

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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13th Waning of Nadaw 1373 ME

Friday, 23 December, 2011

Our Three Main National Causes	* Non-disintegration of the Union	* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity	* Perpetuation of Sovereignty
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President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Japanese Emperor

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2011, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan.

MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Japanese PM

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2011, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Yoshihiko Noda, Prime Minister of Japan.

MNA

President sends message of condolences to President of Philippine counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of condolences to His Excellency Benigno Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines, for the lost of lives and devastation caused by the recent flash-floods in Mindanao Island, the Philippines, on 18 December 2011.— MNA

Notification No.57/2011 issued

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—The Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Notification No.57/2011 dated 21 December. The translation of the notification is as follows:

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Government
Notification No.57/2011
Nay Pyi Taw, 11th Waning of Nadaw 1373 ME
(21 December 2011)**

1. The Union Government has exempted Myanmar citizens living abroad from paying their income tax in foreign currency out of their total income earned under the title of the salary of foreign currency according to Income Tax Law Section 5 Sub-section (b).
2. This notification is effective as of 1 January 2012.

By order,
(Tin Myo Kyi)
Secretary
Union Government

Union Minister meets beef cattle/ milch cow breeders, milk product businessmen and meat and fish exporters and importers

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint met milch cow and beef cattle breeders, milk products businessmen and meat and fish importers and exporters at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries here this afternoon.

The Union Minister, speaking on the occasion, said in comparison with neighbouring countries, Myanmar levied much less tax on importation of milk and dairy products and thus the prices of domestic dairy products were much lower than production cost; that as the foreign demand of cattle was high, that the animals were traded illegally; there were also difficulties in domestic consumption, meat production and transportation; that slaughter license system to some extent hindered the development of meat production; that Livestock and Veterinary Department would provide semen of milch cows and beef cattle for free if necessary. He called for discussions and suggestions for emergence of international-standard slaughters, and meat-processing factories in regions and states and recycling of residues as value-added products.

Next, milch cow and beef cattle breeders, milk product businessmen and meat producers explained potentials for



Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint giving a speech to milch cow and beef cattle breeders, milk product businessmen and meat and fish importers and exporters .—MNA

expansion of works, difficulties in importing slaughtering equipment, difficulties in exporting sheep, goat and cows alive, difficulties domestic milch cow breeders are facing due to decline in milk price, effects of imported condensed milk powder and other dairy products on domestic milk industry and assistance of the government.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries

U Khin Maung Aye, departmental heads of the ministry, dairy cow and beef cow breeders and meat and fish importers and exporters.

The Union Minister then visited Union Dairy Cow Farm and Condensed Milk Factory in Shwemyo Livestock Zone in Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw and left necessary instructions there.

(See page 9)

**Significant night temperature
(22-12-2011)**

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 23 December, 2011

Teachers, our brains behind growth

Education is basic to human resources development. An individual, a society or a country has to rely on it to move towards modernity.

Some tiny spots on world map survive on their technical advantages and powerful human resources. These countries portray powers on the world stage as they are built on strong industries with superior workforces.

Blessed with favourable climate, setting foot on fertile soil, and rich in natural resources above and under ground, Myanmar is still far away from prosperity. The only reason undoubtedly is its failure to count these great blessings with the educated brains, rather than the hands.

Political and economic strengths are a must in development of a nation while the strength of national defence serves as its fence. Highly-qualified and well-educated human resources are the ones who will help pick up these strengths.

Education for All campaign starts from primary education. Basic education schools are being furnished with teaching aids. Capacity and vocational enhancement of education staff is hoped to be translated into reality.

They are HRD architects with the duty to produce formal or non-formal education in shape. They are also gardeners who have to sow the seeds of physical, mental, moral, aesthetic and vocational strengths in hearts of their pupils.

Teachers, shaping exemplary characters, are to share a duty to nurture new and brighter generations to help develop our beloved country.

Rakhine State Chief Minister attends library opening ceremonies

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin addressed opening ceremonies of Pyinnya Kyaw Library (1) and (2) in Gonchoin village and Seditaung ward of Kyaukpyu Township yesterday.

An official accepted donations of Myanmar Library Foundation to the libraries presented by the assistant director of the State Information and Public Relations Department.

Officials formally opened the libraries and the chief minister and guests looked round it.

He then met matriculation students and teachers at Nos (1) and (2) Basic Education High School in Kyaukpyu.—MNA

District News

Monsoon paddy harvested on model plot

TAMU, 22 Dec—With the supervision of the Sagaing Region level officials, a model plot of Hmawby-2 monsoon paddy of farmer U Pa Phe was held in Manmaw field in Indaing Village-tract in Tamu Township on 1 December.

The model plot produced 85.93 baskets of paddy per acre.

Township MAS

Union FM felicitates Japanese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2011, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Koichiro Gamba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.—MNA

Yangon International Trade Exhibition 2011 opens

YANGON, 22 Dec—Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe attended opening ceremony of Yangon International Trade Exhibition 2011 (Including Automobile Show 2011), at Tatmadaw Convention Hall, Dagon Township, here this morning.

Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint,



Director U Kyaw Kyaw of IEMS Company Ltd and Managing Director U Myo

Ko Ko of Shine Group of Companies opened the ceremony.

The Chief Minister and guests visited booths on show. A total of 125 booths showcase computers and related materials, electronic and electrical equipment, cosmetics and personal uses, clothing and fashion wares, cleaning and kitchen utensils, foodstuffs, modern furniture and home decoration materials. As a special programme, auto mobile agent companies, import companies and hosing show room will also participate in the exhibition which lasts four days starting today.—MNA



Course for bus line account clerks in Mon State concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—Mon State All Bus Lines Supervisory Committee and JF Group conducted an on-job refresher training for clerks in Mon State. Committee Secretary U Maung Chit delivered an address at concluding ceremony of the course held in Mawlamyine this morning. (Pictured)

The secretary awarded outstanding trainees and officials presented completion certificates.—MNA



Teak plantations inspected

NAMTU, 22 Dec—Head of Namtu Township Forest Department U Kyaw Hsan Moe and party inspected thriving hardwood plants on 25 acres of land in Panhaik forest reserve on 13 December morning.

On 14 December, they looked into the block for establishment of teak seed production plantation on 16 acres of land on the bank of Namtu River. Officials then met local farmers who will reclaim the land for 50 acres temporary nursery for commercial teak plantation in block-12 of the forest reserve.

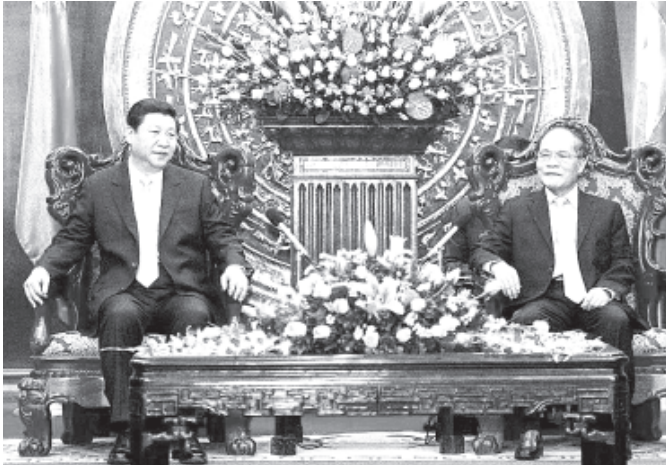
Township FD

Environmental conservation coordinated

Kengtung, 17 Dec—To be able to ensure rural development and poverty alleviation, Shan State (East) Environmental Conservation Group held a coordination meeting at the office of Additional Head of Shan State (East) Forest Department in Kengtung on 30 November.

Deputy Director U Tun Myint of Forest Department discussed matters related to environmental conservation.

District IPRD



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping (L) meets with Nguyen Sinh Hung, chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam, in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 21 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Eight US soldiers charged over death of fellow trooper

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—Eight US soldiers deployed in Afghanistan have been charged in connection with the death of a fellow Chinese-American soldier in October, officials said.

Danny Chen, a 19-year-old infantryman assigned to Company C, 3rd Battalion of the 25th Infantry Division, died 3 Oct. His body was found in a guard tower in southern Afghanistan with “an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound” in his head. *Xinhua* quoted the report by the American Forces Press Service as saying.

The US Army has charged eight of Chen’s fellow soldiers in connection with his death. They are 1st Lt Daniel J Schwartz, Staff Sgt Blaine G. Dugas, Staff Sgt Andrew J Van Bockel, Sgt Adam M. Holcomb, Sgt Jeffrey T Hurst, Spc Thomas P Curtis, Spc. Ryan J Offutt, and Sgt Travis F Carden.

The charges include dereliction of duty, maltreatment, involuntary manslaughter, assault consummated by battery, and reckless endangerment.

All of the accused were assigned to Company C, and posted to Combat Outpost Palace in southern Afghanistan, US military officials said.

No further information was disclosed in the report. The death of Chen, from Chinatown of New York, urged the US military to launch a thorough investigation

A US military official revealed to Chen’s family that he had been subjected to physical abuse and ethnic slurs by his superiors, who allegedly dragged him out of bed one night and across the floor when he failed to turn off a water heater after showering, says a report published in the *New York Times* in October.

Xinhua

Iran nuclear issue can only be solved via dialogue, negotiations: Chinese diplomat

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Dec—Wang Min, China’s deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, said here Wednesday that the Iran nuclear issue can only be resolved through dialogue and negotiations.

“At present, the situation is undergoing profound changes in the Middle East region. Against such background, it is of greater and more realistic significance for all parties to seek for a proper settlement of the Iran nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiations, maintain peace and stability of the Middle East and avoid further turbulence in the region,” Wang told a Security Council meeting about the council’s sanctions committee on resolution 1737, which was adopted in 2006.

The 1737 committee is tasked with monitoring a set of sanctions against Iran established by resolution 1737 and subsequent council resolutions. China believes that all parties concerned have obligations to earnestly and accurately implement resolutions of the Security Council. However, sanctions are not the ultimate objectives of the resolutions, he noted.

Wang said that the governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has recently adopted a new resolution on Iran nuclear issue, aimed at promoting

cooperation between the agency and Iran, as well as supporting the efforts made by the six countries including the United States, China and Russia to solve the Iran nuclear issue through dialogue. “We hope that all parties should seize this opportunity, act in the spirit of being responsible for peace and stability of the Middle East and international nuclear non-proliferation regime to further enhance diplomatic efforts and push for substantial progress from cooperation between Iran and the IAEA,” he said. “This is the common aspiration of the international community, and comply with the fundamental interests of all sides.”

Iran, as a state party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), is entitled to the right of peaceful use of nuclear energy and should fulfill its international obligations. China hopes that Iran could properly solve the outstanding issues through dialogue and cooperation with the IAEA, thus enhance the confidence of the international community in the peaceful nature of its nuclear program.

“China believes that as long as all parties have strategic vision, actively adopt measures in a flexible and programmatic manner, mobilize positive factors can progress be made in dialogue and negotiations,” Wang said.

Xinhua



An Afghan man looks at the wreckage of a police vehicle hit by a bomb blast in Alishing district of Laghman Province recently. At least one policeman was killed and three others wounded in the blast, a police officer said.

INTERNET

Mexican man says he dissolved 300 bodies

TIJUANA (Mexico), 22 Dec—A man known as the “stew maker” dissolved the bodies of about 300 people in acid for Mexican drug cartels, his recently leaked confession reveals.

Santiago Meza, 45, was arrested in January 2009 and is awaiting sentencing in Nayarit for taking part in organized crime, covering up crime and illegal possession of firearms. In a confession recorded shortly after his arrest, he told the Mexican Attorney General’s Office he served the Arellano Felix cartel and later the Sinaloa cartel, SanDiegoRed.com reported Wednesday.

A copy of Meza’s confession was anonymously leaked to a man who believes his son was one of the victims, the news Web site said.

Meza told investigators he disposed of bodies at five sites in the greater Tijuana region. Authorities found bone fragments, teeth and personal effects at two of the sites, the Web site said, though the veracity of Meza’s confession remains uncertain.

Meza, called “el pozolero,” for the Spanish word for “stew,” said he never saw the faces of any of the bodies he handled. “I don’t know who they were or what they did,” he said in his confession. “I remember that of all the bodies that I got to ‘pozolear,’ there were only three women. And I never got anyone in uniform.”—*Internet*



Italian tanker seized by Somali pirates freed

ROME, 22 Dec —An Italian oil tanker with five crew members seized by Somali pirates in February has been freed, *Xinhua* reported Wednesday. The crew of the vessel *Savina Caylyn* was also released, the *Ansa* news agency said.

