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Saturday, 31 December, 2011

Our Three Main National Causes * Non-disintegration of the Union | * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity | * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham awards winners at 2011-2012 prize presentation of Education Ministry

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—The prize presentation for outstanding students for 2011-2012 academic year of the Ministry of Education was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, at 3 pm today, attended by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents medals and certificates of honour to outstanding students who passed matric exam for 2011.—MNA

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, teachers and prize winning students.

First, students of Nay Pyi Taw Basic Education High School No. 1 sang the song entitled “Myanmar School” to open the ceremony. Then, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye delivered an address.

Students of Pinyinmana BEHS No. 2 sang the song entitled “outstanding student”.

Afterwards, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented medals and certificates of honour to the winners from the fourth to the tenth including the first prize to Ma Myat Shwe Yi Tun of Dagon BEHS No. 1 of Yangon Region in science combination of matriculation examination in 2011, second prizes to Ma Yamin Aye of Thuwunna BEHS in Thingangyun Township and Ma Yi Mon Lwin of Dagon BEHS No. 1, the third prize to Ma Han Win Tun of Dagon BEHS No. 1, those from the fourth to the tenth including the first prize to Ma Swe Swe Hlaing of Hsinswe Village BEHS Branch of Htilin Township in Magway Region in the arts combination, the second to Ma Hsu Myint Myat Hnin of Ahtaung BEHS in Kyonpyaw Township of Ayeyawady Region and the third to Ma Sanda Oo of Mauk Village BEHS Branch in Gangaw Township of Magway Region.

The Vice-President posed for



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents medals and certificates of honour to outstanding students who passed matric exam for 2011.—MNA

documentary photo with the prize winners.

The Union Minister for Education awarded the first, sec-

ond and third winners in the English proficiency skills contest for eighth, seventh, sixth, fifth and (See page 8)

Central Committee for Prevention Against Human Trafficking holds meeting



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PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 31 December, 2011

Literature helps broaden horizons of youth

With the aim of forging Union Spirit and of preserving tradition, culture and national characters, National Literary Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards goes to the outstanding literati yearly.

Prize-awarding ceremony for winners of Lifetime Achievement Award, National Literary Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards was held at Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 December. It is the first time in the time of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Taking a look at the current literary world, there were publications of over 3000 books in the year 2000. Nowadays, about 200 monthly magazines and about 200 weekly journals are in publication. A total of over 10,000 books were published in 2010. Among them, Committee for scrutinizing National Literary Awards has chosen 11 out of 2000 books for 2010. Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award has been conferred since 2001.

Fourteen genres are designated for National Literary Awards and twelve for Sarpay Beikman Manuscripts Awards.

National Literary Awards went to eleven authors and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards to 23. As a milestone, a winner for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards in English has emerged for the first time in the course of it.

Literature is great valuable cultural heritage among notational heritage being preserved in successive eras. All literati are duty-bound to serve the interest of people. So, today youth can widen the scope of their knowledge by reading those books.

Kayin New Year Don dance goes with a bang

YANGON, 30 Dec—Kayin New Year traditional “Don” dance contests for Kayin Era 2751 were held on a grand scale at Thiri ground in Hpa-an of Kayin State from 24 to 26 December.

Along with the three-night Don dance contests in which Don troupes took part, Kayin traditional dances, stage shows, tradition boxing tournaments, Chinlone contests and funfairs occupied the ground. Thiri ground was very crowded with national races.

MNA

Chinese gymnastic professional gives trainings

YANGON, 30 Dec—With the aim of developing gymnastic sports in Myanmar and securing achievement in the XXVII SEA Games, gymnastic professional Ms Yan Yun Ying of China is providing training to the trainees at Myanmar Gymnastic Camp (Kyaikkasan) from 19 December 2011 to 11 January 2012.

The Chinese gymnastic professional is training 17 coach officers of Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Gymnastics Federation by applying modern techniques. She is also giving training to students of basic education schools from Yangon Region. A plan is underway to give talks on techniques and rules in international competitions with female and male gymnastic referees of the federation and to designate grades of the athletes.

MNA

LPDR delegation leaves Yangon after attending 10th Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and party meet Lao delegation led by Mr Bounkeut Sangsomsak at 10th Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities at Central Level.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—At the invitation of U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Lao delegation led by Mr Bounkeut Sangsomsak, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic arrived by air in the evening of 28 December to attend the Tenth Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities at Central Level, held in Ngwe Hsaung on 29 and 30 December.

The Lao deputy foreign minister and delegates were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Director-General Daw Yin Yin Myint and responsible officials of the ministry, Lao Ambassador Mr Nirahath Sayalath and Lao Embassy staff.

The Tenth Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities at Central Level was held at Sunny Paradise Hotel in Ngwe Hsaung in the morning of 30 December. The meeting was attended on Myanmar side by Co-Chairman and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint as leader of the

delegation and senior officials from various ministries concerned as members and on the Lao side by Co-Chairman and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of LPDR led by Mr Bounkeut Sangsomsak, and members of his delegation. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters relating to further strengthening of the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting came to a successful conclusion with the adoption of the Agreed Minutes of the meeting. The Tenth Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities at Central Level was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting to discuss the draft Agreed Minutes.

On 29 December, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Lao delegation at Sunny Paradise Hotel.

The Lao delegation departed from Yangon International Airport in the evening of 30 December.

MNA

Over 1700 jade lots fetched during 6th day of Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—A total of 1742 jade lots were sold today at the Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium 2011 here today.

The emporium continued today at Mani Yadana Jade Hall here for the sixth day and local and foreign merchants observed jade lots which are on sale through the open tender system and put the tender forms into the tender boxes.

Secretary of the Central Committee for Holding Myanma Gems Emporium Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and members of the committee have supervised the sales which will last till 3 January, 2012.

MNA



Local and foreign gems merchants observe jade lots.—MNA



Gymnastic professional Ms Yan Yun Ying of China training new generation Myanmar athletes.—SPED

Local Sports

Kayah State CM’s Trophy Football Tournay reaches semifinal

YANGON, 30 Dec—The first Kayah State Chief Minister’s Trophy Invitational Football Tournament 2011 continued at Peace Football Ground of Kayah State.

