides, a roadside bomb went off in central the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, wounding four civilians, a local police source anonymously told *Xinhua*.

Sporadic attacks are common in Iraqi cities as the US troops fully withdrew from the country according to the security pact signed earlier between Baghdad and Washington late in 2008.—*Xinhua*

Russia tests interceptor missile

MOSCOW, 21 Dec—Russia says it has successfully tested a short-range interceptor missile designed to be part of a proposed domestic missile defence shield. The Defence Ministry said the missile was launched from the Sary Shagan anti-ballistic missile testing range in Kazakhstan, *RIA Novosti* reported Thursday.

With missile defence talks between Russia and NATO close to deadlock, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has threatened to deploy Iskander tactical missiles in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad and halt disarmament and arms control efforts.

Russia agreed last year to cooperate with NATO on a European missile defence system but wants written guarantees that the US-backed programme will not be directed against Russia.

The United States has said the shield is aimed at thwarting threats from Iran and North Korea.—Internet

NY senator guilty of taking bribes

NEW YORK, 21 Dec—New York state Sen Carl Kruger pleaded guilty Tuesday to federal charges he accepted nearly \$500,000 in bribes to influence him.

US Attorney Preet Bharara noted Kruger, a Democrat who was chairman of the Senate Finance Committee from 2009 until the start of this year, “stood near the apex of political power” in state government.

“With Senator Kruger’s guilty plea today, yet another lawmaker-turned-lawbreaker has now been removed from an undeserved position of power in Albany,” Bharara said. “Instead of serving the people who elected him, Senator Kruger monetized his

public office and served himself.”

Kruger, 62, of New York City’s Brooklyn borough, was elected to the Senate in 1994. He pleaded guilty to four counts, admitting from 2007 through March of this year he used his official position to benefit those who paid him bribes.

A co-defendant, Dr Michael Turano, 50, a New York City gynecologist, also pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bribery, the US Justice Department said in a release.

Kruger and Turano, who were charged March 11 with six others, each agreed to forfeit up to \$450,000.

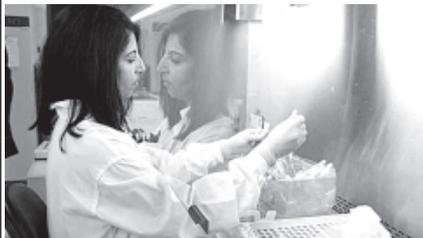
Internet



Taliban militants appear in a ceremony in southern Afghanistan’s Kandahar Province on 20 Dec, 2011. XINHUA

Health

Keep an eye out for new flu viruses, WHO warns



A lab technician works in the H1N1 laboratory at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control in Vancouver, BC, on Friday 16 October, 2009.

INTERNET

VANCOUVER, 21 Dec—The World Health Organization is urging countries to be on the lookout for new flu viruses.

The WHO is stressing the importance of monitoring for new variants of flu and reporting any findings to the Geneva-based UN health agency.

The statement comes in the wake of a series of discoveries in the United States of human infections with a new swine-origin H3N2 virus.

There have been 10 infections with this virus in the US since the new

variant of swine H3N2 viruses was first seen in humans in July; some limited person-to-person spread is believed to have taken place.

The WHO says countries should remember they have an obligation under the International Health Regulations to notify the WHO of any human infections with a flu virus that is not one of the subtypes normally seen in people.

The International Health Regulations require countries to alert the global community to outbreaks of four diseases deemed to be an international threat: polio,

smallpox, human influenza cases cause by novel flu viruses and severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS. The IHR, as the regulations are called, were devised after the 2003 SARS outbreak, which spread rapidly from China to a number of parts of the world — including Canada — before subsiding. An estimated 774 people died in the outbreak, 44 of them in Canada.

The WHO's statement also urges countries to send for further testing any influenza A viruses their national laboratories cannot identify.—*Internet*

Bone drugs linked to rare thigh fractures

TORONTO, 21 Dec—Health Canada is alerting Canadians that a class of drugs used for osteoporosis is linked to a slightly higher risk of a rare but serious thigh bone fracture known as an atypical femur fracture.

The advice is the result of Health Canada's review of bisphosphonate drugs, which has led to new warnings and precautions for patients and doctors and will lead to new labels for the drugs.

The department says the risk is higher for those taking the drugs, but the benefits of using the medications to avoid other osteoporosis-related fractures outweighs that risk. Atypical femur fractures are rare, accounting for less than one per cent of all hip and femur fractures.

They can occur with minimal or no impact to the thigh area, and can occur in both legs in the same person.

Health Canada says patients who are currently taking or who took bisphosphonate



Health Canada is alerting Canadians that a class of drugs used for osteoporosis is linked to a slightly higher risk of a rare but serious thigh bone fracture known as an atypical femur fracture.—*INTERNET*

drugs previously and who notice new or unusual pain in the hip, groin or thigh should talk to their doctor as this may be a sign of an atypical femur fracture.

The US Food and Drug Administration announced similar findings and warnings in a statement issued in October 2010.

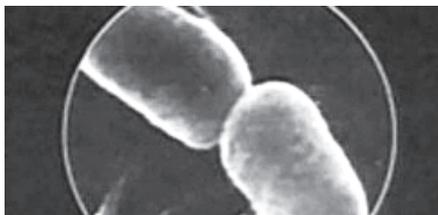
Internet

Niagara hospital probes possible C difficile death

NIAGARAFALLS, 21 Dec—The Niagara Health System is trying to determine if C difficile caused the death of a patient.

A person with C difficile died over the weekend at the Greater Niagara General Hospital.

An outbreak of hospital associated C difficile was declared on Unit D at the



hospital on 8 Dec six weeks after another C difficile outbreak ended.

During that outbreak,

102 people fell ill with hospital-associated C difficile over a five-month period and 37 patients with the bug died.

C difficile caused the death of seven patients and was a contributing factor in another 11. Currently there are seven cases of C difficile on Unit D of the hospital.

Internet



Nike shoes are displayed at a Niketown store in Beverly Hills, California, on 16 March, 2010.—*INTERNET*

Nike posts bigger quarterly profit

BEVERLY HILLS, 21 Dec—Nike Inc posted a bigger quarterly income, helped by strong demand and price rises.

For the second quarter ended 30 November, the world's biggest sports clothing maker earned \$469 million, or \$1 a share, compared with \$457 million, or 94 cents a share, last year.

Revenue at the company, known for its swoosh-logged merchandise, rose 18 percent to \$5.7 billion.

Futures orders for the Nike brand, a closely watched measure of demand in coming months, grew 13 percent to \$8.9 billion.—*Reuters*

Bank of England warns of possible recession in 2012

LONDON, 21 Dec—The deputy governor of the Bank of England (BOE) said on Tuesday that the economic prospects for Britain in 2012 are grim, with a possibility that the British economy could sink back into recession, and that the eurozone could break up.

BOE deputy governor Charles Bean warned that "output would be broadly flat" with a possibility of recession. "It is still going to be difficult but perhaps not as difficult as it has been providing the eurozone area problems are kept under control," Bean said in a radio interview with the BBC. Bean said that there was a danger of nations leaving the eurozone. "It is clearly a worrying situation. Countries eventually may feel that they're better

off outside the eurozone than in it," he said. He warned it would not be easy for a country to leave the euro, and would be "quite disruptive" for those involved. Bean forecasted that growth in the British economy would not change in the first half of 2012, and pointed to a likely fall due to the high rate of inflation. BOE figures earlier this week pointed to the squeezed household budgets of Britons, on average of 46 pounds (about 70 US dollars) per month, and how this was stunting consumer demand and in turn economic growth.

Bean said that in the event of a run on eurozone banks exposing British banks to dangers of bad debts, temporary emergency credit would be made available to British banks by the BOE.—*Xinhua*

Britain's rail fares to rise 5.9% in January 2012

LONDON, 21 Dec — Britain's rail fares are to rise by an average of 5.9 percent in January 2012, the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) announced on Tuesday.

"Money raised through fares helps pay for

new trains, faster services and better stations," Chief Executive of ATOC Michael Roberts said in a press release.

"The long-standing government approach to sustaining rail investment is to cut the contribution from taxpayers and increase the share paid for by passengers,"

he said.

At present, passengers contribute about 6.5 billion pounds (10.1 billion US dollars) to the running of the railways, with taxpayers picking up the remaining 4 billion pounds (6.2 billion dollars).

The rises cover

regulated fares such as season tickets from most commuter journeys and off-peak fares on most intercity trains, ATOC said.

The move is linked to inflation, which is currently at 5.2 percent as measured by the Retail Prices Index.

The fare hikes will take effect from 2 Jan in England, Scotland and Wales.

Xinhua

Business

BlackBerry's US business shrank further in Q3

TORONTO, 21 Dec—Research In Motion's sales in the United States fell for a fifth straight quarter in the third quarter even as the BlackBerry maker's overall revenue jumped by \$1 billion from a year earlier, a regulatory filing released on Tuesday showed.

Sales of RIM's BlackBerry smartphones and PlayBook tablet in the United States have struggled to keep up with those of more powerful and content-rich devices such as Apple's iPhone and iPad as well as a slew of Android-based devices from the likes of Samsung and HTC Corp that are heavily subsidized and marketed by US carriers.

RIM said it had US revenue of \$1.03 billion in the three months to late November, a 7 percent drop from the previous quarter. It had US sales of \$1.88 billion in the year-before quarter.