The tanker, owned by the Fratelli D’Amato company, was seized by pirates some 1,400 km off the Somali coast on 8 Feb. Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti Wednesday expressed satisfaction with the release of the crew and the ship.—*Xinhua*

Alleged drug dealers are presented to media in Tijuana, Mexico, on 21 Dec, 2011. Seven suspects were arrested during a raid where 39 kilos of marijuana, 2 guns and 34,000 US dollars were seized in a house of Tijuana.—XINHUA

Bombings kill at least 63 in Baghdad



People gather at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 Dec, 2011. A wave of bombings ripped across Baghdad on Thursday morning killing and wounding hundreds of people, Iraqi officials said, in the worst violence Iraq has seen for months. The bloodbath comes just days after American forces left the country.—INTERNET

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec—A series of bombings in Baghdad on Thursday morning left at least 63 people dead and 185 others injured. Local police say that a car bomb exploded in front of a building that houses government offices. 23 people were killed and 40 wounded. The police say there were at least 14 other explosions in Baghdad over the course of about one hour. They described them as coordinated attacks. Iraqi military and police have been on heightened alert against terrorist attacks since US troops pulled out of the country on December 18th after 9 years of deployment. Concerns are growing that sectarian confrontations could intensify after the judicial authorities leveled terrorist charges at the country’s Sunni vice president, a political rival of Shia Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.—*NHK*

France to unveil breast implant removal decision Friday



Plastic surgeon Denis Boucq holds a defective silicone gel breast implant manufactured by French company Poly Implant Prothese (PIP) after he removed it from a patient in a clinic in Nice on 21 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

BEIJING, 22 Dec—French health authorities are to formally announce on Friday whether women with implants of Poly Implant Prothese (PIP) must have them removed, media reported on Thursday.

More than 1,000 of the 30,000 such implants in France have burst, according to the French health safety agency AFSSAPS.

Eight cases of cancer, mainly breast cancer, had so far been reported in patients with PIP implants, and a ninth patient in Gers died of cancer last year, according to France's Director General for Health, Jean-Yves Grall.

The French government has formed a special committee to look at the issue.

More than 300,000 implants are believed to have been sold globally by PIP over the last 12 years. British health authorities said they see no reason so far to have the French-made implants systematically removed.

There is not enough evidence of a link between silicone implants and cancer, they said, more generally that "women with any type of breast implant... who have questions about their breasts or think that their implants may have ruptured, should seek clinical advice from their implanting surgeon."

Xinhua

East China university reports 13 tuberculosis cases

NANJING, 22 Dec—A university in the eastern province of Jiangsu has reported 13 tuberculosis cases among its students, local authorities said on Thursday.

From 2 to 19 Dec, 13 students in the eastern campus of Jiangsu University of Science and Technology, based in the city of Zhenjiang, were confirmed to have been infected with tuberculosis, said Lin Feng, head of the city's health bureau.

Health and disease control departments of the city have made quarantine and preventive measures to cut its spread, Lin said.

According to Lin, tuberculosis, a common kind of respiratory infectious disease, is easily caught in fall and winter, especially in schools and universities where many people gather. Wu Honghui, an official on disease control with the Health Department of Jiangsu, said more cases, but not a large number, may be reported, and treatment for the disease may take six to nine months.—Xinhua

Health

Brain size may predict risk for early Alzheimer's disease

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—New research suggests that, in people who don't currently have memory problems, those with smaller regions of the brain's cortex may be more likely to develop symptoms consistent with very early Alzheimer's disease.

The study was published Wednesday in the online issue of Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. For the study, researchers used brain scans to measure the thickness of regions of the brain's cortex in 159 people free of dementia with an average age of 76. The brain regions were chosen based on prior studies showing that they shrink in patients with Alzheimer's dementia.

Of the 159 people, 19 were classified as at high risk for having early Alzheimer's disease due to smaller size of particular regions known to be vulnerable to Alzheimer's in the brain's cortex, 116 were classified as average risk and 24 as low risk. At the

beginning of the study, participants were also given tests that measured memory, problem solving and ability to plan and pay attention. The tests will go on over the next three years.

The study found that 21 percent of those at high risk experienced cognitive decline during three years of follow-up after the MRI scan, compared to seven percent of those at average risk and none of those at low risk. "Further

research is needed on how using MRI scans to measure the size of different brain regions in combination with other tests may help identify people at the greatest risk of developing early Alzheimer's as early as possible," said study author Bradford Dickerson, of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and a member of the American Academy of Neurology.

Xinhua



New research suggests that, in people who don't currently have memory problems, those with smaller regions of the brain's cortex may be more likely to develop symptoms consistent with very early Alzheimer's disease.—XINHUA

Fitch again warns US debt burden threatens AAA rating

NEW YORK, 22 Dec—Fitch Ratings on Wednesday warned again that the United States' rising debt burden was not consistent with maintaining the country's top AAA credit rating, but said there would likely be no decision on whether to cut the rating before 2013.

Last month, Fitch changed its US credit rating outlook to negative from stable, citing the failure of a special congressional committee to agree on at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit-

reduction measures.

"Federal debt will rise in the absence of expenditure and tax reforms that would address the challenges of rising health and social security spending as the population ages," Fitch said in a statement.

"The high and rising federal and general government debt burden is not consistent with the US retaining its 'AAA' status despite its other fundamental sovereign credit strengths," the ratings agency said.

In a new fiscal projection, Fitch said at least



The Fitch Ratings building is seen in New York on 7 May, 2010. REUTERS

\$3.5 trillion of additional deficit reduction measures will be required to stabilize the federal debt held by the

public at around 90 percent of gross domestic product in the latter half of the current decade.—Reuters

Asian shares, euro ease as bank funding doubts persist



A man looks at a stock quotation board outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 12 Dec, 2011.—REUTERS

TOKYO, 22 Dec—Asian shares fell and the euro struggled on Thursday as doubts remained over how much of the funds that banks raised from an inaugural

long-term European Central Bank tender will actually flow into struggling euro zone economies and help restore confidence.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan <MIAPJ0000PUS> fell 0.7 percent, after climbing to a one-week high on Wednesday, while Tokyo's Nikkei stock average <N225> ended down 0.8 percent.

Despite the drop, Japanese equities have been least affected by the volatility stemming from the euro zone debt woes, with daily swings in the benchmark exceeding 2.5 percent for only 16 trading sessions this year, compared with 88 such days for the Euro STOXX 50 <STOXX50E> and 41 for the S&P 500 <SPX>. The euro was virtually unchanged around \$1.3043, with traders seeing major support around \$1.3000, the December 14 low, above 2011's trough of \$1.2860. The euro reached a one-week high near \$1.32 on Wednesday.—Reuters

Business

Toyota set to shake off woes with record sales in 2012

TOKYO, 22 Dec—Toyota Motor Corp forecast a 20 percent jump in global sales to a record 8.48 million vehicles next year as it claws back from this year's output losses caused by natural disasters in Japan and Thailand.

Toyota overtook General Motors Co as the world's top-selling automaker in 2008, but is set to lose that crown this year as supply-chain disruptions from the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and deadly floods in Thailand cut production around the world.

With estimated sales in 2011 of 7.90 million vehicles for the group, which includes units Daihatsu Motor Co and Hino Motors Ltd, Toyota will likely rank third behind General Motors and Volkswagen AG.



A visitor is reflected on a Toyota vehicle at the company's showroom in Tokyo on 17 June, 2011. REUTERS

The top spot could return to Toyota next year as it builds inventory to meet pent-up demand and adds output capacity in China and Brazil. GM and VW have not disclosed their sales plans for 2012 and Toyota did not provide forecasts for the group. "The reason they lost sales this year was because they couldn't build the cars. Now that they can, it's possible they'll take back the top spot," said Satoru Takada, analyst at Tokyo-based TIW.

"But it depends on which markets the growth will come from," he said, noting that Toyota was dominant in Southeast Asia and the Middle East, but it faces tougher competition in markets like China and South America.

Toyota's parent-only plan for 2012 exceeds the peak of 8.43 million vehicles marked in 2007.—Reuters

Science

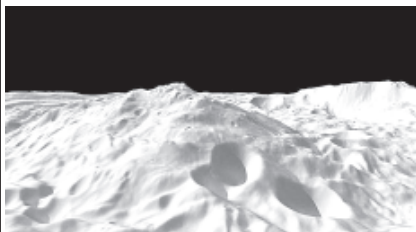
NASA's Dawn spacecraft sends asteroid images back

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—NASA's Dawn spacecraft has sent around 10,000 pictures of the giant asteroid Vesta back to Earth for the first time since its launch in 2007, the US space agency announced Wednesday.

The images were taken from an average altitude of 209 km, the closest the spacecraft can get. From the images, scientists could see Vesta's stippled and lumpy surface in great detail, and its many small craters, grooves, and lineaments. The fine scale of the images highlights small outcrops of bright and dark material.

With these new discoveries, scientists believe that studying Vesta can help decode the early history of the solar system. Dawn will maintain its low-altitude orbit for another 10 weeks before moving to a higher orbit for another round of photo-taking. Launched in 2007, the 446 million US dollar project aims at studying the chemical composition of Vesta's surface and probing its interior structure. Dawn will leave Vesta in July next year and arrive at the dwarf planet Ceres in February 2015.

Xinhua



An image provided by NASA show a Dawn spacecraft view of a mountain three times as high as Mt. Everest, amidst the topography in the south polar region of the giant asteroid Vesta.—INTERNET

India defers test firing of nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile

NEW DELHI, 22 Dec—India Wednesday deferred test firing of two of its indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missiles because of technical snag, defence sources said.

"The missiles were to be test fired from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur near Balasore district in the eastern state of Orissa. But, the test firing has been postponed due to a technical snag," the sources said. The next date will be decided after addressing the technical problem of the missile to be inducted into the Indian Army, they added. Prithvi-II, first indigenously developed strategic missile by the Defence Research and Development Organization, was inducted into the armed forces. It was flight tested a number of times as part of regular user trials.

The single-stage, liquid-propelled missile is equipped with an advanced inertial navigation, control and guidance system and can carry a payload of 500 to 1,000 kg to a distance of 350 km. The last trial of Prithvi-II missile was successfully carried out in September this year.

Xinhua



Indigenously developed nuclear-capable ballistic missile Prithvi-II takes off during its successful launch from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur. INTERNET

Steve Jobs honoured with Grammy award

LOS ANGELES, 22 Dec—The late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs will be honoured posthumously with a Grammy award for his contributions to music technology. The Recording Academy announced on Wednesday.

Jobs, who passed away 5 Oct of pancreatic cancer, will receive a Trustees Award for helping create products "that transformed the way we consume music, TV, movies and books," the academy said in a prepared statement.

The Apple Computer Inc first received a Technical Grammy Award in 2002, for contributions of outstanding technical significance to the recording field, the academy said.

Along with Jobs, bandleader and composer Dave Bartholomew, recording engineer Rudy Van Gelder will also receive the award.

The academy also picked the Allman Brothers, Glen Campbell, Diana Ross and Brazilian pianist/singer/guitarist Antonio Carlos Jobim as recipients of Lifetime Achievement Awards. Jobim was known for composing "The Girl from Ipanema," a worldwide hit in the mid-1960s which won a Grammy for Record of the Year in 1965.

Other artists, including trumpeter Wayne Jackson, saxophonist Andrew Love of the Memphis Horns, country legend George Jones, and the late Gil Scott-Heron were also named as recipients. German sound-technology firm Celemony and the late audio engineer Roger Nichols, who worked with artists including Ross, Placido Domingo, James Taylor and Stevie Wonder, were recognized with

Tech



The late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs.—INTERNET

Grammy Technical Awards.

"This year's honorees offer a variety of brilliance, contributions and lasting impressions on our culture," said President/CEO of The Recording Academy Neil Portnow. "It is an honour to recognize such a diverse group of individuals whose talents and achievements have had an indelible impact on our industry."

The honorees will be formally acknowledged during the 54th Annual Grammy Awards telecast at Staples Centre in downtown Los Angeles on 12 Feb, 2012.

Xinhua

Virginia Tech shows off new supercomputer

BLACKSBURG, 22 Dec—Virginia Tech says its new Hokie Speed supercomputer is among the best and fastest in the global high-speed computing arena.

HokieSpeed has been placed at Number 96 on the most recent Top500 List, the industry-standard ranking of the world's 500 fastest supercomputers, a Virginia Tech release said Wednesday.

The supercomputer rates even higher in energy efficiency, named number 11 in the world on the November 2011 Green500 List, a compilation of supercomputers that use less energy to do more, the release said.

Installed at Virginia Tech's Corporate Research Centre, HokieSpeed—the word "Hokie" coming from an old Virginia Tech



Wu Feng, associate professor of computer science and electrical and computer engineering, spearheaded the design and construction of HokieSpeed, Virginia Tech's latest and fastest entry into the supercomputing arena.—INTERNET

sports cheer — contains 209 nodes, or separate computers, connected to one another to create a single supercomputer with more than 2,500 central processing unit cores and more than 185,000 graphics processor unit cores to compute with, its builders said.