Yesterday, GFA team beat Kayah State (A) team in the first semifinal match.

Today, Kayah State (B) team will play against Shan State in the second semifinal.

MNA

US, S Korean envoys discuss 'next steps' on N Korea

Pyongyang, 30 Dec—Top US and South Korean diplomats discussed the "next steps" to take on the Korean peninsula following the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il, the US State Department said Thursday.

South Korea's top nuclear envoy Lim Sung-Nam held "constructive, substantive" talks in Washington on Wednesday with Glyn Davies, the US special representative for North Korea policy, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said. "They discussed a wide variety of issues, including next steps in the Korean Peninsula," she told reporters without

elaborating.

The talks reflected "the close cooperation between our two countries and the personal bond that they are beginning to form," she added.

South Korean foreign ministry spokesman Cho Byung-Jae said Tuesday the pair would discuss "the current state of the Korean Peninsula after Kim Jong-Il's death and discuss coordination to make progress on the North's nuclear issue." Lim met with China's chief nuclear envoy Wu Dawei in Beijing last week for talks about how to respond to the sudden demise of North Korea's longtime ruler on 17 December.

The six-party talks on the

North's nuclear weapons program — chaired by China and involving the two Koreas, the United States, Japan and Russia — have been at a standstill since the last round in December 2008.

Pyongyang stormed out in April 2009 in protest against what it described as US hostility, and staged its second nuclear test about a month later. The North and China have expressed a wish to return to the forum without preconditions.

But Washington and Seoul have insisted the North should show sincerity in denuclearization and ease tensions with the South.

Negotiations to resume the talks had appeared to be

making progress before Kim's death, with reports Pyongyang would bow to a key US demand that it suspend its uranium enrichment programme in return for food aid from the United States.—*Internet*

US special representative on North Korea policy Glyn Davies talks to journalists as South Korea's nuclear envoy Lim Sung-Nam (L) listens after their meeting in Seoul on 8 December.
INTERNET



Gunmen kill prominent Pakistani police surgeon

Quetta, 30 Dec—Gunmen in southwestern Pakistan on Thursday killed a police surgeon who had received threats for his role in investigating the deaths of five foreigners at the hands of security forces earlier this year, police said.

Surgeon Baqir Shah conducted the autopsies on the five foreigners, including three women, who security forces initially said were would-be suicide bombers who died 17 May when they detonated a grenade at a checkpoint near Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan Province.

But Shah found that the unarmed foreigners from central Asia, one of whom was pregnant, were killed by a hail of bullets. Video showed one of the women raising her arm in what appeared to be a pleading gesture as the security forces fired. Shah was severely beaten by men who he claimed were police soon after he testified before a government commission set up to investigate the deaths. Police denied the allegations.

The surgeon continued to receive threats until he was shot Thursday by unknown gunmen in Quetta, said police officer Nazir Ahmed Khurd.

The government tribunal held several police and paramilitary soldiers responsible for the deaths of the foreigners.

Internet

At least 13 killed in Venezuela tanker truck fire

Caracas, 30 Dec—A tanker truck filled with gasoline crashed and burst into flames on Thursday in Venezuela, engulfing several

cars and a bus and killing at least 13 people.

The tanker truck tipped over and spilled gasoline, which ignited and burned

seven vehicles, Caracas fire chief William Martinez said.

Rescue workers pulled victims' bodies from the blackened vehicles.

Martinez said the tanker truck driver apparently lost control on the highway in Caracas but the cause of the accident was unclear.

At least 16 people were injured in the accident, national police chief Luis Fernandez said. The 30-year-old truck driver, Tulio Estenique, was unhurt and was arrested, prosecutors said in a statement. He is to be arraigned and is under investigation for his responsibility in causing the accident. Prosecutors said that according to witnesses the truck was speeding.

Internet



Bystanders watch at a burned bus at the site of an accident that killed at least 13 people in Caracas, Venezuela, on 29 Dec, 2011. A tanker truck filled with gasoline crashed and burst into flames devouring several cars and a bus.—INTERNET

Yingluck's administration brings close ties for Cambodia, Thailand

Phnom Penh, 30 Dec— Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen on Thursday hailed the Thai government led by Yingluck Shinawatra for her efforts to restore good relations with Cambodia.

Speaking at a meeting with visiting Thai foreign minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul and energy minister Pichai Nariphaphan at the Phnom Penh's Peace Palace, Hun Sen said that the bilateral relations between Cambodia and Thailand have "turned good" since the Pheu Thai Party led by Yingluck Shinawatra won the general election in July this year. He added that it was the open of the new chapter of Cambodian and Thai relations and cooperation. The premier said that since July this year, the bilateral trade and tourism have been significant increased. Meanwhile, Surapong pledged to continue boosting the bilateral ties on trade, investment, tourism and cultures for the mutual interests of the two countries' peoples. Cambodia and Thailand have had sporadic border conflict over territorial dispute near Cambodia's Preah Vihear temple since the UNESCO listed the temple as a World Heritage Site on 7 July, 2008 and witnessed fierce border fighting in February and April this year during the previous Thai's administration led by the Democrat Party.—*Xinhua*

Man in Afghan uniform kills French soldiers

Kabul, 30 Dec—A man dressed in Afghan army fatigues on Thursday shot dead two French soldiers in what appeared to be the latest attack by a member of the Afghan security forces on NATO troops.

The Taliban claimed responsibility, saying the soldier joined the army in order to carry out his attack in Kapisa Province, in the volatile east of the country where many of the 3,700 French troops in Afghanistan are based.

The militant group, which has been waging a 10-year militancy against US-led NATO and Afghan forces, also said they carried out a roadside bombing in the southern Province of Helmand that killed 10 local

police.

"An individual wearing an Afghan National Army uniform turned his weapon against two International Security Assistance Forces service members in eastern Afghanistan, today, killing both service members," an ISAF statement said.

The Taliban, who frequently exaggerate their claims, said three French soldiers were killed and several others wounded.