The Canadian company, however, expanded elsewhere, with sales outside the United States, Canada and Britain increasing 31 percent from a year earlier to \$3.17 billion. Those sales made up 61 percent of RIM's total sales in the quarter, up 5.4 percentage points from the year-before period.—*Reuters*



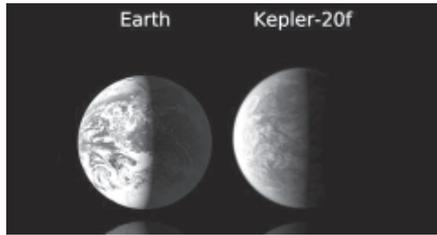
A person uses the new BlackBerry Bold 9900 at a release party to promote the BlackBerry OS 7 devices in Toronto on 3 August, 2011.—*INTERNET*

NASA to hold alien planet briefing

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec—Earth-like planets outside the solar system will help humanity know its place in the galaxy, the US space agency said ahead of an alien-planet news briefing. NASA's alien, or extrasolar, planet announcement, set for 1 pm EST Tuesday, was expected to be based on findings made by the space agency's Kepler planet-hunting observatory, orbiting Earth since March 2009.

The Kepler mission is designed to discover Earth-like planets in or near the "habitable zone," where liquid water can exist on the surface of an orbiting planet, and determine how many of the billions of stars in our galaxy have such planets, NASA said. The spacecraft was named in honour of German astronomer Johannes Kepler, a key figure in the 17th century scientific revolution — in which new ideas and knowledge in physics, astronomy, biology, medicine and chemistry transformed medieval and ancient views of nature and laid the foundations for modern science. The Kepler mission has already found 2,326 potential Earth-like extrasolar planets in the past 19 months, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said. Twenty-eight of those were confirmed as planets, Space.com reported.

Earth-like planets are rocky planets, as compared with



NASA Kepler probe finds two Earth-sized planets orbiting star.—INTERNET

gas giants that might not have solid surfaces. Within the solar system that Earth is part of, the rocky planets are the smaller inner planets closest to the sun. The Kepler science team announced on 5 Dec it discovered Kepler-22b, the first potentially habitable alien planet. This distant world, located about 600 light-years from Earth, orbits its sun in the habitable zone that could support liquid water and perhaps life, NASA said.—Internet

Science

Nile crocodile is two species, study says

SAN DIEGO, 21 Dec—The Nile crocodile, a species identified by ancient Egyptians, is in fact two distinct species that have been going by the same name, US researchers say.

That's the verdict of genetic analysis using samples taken from species throughout the animal's range, and including DNA from mummified crocodile remains, researchers said.

"This paper provides a remarkable surprise: the Nile crocodile is not a single species, as previously thought, but instead demonstrates two species — living side-by-side — constitute what has been called the Nile croc," Marlys Houck, a geneticist with the San Diego Zoo Global's Institute of Conservation Research, said.

"Even more remarkably, they are not each other's closest relatives; one is more closely related to New World crocodylians," Houck said in a release from the Zoological Society of San Diego Monday.

That species, *Crocodylus suchus*, is declining or has disappeared throughout much of its distribution, researchers say, and without proper recognition of this species current sustainable use-based management policies for the Nile crocodile may do more harm than good.

"The cryptic *Crocodylus suchus* is a unique entity worthy of a conservation strategy separate from the Nile crocodile populations of East and southern Africa," Houck said.—Internet



The Nile crocodile, a species identified by ancient Egyptians, is in fact two distinct species that have been going by the same name, US researchers say.—INTERNET

European space agencies talk missions

Moscow, 21 Dec— Russian and European space programme officials say they will proceed with a cooperative Moon research mission and a flight to Jupiter.

The head of Russia's Federal Space Agency Roscosmos, Vladimir Popovkin, and European Space Agency Director General Jean-Jacques Dordain held a meeting in Moscow to consider five research projects, RIA Novosti reported Tuesday. Missions discussed were a flight to Jupiter with a stopover at one of its icy moons, the collection of soil samples from the polar region of the Moon, a study of Venus' atmosphere and a landing on that planet, missions to near-Earth asteroids, and the establishment of an orbiting astronomical observatory. The Moon research mission with a possible date of 2016 to 2020, and the Jupiter mission with a landing on moon Ganymede for sometime after 2020 were deemed most feasible.—Internet



The Soyuz TMA-03M spacecraft is seen at the launch pad on 19 Dec, 2011 at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The launch of the Soyuz spacecraft, with Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko, NASA Flight Engineer Donald Pettit and ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut and Flight Engineer Andre Kuipers, is scheduled for Wednesday.—XINHUA

Apple scores hit on HTC in patent case

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Dec— Apple scored a hit in an ongoing patent brawl with mobile handset giant HTC with a US trade authority ruling the iPhone maker has rights to features using one-tap screen commands.

The International Trade Commission gave Apple part of what it wanted in a "limited exclusion order" directing that HTC stop bringing offending smartphones into the United States effective on 19 April, 2012.

Taiwan-based HTC expected to be able to adapt the Android-powered handsets to sidestep the

trouble with the single patent before the deadline.

The move was expected to come at the cost of removing some features smartphone users enjoy and came as part of an ongoing campaign by Apple to cobble the momentum of smartphones powered by Google's Android software.

The patent affects functions such as touching a smartphone screen to follow a Web link or call a phone number displayed on a page.

The decision was deemed final and sent for review by the staff of US President Barack Obama, who was unlikely to overrule



Apple on Monday scored a hit in an ongoing patent brawl with mobile handset giant HTC.—INTERNET

it. The final order came with the commission reversing a prior decision and ruling in favor of HTC on patented technology that would have been harder to design out of handsets.—Internet

Tech

Deutsche Telekom could be forced into arms of Sprint

FRANKFURT, 21 Dec— Deutsche Telekom may be forced into a tie-up of its sub-scale US wireless unit with Sprint Nextel after a \$39 billion deal with AT&T collapsed. AT&T said on Monday it had dropped its bid for T-Mobile USA, bowing to fierce regulatory opposition and leaving both companies scrambling for alternatives. While Deutsche Telekom is now walking away with a \$6 billion breakup package, its chief executive Rene Obermann

has lost a lot of time and will now have to invest in the US market or find a new way to exit the country, an option analysts regard as unlikely.

T-Mobile USA "is just crying out for a merger with Sprint. That's the only long-term solution for Deutsche Telekom," Will Draper, head of telecoms research at Espirito Santo, said.

T-Mobile USA, a growth engine in its early days but now a run-down asset, is badly lacking in the spectrum it needs to build a network capable of handling the vast data volumes that US consumers and businesses use on smartphones.

Bleeding money and losing customers, it ranks fourth among US carriers behind AT&T, Verizon and Sprint. Deutsche Telekom shares closed down 0.6 percent at 8.83 euros, the only decliner in the blue-chip DAX index, on investor concern the company is back at square one with its American problem child.

Deutsche Telekom



T-Mobile logo is ready to be placed on a former Era Mobile outlet in Warsaw on 1 June, 2011.—INTERNET

Nokia: Software glitch draining some Lumia batteries



The new Nokia smart phone Lumia 800 is displayed at Nokia world, London, on 26 Oct, 2011. INTERNET

LONDON, 21 Dec— Some versions of Nokia's Lumia 800, the first flagship smartphone from the

Finnish company using Microsoft Corp's Windows Phone operating system, have a software glitch that

drains the batteries.

"We can now confirm that, while the battery in the devices is fine, in some variants a software problem is preventing the phone from accessing the full battery capacity," a company spokesman said.

He said the problem will be fixed in early 2012 with a planned, wider software update. "Once this update is applied customers should

experience much better battery life," he said.

The Lumia 800 is the first Nokia smartphone to use Microsoft software, the platform the Finnish firm has bet its future on. Since Nokia unveiled the Lumia 800 the stock has dropped almost 30 percent, in part due to fears of poor sales because the device has received positive reviews, but limited interest from consumers.—Internet

would likely get a stake in a combined entity in such a deal rather than cash, which would still leave it saddled with a company needing investments. Sprint, which has itself been losing subscribers for years, recently went to debt markets to raise \$4 billion to finance its own debt maturities, a costly network upgrade and hefty expenses from its agreement with Apple Inc to sell the iPhone.

Internet

Man sent to prison for economic espionage

BOSTON, 21 Dec—A Massachusetts man was sentenced to six months in prison and fined \$25,000 for selling trade secrets of his employer, Akami Technologies Inc.

Elliot Doxer, 43, of Brookline pleaded guilty to one count of foreign economic espionage at a previous hearing. At his sentencing Monday, he also was given an additional six months of house arrest. Federal prosecutors had sought a 36-month prison term. During an 18-month period in 2009 and 2010, Doxer believed he was selling details of Akami contracts to an Israeli agent, who actually turned out to be an FBI investigator. *Boston Business Journal* reported.

A sentencing memorandum written by the government stated he tried to sell Israel "confidential contracts between Akami and the FBI, [Department of Homeland Security], a leading aerospace company and several Department of Defence contractors." The total value of those contracts was near \$10 million. Doxer also insinuated to an agent that he wanted harm done to the mother of one of his children. "The mother is a terrible human being and has caused me tremendous suffering," authorities said he told the agent. "Not enough bad things can happen to her, if you know what I mean."—*Internet*



Photo taken on 18 Dec, 2011 shows a man diving from a frozen waterfall in Mudanjiang, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.—XINHUA



Tourists visit a snow park during a snow sculpture festival in Hailar of Hunlun Buir, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 18 Dec, 2011. A snow sculpture festival kicked off in Hailar on 16 Dec and attracted many visitors.