"HokieSpeed is a versatile heterogeneous supercomputing instrument, where each compute node consists of energy-

efficient central-processing units and high-end graphics-processing units," computer science Professor Wu Feng said.

"This instrument will empower faculty members, students, and staff across disciplines to tackle problems previously viewed as intractable or that required heroic efforts and significant domain-specific expertise to solve."

Internet

Faster, more secure Firefox is released

MOUNTAIN, 22 Dec—Mozilla has released Firefox 9, saying the new browser version processes JavaScript up to 36 percent faster than its predecessor.

The faster rendering of Javascript will mean speed improvements for many online games, content-rich Web sites and advanced Web apps, Mozilla said Wednesday.

Released just six weeks after November's Firefox 8, the new version patches some security vulnerabilities, with four of them rated "critical," Mozilla's highest threat warning, Computerworld reported.

The other flaws were rated "high" and "moderate," but all have been fixed in the new version, Mozilla said.

Firefox users say they are still waiting for the long-promised "silent update" process that will put Firefox

on par with Google's Chrome browser, which upgrades itself without any user interaction.

The next version of Firefox is scheduled to ship 31 Jan.

Internet



One of Mozilla's big plans for the future is called 'Boot2Gecko,' and could result in a 'Firefox OS'. INTERNET

Verizon says 4G network problem fixed

BEIJING, 22 Dec—Verizon Wireless said it had restored service for all 4G customers by Wednesday afternoon.

Customers complained on Wednesday about the outage on Verizon's 4G LTE Community website, but Verizon Wireless, the largest US mobile-phone carrier, didn't give details about the cause of the outage or how many users were affected.

According to the folks at The Verge — who have been keeping track of the origins of the posts — the reports are coming in from "pretty much every-where" including California, Rhode Island, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Nevada, New Jersey, and New York.

Similar 4G outages were reported earlier this month and in April, when some customers using 4G phones, such as HTC Corp's Thunderbolt, could only achieve 3G or slower download speeds.

Verizon Wireless is co-owned by Verizon Communications Inc. and Vodafone Group PLC.

It struck a 3.6 billion dollar alliance earlier this month with cable companies led by Comcast Corp. that will change how customers buy Internet, mobile and pay-TV services.

Xinhua



US President Barack Obama (C) speaks with a clerk as he shops for a Christmas bone for the Obama family dog, Bo, while at Pet Smart in Alexandria, Virginia.—INTERNET

US opposes EU airline emission tax plan

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—The US State Department says it is “disappointed” in a court ruling that the European Union can charge airlines an emission tax on flights in EU countries.

Washington had tried to block European Union plans to levy the emissions tax, saying they were invalid and that plans for an emissions tax on airlines must be dealt with by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

However, the European Court of Justice ruled on Wednesday that the taxes were legal, the BBC reported. The United States, Canada and China had all opposed the plan.

“We are disappointed by the decision of the court,” US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said.

“Our message to the European Union has been very,

very consistent: that there are mechanisms in international aviation in ICAO for addressing the question of greenhouse gas emissions and that’s where these things should be talked about,” she said.

US airlines argue the emission taxes go against the Open Skies Agreement, which allows airlines to fly between any EU country and any point in the United States.

The European Court of Justice rejected that argument. “Application of the emissions trading scheme to aviation infringes neither the principles of customary international law at issue nor the Open Skies Agreement” across the Atlantic, the ECJ said.

Xinhua

Alleged secret service materials leaked to Slovak media

BRATISLAVA, 22 Dec—Slovak media have received yet another multi-page surveillance report allegedly drafted by the Slovak Intelligence Service (SIS), after earlier leaks of a wiretapped telephone conversation between former interior minister Robert Kalinak (Smer-SD) and Pravda daily reporter Vanda Vavrova.

According to the news internet website www.aktualne.sk, wiretapping approvals from 2005 to 2009 were sent to a number of local media on Tuesday.

The leaks included information of operations named Gorilla and Gorilla 1, which were aimed at gathering intelligence on alleged activities of financial group Penta. The report also mentioned the names of many influential entrepreneurs.

SIS cast serious doubt over the credibility of leaked materials. The stance of SIS is shared also by opposition party Smer-SD, whose name was also featured in the report.

“We’re reading it, although at first glance it looks like a fake,” said Smer-SD party spokesman Erik Tomas. On the other hand, sacked former interior minister Lubomir Galcko, who was dismissed by Prime Minister Iveta Radicova over allegedly ordering the Military Intelligence Service (VOS) to eavesdrop on Pravda newspaper reporters, believed that the case should be thoroughly investigated.

“This looks much more authentic in terms of intelligence gathering than those transcriptions of Robert Kalinak and a Pravda reporter,” said Galcko.—Xinhua



Machines work at a construction site in Panama Canal, Panama, on 21 Dec, 2011. The canal expansion is expected to be completed by 2014, the waterway’s 100th Anniversary.—XINHUA

South Korea to invest nearly USD 12 bn in oil in 2012

SEOUL, 22 Dec —South Korea plans to invest nearly USD 12 billion in oil and natural gas developments next year in a bid to secure stable energy supply, the economy ministry said Wednesday.

The nation’s public corporations would invest USD 7.8 billion in developing oil and natural gas resources in 2012, while private-sector enterprises were set to spend USD 4 billion in energy projects, according to the ministry of knowledge economy. Next year’s investment was up 34 percent from USD 8.8 billion estimated for this year, and would be the largest annual amount for energy projects, Xinhua cited the ministry as saying. The largest-ever investment would be made as part of efforts to secure stable energy supply for the world’s fifth-largest crude oil importer and the second-biggest liquefied natural gas (LNG) buyer.

The ministry aimed to raise the country’s energy self-sufficiency ratio for both oil and gas to 20 percent by the end of 2012, while the state-run Korea National Oil Corp. (KNOC) planned to secure oil reserves of around 2 billion barrels and produce as much as 300,000 barrels per day by the end of next year.—Xinhua



India’s only aircraft carrier, the INS Viraat, is a warship that was purchased from the United Kingdom. It was formerly known as the HMS Hermes before being refitted by India. XINHUA

More drugs discovered in Sydney’s shipping containers

SYDNEY, 22 Dec — More drugs have been found in shipping containers in Sydney’s south-west, Australia’s New South Wales (NSW) Police Force said on Thursday.

Drug Squad detectives, investigating a drug syndicate that has been importing drugs to Australia by concealing them in shipping containers, discovered more pseudo-ephedrine on Thursday morning, police said. Pseudoephedrine can be used to make the drug methamphetamine or “ice”.

A crime scene has been established at Gow Street in the south-western Sydney suburb of Padstow, where a further two containers are currently being searched, police said.

At this stage, police have already found about 15 kg of pseudoephedrine in each of the containers.

The drugs were packed into rectangular metal boxes and then hidden in the containers’ frames, police said. On 7 Dec, 2011, detectives attended a container yard at Chipping Norton, south-west of Sydney, where they found drugs secreted in four shipping containers.

“They have since been working closely with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service to track down more than 20 additional containers, with 16 sites,” NSW Police Force said in a statement.

Police have so far seized 300 kg of pseudoephedrine, which could have been used to make the drug ice worth 75 million AU dollars (75.56 million US dollars), with 16 containers searched across the state on Wednesday.—Xinhua

US halts Pak drone strikes after deadly since 26 November NATO airstrike

ISLAMABAD, 22 Dec—The Central Intelligence Agency has stopped firing at Pakistan militants since the 26 November deadly NATO airstrike along the Afghan border to prevent aggravating already strained ties with Islamabad, Senate Defence’s Committee head has said.

It is the first time that the programme has halted for 33 days, according to *The Long War Journal*, a website that tracks the strikes. Tensions between Pakistan and the United States have escalated following NATO airstrikes in Mohmand Agency that killed 28 soldiers on 26 November.

Pakistan had sealed its NATO supply route on the border with Afghanistan, and boycotted Taliban peace talks in Bonn as a response to the attack.

Pakistan’s Defence Committee chief Javed Ashraf Qazi said he believed the lull

in attacks was because the US “does not want to aggravate the situation any further.”

Qazi said if the United States had a “high-level” target in its sights then, “I think they would go ahead” and launch a strike. *The Daily Times* reports. Pakistan’s government and army have long objected to the US drone programme. The Long War Journal quoted an anonymous American official, as saying the pause was because another attack “push US-Pakistan relations past the point of no return.”

There have been at least two other pauses in the drone programme, including when Pakistan had detained CIA contractor Raymond Davis over killing two people in the Lahore. US officials had previously denied that the two pauses earlier this year were due to tensions with Pakistan, and said operational issues with the unmanned aircraft” were responsible for the pause.—Internet



A customer selects products at a Christmas market in Berlin, capital of Germany, on 21 Dec, 2011. German business confidence improved for the second month in a row in December, defying concerns in the eurozone on the unfolding debt crisis, according to a key survey released Tuesday. XINHUA

Indonesia to deploy 87,000 cops to secure Christmas, New Year’s Eve

JAKARTA, 22 Dec— Indonesian police will deploy 87, 000 personnel throughout Indonesia to secure Christmas and New Year’s Eve celebration, the country’s largest news portal detik.com reported on Thursday.

National Police Chief Gen Timur Pradopo said that the police will be deployed in a mission named Operation Candle 2011, hoping that the celebration could run smoothly. He also called on people to participate in guarding security.—Xinhua

BofA's Countrywide to pay \$335 million over bias case



A Countrywide bank in Lakewood, Colorado, on 11 Sept, 2007.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec— Bank of America Corp's Countrywide Financial unit agreed on Wednesday to pay a record \$335 million to settle civil charges that it discriminated against minority homebuyers, an historic settlement for the Obama administration in the wake of the subprime mortgage morass.

As the financial and housing crisis deepened in 2008, Bank of America bought Countrywide, which specialized in so-called

subprime mortgages, focusing on loans to those with lower credit ratings and charging them higher interest rates and payments that suddenly increased after two or three years. The settlement covers conduct between 2004 and 2008, before the acquisition by Bank of America, and involved a range of alleged wrongdoing, including charging African-Americans and Hispanics higher interest rates and fees than non-minorities. Minorities also were steered to more expensive subprime loans even though they were qualified for traditional mortgage rates. Justice Department officials said it was the largest residential discrimination settlement in US history. "The victims had no idea they were being victimized. They were thrilled to have gotten a loan and realize the American dream," Thomas Perez, head of the Justice Department's civil rights division, told reporters. "This is discrimination with a smile." The civil settlement comes as the Obama administration has faced criticism for the lack of criminal prosecutions related to the conduct of financial institutions during the US housing crisis.—Internet

Federal prosecutors dropped a probe of former Countrywide Chief Executive Officer Angelo Mozilo after determining his actions in the mortgage debacle did not amount to criminal wrongdoing.

The proposed settlement was filed in a federal court in California where a judge must approve it.—Internet



Magellan penguins are seen at Punta Tombo in Puerto Madryn, Chubut Province, Argentina, on 17 Dec, 2011. Magellan penguins, with a height of about 70 centimetres, mainly scatter in Argentina and Chile. Punta Tombo serves as the largest inhabitation area of Magellan penguins. Around one million Magellan penguins breed here each year from September to March in the next year.

XINHUA

Almost 70 reporters killed worldwide in 2011

PARIS, 22 Dec—Sixty-six journalists were killed worldwide in 2011, many of them covering Arab revolutions, gang crime in Mexico or political turmoil in Pakistan, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said on Thursday.

Ten journalists were killed in Pakistan, most of them murdered, making it the most dangerous country for news coverage for the second year running. With pro-democracy demonstrations prompting violent reprisals from Arab governments, the number of reporters killed in the Middle East doubled to 20 this year.

A similar number were killed in Latin America, where criminal violence was rife, the

Paris-based RSF said in a statement. Some 1,044 journalists were arrested this year - nearly double the 2010 figure - due largely to the Arab Spring, as well as street protests in countries including Greece, Belarus, Uganda, Chile and the United States.

"From Cairo's Tahrir Square to Khuzdar in southwestern Pakistan, from Mogadishu to the cities of the Philippines, the risks of working as a journalist at times of political instability were highlighted more than ever in 2011," RSF said. China, Iran and Eritrea remained the biggest prisons for the media, it said, without specifying how many journalists were in

jail there.

The 10 locations that RSF considered the most dangerous for journalists included Abidjan, the business capital of Ivory Coast, where at least two reporters were killed in electoral violence, and Cairo's Tahrir Square, where journalists were systematically attacked by supporters of Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak before he stepped down in February.—MNA/Reuters



Gong Fangxiang, Managing Director of JPMorgan Asia, speaks during the keynote speech of China Industry Conference 2011 in Beijing, capital of China, on 21 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Gas well explosion causes one injured, one missing in west China

BEIJING, 22 Dec—Explosion and fire took place at a gas well in western China's Sichuan Province early Thursday morning, causing one missing and one slightly injured, said China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC).