"Ibrahim (the soldier)... achieved his aim by taking out three French invading troops and wounding a number of them after he opened fire," spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on their website.—*Internet*



A soldier with the French Foreign Legion watches an Afghan National Army (ANA) vehicle driving by on the road near Tagab in Afghanistan's Kapisa Province on 26 January, 2011.—INTERNET

35 killed in air raid across Turkish-Iraqi border

Ankara, 30 Dec— Governor's Office of Turkey's southern border Province Simak said Thursday an air raid across Turkish-Iraqi border killed 35 people and wounded another one, Turkish semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

Turkey's General Staff said earlier on Thursday in a statement that Turkish jets bombed a group of people approaching its border in accordance with an intelligence that the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) was planning to attack military outposts after their recent losses.

The incident occurred in Iraq's northern Region of Sinat- Haftanin, where the main camps of the PKK were located with no civilian settlement. The statement came after some allegations that "villagers were killed" in the airstrike. Earlier on Thursday, Sirkak Governor Vahdettin Ozkan said that over 20 people were killed across Turkish-Iraqi border.

According to earlier reports, the air raid was conducted Wednesday night under the guidance of unmanned aerial vehicles near the Ortasu village of Uludere town in Sirkak Province, which borders Iraq.—*Xinhua*

Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircrafts perform during the IAF Pilot Training School's Class 163 Graduation Ceremony at Hatzerim Air Base, outside Be'er Sheva, southern Israel, on 29 Dec, 2011.
XINHUA



Five people wounded in Iraq's Diyala

Baquba, 30 Dec— Five people were wounded in a bomb attack in Iraq's eastern Province of Diyala on Thursday, a provincial police source said. A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol in southern the provincial capital City of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, wounding three policemen and two passers-by, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Diyala Province, which stretches from the eastern edges of Baghdad to the Iranian border east of the country, has long been a stronghold for al-Qaeda militants and other militant groups since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. Iraqi cities have been plagued by several attacks, including suicide bombings, since the US troops pulled out of the country earlier this month.—*Xinhua*



Health Tip: Exercising with arthritis

Physical activity, an important part of arthritis management, can help improve pain and joint flexibility. The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention recommends these low-impact exercises that offer benefits without undue strain on the joints:

- * Aerobic exercises, including swimming, biking, water aerobics, dancing, walking at a fast pace, and gardening.
- * Exercises that strengthen the muscles, including calisthenics and weight training.
- * Exercises that help improve balance, including tai chi, walking backward and standing on one foot.—Internet

Teen hearing risk from MP3 players



Twenty-five percent of teens are in danger of early hearing loss as a direct result of MP3 players, researchers in Israel say.—INTERNET

TEL AVIV, (Israel), 30 Dec—Twenty-five percent of teens are in danger of early hearing loss as a direct result of MP3 players, researchers in Israel say.

Chava Muchnik of Tel Aviv University, Dr Ricky Kaplan-Neeman, Dr Noam Amir and Ester Shabtai studied teens' music listening habits and took acoustic measurements of preferred listening levels.

MP3 players permit users to listen to crystal-clear audio at high volume for hours on end, but the personal listening devices are a serious health hazard, with teenagers as the most at-risk group, the researchers said.

The results, published in the *International Journal of Audiology*, demonstrated teens have harmful music-listening habits when it comes to iPods and other MP3 devices.

"In 10 or 20 years it will be too late to realize that an entire generation of young people is suffering from hearing problems much earlier than expected from natural aging," Muchnik said in a statement.

Hearing loss caused by continuous exposure to loud noise is a slow and progressive process and people may not notice the harm they are causing until years of accumulated damage begin to take hold, Muchnik warns.

"Those who are misusing MP3 players today might find that their hearing begins to deteriorate as early as their 30s and 40s—much earlier than past generations," Muchnik said.—Internet

Crude up moderately despite inventory build

NEW YORK, 30 Dec—Oil prices erased morning losses and ended moderately higher on Thursday even after report showed the US crude stockpiles rose unexpectedly last week.

Light, sweet crude for Feb. delivery added 29 cents, or 0.29 percent to settle at 99.65 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.—Xinhua

Wendy's in Tokyo launches \$16.50 burger

Business



Wendy's officials said it plans to expand the restaurant overseas, but the \$16.50 top shelf burger on sale at a Wendy's in Japan was none of its doing.—INTERNET

TOKYO, 30 Dec—Wendy's officials said it plans to expand the restaurant overseas, but the \$16.50 top shelf burger on sale at a Wendy's in Japan was none of its doing.

Officials at company headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, said they "really don't have anything to do with it," referring to a burger sold with goose liver pate and truffles at a Wendy's in a posh section of Tokyo. The gourmet burger is part of Wendy's return to Japan, a market it had abandoned two years ago, the newspaper said.

The return is part of Wendy's expansion plans that have a goal of tripling the firm's overseas restaurants, Chief Executive Officer Emil Brolick said.

Wendy's is shooting for 1,000 foreign outlets that could open the door for more creative menus.

Outside the United States, fast-food restaurants are not always part of a fast-paced car culture, said Nick Setyan, a restaurant industry analyst at Wedbush Securities Inc. "Get-in, get-out," is the norm in the United States, but abroad fast food outlets are often viewed as a place for a sit-down meal, he said.—Internet

FAO reports 8.2 pct food inflation in L America and Caribbean

SANTIAGO, 30 Dec—Food inflation in Latin America and the Caribbean declined slightly to 8.2 percent in November from 8.4 percent in October while total inflation remained stable, a UN body said Thursday.

Food prices went up by over one percentage point in Chile, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela while countries like Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Honduras and Paraguay saw inflationary pressures easing, said a report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s regional office in

Santiago.

For Argentina, Colombia and Ecuador, the figures remained largely unchanged.

In the Caribbean region, a slight decrease in food inflation was reported in Aruba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In Trinidad and Tobago, the rate skyrocketed from 4.3 to 6.9 percent.

As for the Central America, the inflation rates decreased in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras, with food prices dropping some two percentage points in Honduras between October and November.—Xinhua

Lawsuit charges Verizon Wireless with fraud

NEW YORK, 30 Dec—Verizon Wireless has tried to inflate its number of phone activations to raise the company's value, a lawsuit filed in New York says.