XINHUA

Cyberbullying measure meets free speech

BUFFALO, 21 Dec—A lawmaker says he's reworked his bill to make cyberbullying in his New York county a misdemeanor to allay concerns it could infringe on First Amendment rights.

The proposal from Erie County Legislator Edward A Rath III, R-Amherst, would make online harassment of minors or students illegal in the county, a change from his initial proposal that more broadly defined victims of cyberbullying.

Rath rewrote the legislation after County Attorney Jeremy A Colby warned some of the

definitions — including what constitutes a "person" — were too broad, since the original proposal would have prohibited cyberbullying against a "person or minor," categories that could have included everything from an individual to a corporation. *The Buffalo News* reported Monday.

"By its language, the law would prohibit anyone and everyone from 'taunting,' 'insulting,' or 'humiliating' a corporation or business," Colby wrote in a memo to the County Legislature.

"Given the broad interpretation these terms could be given, it is very

likely that the law would be seen as infringing upon the First Amendment."

The rewritten proposal would make cyberbullying an unclassified misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or up to a year in jail.

Most cases against minors, Rath said, would be handled by Family Court and would not result in severe punishment.

"I don't want to throw kids into jail," Rath said. "What I want to do is let them know that there are some implications to cyberbullying, which are very serious."

Internet

Visitors tour the 4th Solana Shining Lights Festival in Beijing, capital of China, on 17 Dec, 2011. The festival which kicked off here Friday, will end in Feb 2012.

XINHUA



Mason City, Iowa, woman locks toddler in dryer

MASON CITY, 21 Dec—A Mason City, Iowa, woman allegedly locked the door on a clothes dryer and turned it on to teach a lesson to her 22-month-old son, police say.

Mallory Ann Hakes, 25, faces a charge of child endangerment without injury, punishable by a possible two years in prison and a \$6,250 fine.

The Globe Gazette reports Hakes' son

crawled into the dryer to hide. When she discovered the boy in the dryer, she allegedly closed the door and turned it on for a few seconds as punishment. The child was not injured.

The Department of Human Services received a report of suspected child abuse and made the arrest Monday after investigating the charge.—*Internet*



A ceremony held to celebrate the 1st anniversary of giant panda's arrival. Photo taken on 18 Dec, 2011 shows giant panda Kai Kai at the panda pavilion in Macao, south China. A ceremony was held here Sunday to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the arrival of Kai Kai and Xin Xin, the giant panda pair that the central government presented Macao Special Administrative Region, in Macao.—XINHUA

Swedish woman kept corpse in living room

STOCKHOLM, 21 Dec—A 52-year-old woman was arrested in Sweden for keeping a decomposing body on her couch for several months, authorities said. Neighbours believe the woman to be mentally ill. "She can't really take care of herself," one neighbour told *The Local*. "Sometimes she puts on the war paint and then you know she is really bad. Then I tend to make a call, so she gets brought in and gets help."

The dead body was that of a 67-year-old man, reported missing in September, the newspaper said. The woman was contacted early on in the investigation because she was an acquaintance of the man, however she denied knowing anything about his disappearance. When she was contacted for a second round of questioning, police found the man's body in an advanced state of decay in the woman's living room.

She was arrested, but released after the preliminary results of an autopsy came in. The woman is not believed to be responsible for the man's death. "This is probably not a murder," said Lars Lundin of the South Stockholm police. "The woman is sick and it is just very tragic."—*Internet*

Conjoined twin dies after separation

SANTIAGO, 21 Dec—A Chilean infant separated from her conjoined twin in a risky surgery last week died of organ failure five days after the procedure, doctors said.

Though the surgery to separate Maria Jose Paredes Navarrete from her twin was initially called successful with few complications, the infant's condition grew increasingly unstable and critical until she died Sunday night, *The Santiago Times* reported.

The death was the result of "a flaw in the right side of the heart as a consequence of pulmonary hypertension that afflicted her since her birth," Calvo Mackenna Hospital said in a statement.

Conjoined twins Maria Paz and Maria Jose Paredes Navarrete were born in February, connected through their chest, abdomen, legs and pelvis with a shared intestine and liver.

Over 100 people participated in the separation surgery that lasted more than 18 hours.

"We are sure that we made every effort," hospital Director Osvaldo Artaza said of the attempt to save Maria Jose. "This is a moment of deep pain, of deep grieving."

Surviving twin Maria Paz remained in stable but critical condition, the hospital said.

Internet

Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium with sale of value-added jewellery

Byline: Yan Gyi Aung; Photo: Htein Nan Naw

Myanmar, being a resource-rich country, jewellery is the natural gift of Myanmar. Among these precious stones, jades, ruby and sapphire are unrivalled in the world. Foreign merchants are very fond of Myanmar gems.

will be held on 24 to 26 December, gems sale, on 26 and 27 December, through tender system and competitive bidding system and jade sale, from 27 to 30 December through tender system and from 1 to 3 January through competitive bidding

For successful holding of the sale, Central Committee for holding Myanma Gems Emporium has made systematic arrangements by forming work committee under it.

In doing so, the Central Committee makes cooperation with Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association. Work committee will give necessary assistances to foreign merchants for accommodation, information, communication and

Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association, chairman, executives and members and staff from gems companies and staff from Myanma Gems Enterprise.

Duties have been assigned for ceremonial preparations, admission for central committee members of Myanma Gems Emporium, staff and gem merchants, accommodations and showcasing gems and pearl.

Invitation letters have been sent to 5069 foreign gems merchants from 13

jades.

"There are more numbers of better quality jades in this year emporium than previous ones. Arrangements will be made for gem merchants to observe gems beginning 22 December", explained Secretary of Jade Work Committee Deputy Director U Pe Khin of Myanma Gems Enterprise.

"Gems have been systematically sorted into type and size order for customer's convenience", he continued.

After that, I headed to Myanmar Gems Museum where gems and pearl lots will be on sale. There, I found the officials of the work committee setting out gems systematically.

In an interview with Secretary of Gems Work Committee U Win Than Tin, he said, "The gems to be on sale at the emporium will be ruby, sapphire, colourful Mogok gems, uncut Mongshu ruby, uncut crystal and uncut topaz. High-priced jewellery will surely catch attention of gem merchants." Along with the gem emporium, private gem booths will sell jewellery,

There are only Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Myanmar in the world that harvested South Sea Pearl. Of them, Australia-made pearl is the biggest ones. Myanmar pearls are all the rage thanks to its best lustre.

Pearl Work Committee Chairman U Sein Lwin explained that 23 local pearl merchants as well as foreign gem merchants from Japan, Hong Kong, India, Singapore and Korea will come to the emporium.

Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium-2011 will be held with a bang in Mani Yadana Jade Hall. Central Committee for Holding Myanma Gems Emporium and respective work committees are making all-out efforts to gain deserved price for jade, gems, pearl and jewellery. It was learnt that only quality jades as well as value-added jewellery will be put on sale to catch decent price in years to come.

Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium-2011 embedded in outstanding naturally gifted gems ready



Uncut sapphire with the weight of 145.00 Carat is Euro 200, 000 worth, to be displayed by Myanmar San Taw Win private company.



Precious stone to be put on display at Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium.

Since 1964, jades and gems sales have been held yearly. Then, foreign gem merchants had to buy it with foreign currency alone. Later on, sales times were increased to twice a year and since 2004, to three a year.

Since 1992, permission for jade and gems mining was given to private gems companies. In 1995, the government has allowed Myanmar citizens to carry out mining, production and sales of gems and jewellery. Sales of jades and gems have been on the increase year by year because citizens could buy gems and jewellery, starting the 34th Myanma Gems Emporium held in March, 1997.

Sale of jades and gems is going to be held very soon in Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Preparations are being made to hold Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium-2011 on a grand scale.

This emporium will be from 24 December to 3 January with one-day pause on 25 December. Pearl sale

system. The sale includes sales of value-added jewelries in addition to jades, gems and pearl, according to Secretary U Win Than Tin of Gems Work Committee.

Authorized companies, private companies and associations, licensed private companies and associations, Myanma Pearl Enterprise and Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines will showcase jade, gems, pearl at the emporium.

Preparations are being made to showcase jade, gem and pearl lots at Mani Yadana Jade Hall. The sale covers a total of 230 lots of gem—176 lots through tender system and 54 lots through competitive bidding system, nine lots of precious hand ware, a total of 11,820 lots of jade—11,591 lots of jade through tender system and 229 lots of jade through competitive bidding system and a total of 267 pearl lots—224 lots of pearl through tender system and 43 lots through competitive bidding system.

health in Nay Pyi Taw.

For smooth transportation of those merchants, Bandoola Transportation will run 100 Parami taxis. A total of 1960 rooms in 28 hotels have been reserved for easy accommodation in Nay Pyi Taw. In addition, Bawgatheikdi restaurant will prepare meal for them. During the period of special sale, respective work committee will run temporary offices for smooth functioning of it.