The fire was brought under control, and the company has sent a team of experts to investigate the cause of the accident, said the country's biggest oil and gas producer and the owner of the well. Company sources added that gas released in the accident did not contain hydrogen sulfide, which is a sort of toxic and inflammable gas.

Local residents that had been evacuated were returning home, said CNPC.

Xinhua



Workers survey a destroyed bridge in Iligan City, southern island of Mindanao, as the death toll from flash floods in the southern Philippines climbs above 1,000.—INTERNET

4,000-year-old pottery kiln found in Shanxi

BEIJING, 22 Dec—After more than 40 days of excavation, archeologists found an about 5,000-year-old Yangshao culture site in Zezhou county of Shanxi Province.

A well-persevered pottery kiln dating back to the Xia and Shang dynasties over 4,000 years ago was unearthed, providing valuable information about ancient ceramic firing techniques. Liu Yan, an archeologist from the Shanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, said they found the well-preserved pottery kiln in Pit No 25. The kiln still works well and has great research value.

Xinhua

Mariano Rajoy sworn in as Spanish PM

MADRID, 22 Dec—Mariano Rajoy was sworn in as the new prime minister of Spain by King Juan Carlos II at the royal residence of the Palacio de la Zarzuela on Wednesday. Rajoy was elected after his right wing Popular Party won an overall majority in the general election held last month, gaining 186 seats in the 350-seat-Congress.

He was confirmed as Spain's new prime minister by Congress on Tuesday following a two-day investiture debate in which he set out the programme of his new government, which will include wide-scale spending cuts in order to reduce the country's deficit by 16.5 billion euros (21.7 billion US dollars).

The final act of protocol

before Rajoy took office saw him swear an oath of loyalty to King and country on a crucifix, a bible and a copy of Spain's 1980 Constitution. In doing so, he became the sixth prime minister of Spanish democracy following the death of General Franco in 1975 and the second member of his party, following Jose Maria Aznar, to lead his country.

Spain's previous prime ministers since 1975 are Adolfo Suarez, Leopoldo Caldo-Sotero Bustelo, Felipe Gonzalez, Aznar and Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero. Following the investiture, Rajoy took up residence at the Palacio de la Moncloa as did his predecessors.

MNA/Xinhua

US champion boxer Mayweather gets 90 jail days

BEIJING, 22 Dec—US boxing champion Floyd Mayweather was sentenced to 90 days in jail by a Las Vegas judge for his role in a 2010 domestic violence case, media reported Thursday.

"Punishment is appropriate," Justice of the Peace Melissa Saragosa said after a prosecutor complained that Mayweather has been in trouble before and hasn't faced serious consequences.

The jail sentence could possibly scrap a potential fight between the 34-year old Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao, a champion fighter from the Philippines against whom Mayweather's welterweight success is usually measured.

With Mayweather scheduled to report to jail Jan. 6, his 90-day term would expire in early April. A long-awaited fight between the two men regarded as among the best of their generation has been delayed by stalling techniques and verbal sparring.

Mayweather has reserved May 5 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas for his next bout, but he typically requires eight weeks of training.

Xinhua

Workers place dead chickens into plastic bags after they were killed in Hong Kong.

INTERNET



Climate changes threaten to emergence of zoonotic diseases

Prof: Dr Tin Tin Myaing (University of Veterinary Science)

Globalization and climate change have had an unprecedented worldwide impact on emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases. Climate variability resulting from naturally occurring climate phenomena such as El Niño, La Niña, and global monsoons, associated with extreme weather conditions that lead to changes in the patterns of tropical rainfall. Disruption of natural ecosystems by providing more suitable environments for survival of pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and fungi that favored them to move into new areas thus zoonotic diseases are emerging. Climate factors such as increased temperature, increased or decreased precipitation, and sea level rise may impact on the emergence or reemergence of infectious diseases.

Warmer temperatures are already enabling insects and microorganisms to invade and reproduce in areas where once they could not survive in severely low temperatures and seasonal chills. Thus the pathogens are become to adapt, finding new niches and jumping across species into new hosts. Insect-borne diseases are now representing in temperate areas where the vector insects were non-existent in the past. Humans are also at an increased risk from insect-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, and yellow fever. Vector-borne diseases are especially susceptible to changing environmental conditions due to the impact of temperature, humidity and demographics of vectors. Transmission of Chikungunya virus and West Nile virus was directly linked to climate conditions. Temperature and humidity levels directly affect the feeding activities of these insects, as well as their reproductive success, survival rates and ability to transmit disease. Low winter temperatures kill many exposed ticks and insects and they can carry the pathogens so that cycles of disease transmission are interrupted and need to be restarted in spring.

Chikungunya virus (CHIKV)

Climate changes favored the exposure of Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) due to increased population of the mosquito vectors and consequently facilitated CHIKV emergence in some geographical areas. Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) is an *Alphavirus* of the *Togaviridae* family that shares the same vectors responsible for spreading dengue virus, namely *Aedes aegypti* and, to a lesser extent, *Aedes albopictus*, which are the common peridomestic mosquito species in the Southeast Asia region. Since 2004, several million indigenous cases of Chikungunya virus disease occurred in Africa, the Indian Ocean, India, Asia and recently, Europe. The virus, usually transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, has now repeatedly been associated with a new vector, *Ae. Albopictus*.

Hemorrhagic dengue fever virus

Hemorrhagic dengue fever is found usually in children as a severe form and most commonly occurred in Asia. It is complicated by hemorrhage, shock and sometimes death. Dengue viruses are transmitted and replicates by mosquitoes. Hemorrhagic dengue fever cases in Thailand in 1990 numbered more than 300,000. Humidity can greatly influence transmission of vector-borne diseases, particularly for insect vectors. Mosquitoes and ticks can desiccate easily and survival decreases under dry conditions. Saturation deficit has been found to be one of the most critical determinants in climate/disease models.

Nipah Virus

Globally, the rate of tropical deforestation is highest in Asia. In 1997 and 1998 more than 10 million acres of virgin forest burned in Borneo and Sumatra, set ablaze by humans but exacerbated by a severe El Niño Southern Oscillation event drought. It implicated the effects of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon in 1997/98 posed to the emergence of Nipah Virus. Malaysia had experienced

a severe drought that directly preceding those outbreaks resulting from the El Niño conditions. The situation was aggravated by the excessive haze produced by the aggressive slash-and-burn deforestation activities in Indonesia. The haze and habitat loss are thought to have caused a mass exodus of "flying fox" fruit bats (*Pteropus*) searching for food, resulting in an unprecedented encroachment on cultivated fruit trees. This series of environmental and human events may have affected the natural habitat of the pteropid bats, forcing their migration and subsequent encroachment into fruit orchards surrounding the pig-farming area, resulting in the unanticipated introduction of NiV from its natural host to pigs as the amplifying host.

Avian Influenza virus (H5N1)

Climate change can alter bird migration patterns, changes in populations of waterfowl species, influence avian influenza virus transmission cycle. A good example of a pandemic zoonotic disease that could be impacted by climate change is avian influenza. Avian influenza viruses occur naturally in wild birds without producing any illnesses, however, a highly pathogenic strain of the disease named H5N1 is currently a major concern because it can affect humans and cause high fatality. The first clinical respiratory illness of H5N1 avian influenza occurred in Hong Kong in 1997, when 18 human cases were reported during a poultry outbreak. It broke the species barrier to infect humans, cats, and tigers. So far it has affected many countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe. This emerging situation is mainly because severe winter conditions and droughts, occasioned by climate change can disrupt the normal migration pathways of wild birds and thereby bring both wild and domestic bird populations into greater contact at remaining water sources. So climate change influence the avian influenza virus transmission cycle and directly affect virus survival outside the host. Continuous evolution of the H5N1 virus has been suggested by changes in the internal gene constellation, expanded host range, increased pathogenicity, and greater environmental stability.

Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRS virus)

In the environment, PRRS virus is inactivated by heat, drying, and low pH. The virus can survive in cold, moist environments, and almost indefinitely when frozen. PRRS virus remains infectious for 1 to 6 days at 68° F, 3 to 24 hours at 98° F and 6 to 20 minutes at 132° F. The ability of the virus to survive in cold temperatures may partially explain why the virus seems to be more easily transmitted in winter months in cold climates. Infectivity is rapidly lost when pH falls below 6 or rises above 7.5.

Anthrax

Anthrax is an acute infectious zoonotic disease of most warm-blooded animals, including humans, with worldwide distribution. The causative bacterium, *Bacillus anthracis*, forms spores able to remain infective for 10-20 years in pasture. Temperature, relative humidity and soil moisture can affect the successful germination of anthrax spores, while heavy rainfall may stir up dormant spores. Outbreaks are often associated with alternating heavy rainfall and drought, and high temperatures. Changes in green-up and precipitation sporadicity in conjunction with range-land expansion could indicate that some changes in the epidemiology of anthrax could occur such as longer anthrax seasons and an exposure of animals to more areas where *B. anthracis* may exist. Because large anthrax epizootic often appear to occur after specific rain events in association with overall hot, dry summer conditions, the increasingly sporadic rate of precipitation may also create some changes in the epidemiology of anthrax in the US as well as potentially in

Kazakhstan.

Blackleg

Blackleg, an acute infectious clostridial disease, mostly of young cattle, is also spore-forming, and disease outbreaks are associated with high temperature and heavy rainfall. Many pathogens or parasites, such as those of anthrax, haemonchosis and summer mastitis, may be subjected to the opposing force of higher temperatures promoting pathogen or vector development, and increased summer dryness leading to more pathogen or vector mortality.

Leptospirosis

Climate change factors that may expand the range and increase the reproductive potential of rodent populations include increased rainfall, warmer temperatures, and climate extremes. Outbreaks of human diseases are often associated with increases in rodent populations after heavy rainfall or during floods, a good example is Leptospirosis. In India, leptospirosis is a major health problem obviously related both to the monsoons and poor sanitary conditions, with multiple epidemics reported in recent years. Thailand has been the source of a leptospirosis outbreak in the 21st century, subsequent to flooding, and localized mainly in the northeast region of the country. Fears of the emergence of leptospirosis outbreaks following the 2004 tsunami disaster was possibly due to the effect of salt water mixing with fresh waters.

Future works

Owing to anthropogenic activities, there is widespread scientific agreement that the world's climate is warming at a faster rate than ever before, with concomitant changes in precipitation, flooding, winds and the frequency of extreme events such as El Niño. In order to evaluate the risks of the occurrence of emerging zoonotic diseases especially vector-borne diseases that are heavily influenced by weather conditions and climate change, weather forecasting and analysis will need to be included in the early warning systems. Disease surveillance must be combined with a network of expert laboratories with the appropriate diagnostic capabilities to carry out testing for still exotic or rare diseases. A comprehensive study of mosquito-borne diseases, requires a combination of entomologists, epidemiologists and climatologists to work together to examine the associations of changing vector habitats, disease patterns and climatic factors. Animal Disease Awareness and preparedness should be noticed for farmers, veterinarians, relevant sectors, including descriptions of the diseases, preventive measures and practical control measures. Incidence data are needed to provide a baseline for epidemiological studies to increase actively global disease surveillance by computer data based system to share the information among the veterinarians.

Public education and awareness to reduce exposure to disease, extreme weather alerts and metrological data collection may be implemented. Researchers should continue to expand their knowledge of how climate and weather influence health outcomes. Physical, biological, health, and social scientists must collaborate to better understand what makes certain people and animals' community more vulnerable to the health impacts of climate variability and change, and how people adapt to emerging zoonotic disease threats. An integrated approach to epidemiological, entomological and environmental data collection, analysis and enhancing zoonotic disease awareness should be reinforced. International collaboration should be taken such as WHO, OIE and FAO and can work together within the framework. Further work needs to be done to determine the role of climate change in the future epidemiology of zoonotic and other infectious diseases.

DISTRICT NEWS

Wakema Myoma market organizes fire drill

WAKEMA, 22 Dec—The fire drill was practised at Myoma Market in Wakema on 11 December to take fire preventive measures. Departmental officials and members of auxiliary fire brigade participated in the fire drill. Township administrator U Soe Tun explained danger of fire and fire preventive measures in open season.—*Myanma Alin*

Model plot produces over 100 baskets per acre

KYAUKSE, 22 Dec—Kyaukse Township Myanma Agriculture Service, Irrigation Department and local farmers jointly organized the harvesting of Ayeyamin paddy on five acres of farmlands in Sulegon Village in Kyaukse Township on 7 December. Under supervision of township level officials, the paddy plot was harvested by local farmers. After the harvesting, a total of 101.65 baskets per acre could be produced. *Myanma Alin*

Paddy harvested on model plot

YESAGYO, 22 Dec—A 10-acre model plot of Yadana Toe paddy, cultivated through good agriculture pattern, owned by nine farmers was harvested in Zedaw Village of Yesagyo Township on 1 December.