The lawsuit was filed by ZCom, a firm that operates 120 Verizon Wireless stores in the greater New York area, the *New York Post* reported Thursday.

ZCom attorney John Sampson, who is also the state Senate minority

leader, said Verizon Wireless was "steroid enhancing" to appear more profitable.

Accusations, however, are ricocheting around New York courtrooms. A ZCom sub-lessor, Shelly Bhumitra, has filed a lawsuit claiming ZCom and a Verizon Wireless executive were involved in a phone activation scam.

Verizon Wireless has also filed a lawsuit against ZCom in an attempt to cancel their business agreements on the basis of ZCom engaging in fraud.—Internet



RIM share of US smartphone market slips



This picture shows a collection of Blackberry devices at a small restaurant in Jakarta on 10 December. BlackBerry maker Research In Motion's share of the US smartphone market declined during the three months ending in November, while Apple and Google's Android platform both made gains, industry tracker comScore said Thursday.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—BlackBerry maker Research In Motion's share of the US smartphone market declined during the three months ending in November, while Apple and Google's Android platform both made gains, industry tracker comScore said Thursday.

The Waterloo, Ontario-based RIM saw its share of US smartphone subscribers fall to 16.6 percent at the end of November from 19.7 percent at the end of August, according to comScore.

Android was the top smartphone platform with a 46.9 percent share of the US market at the end of November, up from 43.8 percent.

Apple's market share also rose during the period—by 1.4 percentage points to 28.7 percent.

Microsoft, meanwhile, saw its share of the smartphone market fall to 5.2 percent from 5.7 percent.

The industry tracker said 234 million Americans were using mobile devices and 91.4 million were using smartphones.

Samsung remained the top handset manufacturer in the United States with 25.6 percent of US mobile subscribers at the end of November, up from 25.3 percent at the end of August.

LG was next with 20.5 percent, down from 21.0 percent, followed by Motorola with 13.7 percent, down from 14.0 percent.

Apple's share of US mobile subscribers rose to 11.2 percent from 9.8 percent while RIM saw its market share drop to 6.5 percent from 7.1 percent.

RIM has been struggling in recent months and has been the subject of persistent takeover speculation.—Internet

Verizon Wireless has tried to inflate its number of phone activations to raise the company's value, a lawsuit filed in New York says.

INTERNET

'Brainless' fish found off Scotland



Brainless fish found off Scotland.—INTERNET

ORKNEY, 30 Dec — A survey of the waters around Scotland's coast, using underwater video and acoustic and 3D images, the researchers said.

The creature and others were recorded during a government-backed

The rarely seen species is considered a modern example of the first animals that evolved a backbone, with a primitive nerve cord down its back and no clearly defined face or brain. Amphioxus and other seldom-seen species were described as "weird and wonderful" by Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead.

"The waters around Scotland are rich in such fascinating biodiversity and it's our responsibility to protect this fragile environment," he said. "That's why we have ramped up our marine survey work, with plans being prepared for new surveys in 2012 to further our knowledge of what lies beneath Scotland's seas."

Internet

Science

New island rising from Red Sea

Ash plume drifts from a new island rising from the Red Sea.

INTERNET



GREENBELT, 30 Dec— NASA satellites have confirmed ground observations of a new island rising from volcanic activity in the Red Sea, the space agency said.

NASA said its Terra, Aqua and Earth Observing One satellites confirmed a new island being created in the Zubair archipelago, first spotted by Yemeni fishermen who saw lava spewing 100 feet into the air 19 Dec. The growing lava mass rose

above the water's surface on 23 Dec and the new island began to take shape on the Red Sea Rift, where the African and Arabian tectonic plates are slowly pulling apart, NewScientist.com reported. The island, so far unnamed, is about 1,600 feet wide and still growing, scientists say. It may continue to grow if the volcanic activity continues or the newly formed and fragile lava mass may be broken up by the action of the sea's waves, they said.—Internet

Sperm study could help couples conceive

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 Dec— US researchers say studying electrical currents in sperm cells may offer hope to infertile couples but also may lead to an effective male birth control pill. University of California, San Francisco, biologists Yuriy Kirichok and Polina Lishko have uncovered how progesterone — a hormone involved in menstruation and embryo development — switches on a sperm's internal electricity. The electric current kicks sperm tails into overdrive, powering the final push toward the egg, the husband-and-wife researchers said.

Sperm that fail to respond to progesterone's signal could help explain why some couples have difficulty conceiving, Kirichok and Lishko, both Ukrainian immigrants, said. The researchers have been using a technique called "whole-cell recording" to perform some of the world's first electrical recordings from human sperm to map out a key process in fertilization.

"For the first time, we have a reliable method to record, in a very direct fashion, the molecules that control male fertility," Kirichok told the *San Jose Mercury News*. "Now I believe the field will move faster." And if progesterone molecules excite sperm tails, then blocking them with some drug that keeps progesterone from interacting with sperm could lead to an effective male birth control pill, researchers said.—Internet



US researchers say studying electrical currents in sperm cells may offer hope to infertile couples but also may lead to an effective male birth control pill.

INTERNET

Gene identified in increasing pancreatic cancer risk

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—Mutations in the ATM gene may increase the hereditary risk for pancreatic cancer, according to data published Thursday in *Cancer Discovery*, the latest journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most morbid cancers, with less than five percent of those diagnosed with the disease surviving to five years. Approximately 10 percent of patients come from families with multiple cases of pancreatic cancer.

"There was significant reason to believe this clustering was due to genetics, but we had not, to this point, been able to find the causative genes that explained the cluster of pancreatic cancer for a majority of these families," said lead author Alison Klein, associate professor at Johns Hopkins University and director of the National Familial Pancreas Tumor Registry.—Xinhua

Technology

Amazon says 2011 'best holiday ever' for Kindle

SEATTLE, 30 Dec— Online retailer Amazon says 2011 was the best holiday ever for its Kindle-brand e-readers and tablet computers. Amazon.com Inc. said Thursday that people bought more than 1 million Kindles each week in December.