Award and certificate will go to merchants who buy jade, gem and pearl lots most. The Central Committee successfully holds Myanma Gems Emporium year on year in coordination with Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association. The Central Committee make cooperation with staff from Ministry of Mines and other ministries, patron, of

countries. Also, advertisements have been posted on daily newspapers for local gems merchants.

I found vibrant jade lots, when I was in Mani Yadana Jade Hall, various kinds of eye-catching imperial jades, quartz jades, kingfisher

souvenirs and gems-decorated drawings. I then proceeded to pearl centre where pearl lots are sitting tight ready to fascinate viewers. Some pearls are purely as white as cotton, some are golden and some are light gold in colour.

Photo shows a jade to be displayed at Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium.

dead and for the injured. A public notice has been issued that the people are to inform to authorities concerned about any suspicious-looking person in order to prompt the arrest of the bomber.

MNA

Photo shows defused improvised bomb seen in the toilet.

MNA



Bomb explosion kills one, injures one other in Kamayut Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—A bomb exploded in a public toilet in Kamayut Township, Yangon this morning killing a woman and injuring another. Another bomb that had not yet exploded was also defused in time.

The bomb that went off in the public toilet on the corner of University Avenue

and Pyay Road in Kamayut Township killed Ma Mya San Yi, 30, and injured Ma Khin Myat Nwe, 24. Ma Khin Myat Nwe, whose right wrist was badly injured, is receiving treatment at Yangon General Hospital.

The other bomb that had not yet exploded was defused and half a pound of gun

powder, a dial, a security switch, two batteries, a piece of metal and a detonator were found.

The ministers of Yangon Region, the chief of Region Police Force and officials concerned rushed to the scene and conducted investigation in detail. Measures are being taken to expose the bomber and necessary assistance is being provided for the family of the



President U Thein Sein and Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung inspect Guard of Honour. (New on page 1)
MNA

President U Thein Sein, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung...



President U Thein Sein and Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung at MoU signing ceremony.—MNA

(from page 16)
Development Bank of Vietnam Mr Leo Dao Nguyen signed the MoU on provision of technical fund by Vietnam IDB to Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry for agricultural development.

MNA

Vietnamese delegation led by Vietnamese PM wraps up visit

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — A Vietnamese delegation led by Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tang Dung and wife left here for Hanoi, Vietnam, by special flight this afternoon after paying

goodwill visit and participating in the fourth Greater Mekong Subregion Summit.

They were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin,

Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu and wife, departmental officials and Daw Hmwe Hmwe Khaing, an acting chargé d' affaires of Myanmar Embassy in Vietnam, and Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung.

The delegation comprises six ministers, 11 deputy ministers and other 75 members.

MNA

Combodian Minister visits Nyaungbingyisu mechanized farm

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Deputy Minister U Ohn Than conducted Cambodian Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Mr Chan Sarum and party around Nyaungbingyisu mechanized farming 500-acre farmer educative farm in Pobbathiri Township Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 19

December.

The Cambodian Minister and party observed cross-cultivated Paletwe strain rice plants farm, farmer educative vegetables and fruits garden. The two ministers discussed cooperation for agricultural development of the two nations and Union Minister U Myint Hlaing presented a painting to the Cambodian Minister

as a gift.

Likewise, high-ranking officials of a business delegation from Thailand and Laos attended the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum visited farmer educative vegetables and fruits garden in 500-acre Nyaungbingyisu modern mechanized farm in Pobbathiri Township.

MNA

Mon State holds seminar on HIV prevention and 100% TCP

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — A seminar on Mon State level HIV prevention and 100% TCP, organized by Myanmar Anti Narcotics Association, was held at the meeting hall of Ngwe Moe Hotel in Mawlamyine on 9 December. First, Mon State Social Affairs Minister Dr Hla Oo delivered an address and MANA Chairman U San Thein explained the purpose of holding the seminar.

Next, State Health Department Head Dr Aye Nyein explained HIV

prevention tasks and 100% TCP-related health sectors and Mon State Anti Narcotics Association Chairman U Nay Win, the activities of MANA.

Then, Dr Maung Maung Lwin of MANA gave talks on measures being taken for HIV prevention and 100% TCP and Mon State Health Department Deputy Head Dr Wut Hmon on health knowledge. Later, MANA Secretary U Saw Ngwe spoke words of thanks.

MNA



Seminar on HIV prevention and 100% TCP in progress in Mawlamyine.—MNA

President U Thein Sein receives Vietnamese delegation led by...

(from page 16)

The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation, investment potentials, developments of Myanmar

and deepening existing amity among CLMV countries, and sector-wise cooperation.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shakes hands with Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung at Credentials Hall of Presidential Residence.

MNA



President U Thein Sein hosts luncheon in honour of goodwill delegation led by Vietnamese PM

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a luncheon in honour of goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung and wife at Credentials Hall of Presidential Residence here this afternoon.

Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Union ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads. The delegation led by the visiting PM and wife was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung.

The State Band played national anthems of the two countries before the luncheon.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife host luncheon to Vietnamese delegation led by Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung and wife at Credentials Hall of Presidential Residence.

MNA

The luncheon was also attended by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin

Artistes of the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture performed songs and Myanmar's traditional dances at the luncheon.

After the luncheon, President U Thein Sein presented

the visiting PM the documentary photo album of his visit. President U Thein Sein and the visiting PM presented flower bouquet to the artistes and posed for documentary group photo.—MNA

Guangxi Zhaung Autonomous Region Governor calls on Union NPED Minister



Mr. Mao Biao, Governor of Guangxi Zhaung Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, hands over ten Fengxing Jayear Saloon cars to Union National Planning and Economic Development Minister U Tin Naing Thein as a token of friendship between Myanmar and China.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — A Chinese delegation led by Mr. Mao Biao, Governor of Guangxi Zhaung Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, called on Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein at his office here this afternoon.

During the meeting, the two sides cordially and openly discussed promotion of investment and trade between Myanmar and the autonomous region.

At the meeting, Mr. Mao Biao handed over ten Fengxing Jayear saloon cars to Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein as a token of friendship between Myanmar and China.—MNA

Sumitomo Golf Classic golf tourney from 11 to 14 Jan

YANGON, 21 Dec—Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and sponsored by Aung Hein Min Co Ltd and Sumitomo Heavy Machinery, Sumitomo Golf Classic golf tournament will commence at Shwe Man Taung golf club in Mandalay, Mandalay Region from 11 to 14 January, 2012.

The tourney is categorized for professional, senior professional and amateur level H'Cap 0-10, and held in accord with R&A Rules Limited (St Andrew) and regional rules.

Those wishing to compete in the tourney are to enroll at Shwe Man Taung golf club (Ph: 09-2037671, 09-73130474, 651347) with K 20,000 not later than 2 pm on 9 January.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Failed MLK parade bomber gets prison

SPOKANE, 21 Dec—A federal judge Tuesday sent a white supremacist to prison for 32 years for a failed attempt to bomb a Martin Luther King Day parade in Spokane, Wash. Kevin William Harpham, 37, of Colville, will spend the rest of his life under court supervision once he is released from custody, the US Justice Department said in a release.

Harpham was arrested 9 March and pleaded guilty on 7 Sept to federal charges that he placed a homemade bomb alongside the planned route of the 17 Jan Martin Luther

King Jr Day Unity march in Spokane.

Authorities said Harpham's attempt to kill some of the 2,000 marchers failed because his remote detonator wound up too far away after the planned parade route was changed, court documents have shown.

"This case underscores the continuing threat from those who seek to express their hatred through violence and the serious consequences these individuals face for such actions," Assistant Attorney General Lisa Monaco said.

FBI Special Agent-in-Charge Laura Laughlin called Harpham "a prototypical 'lone wolf'" who "presents a particularly vexing threat — with nothing foreshadowing a carefully planned attack."

"However, the actions of everyday citizens, the Spokane Police Department, the Spokane Explosives Disposal Unit, and the round-the-clock work of Joint Terrorism Task Force and its local, state, and federal members unraveled Mr. Harpham's plan and swiftly brought him to justice," she said.—Internet



British Prime Minister David Cameron (C) gestures as he talks with British soldiers in the NAFI at Kandahar airfield in Kandahar during a pre-Christmas visit to British troops in Afghanistan. INTERNET



People dressed as penguins take part in the Christmas float parade held in Nivelles, Belgium, on 17 Dec, 2011. About 14 floats offered performance and candies to local residents and tourists Saturday night at the Christmas float parade in Nivelles. XINHUA

Factory building collapse kills two, injures five in N China

TAIYUAN, 21 Dec—A cement factory building under construction collapsed Tuesday night in the northern province of Shanxi, leaving two dead and five others injured, local authorities said Wednesday.

The accident occurred at about 8:30 pm in the Xingyuan Cement Plant in

Xiangfen County, sources with the fire brigade in Linfen City, which administers the county, said. When the building collapsed, seven construction workers were atop the building. They fell and were trapped under a mass of iron bars, scaffolds and wood boards.

By 3:30 am, rescuers had

pulled out five workers from the debris, and they were sent to a nearby hospital.

About three hours later, rescuers retrieved another two workers, who were pronounced dead at the scene, rescuers said.

An investigation into the accident is under way.

Xinhua

More syringes found in Walmart clothing

CARTERSVILLE, (Ga), 21 Dec—Two more syringes were found in clothing at a Walmart in Cartersville, Ga, authorities said.