The harvesting ceremony was attended by officials of Myanma Agriculture Service, departmental officials and farmers.

The 10-acre model plot produced 114.18 baskets of dried paddy per acre.

Kyemon

Union Minister meets beef cattle/milch cow breeders, milk product...

(from page 1)

He then met of Myanmar Red Cow Head Co and Myanmar Shwe

Yin Co and discussed construction of modern slaughterers in Livestock Zone, beef/dairy cows

farming, export of processed meat and fish, and export of new items through farming of cows, buffalos, goats, sheep, and mythun. The two companies will run those works with investments from Australia and Malaysia.

MNA

FM sends message of condolences to Philippine counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of condolences to His Excellency Mr. Albert F. Del Rosario, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, for the lost of lives and devastation caused by the recent flash-floods in Mindanao Island, the Philippines, on 18 December 2011.— MNA

Sacred Tooth Relic of Buddha kept for 15th day in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec — The Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha conveyed from the People's Republic of China has been kept at Maha Atulawaiyan (Atumashi) Monastery in Mandalay for 15th day for the public obeisance.

Buddhist devotees from Mandalay and other areas paid obeisance to the Sacred Tooth Relic today.

Today, the donation for the Sacred Tooth Relic has amounted to K1,592,548,634, US\$12029, Euro 325, Bhat 12740, S\$1661.50, Chinese Yuan 14173.19, Malaysian ringgit 1138, FEC 743, Indian rupee 2018, Egyptian currency 60, Korean Won 140000, Philippine peso 220, Vietnamese dong 888900, Indonesian rupiah 292232, Japanese Yen 5000, British pound 5, Cambodian riel 24100, South African currency 80, Australian \$100, Hongkong \$110, Russian currency 670, Lao currency 184000, 7571 items of jewellery worth K 1332545590.

MNA



The Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha conveyed from the People's Republic of China.—MNA



Union Health Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin receives Director Mr Yukio Ito of Sojitz Corporation and Kitahara Neurosurgical Institute (KNI) from Japan.—MNA

Union Health Minister receives Japanese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—Director Mr Yukio Ito of Sojitz Corporation and Kitahara Neurosurgical Institute (KNI) from Japan called on Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, at Minister Office here on 21 December. They discussed matters related to providing assistances for surgical operations and training. Also present at the meeting were Director-General Dr Tun Naing Oo of Health Department, Director-General Dr Than Zaw Myint of Medical Science Department and officials.

MNA

Sagaing Region Chief Minister holds golf tourney, opens hospital ward and hammers stakes for more

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye launched golf tournament held in his name in Monywa Golf Course on 17 December, which was participated by 23 teams and 136 golfers.

On the next day, he awarded winners in the tournament.

On 19 December, he

attended opening ceremony of Sangha ward of Station Hospital in Kwetkwin model village in Myinmu Township. He inspected the hospital and hammered stakes for extended ward and water purifier.

The chief minister addressed ceremony to hand over documents related to the Sangha ward and donated

cash to medical fund of the hospital.

He inspected progress in construction of basic education high schools in Ayadaw Township and visited Station Hospital in Malettha village. He met district/township legal officers at Region Advocate-General's Office in Monywa.

MNA

CBM Governor receives Vietnamese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue U Than Nyein met the delegation led by Chairman of Board of Directors of Viet

Bank of Vietnam Mr Pham Huy Hung at his office this morning. They frankly discussed banking and monetary matters, opening branches of Vietnam's banks in Myanmar and coopera-

tion for smooth functioning of investment works between the two countries.

Also present at the call were deputy governors and division heads of CBM.—MNA

Yangon-Mandalay expressway sees vehicle crash; two killed on the spot and three injured

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—Two passengers were killed in a car crash at Milepost 185/4 in Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section (near Yetkanzintaung Village) on Yangon-Mandalay express way at 11:45 pm on 18 December.

The incident occurred due to careless driving of the driver of Toyota Hilux Surf whose colour's grey, which was travelling from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw, and claimed

two: the driver and one of five passengers aboard.

The remaining-injured passengers were rushed into Nay Pyi Taw Hospital where they are now receiving medical treatment.

Even though the express way has already got the traffic signboards put up by the Ministry of Construction for road safety, some drivers are still careless with driving.—MNA

Educative talks on job site safety and fire drill was organized in Hlaingtat Saw Mill of Thazi Township on 10 December. MTE





Christmas decorations are seen in Ambience Mall in Vasant Kunj, south New Delhi, India, on 19 Dec, 2011. Many shops in New Delhi have been decorated for the upcoming Christmas.
XINHUA

EU restricts lethal injection drugs

BRUXELLS, 22 Dec—The European Commission has added two drugs essential to lethal injection in the United States to a restricted list of products used for torture or execution. Trade in the items on the list by companies in the 27 countries in the European Union is tightly controlled.

The EC added eight barbiturates, including pentobarbital and sodium thiopental, to the list, *The Guardian* reported Tuesday.

None of the EU member states retain the death penalty. Its policy effectively bans trade that contributes to "capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." Hospira, an Illinois company, stopped manufacturing sodium thiopental in 2009, saying that being the source of an execution drug hurt its reputation. States that retain the death penalty are dealing with a shortage of drugs. Britain adopted similar tough controls in 2010.

EC Vice President Catherine Ashton welcomed the new policy.

"The decision today contributes to the wider EU efforts to abolish the death penalty worldwide," she said.
Xinhua

Italy to send household waste to Netherlands

THE HAGUE, 22 Dec—Household waste from the Italian city of Naples will now be shipped to the Netherlands, where it will be burned down in two waste plants.

The Dutch ministry of infrastructure and environment gave permission Wednesday to

transport the household waste, *Xinhua* reported. Italian company Asia Sapna has been given the possibility to transport around 200,000 tonnes of municipal waste to the Netherlands.

The incineration plants' capacity totals about seven million tonnes, of which some 6.25 million tonnes is used

for incineration of combustible Dutch waste. The remaining capacity is used for incineration of waste from abroad, mainly from Germany and Britain.

Naples has been suffering from a waste management crisis since 2007.

Xinhua

Iran invites IAEA inspectors to visit n-sites

TEHRAN, 22 Dec—Iran has invited inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to visit nuclear establishments in the country, an official said.

Ali-Asghar Soltanieh, Iran's permanent representative to the IAEA said Teheran was prepared to address concerns on its nuclear programme, *Xinhua* reported citing *Press TV*.

He said Iran had sent a

letter to IAEA chief Yukiya Amano in the early part of December, renewing an October invitation to IAEA officials to visit the country.

"I have also had discussions with officials of the agency and we are planning for the visit," Soltanieh said.

"We are going to discuss any questions and to work towards removing the ambiguities and resolving

the issue," he added.

The IAEA has confirmed that it has received an invitation. In November, the agency said in a report on Iran's nuclear programme that there was "credible" evidence that showed Iran was seeking to obtain nuclear weapons. Teheran rejected the report, calling it "imbalanced, non-professional and politically-motivated."—*Xinhua*



People watch a puppet show in front of a store in Manhattan, New York, the United States, on 21 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

Baby born with two heads in Brazil

LONDON, 22 Dec—A Brazilian woman has given birth to a baby with two heads.

Maria de Nazare, gave birth by caesarean at a hospital in Anajas, in Brazil's northern Para state, with her newborn weighing 9.9 pounds, *Daily Mail* reports.

And in a tribute to the religious celebrations at Christmas, she has decided to call the pair Emanuel and Jesus. Following the birth of her baby, mother Maria, 25, admitted that she had been told she was set to welcome twins, according to the newspaper Wednesday.

But following tests, doctors revealed that the baby has two brains and two spines but shares one heart, lungs, liver and pelvis.

The hospital's director, Claudionor Assis de Vasconcelos, told *Brazil's O*

Povo newspaper that the woman decided to travel to the hospital because she was feeling strong abdominal pains. The 25-year-old mother, who lives in a rural area of the state, had no ultrasound scans during her pregnancy and only found out about the abnormality minutes before the baby was born at 1 am Monday morning. Vasconcelos said: "Despite all the problems we have as a small interior hospital we managed to save both mother and baby, which was our aim. And for us it was a great surprise to find out that the child was in really good health."

Neila Dahas, director of the Santa Casa hospital said: "If both their brains are functioning, how are we going to choose which head to remove? "We are not

considering the possibility of surgery. What we've got to think about at this moment is to maintain the children in good condition and see how they will develop."

At no point did the mother, who has three other children, appear distraught that her son has two heads, the Mail said quoting Vasconcelos.

"The mother fed both mouths and the baby stayed with her in her room the whole time. Her desire was to take her baby straight home."

Remarkably, this is the second time a two-headed baby has been born in Brazil this year. Sueli Ferreira, 27, gave birth to a two-headed baby in Paraiba State, but it died a few hours later because of lack of oxygen to one of the child's heads.

Internet



A two-headed born baby is pictured in Anajas, northern Brazil on 21 December, 2011. Doctors in Brazil said on Wednesday said they are unsure whether they can operate on a baby born with two heads, although the newborn boy is in stable condition. The "twins", named Jesus and Emanuel, have two brains, two backbones and a single heart.—REUTERS

Mexico says 42 million turtles born in 2010-11 nesting season

MEXICO CITY, 22 Dec—Mexican authorities recorded a total of 42.2 million Olive Ridley, Leatherback and Kemp's Ridley sea turtle births during the 2010-11 nesting season, authorities said.

Efforts to secure the protection of female turtles and their nests and safeguard hatchlings' journey to the ocean are led by the National Commission on Natural Protected Areas, or Conanp, at 33 nesting beaches, the Environment and Natural Resources Secretariat said in a statement Tuesday.

Ten of those beaches are

natural protected areas, three are located inside biosphere reserves, 15 are internationally designated wetlands sites and the remainder are located in areas without special protection mechanisms, the secretariat said.

Approximately 1.2 million Olive Ridley turtle nests were laid and 23.3 million offspring made their way to the ocean at the Playa de Escobilla sanctuary and Morro Ayuta beach, both located in the southern state of Oaxaca.

A total of 20,574 Kemp's Ridley turtle nests were laid in the northeastern

state of Tamaulipas and 534 in the eastern state of Veracruz and an estimated 18.9 million hatchlings reached the sea in those two regions. "The nesting figure for the latest season is up (compared to the previous season), and therefore the conclusion can be drawn that the population is on the road to recovery," the secretariat said. In the case of the Leatherback turtle, one of the most threatened turtle species in Mexico, authorities counted a total of 615 nests, mainly on the coasts of the Pacific states of Michoacan, Guerrero and Oaxaca.

In those states, authorities supervised the entrance to the sea of 15,414 Leatherback offspring.

The secretariat estimates that around 1,647 Leatherback turtle nests were laid along the entire Pacific coast during the 2010-11 nesting season.

Invasion of their habitat (beaches) by man, accidental fishing, depredation of their nests by some communities that still consume their flesh and eggs and injuries suffered by boats' outboard motors are the main dangers sea turtles in Mexico face.

Mexico banned the harvest of sea turtles for commercial or subsistence reasons in April 2006.

Internet



The duty free store opened in Haikou Meilan International Airport sells products of many international brands.—INTERNET



Photo taken on 21 Dec, 2011, shows the scene of Munao Dancing Festival, also known as "Gathering" Festival, in Pianma Town of Lushui County, Lisu Autonomous Prefecture of Nujiang, southwest China's Yunnan Province. About one thousand people from various ethnic groups attend the traditional festival.—XINHUA

Vitamin E prevents muscle wasting, repairs cells

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—Vitamin E is rubbed on the skin to reduce signs of ageing and is consumed by runners to improve endurance. But scientists now have found how the powerful antioxidant helps repair tears in the plasma membrane. Daily activities such as eating and exercise can tear the plasma membrane and a new research by Georgia Health Sciences University shows that vitamin E is

essential to repair, the journal *Nature Communications* reported. Without repair of muscle cells, for example, muscles eventually waste away and die in a process similar to what occurs in muscular dystrophy, said a university statement.

Muscle weakness is a common complaint in diabetes, another condition associated with inadequate plasma membrane repair. "Without any special effort

we consume vitamin E every day and we don't even know what it does in our bodies," said Paul McNeil, Georgia's cell biologist and study co-author.