The company has never released specific sales figures for the Kindle. Since the launch of the first Kindle in 2007, this franchise has grown to include several e-readers and the Kindle Fire tablet. The Kindle Fire is expected to be one of the first true competitors to Apple's iPad. Amazon says the Fire has been the best-selling product on its site since its introduction 13 weeks ago. Even so, the iPad is still expected to sell all other tablets, including the \$199 Kindle Fire and Barnes & Noble Inc's new \$249 Nook Tablet. The iPad starts at \$499.—Internet



This file photograph taken on 28 Sept, 2011, shows the Kindle Fire at a news conference, in New York. Online retailer Amazon said Thursday, on 29 Dec, 2011, 2011 was the best holiday ever for its Kindle-brand e-readers and tablet computers.

INTERNET

Google beats Facebook and Yahoo! as the top US web brand in 2011

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 Dec— Google was the most visited US web brand in 2011, defeating social networking site Facebook and rival internet giants Yahoo! and Microsoft to gain the top spot. An average of 153.4 million people in the US visited Google sites per month in the US from January to October, making it the leading internet brand in the country, said market researcher Nielsen in its end-of-year recap.

Facebook ranked second with an average of 137.6 million visitors per month, narrowly beating Yahoo!, which saw an average of 130.1 million visitors to its sites each month.

Recently released statistics from data intelligence company Experian Hitwise found Facebook to be both the most searched for term and the most visited website in 2011. According to Experian Hitwise www.facebook.com accounted for 10.29% of all US visits from January to November 2011, while www.google.com ranked



Google was the most visited US web brand in 2011.

second and accounted for 7.70% of all US visits. Facebook also held an overwhelming lead over other competitors in the category of top US Social Networks & Blogs according to Nielsen, drawing more than three times the number of monthly visitors than its closest challenger, Google's blogging platform Blogger, which saw an average of 45.7 million visitors per month.

Microblogging site Twitter.com ranked third with

23.6 million unique visitors and was followed by blogging platform WordPress.com (20.4 million visitors), aging social music network Myspace.com (17.9 million visitors), business-focused social network LinkedIn (17.0 million visitors) and blogging platform Tumblr (10.9 million visitors).

Reports that Google's newly launched social network, Google+, was dying in the months after it launched due to a lack of visitors to the

network proved to be untrue. The social network managed to climb into eighth place on the list with an average of 8.2 million visitors per month, narrowly beating Yahoo!'s (discontinued as of 1 December) social networking aggregation service Yahoo! Pulse (8.0 million visitors) and Six Apart's blogging service TypePad (7.8 million visitors).

Internet

Tourist arrested with loaded gun at 11 September memorial

NEW YORK, 30 Dec—A tourist from Tennessee was arrested after she brought a loaded handgun to the National 11 September Memorial in her handbag, and she could face a possible prison term, authorities said on Thursday.

Meredith Graves, 39, was trying to visit the New York City memorial on 22 December but was arrested when she told security officers that she had a gun, apparently thinking she could check it for safekeeping, authorities said.

Security is tight at the memorial, located at the site of the World Trade Centre towers destroyed in the attacks of 11 September, 2001. Tickets for the memorial must be reserved online, and visitors pass through airport-style security screening. More than a million people have visited the site since it opened to the public on 12 September, a memorial spokesman said.

Graves told officers at the memorial that she had a permit to carry the concealed .32-caliber handgun in Tennessee, but such permits are not valid in New York, police said.—Reuters



Visitors look at panels containing the names of the victims of the attacks, as well as one of the memorial pools, on the first day that the 9/11 Memorial was opened to the public at the World Trade Centre site in New York, on 12 September, 2011.—REUTERS

Police arrest fifth man, see Indian murder as hate crime



A photo provided by Greater Manchester Police shows Indian student Anuj Bidve who was shot dead in Salford, a borough of Manchester, on 26 December as he walked from his hotel with friends.—INTERNET

LONDON, 30 Dec—British police said Thursday they were treating the murder of an Indian student in northwest England as a hate crime, as they arrested a fifth person in connection with the shooting.

Anuj Bidve, a 23-year-old postgraduate student, was shot in the head at close range early Monday in Salford, near Manchester, while he was out with other Indian friends. A 20-year-old man on Thursday became the fifth person to be arrested on suspicion of Bidve's murder, joining a 16-year-old, two 17-year-olds and a 19-year-old in police custody.

Chief Superintendent Kevin Mulligan said there was no evidence to suggest the murder was racially motivated, but that police were treating it as a hate crime. "We have not established a clear motive for the senseless murder of Anuj, and there is no definitive evidence pointing to it being racially motivated," he told a Press conference.

"However, we are treating this as a hate crime based on the growing perceptions within the community that it was motivated by hate," Mulligan said that regardless of the motive, "we've got significant resources committed

to it and we'll leave no stone unturned in trying to find those responsible for this awful crime". He said police had searched a number of properties in the area, were conducting forensic and ballistic tests as well as house to house inquiries, and were trawling through CCTV footage from the night of the attack.—Internet

Two killed, dozens injured in 40-car pile-up near New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, 30 Dec—A 40-car pile-up near New Orleans in an area that has been blanketed by fog in recent mornings killed two men and injured dozens of other people on Thursday, tying up traffic for hours, police said.

The early morning chain-reaction crash took place on Interstate 10 just east of New Orleans, killing a 54-year-old man who was a passenger in a truck and the driver of another truck, police spokesman Officer Garry Flot said.

Both men, residents of Louisiana, died on the scene but were not immediately identified. Another 25 people were transported to a hospital with injuries ranging from minor to critical, while 37 more declined treatment, Flot said.

The injured included a New Orleans firefighter who sustained a small cut to his face while assisting in the incident.

Reuters



Madina hospital staff help to wheel an injured Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) personnel on a stretcher south of Capital Mogadishu on 29 Dec, 2011. REUTERS

Somali staff member kills 2 MSF aid workers in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, 30 Dec—A Somali staff member of Medecins Sans Frontieres shot dead two of the aid agency's foreign workers in Somalia's Capital Mogadishu on Thursday, police said.

Police spokesman Abdullahi Barise said the gunman had been taken into custody. A Reuters witness said the man was dragged from the building, still holding a pistol.

"The man was armed with a pistol and we understand he had a quarrel with the coordinator. It is very shocking," Barise said. He said the gunman had worked as a logistics officer for the agency.