The syringes were found in a pocket of a nightgown and a men's sweatshirt pocket, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported. The latest discoveries bring the number of syringes found in clothing at the Cartersville store to nine. The first ones were

discovered late last month.

Walmart spokeswoman Dianna Gee said the store has a team dedicated to monitoring surveillance video.

"We are continuing to partner with law enforcement to catch whoever is responsible for this senseless act," Gee said on Saturday. "We are confident our surveillance cameras will identify that person."

Investigators say they do not have a suspect or

motive, but believe the incident is contained to the single Walmart location.

At least two customers have been pricked by the needles and store officials said Walmart will pay for their medical expenses.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said the victims could be at risk for contracting hepatitis or possibly human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS.—Internet



A model presents a creation on a wedding dress show during a wedding expo held in Hong Kong, south China, on 18 Dec, 2011. XINHUA

Five killed in plane crash on NJ highway

HARDING, (NJ) 21 Dec—Five people were killed Tuesday when a small plane crashed onto a highway in New Jersey, police said.

Witnesses say the plane crashed onto I-287 in Morris County. Two investment bankers and one of their families who were on board were killed, but no one on the ground was injured. *The New York Times* reported.

Greenhill & Co investment bank said it believes two of its managing directors — Jeffrey F Buckalew, 45, and Rakesh Chawla, 36—as well as Buckalew's wife and two children were killed in the crash, *the Times* said.

"There was a lot of fire and big black smoke," Shona Sternberg of Hillsborough, NJ, who was about three cars behind where the plane went down, told *The (Newark, NJ) Star Ledger*. "I could smell burning, burnt rubber. You see something happening, you know it's going to crash and you can't do anything."

The plane, a single-engine Socata TBM-700, appeared to be in trouble before it crashed, she said.

"Something was breaking off the plane as it was coming down. It was coming down fast. It looked like the right wing was breaking off."—Internet

Four hurt in strip club shooting in Canada

LAVAL, (Quebec), 21 Dec—Feuding street gangs may be responsible for an early Sunday shooting in a suburban Montreal strip club that left four people injured, police said.

"There are certain elements found at the scene that is making us believe this may be a street gang conflict between two rival groups," Laval police Constable Frank Di Genova said. "It's not confirmed 100 percent, but it seems to lean that way."

All four victims — three men who suffered gunshot wounds and a woman hit by flying glass — were expected to recover, said police, who had made three arrests. No names had been released.

The Canadian Broad-casting Corp reported there were about 150 people inside and outside the bar when the shooting broke out about 2 am.—Internet



A woman mourns for her relative killed during the US invasion to Panama during a ceremony marking the 22nd anniversary of the military invasion of Panama by US troops in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 20 Dec, 2011. XINHUA

Remains of plant-eating dinosaur unearthed in Antarctica

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec—Scientists have for the first time recorded the presence of large bodied herbivorous dinosaurs in Antarctica.

Until now, remains of sauropoda—one of the most diverse and geographically widespread species of herbivorous dinosaurs—had been recovered from all continental landmasses, except Antarctica.

But Dr Ignacio Alejandro Cerda, from CONICET in

Argentina, and his team's identification of the remains of the sauropod dinosaur suggests that advanced titanosaurs (plant-eating, sauropod dinosaurs) achieved a global distribution at least by the Late Cretaceous. Other important dinosaur discoveries have been made in Antarctica in the last two decades—principally in the James Ross Basin.

Dr Cerda and colleagues report the first finding of a sauropod dinosaur from this continent and provide a detailed description of an incomplete middle-tail vertebra, recovered from James Ross Island.

The specific size and morphology of the specimen, including its distinctive ball and socket articulations, lead the authors to identify it as an advanced titanosaur. These titanosaurs originated during

the Early Cretaceous and were the predominant group of sauropod dinosaurs until the extinction of all non-bird dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous.

Although they were one of the most widespread and successful species of sauropod dinosaurs, their origin and dispersion are not completely understood.

"Our discovery, and subsequent report, of these sauropod dinosaur remains from Antarctica improves our current knowledge of the dinosaurian faunas during the Late Cretaceous on this continent," the authors said.

The Cretaceous Period spanned 99.6-65.5 million years ago, and ended with the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Their finding has just been published online in Springer's journal, *Naturwissenschaften - The Science of Nature*.—Internet



The Chinese People's Liberation Army garrison in Macao holds the national flag raising ceremony to celebrate the 12th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland in Macao, south China, on 20 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Soon, LED bio-bulb to help you get restful sleep

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec—Those struggling to get a restful night's sleep will soon be able to have one, thanks to the new LED bio-bulb which will allow people to see at night without hindering body's natural mechanisms.

Most people usually find it difficult to get a restful sleep for several hours after sitting under bright lights post sunset.

Now a Florida inventor is testing a new LED bio-bulb that could regulate the body's circadian rhythm by helping control the production of melatonin, the body's sleep hormone that tells us when it's night time, Discovery News reported.

Fred Maxik, founder and

chief technology officer of Lighting Science Group Corp asserted that this can be achieved by eliminating a small segment of the blue wavelength of light (around 465 to 485 nanometers) produced by the lightbulb.

"We're looking at a way to filter out that part of the spectrum, and still have a white light," Maxik said.

"Our ability to restore the natural position of where we were and natural hormonal secretions is an appealing one."

Almost 20 years ago, medical researchers found that the eye has a separate photoreceptor that picks up wavelengths of light, and then sends a signal to the

hypothalamus, which secretes melatonin.

Although melatonin does not make a person sleep but it does tell the body to prepare to rest.

Maxik said that he is attempting to help people see what they are doing at night, like reading, doing homework or watching TV, without making it hard to fall asleep when they are ready. He is also trying to make it dimmable. "You need to remove part of the light spectrum, a significant notch taken out of that, and create a light that people don't see as something that's unusual."

"It has to be something that's natural," Maxik added.—Internet

Now, 'bio-battery' that runs on waste paper

LONDON, 21 Dec—Sony has developed a battery that can 'digest' waste paper and turn it into energy.

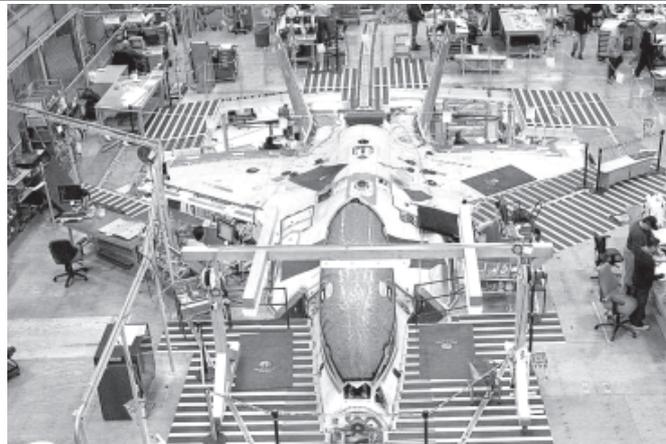
In 2007, the company demonstrated a Walkman that used a 'bio battery'—an organic battery that generates electricity by 'digesting' food, just like humans do.

But the company's latest development shows off a much more useful product, *the Daily Mail* reported.

The prototype—on show at Eco-Products 2011 in Tokyo, shows how it could be possible to use enzymes to 'break down' waste paper into a fuel we can use. The prototype generates enough energy to power a (very) small fan. The process is unlike conventional batteries—and initially at least, much more like the action of a digestive system. A digestive enzyme, cellulase, 'breaks down' the cellulose in paper into glucose, a sugar that Sony's 'bio batteries' can use as fuel.—Internet



Photo shows the cocaine seized in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 20 Dec, 2011. The Argentine authorities on Tuesday seized one ton cocaine.—XINHUA



The aircraft assembly workbench is controlled by computers.—INTERNET

John F Kennedy's hearse to go under the hammer

LONDON, 21 Dec—A US auction house specialising in collectible classic cars plans to auction the hearse used to carry the body of President John F Kennedy from a Dallas hospital to Air Force One.

Barrett-Jackson Auction Co says that the 1964

Cadillac hearse will be listed for sale on 21 January, *the Daily Express* reported.

O'Neal Funeral Home of Dallas had used the hearse to bring a bronze casket to the hospital on 22 November 1963, the day of President Kennedy's assassination, then carried the casket

containing the president's body to Love Field.

Earlier this year, Barrett-Jackson had also auctioned the ambulance used to carry the president's body from Air Force Base at Andrews Air Force Base to the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Internet

Japan creates crystal-studded lavatory

LONDON, 21 Dec—Japan has built a crystal lavatory encrusted with more than 72,000 pieces of Swarovski cut crystal, which is valued at over 100,000 dollars.

Lavatory manufacturer INAX teamed up with an Austrian jeweler to create the ornate fixture, which is on display in a showroom in Japan's posh Ginza shopping district.

In a nod to traditional belief, the sparkling lavatory was created to please the 'god of lavatories'.

"In Japan, we believe a deity exists in the lavatory. That's why keeping lavatories clean and taking good care of it have been a Japanese custom since long ago," the Telegraph quoted Kazuo Sumimiya, director of the showroom for the Lixil interior fixture company of which INAX is a part, as saying.

"If we were to sell it, it would probably be worth around 10 million yen," he said.

Visitors admired the dazzling fixture, with one woman saying she'd like to invite her friends and hold a party around it.