Century-old animal studies linked vitamin E deficiency to muscle problems but how that happens remained a mystery until now, McNeil said. According to him, lack of membrane repair causing muscle wasting and death prompted him to look at

vitamin E. Vitamin E appears to aid repair in several ways. As an antioxidant, it helps eliminate destructive byproducts from the body's use of oxygen that impede repair. Because it's lipid-soluble, vitamin E can actually insert itself into the membrane to prevent free radicals from attacking. It also can help keep phospholipids, a major membrane component, compliant so they repair better after a tear.—Internet

Seven NOTW phone-hacking victims to receive compensation

LONDON, 22 Dec—Media group News International has said that seven public figures will receive compensation after their phone hacking claims against the publisher of the now-defunct British tabloid *News of the World* were settled.

People to receive settlements from the News International subsidiary, News Group Newspapers (NGN), includes former

Liberal Democrat MP Mark Oaten, TV presenter Ulrika Jonsson, former Army officer James Hewitt, 7/7 hero Paul Dudge, celebrities Abi Titmuss and Calum Best, and Michelle Milburn, who is reportedly a theatrical agent.

News International confirmed in a statement that it had settled seven privacy claims, Express.co.uk reports.

"News International can confirm that seven claims

against News Group Newspapers and Glenn Mulcaire have been settled following discussions with News Corporation's Management and Standards Committee, acting on behalf of NGN," the statement said.

"The claims are Mark Oaten, Ulrika Jonsson, Abi Titmuss, Michelle Milburn, Paul Dudge, James Hewitt and Calum Best. NGN has agreed to pay appropriate sums by way of compensation and

costs and have expressed regret for the distress caused," it added.

According to the report, former England footballer Paul Gascoigne's case that he was a victim of phone hacking also looked close to being resolved.

A lawyer said that Gascoigne's case "is settling" during a brief hearing at the High Court.

Counsel Jeremy Reed, who represents various claimants in the News of the World phone hacking claims, made the announcement.

Internet



Nancy Ryan (C) from the United States, the 40 millionth visitor to Hong Kong this year, receives gifts from James Tien Pei-Chun (L), Chairman of Hong Kong Tourism Board, in a welcoming ceremony in Hong Kong, south China, 21 Dec, 2011. Nancy Ryan was named as the 40 millionth visitor of the year by Hong Kong Tourism Board and was given generous gifts, including business class return tickets and a stay in the 5-star Peninsula Hotel.—XINHUA

Russian blogger freed after two weeks

MOSCOW, 22 Dec—A Russian blogger and opposition leader said he could be a political candidate himself one day as he was released from jail early Wednesday.

Alexei Navalny, 35, was freed after two weeks behind bars, *The Washington Post* reported. A small crowd of reporters and supporters greeted him.

Police tried to keep the release under wraps by transferring Navalny by van from the detention center where he had been held to a police station in his neighbourhood.

Navalny has been an outspoken critic of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Putin, who spent eight years as president, is running for the job again in March.

"We will fight for the declaration of a free election," Navalny said. "Many different people will take part in such a free election — perhaps I will, too. I will compete for a leadership position."

A large opposition rally is scheduled Saturday. Mikhail Gorbachev, who served as the Soviet Union's last head of state from 1988 to 1991, announced Wednesday that he will speak.—Internet



An Iranian woman buys sweets and nuts for Yalda Night at a market in Teheran, Iran, 21 Dec, 2011. Yalda Night is Iranian winter solstice celebration. It is celebrated on the longest night for the year, locally believed, to be on 21 Dec on the eve of winter solstice. XINHUA

Building owner blamed for deadly fire

CHICAGO, 22 Dec—The owner of an empty Chicago building where two firefighters died deserves jail time, a prosecutor said in announcing criminal charges Wednesday.

Chuck Dai was charged with criminal contempt for allegedly ignoring court orders to bring the building up to code, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported.

The fire in December 2010 is believed to have been started by homeless people trying to stay warm. As firefighters battled the blaze, the roof collapsed, killing Corey Ankum, 34, and Edward Stringer, 47, and

injuring 15 of their comrades.

Dai should be held responsible, State's Attorney Anita Alvarez said. "He had a responsibility to continue to make all the improvements that he was ordered by the court to make," she said.

"If the boards didn't work, then he needed to brick up that building. But, he didn't go there. He didn't do what he was supposed to do. He totally disregarded the order." Alvarez's lawyer said his client was not to blame for the roof collapse. Gene Murphy said prosecutors are "looking for a fall guy."—Internet

Brazil has 11.4 mln citizens living in slums

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 Dec—Some 11.42 million Brazilians are living in slums, about 6 percent of the population, a report released Wednesday by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) said. The report shows that the percentage of Brazilians who live in shantytowns, often in precarious conditions, almost doubled in the past 20 years.

Nearly half of the shantytowns are in the cities of Rio and Sao Paulo, the largest two cities in Brazil, and in Belem, in the northern region. In Belem, 54.5 percent of the population live in slums. In Rio and Sao Paulo, the figures are 22 and 11 percent respectively.

The percentage of black or mixed-race citizens in slums is much higher than other ethnic groups. Slum residents are also younger at an average age of 27.9 years, as opposed to 32.7 years old outside, according to the IBGE report. Living conditions in slums are worse than in regular neighborhoods in Brazil's largest cities, but sometimes social indicators are better than in rural regions. The average per capita income, for example, is higher, reaching 370 reais (199 US dollars) in slums, against 112 reais (60 US dollars) in rural areas.

The illiteracy rate in slums stands at 8.4 percent, twice as high as the rate registered outside slums. However, the rate is lower than the national average, which is 9.6 percent, and the average in rural areas, which is 23 percent.—Xinhua

NY worker 'traumatized' by black effigy

NEW YORK, 22 Dec—A black New York City employee found a black baby doll hanging at a Parks Department loading dock, police said. Geoffrey Croft, president of NYC Park Advocates, described the man, described as being in his 60s, works in The Bronx.

Croft, who publishes a blog, *A Walk in the Park*, said someone also scrawled "KKK" in the bathroom at the facility, WPIX-TV, New York, reported. Police have said they cannot confirm the second incident. The city settled a lawsuit in 2008 that accused the Parks Department of discriminating against employees who belong to racial minorities.—Internet



Xiaoling is located at Dulongfu on the south slope of the Purple Hills in the east suburbs of Nanjing. In the place is a thick growth of age-old pine trees and cypresses, with a stream winding in the hills. Some famous ancient Buddhist temples and tombs are found here. Xiaoling is the mausoleum of the first Ming Dynasty emperor Zhu Yuanzhang. It is one of the largest imperial mausoleums existing in China, as a historical monument put under state protection. From the "Officials and Others Dismount Here" Tablet in the front to the Square Walls at the back, it is 2.62 kilometers. Records note the red wall of the mausoleum at 22.5 kilometres in circumference.—INTERNET

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CENA FAITH VOY NO (11)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CENA FAITH VOY NO (11) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W(3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (615)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (615) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (291)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (291) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.12.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

LANN PYI MARINE CO., LTD.
(Container Feeder Service)
ARRIVAL AND CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

Consignees of cargoes carried by M.V. GW BEYCHEVELLE are hereby notified that the estimated arrival time of the vessels from Port Kelang are as follows:-

Voy - 031 PKG 19-12-2011 YGN 23-12-2011
Voy - 033 PKG 30-12-2011 YGN 03-01-2012

Cargoes will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-law and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargoes will be surveyed daily from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM and Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No Claims against these vessels will be admitted after the Claims Day.


AGENCY DEPARTMENT
No.55/61, Strand Road, Yangon, Myanmar.
Phone No. : 01-201787, 201790 (Ext. 108 , 109)

**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,



The study of Leda's head is believed to have been completed in about 1505.
INTERNET

Leonardo da Vinci drawings tour UK for Queen's Jubilee

LONDON, 22 Dec—A collection of 10 rarely seen drawings by Leonardo da Vinci is to go on display in Birmingham. The works include designs for a chariot, anatomical sketches and a study of the head of Leda, the mythological mother of Helen of Troy. They form part of the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle.

The touring exhibition will be at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery from 13 January till 25 March to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year. A spokesman for the Royal Collection said the drawings were among the finest in its almost 600-piece collection and had been selected to show the scope of Leonardo's interests in painting, sculpture, engineering, botany, mapmaking, hydraulics and anatomy.

They form a mini retrospective of his career and complement his court works loaned to the National Gallery for a major Leonardo da Vinci exhibition. Martin Clayton, senior curator for prints and drawings at the Royal Collection, said the drawings represented a mix of preparatory studies for paintings as well as scientific research. Due to the risk of light damage, the drawings have never been on permanent public display. He added: "This group of drawings will hopefully give people a concrete sense of who Leonardo was."

INTERNET

Thames archive reveals long nitrate rise

LONDON, 22 Dec—Scientists have assembled a remarkable record of water quality in the Thames that stretches back over 140 years. The archive is thought to be the longest for any river in the world. Putting it together involved hunting down old paper documents detailing monthly water tests. Some of them even had to be retrieved from the US. The Bristol University-led team says the record provides a true baseline against which measures to keep the great river clean can now be judged.

But it also illustrates just how intractable the issue of nitrate pollution has become. Over the 140 years of the new time series, this nitrogen component of river chemistry is seen to climb relentlessly. The pollution

will almost certainly have altered the ecology of the river, shifting the balance of plantlife in the Thames. "Generally, Thames water quality has been improving - the fish are returning," explained Bristol's Dr Nicholas Howden.

"But the big challenge that remains is diffuse pollution,

and the UK remains the global hotspot for nitrate flux. "We have the highest export for nitrate for any country in the world per capita or per land area, depending on how you want to express it. And some of the highest concentrations are coming out through the Thames."

INTERNET



The study has profound implications for policies to monitor and manage the river's water quality.—INTERNET

Ex-Miss Venezuela Eva Ekvall dies of breast cancer

HOUSTON, 22 Dec—Former Venezuelan beauty queen Eva Ekvall has died of breast cancer at the age of 28. She died in hospital in Houston in the US on Saturday, her family said. Eva Ekvall was crowned Miss Venezuela in 2000 and was also a Miss Universe finalist. She worked as a model, actress and television presenter. She wrote a book about her struggle with the disease that helped raise awareness of it in Venezuela. It included photos of her treatment.

The book -- titled "Fuera de Foco" (Out of Focus) -- also featured e-mails to family and friends. Her treatment included chemotherapy, a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery. Ms Ekvall knew the images of her bald, sick and without make-up would shock people in Venezuela, where beauty queens are major celebrities and cosmetic surgery is very popular.

INTERNET



Ms Ekvall leaves behind a husband and two-year-old daughter.—INTERNET



A chalkboard where Jackson's children wrote 'I love daddy' sold for \$5,000.—INTERNET

Michael Jackson house auction raises \$1m

LONDON, 22 Dec—The contents of the house where Michael Jackson lived before he died have sold at a Los Angeles auction for almost \$1 million (£646,000). Some 500 items were for sale from the mansion the singer rented, including furniture, ornaments and paintings. Among the lots was an armoire upon which Jackson wrote a message to himself that fetched \$25,750 (£16,600).

A pottery rooster holding a chalkboard bearing a note from Jackson's children also sold for \$5,000 (£3,200). Prior to the auction, organisers had estimated total sales to be between \$200,000 (£129,000) and \$400,000 (£258,000). Also sold was a Victorian Revival-style bedroom suite,

an 18th-Century French clock and a shower bench on which Jackson had drawn stick men. Only a handful of auction items bore a personal connection to the singer and his family, as most were part of the rented surroundings.

The ornate headboard from the bed where Jackson's body was found had also been due to go under the hammer but was removed from the sale last month at the request of Jackson's family.

However, the rug that had been beneath the bed sold for \$15,360 (£9,900). Dr Conrad Murray was convicted of involuntary manslaughter over the pop star's death in 2009 last month and was sentenced to four years in prison.

INTERNET

Typewriters experience a comeback

New York typewriter sellers said the low-tech machines are experiencing a comeback among writers who like to avoid distractions.

Paul Schweitzer, 73, whose Gramercy Typewriter Co was founded by his father Abraham in 1932, said he started working on laser printers when typewriters fell out

of fashion in the 1990s, but he has lately had many customers bringing in old typewriters to be restored, the *New York Daily News* reported Monday.

"They have their computers, they have their blackberries or iPads or whatever it is, but they still would like to have a typewriter. They like the idea of pressing the keys and having the words hit the paper," Schweitzer said.

Donna Brady of Brady & Kowalksi Writing Machines said she and her partner have had a lot of interest in the typewriters they sell at Brooklyn Flea.

"The more disconnected we get from other humans because of electronic devices ... the more we kind of want to get away from those gadgets," she said. "A lot of people still want to be productive, but would like to get away from the screen."



No injuries when plane lands on street

A pilot did an "absolutely amazing" job of landing his crippled plane safely on a street in Longmont, Colo., an airport manager says.