The MSF official, who declined to be identified, also said the Somali gunman had worked for the aid agency.

One of the aid workers was shot dead at the scene, and the other was wounded and taken to hospital, where he died of his wounds, according to police and medical staff at the hospital.

MSF said in a statement: "We confirm

that a serious shooting incident has taken place in the MSF compound in Mogadishu. At this point we don't have more information about the scale and the extent of this incident. MSF is doing everything it can to ensure the security of its staff." It would neither confirm nor deny the deaths.

MSF, or Doctors Without Borders, operates in a number of locations in Somalia, providing emergency aid to people suffering from famine and the violence that has plagued the country for decades.

The attack happened in a bustling part of the capital which is under the control of government and African Union troops.

In mid-October, gunmen kidnapped two Spanish aid workers for MSF in Kenya, near the Somali border.

Somalia descended into chaos in 1991 after dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was ousted, and has not had a functional central government since.

Reuters

Ukraine ex-PM Tymoshenko moved to prison

KIEV, 30 Dec—Former Ukrainian prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, sentenced to seven years in prison for abuse of office, has been moved to prison from a detention centre where she has been held since early August, the state penitentiary service said on Friday.

The move indicated she was unlikely to go free any time soon despite pressure from the European Union, which considered her trial politically motivated and put off the signing of key agreements with Ukraine because of her sentence.

Tymoshenko is the fiercest opponent of President Viktor Yanukovich, who narrowly beat her in the presidential runoff in February 2010 after losing his earlier bid for the presidency because of the 2004 "Orange Revolution" protests, which she helped lead.

A local court sentenced Tymoshenko to seven years in prison in October, saying she had exceeded her powers when forcing through a 2009 gas deal with Russia. Tymoshenko, who denies any wrongdoing, lost an appeal against the verdict one week ago.



Female inmates are seen at the bedroom area of penal colony number 54 in this January 1992 file photo, the same prison where former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko will be held after being sentenced to seven years for abuse of office, in Kharkiv.—REUTERS

"Tymoshenko has been moved to a prison in the Kharkiv region," the state penitentiary service said in a statement.

The European Union, which had planned to initial agreements on political association and free trade with Ukraine at a summit this month, put off the signing and cited Tymoshenko's case as an example of selective justice in the former Soviet republic.—MNA/Reuters

Five Bahraini policemen to face charges of torture in court

MANAMA, 30 Dec—Bahrain's Public Prosecution on Thursday referred cases of torture and maltreatment carried out by Interior Ministry staffs to the High Criminal Court.

Chief Public Prosecutor Nawaf Hamza said in a statement that the court case has been scheduled for 11 January, 2012, adding that the charges in the case included five members of the police force, "two of which were charged with torture and mistreatment of a detainee that led to death." "The other three defendants were charged with negligence, for their failure to report the incident," said Hamza.

The transfer is according to an order by the Military Court that the case does not fall under its jurisdiction.

In the coming weeks, the High Criminal Court is all set to take up another high

profile case involving members in a sleeper cell planning to target the Saudi embassy in Bahrain and the Interior Ministry.

Hamza said that eight defendants are being referred to the High Criminal Court to be tried for espionage, as well as organizing, managing, and joining an illegal group. The first court hearing for the case has been set for 9 January next year.

The accused collaborated with a foreign country to provide military training for the sake of conducting terrorist acts.

"The Public Prosecution relied on evidence ranging from confessions to workbooks and written documents seized in the possession of the accused parties. The documents contained organizational plans and instructions for making bombs," added Hamza.—Xinhua

China to develop new-generation launch vehicles: white paper

BEIJING, 30 Dec—China will develop new-generation launch vehicles, such as *Long March-5*, *Long March-6* and *Long March-7*, in the next five years, a governmental white paper said Thursday.

The *Long March-5* will use non-toxic and pollution-free propellant, and will be capable of placing 25 tonnes of payload into the near-Earth orbit, or placing 14 tonnes of payload into the GEO orbit, said the white paper "China's Space Activities in 2011" released by the State Council Information Office.

The *Long March-6* will be a new type of high-speed response launch vehicle, which will be capable of placing not less than 1 tonne of payload into a sun-synchronous orbit at a height of 700 km.

The *Long March-7* will be capable of placing 5.5 tonnes of payload into a sun-synchronous orbit at a height of 700 km, according to the white paper.

The country will also conduct special demonstrations and pre-research on key technologies for heavy-lift launch vehicles, the document said.

Since 2006, Long March rockets have accomplished 67 successful launches, sending 79 spacecraft into planned orbits and demonstrating noteworthy improvement in the reliability of China's launch vehicles.—*Xinhua*

Italy's anti-trust authority is imposing a US\$1.2m fine on US tech giant Apple for misleading consumers on assistance services and guarantees for its products.
INTERNET



Italy fines Apple for misleading consumers

ROME, 30 Dec—Italy's anti-trust authority said Tuesday it was imposing a 900,000-euro (\$1.2-million) fine on US tech giant Apple

for misleading consumers on assistance services and guarantees for its products.

"Sanctions of a total of 900,000 euros have been imposed on the Apple group after it was found responsible for bad commercial practices that harmed consumers," the agency said in a statement.

Apple had given "unclear information on payments for additional assistance offered to consumers" and the company had not "fully implemented the two-year guarantee by the producer," it added.

European antitrust officials earlier this month launched a probe to determine whether Apple and five international publishers struck illegal deals to fix the price of e-books in Europe. Apple has also come under pressure from a bitter global legal battle with South Korean electronics giant Samsung, which accuses the US giant of infringing four of its patents with the iPhone.

Apple reported a record net profit of \$6.62 billion (5.06 billion euros) in the third quarter of this year.

Internet

Israel develops green pesticide

JERUSALEM, 30 Dec — Israeli scientists have developed an inexpensive environment friendly pesticide. Researchers, led by Shmuel Gan-Mor, at Israel's Agricultural Research

Organization (ARO), said they have developed an emulsion based on an edible oil that is effective against pests on tomatoes, zucchinis, peppers and other vegetables.