But others said it might be a bit too exalted to be useful.

"It'd be hard. I don't think I'd feel comfortable enough to use it even if I had this at home," said 22-year-old Chikako Kawanami, an art museum receptionist.

The lavatory will be on display until the end of December.

Internet

Now, electric goggles to 'steam' dry eyes

LONDON, 21 Dec—A British eye specialist has pioneered electric goggles that could help people with dry eyes.

Dry eyes occur when the eyes either don't produce enough tears, or those they do produce evaporate too quickly.

In a third of cases, it is caused by glands in the eyelids, which secrete oils. The problem occurs when these oils are too thick and waxy — it's usually an age thing. As a result, the layer of water that coats the eyes evaporates too quickly, leaving them dry and inflamed. Symptoms include a chronic stinging and a

gritty, burning, and itching feeling. The new Blephasteam goggles deliver steam directly into the eyes, melting the waxy oil in the eye to improve its natural oil secretions. Their inventor, the British eye specialist John Fuller, came up with the idea when he was persuaded to try a steam bath while visiting his brother Tom in New Zealand.

Tears are formed of three layers, one of which is oily. "Like all oily substances, when heated this layer melts, creating better lubrication," the *Daily Mail* quoted Fuller as saying. Fuller persuaded Tom, who was a design engineer, to

create the prototype for the Blephasteam goggles that were then used in clinical trials at Dorset County Hospital, in Dorchester (where Fuller is consultant ophthalmic surgeon).

That was in 2001. Soon afterwards the goggles were being jointly produced by a UK company, Spectrum, and Laboratoires Thea in France. They look a bit like swimming goggles but are made from medical-grade rubber and cost 200 pounds.

Because of the low heat, the amount of moisture produced doesn't steam up the lenses so user can watch TV or read while wearing them.—Internet



Rita Capuano (R) sits near her shop in Via San Gregorio Armeno in Naples which hosts many artisans who make world renowned hand-crafted Nativity scenes.—INTERNET

**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**

1. Open Tenders are invited for repair/supply of the following items in Euro:

Srl No.	Tender No	Description	Closing Date
1.	12(T)19/MR(ML) 2011-2012	Repair of PGEV Governor (CAT-3516) (6-Nos)	13.1.2012 (12:00)hr
2.	15(T)4/MR(E) 2011-2012	7mm Ø P.C Wire (782-MTon)	6.1.2012 (12:00)hr

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 22.12.2011 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SANG THAI EAGLE VOY NO (14)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SANG THAI EAGLE VOY NO (14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-1 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: SANG THAI SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

Heroin found in National Archives file

LONDON, 21 Dec—A sealed package containing heroin was found in an 80-year-old Foreign Office file at the National Archives, its managers have said. The Class A drug was filed with a document from the British Consulate in Cairo about a 1928 court case.
The off-white powder, discovered by a member of the public who asked to see the file, was sent for analysis. And having been confirmed as heroin, the substance was handed over to the Metropolitan Police. The pouch - which contained less than a gram of heroin in 19

sachets - has been replaced with a photo and the file is now back on public display.
National Archives director of operations Jeff James said the discovery hints at more mysteries to be found among the huge bank of archives. "From time to time, unusual and occasionally valuable objects are unexpectedly discovered within our vast collection of 11 million records," he said. "However, finds of this nature are extremely rare."
The National Archives makes available to the public records dating back more than 1,000 years.—Internet

Two arrested in Essex train stabbing inquiry

ESSEX, 21 Dec — Detectives investigating the stabbing of a rail ticket inspector at East Tilbury station, Essex, have arrested two people. British Transport Police arrested a 19-year-old man and a 17-year-old boy on Sunday in Tilbury, two days after the incident on a C2C train. The males were arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm.
The inspector, 42, needed three stitches to the stab wound and was released from hospital on Saturday. He had asked two males without tickets to leave the 20:20 Southend Central to

London Fenchurch Street train at East Tilbury. The pair got off but one returned and stabbed him in the back. Police had earlier released CCTV images and asked witnesses to contact them.—Internet



Arrigoni of Italy attempts to set an apnea diving record, pushed by two dolphins near Rome.—INTERNET

TRADEMARK CAUTION

SmithKline Beecham (Cork) Limited of Curraghine, Carrigaline, County Cork, Ireland is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:

AVANDAMET

(Reg. No. IV/6167/2003)
(Reg. No. IV/12135/2011)
used in respect of -
"Pharmaceuticals and medicinal preparations for the treatment and/or prevention of endocrinoses, including diabetes and their complications"
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Thein Aung B.Sc., R.L.D.B.L. Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpp@mptmail.net.mm
Tel: 376318 G.P.O. Box: 666
Yangon. 22 December 2011

**Centre for Human Resource Development
(Yangon University of Foreign Languages)
Invitation for Application to
Foreign Language Courses**

The Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) will open evening courses on Chinese, English, French, French (Translation and Interpretation), German, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Thai.
Commencement date of course : 2-1-2012
Commencement date for submission of applications : 27-12-2011

Closing date for applications : 30-12-2011
(For English language the day on which the targeted number of applicants is reached)
Application to be submitted to : Yangon University of Foreign Languages

Days on which classes held : Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Time : 5:20 - 7:00 p.m.
Documents required : Certificate of Matriculation (or) Marks Certificate (or) Degree Certificate (Both Original and copy are required)

Enquiry : Student's Affairs Section, YUFL
Phone : 514371 (Ext-202)

Application must be submitted in person.



French urban climber Alain Robert, also known as the French Spiderman, celebrates after scaling a hotel in Bucharest.

INTERNET

Boats gather around a sculpture of a mermaid at the 'Alster' lake in Hamburg.—INTERNET



Highway dumping of 25 dead ponies

SYDNEY, 21 Dec — Police in northern New South Wales are investigating the dumping of 25 dead ponies off a cliff near the New England Highway. A tip-off led officers to the bodies about 1:00pm on Saturday. The ponies had been dumped near a truck parking bay off the highway between Glen Innes and Armidale.

Police say there were no obvious signs of injury and no identifying marks to help locate an owner for the dead animals. Officers photographed the horses before they were buried at the site. They believe a small to medium-sized truck was used to dump the animals and have called for anyone with information to contact Glen Innes Police Station or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.—Internet

TRADEMARK CAUTION NOTICE
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Used in respect of:- Milk and milk products; meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; jellies, jams, compotes; eggs; edible oils and fats.
(International Class 29)
Sauces (condiments); coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, rice, tapioca, sago, artificial coffee; flour and preparations made from cereals, bread, pastry and confectionery, ices; honey; treacle; yeast; baking powder; salt, mustard; vinegar, spices; ice. (International Class 30)
Non-alcoholic drinks; fruit drinks and fruit juices; beers; mineral and aerated waters; syrups and other preparations for making beverages.
(International Class 32)
Any unauthorised use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.
Tin Ohnmar Tun
B.A(LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
P.O.Box 109, Ph: 0973 150632
(For: Domnern Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated: 22 December, 2011.

Stolen snowman races go-karts, visits bar

An Australian family said someone stole their snowman Christmas decoration and has been sending them pictures of it "having a great time" at various locales.

Sarah Murley said the decoration, which her family dubbed Francis Frostman, was taken from the veranda at her Eaglehawk home more than a week ago and the family has since received pictures of the small hanging snowman riding a motorbike, racing go-karts, tanning and hanging out at a local bar, *the Melbourne Herald Sun* reported Monday.

"Saturday night he went out dancing and did a piano duet with someone at the local pub," Murley said. "It sounds like he's having a great time, which is all very well, but the kids are missing him."

Murley said her family has made a video pleading with the captors, who she suspects to be family friends, to have



the snowman home for Christmas.

"He's been having a great time compared to being locked up in a box in our shed for 11 months a year," Murley said.

An Australian family said someone stole their snowman Christmas decoration and has been sending them pictures of it "having a great time" at various locales.

Police called to police Christmas party

British police said three patrol cars and police dogs were dispatched to a hotel on a report of a disturbance at a Christmas party for off-duty detectives. Cleveland police said a party-goer called police during the Thursday event at Staincliffe Hotel in Seaton Carew, England, and reported a member of the party was engaged in an altercation with a woman, *Metro.co.uk* reported Monday.

However, officers found no signs of violence and no one was arrested.

"Police were called but were unable to substantiate any complaint and there is no ongoing investigation," a police spokeswoman said. "We contacted the lady on the Friday and she did not wish to make any complaint."

Minn Salvation Army gets 6th \$1,000 gift

Salvation Army officials in Minneapolis said a sixth mystery donation of \$1,000 has been dropped into an area donation kettle this Christmas holiday season.

Annette Bauer, a spokeswoman for the charity, said the donation of 10 \$100 bills was dropped anonymously into a kettle in the northern part of the metropolitan area Saturday, following five similar donations at locations in the eastern suburbs, *the Minneapolis Star Tribune* reported Monday.

Bauer said the previous five donations involved fresh bills, while Saturday's involved circulated \$100 bills.

She said Saturday's donor may have been a "copy cat." "What a great adventure that would be — dozens of copycat grand givers," she said.

Teens broke in, cooked gizzards

Police in Florida arrested a pair of 14-year-old boys they say broke into a Chinese restaurant and cooked up some chicken gizzards.