Tim Barth, airport manager at Vance Brand Municipal Airport in Longmont, said the pilot, John Pritchard of Lafayette, and his teenage daughter were returning to Boulder from Plattsburgh, Neb., in a Piper Cherokee Archer II when they began having engine trouble Sunday, the *Longmont Times-Call* reported Monday.

Longmont police Sgt. James Sawinska said Pritchard received permission to divert to Vance Brand, but he soon discovered the plane would not make it.

"He had a choice of the roadway or off to the side," Sawinska said.

Barth said Pritchard landed the plane on a narrow stretch of Hover Street without causing any injuries or property damage.

"This is absolutely amazing," Barth said, noting the landing's degree of difficulty was high because of holiday traffic and nearby lighting and trees. "There is no wiggle room." Authorities said the cause of the engine failure was under investigation.



Authorities said a Florida teacher who was upset with her drive-through order threw food items through the open window, hitting an attendant.

Police: Woman hit McD's worker with food

Authorities say a Florida teacher who was upset with her order at a McDonald's threw the fast-food back at the open drive-through window, hitting an attendant.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office said Simone Paolercio, 39, was dissatisfied with her hash browns Saturday morning, when she had ordered \$20 worth of food from the South Florida Avenue eatery in Lakeland, and argued with an attendant and the manager, the *Orlando Sentinel* reported Monday.

Paolercio threw food items into the window after being denied a refund. The attendant was struck in the face and chest. The teacher then put the rest of the food and drinks on the window sill, where they fell to the floor.

Deputies said Paolercio initially denied throwing the food but conceded she could not argue with security camera footage. Paolercio, who teaches at Lakeland Highlands Middle School, was booked into the Polk County Jail on a battery charge.

Suspicious Fla trailer contains toilets

Police in Florida said they opened a suspicious trailer marked with anti-government messages and a warning to "Open at Your Risk" and discovered two toilets. Sgt Vincent Ogburn, an Orlando police spokesman, said officers evacuated nearby buildings, including the Orlando Sentinel, and Orange Avenue was shut down for 4 hours Sunday while police attempted to determine the trailer's contents, the *Sentinel* reported Monday.

A bomb squad member in protective gear eventually opened the trailer and found two toilets. "We did not and do not know what this person's intentions were," Ogburn said, referring to whoever locked the trailer to a palm tree outside the newspaper offices. A sign on a door of the trailer said, "Open at Your Risk."

News Album

Matt Damon would love to do another Bourne movie

LONDON, 22 Dec—Matt Damon has said that he would love to do a fifth movie in the Bourne franchise.

The actor does not feature in the fourth film of the series, *The Bourne Legacy*,



Matt Damon

and he says that if the movie doesn't work it won't necessarily affect the prospects of future Bourne projects.

"If [*Bourne Legacy*] doesn't work we can just ignore it and pretend it didn't happen," the *Daily Express* quoted him as saying.

"But I expect that it will work and only help us if we did another one, which I'd love to do," he said. The 41-year-old also clarified his comments about writer Tony Gilroy, whom he blamed for *The Bourne Ultimatum*'s 'terrible' script.

"It was idiotic of me to say anything... It's between me and Tony and we'll either figure it out or we won't," he said.—*Internet*

Daniel Craig jealous of his on-screen character's bed-hopping superpowers

LONDON, 22 Dec—Daniel Craig, who stars as Swedish journalist Mikael Blomkvist in his new flick 'The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo', has admitted that he is in awe of the reporter's way with women. The 43-year-old 'James Bond' star admits that he cannot help feeling jealous this time. "I don't think he's a womaniser. I think he's honest.

He meets a woman and they have a conversation, they admire his honesty and they usually end up in bed," the *Sun* quoted Craig as saying.

"That's never worked for me though," he added.

Movie bosses were so keen to have Craig play coffee-swilling Blomkvist that they

re-arranged filming dates around his previous commitments to new Bond flick 'Skyfall'.

The heart-throb, who married British actress Rachel Weisz in June, was thrilled to

nab the role.

Like tens of millions of others, Craig got instantly hooked on to the best-selling novel by Stieg Larsson on which the film is based.

Internet



Cast members Daniel Craig (L) and Robin Wright arrive for the premiere of the film "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" in New York on 14 December, 2011.

INTERNET

Madonna brings own wine for romantic dinner

NEW YORK, 22 Dec—Madonna and her toyboy lover Brahim Zaibat brought their own wine and wine glasses for a romantic dinner on Saturday night. According to sources, the 'Frozen' hitmaker arrived with Zaibat at 10:30 pm and ordered arugula salad, pizza margherita, bruschetta and a side of roasted cauliflower.

Fellow diners were astonished when the 53-year-old brought out her own red wine in a bag, along with two glasses.

But fellow diners were surprised when Madonna

"brought her own red wine in a bag, along with two beautiful crystal glasses".

"They poured the wine and immediately put the bottle back in the bag, so nobody could see what it was. At the end, they took the empty wine bottle and the glasses with them. We couldn't figure out if Madonna prefers specific wine, or is a total germaphobe," the *New York Post* quoted the source as saying.

Sources also revealed that Zaibat picked up the bill, paying with his credit card—but not before Madonna



Actor James Franco

James Franco to play Hugh Hefner?

LOS ANGELES, 22 Dec—Actor James Franco is reportedly in talks to play the younger version of Playboy mogul Hugh Hefner in an upcoming biopic about porn star Linda Lovelace.

"Mamma Mia!" star Amanda Seyfried has replaced Kate Hudson to portray the adult actress-turned-porn star in the forthcoming project, opposite Peter Sarsgaard as Lovelace's husband Chuck Traynor.

Franco was previously approached for the role of Traynor, but now he's being touted to take on a smaller part as the *Playboy* magazine founder, reports *variety.com*.

Internet



Madonna

ordered him to tip well. "They left with their arms around each other, hip to hip," the source added.—*Internet*

Paula Patton wanted to kill herself after 'Mission Impossible' audition

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—Paula Patton was so upset with her 'Mission Impossible - Ghost Protocol' audition, that she wanted to jump off the nearest balcony. The 36-year-old actress was thrilled when she was asked to try out for the part of IMF agent Jane in the fourth installment of the movie franchise, which stars Tom Cruise and Simon Pegg, but admitted it did not go as she had hoped.

"I did not expect anything like this in a million years. I remember they asked me to come in and read for the part, and I didn't really think I had a chance. I was like: 'Don't waste my time'" Contactmusic quoted her as telling *Metro* newspaper. "So I read for the director Brad Bird and I thought I did a



Paula Patton

horrible job. I left and cried. I was so embarrassed. I thought, 'I want to kill myself. Where's the nearest balcony?' And the next day they called and said 'We loved you,'" she said.—*Internet*

Man United routs Fulham 5-0 in Premier League

LONDON, 22 Dec —Manchester United earned its biggest win in three months on Wednesday, routing Fulham 5-0 to keep the heat on leader Manchester City in the Premier League title race, but



Manchester United's striker Wayne Rooney scores the fourth goal during the English Premier League football match between Fulham and Manchester United.—INTERNET

saw two key players pick up injuries.

Dimitar Berbatov rounded off the victory with an audacious backheel in stoppage time after goals from Danny Welbeck, Nani, Ryan Giggs and Wayne Rooney.

"We played some superb football in the first half," United manager Alex Ferguson said. "It's not an easy place to come. We have experienced that in the last three years. We have got one point from nine here so that shows you the difficulties."

The victory came at a cost, with defender Phil Jones

forced off injured in the 20th minute after being caught by Clint Dempsey's arm while dueling for the ball.

And his replacement, Ashley Young, came off injured while tackling Dickson Etuhu at the start of the second half with an unspecified injury that Ferguson said will rule him out for two to three weeks.

"The tackle on Ashley Young was a very aggressive tackle and I will have to see that again," Ferguson said. "Fulham were very aggressive in the second half and Ashley Young has paid the price for that.—INTERNET

Manchester United's Ryan Giggs, center, celebrates his goal during the English Premier League soccer match at Craven Cottage stadium in London on 21 Dec.—INTERNET



Dalglish praises Liverpool fans for vocal support of Suarez during draw with Wigan



Wigan Athletic's Gary Caldwell handles an overhead kick from Liverpool's Luis Suarez during their English Premier League match at the DW Stadium, Wigan.—INTERNET

LIVERPOOL, 22 Dec — Kenny Dalglish has hailed the Liverpool fans that made the trip to Wigan for the support they showed controversial striker Luis Suarez in his side's 0-0 draw on Wednesday night.

Liverpool had released two club statements since the FA announced Suarez's eight-game ban for "misconduct" towards Patrice Evra, and the players warmed up in 'Suarez 7' t-shirts as a show of support.

The fans were on the same page and could be heard from the first minute singing Suarez's name, while Uruguayan flags were spotted numerous times in the Liverpool end.

"We stand right beside him and we

always have done and always will do," Dalglish told Sky Sports. "I think that's reflected in the reception he got from the fans, and also from the support the players showed towards him as well.

"It's all very well and good telling players to control themselves but maybe the FA should start controlling crowds. Suarez has never disappointed us since the day he came in the door." Suarez was responsible for Liverpool's best chance of breaking the deadlock, winning a penalty given for handball against Gary Caldwell with an overhead kick.

However Charlie Adam had his spot-kick tipped around the post by the imperious Ali Al-Habsi to produce Liverpool's fourth missed penalty of the season.

"We look for positives, we'd love to put them all away at a higher percentage than we do," Dalglish said.

Despite the obvious disappointment in missing out on three points, Dalglish was still proud of the efforts of his players in a game that could have gone either way.

"It's a hard fought draw for us to come and get a point, for 20 minutes the pitch wasn't too bad and that's when we played our best football, the longer it went on the more difficult it was for us to play the way we want," he added.—INTERNET

Sunderland wins at QPR to move clear of drop zone

LONDON, 22 Dec —Martin O'Neill watched his new Sunderland side squander a two-goal lead before Wes Brown's late header clinched a 3-2 victory at Queens Park Rangers on Wednesday.

In the clash of two relegation threatened sides, goals from Nicklas Bendtner and Stephane Sessegnon put Sunderland in control before QPR struck twice in four minutes.

Heidar Helguson started the comeback in the 63rd minute when he bundled Alejandro Faurlin's cross into the net and the Icelandic striker then turned provider, knocking the ball down for Jamie Mackie.

QPR goalkeeper Paddy Kenny kept his side level with two magnificent saves but he could do nothing to stop Brown's header in the 89th. While QPR is two points above the Premier League relegation zone, Sunderland is no a point and a place higher up the standings. INTERNET



Sunderland captain Lee Cattermole praised his side's positive mindset following the 3-2 win at QPR. INTERNET

Arsene Wenger admits Arsenal was lucky to beat Aston Villa

LONDON, 22 Dec —Arsene Wenger admitted Arsenal was fortunate to come away with three points having defeated Aston Villa 2-1 at Villa Park.

Yossi Benayoun headed home from a late Robin van Persie corner to give the Gunners an important victory after Marc Albrighton scored the Premier League's 20,000th goal to cancel out the Dutchman's first-half penalty.

Wenger admitted after Arsenal's 1-0 defeat at the hands of Manchester City that his side was out of the title race, but he praised his side's ability to bounce back from the disappointment albeit through some good fortune.

When asked whether his side had been fortunate to win the match, Wenger told reporters: "Yes because Villa were dangerous. I must say two things, first of all we had two difficult away games where we have had to give absolutely everything physically and in the first half we controlled the game quite well. "Second half, Villa came back to 1-1 and it was a little bit of a difficult period but then we stabilized the game again and in the last 10 to 15 minutes you could feel we were on top of the game again.

"You can only congratulate Villa, they played well, gave everything. It was a very intense game and we got a very late three points. We were a bit unlucky on Sunday and today maybe a bit lucky, but overall it was im-

portant to re-start with a win tonight and if Villa continue to play like that they will come up the table because they had an outstanding game.

Van Persie's penalty was his 34th Premier League goal in a landmark calendar year but he was booked near the end for going down in the penalty area.—INTERNET

McDowell comes down from his high, ready to climb



Gaele McDowell of Northern Ireland

ORLANDO, 22 Dec —Imagine winning two of golf's biggest trophies only a couple of months apart. Then, right when it looks as though a dream season can't get any better, competing against a limited field of stars and beating Tiger Woods on the last day when no one gave you much of a chance.

That's how it was for

Mark O'Meara in 1998. And that's why he can appreciate how difficult it was this year for Gaele McDowell to follow up on a blockbuster season. "I was winding down in my career, so it was a little different," O'Meara said Monday. "But I know Gaele a little bit. Look, it's hard to live up to the hype. All of a sudden, you feel like every major you should be in contention. You're thrust into the limelight. It heightens the expectations that people place on you." And sometimes, there's a little bit of a let-down."