The multispectral spray

works against "diseases, insects, fungi and agricultural pests, such as mites, stermorrhyncha, and powdery mildew", *Xinhua* reported Wednesday quoting Gan-Mor. The pests were unable to

develop a resistance to the mixture during the growing season, he said.

The agriculture and rural development ministry said that the new pesticide, which costs about USD 1 per liter, is safe for immediate harvesting and has a long shelf life.

Internet

World's deepest metro station to be in Russia

ST PETERSBURG, 30 Dec—A new subway station, the world's deepest, will be unveiled in downtown St Petersburg, authorities said.

The Admiralteiskaya station lies over 100 m below the surface. Its opening Wednesday will decrease the load on other metro stations in the city, the northwest Russian city's administration reported.

A total of 10.2 billion rubles (USD 325 mln) has been allocated from the city budget to the construction of stations and tunnels in 2011.—*Internet*



Men riding horses take part in a celebration marking the International Labour Day at a village 350 kms east of Bishkek, Capital of Kyrgyzstan, on 1 May, 2011. The photo is awarded the second prize of *Xinhua International News Photo 2011*.

XINHUA

China police kill seven kidnapers in hostage rescue in Xinjiang

URUMQI, 30 Dec—Police opened fire and killed seven kidnapers during a hostage rescue mission in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region Wednesday night, local authorities said Thursday.

A group of "violent terrorists" kidnapped two people in the remote mountainous areas of Pishan county, Hotan prefecture, at about 11 pm Wednesday. Police opened fire as the kidnapers "resisted arrest," a spokesman with the Xinjiang regional government said.

Seven kidnapers were shot dead, and four others were wounded and arrested. One police officer was killed and another wounded in the rescue. Two hostages were freed.

No more details are immediately available as authorities are investigating the case.

Pishan, an oasis county near the Taklamakan Desert, is located in the ethnic Uygur-dominated area of Xinjiang that is no stranger to violence.

In the nearby City of Hotan in July, a mob stormed a police station, hurled burning gasoline cylinders into rooms, took hostages, and attacked people indiscriminately with axes and knives. Eighteen people, including 14 attackers, were killed in the clash with police forces.

Days after the violence, two separate public attacks occurred in the city of Kashgar, also in Xinjiang's southern part, leaving 13 people dead and 44 others injured. Authorities said overseas-trained terrorists were responsible for the attacks.

Four suspects involved in the Hotan and Kashgar attacks were sentenced to death by court in September.—*Xinhua*



People attend the Christmas floats parade in Vilvoorde, a satellite town of Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 28 Dec, 2011. There were over 21 floats taking part in the parade this year, which made it the biggest in latest 10 years.—XINHUA

Beijing cyberpolice to use real-name microblog for online patrols

BEIJING, 30 Dec—The Beijing police will open a real-name microblog in a bid to prevent online rumors and hazardous information from spreading, a statement from with the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau said Wednesday.

The statement said the Beijing police have set up a "new online law enforcement system," and the real-name microblog "capital cyberpolice" will take charge of online patrolling.

This account represents the online security guard team

of the Beijing municipal public security bureau, and its mission is to patrol the virtual society of the Internet and prevent harmful information from spreading, according to the statement. If the cyberpolice find harmful information being spread online, they will issue warnings to those who spread the information and handle the cases according to law, the statement said. In 2011, Beijing police cracked 2,600 Internet-related criminal cases, including Internet fraud and gambling, involving more than 2,600 suspects.—*Xinhua*



A man receives a bubble massage in a Turkish hamam named "Cemberlitas" as he takes a Turkish bath in Istanbul, Turkey, on 28 Dec, 2011.—XINHUA

US stocks slide on continuing European concerns

NEW YORK, 30 Dec—The US stocks dropped on Wednesday, with the S&P 500 back to negative territory for the year, as sentiment was still pressured by lingering European concerns.

Italy on Wednesday successfully sold 9 billion euro 6-month bonds at 3.251 percent, just half of the 6.4 percent yield last month, suggesting that the country's borrowing cost significantly decreased. However, the positive news failed to lift the market as uncertainties remained on peoples' mind. The European Central Bank said that European banks deposited a record 452 billion euros overnight at the bank, reflecting that the banks were reluctant to purchase European sovereign debt as the central bank had hoped and also lacked mutual trust to lend to each other. Meanwhile, euro slid to the lowest level since Jan as investors were cautious waiting a more critical 10-year bond auction in Italy, which was scheduled on Thursday, also spurring further sell-off in stock markets.—*Xinhua*

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham awards winners at 2011-2012 prize...

(from page 1)

fourth standards, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, the first, second and third winners in the mathematics skills contest for grade 5,6,7,8 and 9 and Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun, the first, second and third winners in the Olympic Mathematics Contest and posed for documentary photo with them.

Deputy Ministers U Than Tun, U Aye Myint Kyu, Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and Daw Sanda Khin also gave prizes and certificates of honour to the winners in the

international painting competitions, international sports competitions and SEA Games, the 5th ASEAN Quiz Competition (National Level) and basic education teacher level, high school level, middle school level and primary level of the 2011 Myanmar ICT Award-Educational Project Competition.

Next, students of Nay Pyi Taw BEHS No. 12 sang the song "nationalistic spirit".

After the ceremony, the Vice-President cordially greeted those present and visited the booths on development of education.

MNA

Union Minister Dr Mya Aye presents medals and certificates of honour to outstanding students who won English language skills contest.—MNA



Central Committee for Prevention Against Human Trafficking holds meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec— Central Committee for Prevention Against Human Trafficking held its Meeting No.1/2011 at the Ministry of Home Affairs here today.

The meeting was opened with an address by Chairman of the central committee Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko.

During the meeting, the participants discussed

measures taken by Myanmar against human trafficking, protection of victims and legal action against the traffickers, accepting the victims, support and rehabilitation for the victims and approval for the second 5-year project of anti-human trafficking.