Gainesville police Lt Jorge Campos said the boys allegedly broke into the China House restaurant in Gainesville Saturday night and apparently were unable to find anything worth stealing, *The Gainesville Sun* reported Monday.

"I guess they couldn't find any money so they decided to cook some food," Campos said.

The teenagers were arrested on burglary and petit theft charges. Campos said both suspects had been arrested on burglary and theft charges at least twice in recent months.



Giant pumpkins are put on display at an agricultural product expo in Beihai, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on 4 Dec, 2011. A total of eight giant pumpkins were shown at the expo, with the largest one weighing 692.5 kilogrammes. The seeds are astronaut seeds and were imported from a farm in California in the US. The largest recorded pumpkin in the world weighs more than 900 kilogrammes.

News Album

Amelia Warner says marriage to Farrell wasn't legal

LONDON, 21 Dec— Singer-cum songwriter Amelia Warner has insisted that her marriage to actor Colin Farrell on the beach was not legally binding.

The musician, who records under the pseudonym Slow Moving Millie, was reported to have married the Irishman in Tahiti in 2001 when



Singer and songwriter Amelia Warner

she was just 19, but the couple split several months later.

However the 29-year-old is now adamant that it wasn't a proper wedding.

"We didn't actually get married - it's not actually true. I think we've been too polite to deny it," *the Daily Express* quoted her as telling the Sun.

"We had a ceremony on a beach in Tahiti that was by no means legal and we knew it wasn't. It was just a thing we did on holiday. We went shark feeding and then we did that. We booked them both on the activities desk at the hotel.

"It really wasn't this secret wedding that no one was invited to. It was lovely, it was silly, it was sweet but by no means was it a serious thing and I think my mum thought it was quite funny," she said.

Internet

Angelina Jolie will cry if kids refuse to travel

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec— Angelina Jolie has admitted that she will break down in tears if one of her six children asks to be excused from the family's global travels.

The Hollywood actress and her partner Brad Pitt, who have three adopted kids and three biological tots, pride themselves on their nomadic lifestyle, settling for a few weeks at a time wherever their work takes them.

But Jolie knows eventually her children will want to live in one place and she can't bear the thought of leaving one behind.

"Right now they love it. If we're in the same place for two months they wanna know why we're not getting on an airplane," *Contactmusic*



Brad Pitt, left, and Angelina Jolie

quoted her as saying. "They really love to travel. Because they're such a big travelling pack, it's not one child moving around the world and missing friends, there's so many of them they have constant play dates and are always together.

"But I'm sure they're gonna say, 'Mum, let me stay home' and when that happens I'm gonna cry. I don't wanna settle, I love travelling, but we'll see." — *Internet*



Bradley Cooper

Bradley Cooper never expected 'The Hangover 2' to be so successful

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec— Bradley Cooper has revealed that he never expected 'The Hangover 2' to become highest grossing comedy of all time. The actor, who played the part of Phil in the first two instalments, admitted that he was shocked when director Todd Phillips informed him about the huge success of the film though he does prefer it to the first movie.

"Todd Phillips knew all the numbers and he was speculating that it would do well but we never thought it would become the highest grossing comedy of all time," *Contactmusic* quoted him as telling Irish TV show 'Xpose'. "I prefer the sequel definitely, I think it's much better than the first one," he added. — *Internet*

Paul McCartney to release new CD

LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec— British recording star Paul McCartney says he plans to release an as-yet-untitled album in February on Hear Music/Concord Records. *Billboard.com* said the CD, due out 7 Feb, will be comprised of reinterpretations of songs that shaped McCartney's career.

"When I kind of got into songwriting, I realized how well structured these songs were and I think I took a lot of my lessons from them," McCartney, 68, said in a statement Tuesday. "I always thought artists like Fred Astaire were very cool. Writers like Harold Arlen, Cole Porter, all of those guys — I just thought the songs were magical. And then, as I got to be a songwriter I thought it's beautiful, the way they made those songs." The album will also contain the new tracks, "My Valentine," featuring Eric Clapton, and "Only Our Hearts," which reunites McCartney with his "Ebony & Ivory" collaborator, Stevie Wonder, *Billboard.com* said. — *Internet*



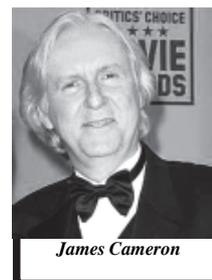
Musician Paul McCartney and his American fiancée Nancy Shevell arrive for their wedding at Marylebone register office in London on Sunday October 09 2011. It was Paul McCartney's third wedding and at the same venue as his first wife Linda.

Another science fiction writer sues James Cameron for 2.5 billion dollars over 'Avatar' idea

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec— James Cameron has been sued again for allegedly stealing the concept of 'Avatar', and this time for more than 2 billion dollars.

Bryant Moore, a science fiction writer not-famous for his screenplays 'Aquatica' and 'Descendants: The Pollination' claims Cameron used the two screenplays as the basis for 'Avatar'.

In his lawsuit, Moore points out various similarities, including bioluminescent flora/plant life, unbreathable



James Cameron

environment and reincarnation, appearance of mist in scene, sunlight to moonlight, crackling from gargantuan foliage, blue skin/green skin and battle scene on limbs/branches.

Moore is also going after 20th Century Fox and Cameron's production company, *TMZ.com* reported.

He wants more than 1.5 billion dollars in actual damages and more than 1 billion dollars in punitive.

Internet

Wolves equalizes twice to draw 2-2 with Norwich

WOLVERHAMPTON, 21 Dec—Wolverhampton Wanderers equalized twice Tuesday to salvage a 2-2 Premier League draw with visiting Norwich at Molineux.

Former Wolves midfielder Andrew Surman put Norwich ahead in the 12th minute only for Sylvan Ebanks-Blake, who



Norwich City's Steve Morison (left) and Wolverhampton Wanderers' Christophe Berra battle for the ball during their English Premier League match at the Molineux, Wolverhampton, on 20 Dec.—INTERNET

replaced the axed Kevin Doyle, to level before halftime. Substitute Simon Jackson restored Norwich's lead with his first touch but Ronald Zubar's first goal of the campaign with eight minutes left rescued Wolves.

The result lifted Wolves one spot to 16th place in the standings, two points above the relegation zone.

Wolves made an encouraging start when Ebanks-Blake's effort from a free kick by Stephen Hunt was blocked by Zak Whitbread. But Surman drew a save from goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey, who also pushed away a shot from Steve Morison, and Norwich soon took the lead through Surman's first Premier League goal. Wes Hoolahan burst down the left flank before crossing for the unmarked Surman to head past Hennessey.

Hunt missed a great chance to equalize after 26 minutes but Ebanks-Blake managed to do so with a rebound shot that just trickled over the line.—Internet

Wambach handily wins Female Athlete of the Year

NEW YORK, 21 Dec—With the final seconds ticking down and the Americans on the verge of their earliest exit ever from the Women's World Cup, Abby Wambach kept waving her index finger at her teammates. One chance, she screamed, all they needed was one chance.

When it came in the form of a left-footed cross from Megan Rapinoe, Wambach pounced. With one vicious whip of her head, she changed the course of this year's World Cup and sparked a nationwide frenzy rarely seen for women's sports.

Wambach's clutch performance at this summer's World Cup made her the clear choice for the 2011 Female Athlete of the Year, selected by members of The Associated Press. The US forward received 65 of the 214 votes cast, while teammate Hope Solo (38) was a distant second and UConn basketball star Maya Moore (35) was third.

Wambach is the first individual soccer



In this July 17, 2011, file photo, United States' Abby Wambach, right, controls the ball in front of Japan's Saki Kumagai, left, during the final match at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany.—INTERNET

player—man or woman—to win one of the AP's annual sports awards, which began in 1931. The US women's team won in 1999, when their World Cup triumph at the Rose Bowl transfixed the nation.—Internet

Djokovic, new king of tennis in 2011

BEIJING, 21 Dec—With three Grand Slam and five Masters titles, the world number one ranking, a 70-6 win-loss record and a record prize money haul of 12.6 million US dollars, Serb Novak Djokovic was arguably the king of tennis in 2011.

He has been unbeaten in 43 matches in the first half of the season, dating back to the Davis Cup final in December 2010, until that run ended against 16-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer in the French Open semifinals.

The streak brought him the second Australian Open title and all the season's opening four Masters at Indian Wells, Miami, Madrid and Rome, defeating Rafael Nadal in the finals of all of

them. The loss to Federer at the French Open did not dent Djokovic's self-belief and after taking a brief break, he went back on the winning track.

The Serb defeated Nadal to win Wimbledon and ended the Roger-Rafa duopoly at the All England Club in the past eight years. In the process Djokovic also took the Spaniard's world number one spot. In the US Open final, Djokovic destroyed Nadal again after he had rallied past Federer from two sets, and two match points down, in a breathtaking semifinal.—Internet



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after defeating Rafael Nadal of Spain in the men's final of the US Open tennis tournament in New York, 12 Sept, 2011.—INTERNET

Word of Beckham deal with PSG 'premature'

LONDON, 21 Dec—David Beckham's management company says reports the former England captain has agreed a deal to join Paris Saint-Germain are "premature."

The 36-year-old former England captain has been in talks with the French capital club, but could still accept an offer to stay at the Los Angeles Galaxy where his five-year deal ended after winning his first MLS Cup last month.