O'Meara scooped up a career's worth of magic in 1998 when he birdied the last two holes to win the Masters, and at age 41, became the oldest man to win two majors in one season when he captured the British Open in a playoff at Royal Birkdale. If that wasn't enough, he went to Wentworth for the World Match Play Championship and wound up facing Woods in the 36-hole final. All square with seven holes remaining—three of them par 5s—O'Meara beat him with a birdie on the last hole.—INTERNET

Santos denies Barcelona has first-refusal option on Neymar

BARCELONA, 22 Dec — Santos has released an official statement branding claims that Barcelona have a first-refusal option on Neymar as 'unfounded and untrue'.

Reports suggest that the Catalans have ironed out a clause with the Brazilian outfit, which would see the Club World Cup champion have priority in the event of a potential sale of the 19-year-old striker.

A statement on Santos' official website reads:

"Santos FC communicates that reports, claiming Barcelona from Spain would have guaranteed priority in the event of any future sale of the rights of the athlete Neymar, are completely unfounded, untrue and unrealistic, and that a payment will be needed for such a privilege to be obtained.

"As announced on 9 November this year, the athlete Neymar will stay with the club at least until the 2014 World Cup." INTERNET



Aston Villa's goalkeeper Brad Guzan punches the ball clear under pressure from Arsenal's Thomas Vermaelen during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham.—INTERNET

International Sports

Contador decision mid-January: report



Three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador, seen here in July 2011.—INTERNET

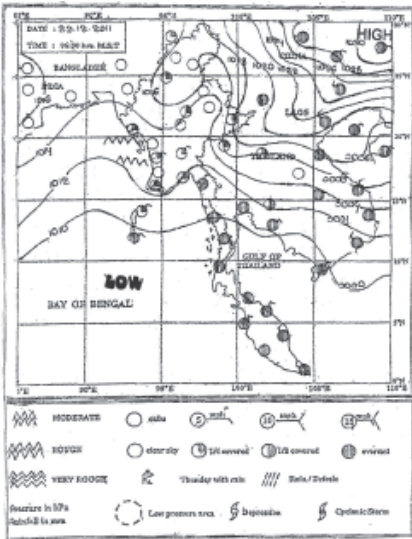
MADRID, 22 Dec — Three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador will find out "between January 15 and 20" whether he is to be handed a doping ban from cycling, a top official was reported as saying Wednesday.

Contador, the standout stage racer of his genera-

tion, was cleared of any wrongdoing by the Spanish cycling federation (RFEC) earlier this year despite testing positive for clenbuterol at the 2010 Tour de France, which he won.

The Spaniard claimed he had ingested the banned substance by eating a contaminated steak, an explanation which satisfied the RFEC but which failed to pass muster with the International Cycling Union (UCI) and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Both bodies appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in the hope of handing the Spaniard a more substantial sanction.—INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER Friday, 23rd December, 2011

Sl. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (C/F)		Forecast	Percent
		Maximum	Minimum		
1	Kachin	25/77	10/50	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	27/81	07/45	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	35/95	17/63	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	21/70	01/34	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	25/77	09/48	Generally fair weather	
6	Lower Sagaing	28/82	14/57	Generally fair weather	
7	Tanintharyi	33/91	18/64	Partly cloudy	
8	Bago	30/86	15/59	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	29/84	13/55	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	28/82	14/57	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	33/91	18/64	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	31/88	17/63	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	28/82	14/57	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	25/77	09/48	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	26/79	07/45	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	24/75	07/45	Partly cloudy	
17	Ajeyawady	30/86	18/64	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	32/90	13/55	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	31/88	17/63	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	28/82	14/57	Generally fair weather	

During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) above December averages temperatures in Tanintharyi Region, (3°C) to (4°C) below December averages temperatures in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions and Eastern Shan State and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Hakha (2°C), Putao, Panlaung and Hebo (3°C) each.

Bay Inference Weather is Partly cloudy in North Bay and cloudy in the Andaman sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

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

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

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

- MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**
(23-12-11 09:30 am ~ 24-12-11 09:30 am) MST
Overseas Transmission
- * News
 - * Preserving Myanmar Handicrafts
 - * News
 - * Thailand Trade Exhibition 2011
 - * News
 - * Hicker's Journey (Taunggyi City) (Episode-2)
 - * News
 - * Tun Foundation Bank Best Paintings of the Year 2011
 - * News
 - * Cultural Trail from China to ASEAN (Part-I)
 - * News
 - * Record Album
 - * News
 - * Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "Myanmar's Secret Beautifier"
 - * Sapphire Sea... Emerald Trees... and Adventurous Journey
 - * Myanmar Movies "My Teacher"
- MYANMAR TV**
(23-12-2011) (Friday)
- 7:00 am 1. Paritta
 - 7:30 am 2. Morning News
 - 7:50 am 3. Nice and Sweet Song
 - 8:40 am 4. International News
 - 2:15 pm 5. Defence Services Commander in Chief's Cup, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament (Live) (Final) (Yangon Command Headquarters Team Vs C-in-C (Army) Commandant's Office Team)
 - 5:15 pm 6. Songs of National Spirit
 - 5:20 pm 7. Myanmar Language
 - 5:45 pm 8. Sports Highlight
 - 7:00 pm 9. TV Drama Series
 - 8:00 pm 10. News
 - 11. Just for Laughs (Gas Asia)
 - 12. TV Drama Series
 - 13. Songs Lovers



A doctor treats a patient in the Whittier Street Health Center in Boston, Massachusetts State, the United States, on 7 Dec, 2011. Massachusetts States has the highest rate of health insurance coverage in the United States, at 98.1 percent, including 99.8 percent of children.—XINHUA

China stock index futures open lower on Thursday

BEIJING, 22 Dec—China's stock index futures opened lower on Thursday with the contract for settlement in January 2012, the most actively traded, opening 13.8 points lower at 2,344.8 points. The contract for settlement in January 2012, opened 15 points lower at 2,350, while the contract for settlement in March 2012 opened at 2,373 points, down 8 points. The contract for settlement in June 2012 opened 11.8 points lower at 2,389 points. The stock-index contracts, agreements to buy or sell the Hushen 300 Index at a present value on an agreed date, are designed to allow investors to bet on and profit from either gains or declines in the market.

The index futures were launched at the China Financial Futures Exchange (CFFEX) and started trading from April 16, 2010. The CFFEX has set the base value for all the four contracts at 3,399 points.—Xinhua

Cowell backs Amaro to win 'The X Factor'

LOS ANGELES, 22 Dec—"The X Factor" judges didn't want to stop listening to Melanie Amaro.

The powerful 19-year-old vocalist from Sunrise, Fla, wowed the Fox talent competition's panel with her soaring rendition of Beyonce's "Listen" during Wednesday's final performance round, prompting head judge Simon Cowell to declare that Amaro should win the show's grand prize: a \$5 million recording contract and a starring role in a Pepsi commercial. "That wasn't a \$5 million performance," declared judge LA Reid. "That was a \$50 million performance."

The panel also poured praise on the other two finalists: soulful 30-year-old single father Josh Krajcik of Wooster, Ohio, and 28-year-old singer-rapper Chris Rene of Santa Cruz, Calif. Krajcik accompanied himself on guitar for his final performance of "At Last," while Rene delivered his original tune "Young Homie" with a group of dancers and singers.

"You make everyone fall in love with you," judge Paula Abdul told Rene. Before the final showdown, each singer awkwardly dueted with established artists. Krajcik was joined



In this Wednesday, 14 Sept, 2011 file image released by Fox, judges, from left, Nicole Sherzinger, Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul, and LA Reid attend "The X Factor" screening at the Arclight Cinerama Dome in Los Angeles. INTERNET

by Alanis Morissette on "Uninvited," Rene teamed up with Avril Lavigne for "Complicated," and Amaro partnered with R. Kelly on "I Believe I Can Fly," which marked the first time that the R&B star performed his motivational anthem with another singer.—Internet

Jaguar photo shows conservation success

LA PAZ, 22 Dec—A photograph of a female jaguar with two cubs near a gas pipeline in Bolivia proves the success of jaguar conservation efforts, a wildlife group says.

The Wildlife Conservation Society released the photo of the jaguar family taken near the Santa Cruz-Puerto Suarez Gas Pipeline in Kaa Iya National Park in Bolivia.

The adult jaguar, nicknamed Kaaiyana, has been seen with her cubs in the area for more than a month, a WCS release said Wednesday.

"Kaaiyana's tolerance of observers is a testimony to the absence of hunters in this area, and her success as a mother means there is plenty of food for her and her cubs to eat," said John Polisar, coordinator of the WCS Jaguar Conservation Programme.

The WCS estimates at least 1,000 jaguars live in the Gran Chaco Jaguar Conservation Unit, a 47,000-square-mile area spanning southern Bolivia and northern Paraguay.

Kaaiyana was first detected by a WCS survey at the Isose site in 2005 with male jaguars, and again in 2006 with a cub.

Kaa Iya park guards work to prevent illegal hunting and



Kaaiyana and her two cubs.—INTERNET

settlements along the right-of-way to the gas pipeline and ensure the protection of wildlife, including jaguar prey, in the park.

"The photographic histories of jaguars in the area by WCS and the reproductive success of this female are testimony that conservation efforts have been effective," said Julie Kunen, WCS director of Latin America and Caribbean Programmes.—Internet

15 injured in warehouse fire near Thailand's eastern deep seaport

BANGKOK, 22 Dec—A warehouse of Future Port Fusion Co, Ltd which is located nearby Laem Chabang deep seaport in eastern Chonburi province caught fire Thursday afternoon, injuring 15, two of these badly wounded.

The company provides international and domestic transport as well as warehouse services in Sriracha district, Chonburi province, about 120 kilometres away from the capital Bangkok.

According to the police, there had been an explosion in the warehouse which keeps tapioca flour and products before it caught fire. A total of 15 staff of the company were injured as there were several workers working when the incident occurred.

Ten of fire engines rushed to the scene and took few hours to keep the situation under control. The police said conveyor belt might be the cause of explosion and fire but further investigation must be conducted. Initially, the damage cost have not be estimated yet.—Internet

Experts meet for transboundary biodiversity management and climate change adaptation initiative in Hindu-Kush-Himalayas region

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec — “Experts Consultation to Develop Future Strategic Program for Transboundary Biodiversity Management and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative” in Hindu-Kush-Himalayas region opened here today with an address by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun.

In his address, the Union Minister urged the experts from the region to promote cooperation in science and research sector, to review strategic resolutions passed at the Tengchong consultation and to complete drawing future strategic programme for transboundary biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, sustainable development and climate change adaptation.

Nepal-based the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) was formed in 1983 for the mountain communities in the Hindu-Kush-Himalayas (HKH) region which is the widest mountain chain in the world and located in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar,



Union Minister U Win Tun addresses “Experts Consultation to Develop Future Strategic Program for Transboundary Biodiversity Management and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative” in Hindu-Kush-Himalayas region.—MNA

Nepal and Pakistan.

The HKH region is known as the “Third Pole” of the earth, due to its inaccessibility and the amount of water stored in the form of

ice and snow. It is also known as the “Water Tower” of Asia, the source of ten of its largest rivers.

Myanmar became a member of

ICIMOD in 1990. The Mt. Khakaborazi in the northernmost part of the country is located in HKH region.

MNA

Agreement signed with Busan Korea Biotechnology to establish combined cycle power plant in Yangon



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe at MoU signing ceremony between Department of Electric Power and Busan Korea Biotechnology Co Ltd.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—Department of Electric Power and Busan Korea Biotechnology Co Ltd signed a MoU for

the feasibility study of combined cycle power plant project to supply Yangon and Thilawa Industrial Zone with

sufficient electricity at the Ministry of Electric Power No (2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Electric Power No (2) U Khin Maung Soe, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Electric Power No (1) U Zaw Min, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, deputy ministers, departmental heads and officials of Busan Korea Biotechnology.

Densely populated with booming economy, Yangon in the south of the country is the largest electricity consuming region—half of electricity consumption of the whole country 700 Megawatts flows into it—while hydropower plants lie in the northernmost part.

Four dilapidated power plants in the region can generate only 240 MWs, requiring the region to join 400 miles long power grid to meet its increasing demand—10 per cent each year. It contributes to power loss and insufficiency.

Yangon and its neighbourhoods are in need of an immediate natural gas-fired and recycled power plant.

MNA

Essay, poem, poster and painting contest of traffic rules educative show held

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—The basic-level essay-writing, poem, poster and painting contests of the fourth Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Educative Show to be held from 7 to 11 January 2012 under the aegis of Nay Pyi Taw Council took place at No.1 Basic Education High School Pyinmana on 17 December.

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Saw Hla and party viewed the competitions. A total of 180 students from schools in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area participated in the competitions.

MNA

Yangon International Trade Exhibition 2011 opens



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Brain size may predict risk for early Alzheimer's disease

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India defers test firing of nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile



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