"No agreement has been reached with any club yet—talks of a deal are premature," Beckham's management company, XIX Entertainment, said in a statement to The Associated Press. "David has yet to make a final decision on his future."

Internet

Officials: Mayweather to take deal, clear cases



Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr.

LAS VEGAS, 21 Dec—Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. plans to plead guilty to reduced misdemeanor charges in a plea deal resolving felony allegations that he battered his ex-girlfriend, court officials said Tuesday.

Mayweather, 34, will face \$3,000 in fines and could be sentenced to between two days and 18 months in the Clark County jail after pleading Wednesday to one count of battery domestic violence and two harassment charges, said Tess Driver, an aide to Clark County District Attorney David Roger.

The Las Vegas Review-

Journal first reported the plea deal Tuesday.

It also includes an agreement for Mayweather to plead no contest next week to misdemeanor battery and pay a \$1,000 fine for poking a 21-year-old homeowner association security guard in the face during a November 2010 argument about parking tickets on vehicles outside the boxer's home in an exclusive, suburban Las Vegas community. Roger and Mayweather's lawyers did not immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press.

Mayweather had been facing an evidence hearing Wednesday and a decision by Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Melissa Saragosa whether to send him to trial on felony grand larceny, coercion and robbery charges, and misdemeanor domestic battery and harassment counts involving ex-girlfriend Josie Harris. He could have faced 34 years in state prison if he was convicted of all those charges.—Internet

Suarez banned 8 matches for racially abusing Evra

LONDON, 21 Dec—Liverpool striker Luis Suarez's troubled disciplinary history hit a new low Tuesday when he was given an eight-match ban for racially abusing Manchester United defender Patrice Evra during a Premier League match.

The English Football Association punishment, which included a fine of 40,000 pound (\$62,000), came less than a year after Suarez left

Ajax while serving a seven-match ban in the Netherlands for biting an opponent.

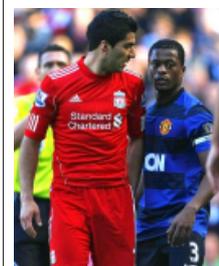
"Today is a very difficult and painful day for both me and my family," the 24-year-old Suarez said on his Twitter account. "Thanks for all the support, I'll keep working!"

The striker branded the "Cannibal of Ajax" by one Dutch newspaper had started to put past misdemeanors—including a contentious handball at the 2010 World Cup—behind him with fine displays on the pitch since arriving at Liverpool in January for around \$35 million.

Now his reputation has been further stained by the FA's panel, which accepted Evra's allegation that Suarez had directed a racial insult at him during United's 1-1 draw at Liverpool on 15 Oct.

"The insulting words used by Mr. Suarez included a reference to Mr. Evra's color," the FA said in a statement.

The FA also warned Suarez about his future conduct.—Internet



In this 15 Oct, 2011 file photo, Manchester United's Patrice Evra argues with Liverpool's Luis Suarez, left, during their English Premier League soccer match at Anfield, Liverpool, England.—INTERNET

International Sports

Bayern squeezes into German Cup quarterfinals

FRANKFURT, 21 Dec—Arjen Robben scored an injury-time winner Tuesday to give Bayern Munich a 2-1 victory at second-division Bochum and a place in the quarterfinals of the German Cup. Borussia Dortmund, last season's Bundesliga champion, played through extra time with 10 men without conceding and then won a penalty shootout 5-4 to prevail at second-division leader Fortuna Duesseledorf.

Ivan Perisic converted the decisive penalty after Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller had stopped Thomas Broeker's shot. Weidenfeller had kept Dortmund in the match after defender Patrick Owomoyela was sent off in the 34th minute with his second yellow card. Bayern trailed 1-0 at halftime after a goal by Giovanni Federico in the 26th minute but the Bundesliga leader



Bayern's scorer Toni Kroos, left, is celebrated after scoring beside Bochum's Slawo Freier, right, during the German Soccer Cup match in Bochum, Germany on 20 Dec.—INTERNET

stepped up the pressure after the break and replied through Toni Kroos in the 52nd.

Internet

Bolton heap more pressure on Blackburn's Kean

LONDON, 21 Dec—Steve Kean's tenure as Blackburn Rovers manager was left hanging by a thread after his team slumped to the bottom of the Premier League following a 2-1 home defeat by neighbours and fellow strugglers Bolton Wanderers on Tuesday.

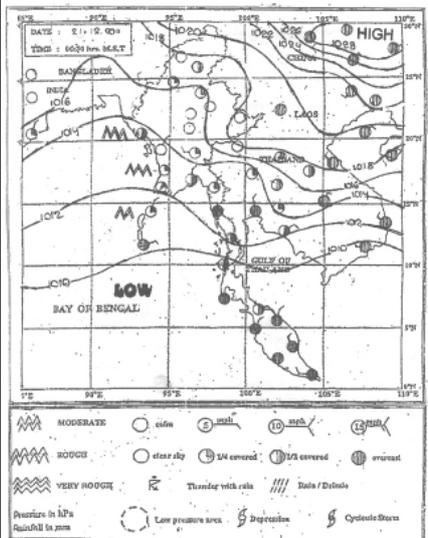
Blackburn went behind after just five minutes when Mark Davies found space to fire home and Nigel Reo-Coker made it 2-0 for the visitors on the half-hour after more sloppy defending. Amid chants of "Kean out" from the disgruntled home fans Blackburn responded

with a Yakubu Aiyegbeni goal after 67 minutes but they could not find the equaliser and now prop up the table on 10 points from 17 matches, two behind Bolton.

In Tuesday's other game, lowly Wolverhampton Wanderers salvaged a point against promoted Norwich City in a 2-2 draw thanks to a late header from Ronald Zubar at Molineux.

The result left Norwich ninth with 21 points from 17 games, while Wolves crept up one place to 16th with 15 points, two clear of Wigan Athletic in the relegation zone.—Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER Wednesday, 21st December, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (4°C) above December average temperature in Southern Shan State, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Regions and (5°C) below December average temperature in Kachin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C), Pinlaung (3°C) and Heho (4°C).

Bay inference: Weather is Partly cloudy in the Andaman sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 22nd December 2011: Weather will be generally fair in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions, Kayah State and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

State of the sea: Slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-12-2011: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-12-2011: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-12-2011: Generally fair weather.

Rare bird seen on mountains in China

BEIJING, 21 Dec—Chinese and European researchers say they've discovered the breeding ground of an extremely rare bird in the mountains of north-central China.

Fourteen male Blackthroat Luscinia were observed in the Qinling mountains in Shaanxi province, which almost equals the total number of individuals of this species seen since its discovery in the late 19th century, a release from the Swedish Research Council reported Monday.

Nearly all of the birds were on mountain slopes above 7,800 feet in large, dense expanses of bamboo, researchers said.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, about 10 Blackthroats were collected in Gansu and Shaanxi provinces, but since

then there have been only a handful of mostly unconfirmed records from Sichuan and Yunnan provinces, they said.

The Blackthroat resembles a European robin in size and general appearance but with a jet black throat and breast in the male.

The female is thought to have a pale brownish throat and breast, although no females definitely attributable to this species have been observed, researchers said.

Internet

This is an adult male Black-throat Luscinia obscura, Foping National Nature Reserve, Shaanxi, China, June 2011.

INTERNET

Chinese-style red lanterns are laid out to adorn the Yishang Street, a historic commercial area, in Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 21 Dec, 2011, a month before the 2012 Chinese Spring Festival.—INTERNET



Chinese-style red lanterns are laid out to adorn the Yishang Street, a historic commercial area, in Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 21 Dec, 2011, a month before the 2012 Chinese Spring Festival.—INTERNET

INTERNET

President U Thein Sein receives Vietnamese delegation led by Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Residence here this morning.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, Myanmar Charge d' affaires at of Myanmar Embassy in Vietnam Daw Hmwe Hmwe Khaing and departmental heads. The Vietnamese delegation was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung and officials.

(See page 9)



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives a delegation led by Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung at Credentials Hall of President Residence.—MNA

President U Thein Sein, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung hold talks



President U Thein Sein holds a discussion with a delegation led by Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung at Credentials Hall of President Residence.—MNA

estry, trade and investment and mutually beneficially cooperation in communication, transportation, tourism and so on.

Afterwards, the Myanmar President and the Vietnamese PM attended the MoU signing ceremony. Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Vietnamese Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Mr Cao Duc Phat signed MoU on cooperation in agriculture and rural development between the two ministries and exchanged the documents.

Managing Director of Myanmar Agriculture Service under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation U Kyaw Win and Director of Investment and (See page 8)

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung held talks at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Residence here this morning.

Present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Home

Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, and depart-

mental heads.

The Vietnamese Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister of the Government Office Mr Vu Duc Dam, Planning and Investment Minister Mr Bui Quang Vinh, Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Mr Cao Duc Phat, Construction Minister Mr Trinh Dinh Dung, deputy ministers, high-ranking officials, Vietnamese Ambassa-

dorto Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung and personnel of the Vietnamese Embassy.

The two sides had a frank discussion about importance of Greater Mekong Sub-region Initiatives between the two countries, promotion of economic cooperation between the GMS countries, strengthening bilateral relations and development of agriculture, livestock, for-

Significant night temperature (21-12-2011)

Haka	(2° C)
Pinlaung	(3° C)
Heho	(4° C)