The meeting was participated by members of the central committee deputy ministers, Chairman of the work

group for legal affairs Deputy Attorney-General, Secretary of the central committee, Chief of Myanmar Police Force, departmental officials, representatives of committees for prevention of human trafficking from regions and states, representatives from UN agencies and NGOs and invited guests.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko.—MNA



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko delivers an address at Meeting 1/2011 of Central Committee for Prevention Against Human Trafficking.—MNA

BIDV offers scholarship to 50 YIE students

YANGON, 30 Dec—The representative office of Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV) based in Myanmar offered US\$ 5000 worth scholarship to 50 outstanding undergraduates of Yangon Institute of Economics at a ceremony held at Sapphire Jubilee Hall of Yangon Institute of Economics (Kamayut) on 28 December.



Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Chu Cong Phung presents scholarship to an undergraduate of Yangon Institute of Economics.—MNA

Environmental Conservation Department to be formed

Ko Myo (MNA)

As the nation is placing greater emphasis on environmental conservation, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has planned to form an environmental conservation department in the near future.

Moreover, the ministry is planning to reduce nationwide timber extraction phase by phase within a certain period. At some time, extraction will be carried out only for domestic needs.

Sales of raw materials will be completely stopped in a few years and wood-based industry will be prioritized.

Now that the nation's forest area merely accounts for 24.6 per cent of the total land area, the ministry will take a systematic step to establish more internal and external protected forest reserves, it is learnt.

(Translation: ST)

In-charge Rector Dr Daw Khin San Yi of Yangon Institute of Economics and Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Chu Cong Phung made speeches. Rep: Chief Mr Vuong Thanh Long of BIDV representative office explained offering of scholarship.

The Vietnamese Ambassador and the Institute rector presented stipends to outstanding university students. Next, Rector Dr Daw Khin San Yi presented certificate of honour to the Vietnamese Ambassador.

MNA

Relief aids provided for fire victims of Mingala Taungnyunt Tsp

YANGON, 30 Dec— Relief aids, including cash, were provided for the fire victims of Kadoseik Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, this afternoon.

At the donation ceremony held at Yakyaw Monastery in Patheingyi Ward, Dr Myint Thein, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs, accepted 70 bags of rice, 80 viss of onions, 200 viss of various kinds of dried fish, 15 viss of fish sauce, 170 viss of shrimp paste, 15 viss of edible oil, 45 viss of gram, one bag and 3 packets of dried noodles and one bag of vermicelli donated by Dagon Ayeya Brokerage, Highway Bus Terminal, Bayintnaung Brokerage, Nanthagon Bicycle and Parts Trading and Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal; K 0.3 million by Dagon Ayeya Brokerage and Highway Bus Terminal; K 0.5 million by Bayintnaung Brokerage and Bus Terminals; K 0.1 million by Nanthagon Bicycle and Parts Trading; K 275,000 by Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal and K 2.5 million by U Aung Htwe.—MNA

64th Independence Day hailed with newly-opened road in Myaungmya Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Hailing the 64th Independence Day, the opening ceremony of tarred road on 6th Street at No. 2 Ward, which constructed by Myaungmya Township Development Affairs Committee, was held this morning.

It was attended by Ayeyawady Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Ko Ko and officials concerned.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

F&R Ministry holds family funfairs, games, kitchen crops contest

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—To hail the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue held an awarding-ceremony of games, family funfairs and kitchen crops at Myanma Economic Bank in Myatpan Thazin Road in Nay Pyi Taw Banks Zone here this morning.

Together with Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun and wife, Deputy Minister U Win

Than, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, Managing Directors of the departments and enterprises of the ministry and wives and other ranks and their families attended the ceremony.

The officials concerned awarded the winners of the contests. Then, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Than Nyein presented first prize to Central Bank of Myanmar and second prize to Myanma

Economic Bank in Women's Volleyball Contest, and Deputy Minister U Win Than presented first prize to the Customs Department and second prize to Central Bank of Myanmar in Men's Volleyball Contest.

It was reported that Union Minister U Hla Tun awarded the winners in Kitchen crops contest, and the staff participated in lucky draw programmes happily.

MNA

Basic computer course No. 3/2011 of SWRR concludes

YANGON, 30 Dec—The concluding ceremony of basic computer course No. 3/2011 for service personnel of departments under the Ministry of Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement was held at Social Welfare Training School on Kyaik Waing Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township here today.

On behalf of the Union

minister, Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department made a speech. A total of 20 trainees attended the eight-week course.

MNA

Insurgent group kills three workers from road construction site, seizes three others

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Three workers from Mongpang, Monghta-Monghtaw road construction site were killed and three others, seized by an insurgent group. Those, namely U Kyaw

Win Thein, U Aung Htet Paing, U Ye Zaw Aung, U Sai Aung Myat Lin, U Sai Owat, U Tin Tun Win and U Htin Ze, were lost on the way to the south of Mongpang from their worksites on 17 December.

They were found dead while authority concerned was searching for them at southeast of Naunglon village on 22 December.

The case is under investigation.—MNA

Fire breaks out at BEHS No. 2 in Kamayut Tsp

YANGON, 30 Dec — A fire broke out at Basic Education High School No.2 in Kamayut Township around 5.30 am today and the fire was extinguished around 7.50 pm.

The fire, which started at the computer room of the school, destroyed the

computer room and the arts room of the school, and the school lost the computers in the computer room in the fire.

The people should be on alert to fire during the opening season and should take preventive measures against the fire.—MNA



Fire brigade members putting out fire at No. 2 Basic Education High School in Kamayut Township of Yangon Region.—MNA

Severe cyclonic storm "THANE" crosses Tamilnadu Coast in Southern India

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec — According to the observations at (05:30) hrs MST today, the severe cyclonic storm "THANE" which formed over Southwest Bay is crossing Tamilnadu Coast, near Chennai in Southern India.

Under the influence of the very severe cyclonic storm, rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 m.p.h.—MNA

Donate blood

Funfairs for the disabled persons on 4 Jan

YANGON, 30 Dec—Shwemintha Foundation (Myanmar) will organize the Independence Day Funfairs for the disabled persons at the township sports ground in Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 4 January 2012.

Any disabled persons of

Yangon Region may take part in the funfairs and may enlist at the foundation (head office), No. 797, room-104/B, MAC Tower (II), Wadan Street (at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Street) in Lanmadaw Township, Tel: 2300332 and 215939.

Myanma Alin

Rural development tasks undertaken

MONGHSAT, 30 Dec—As part of efforts for ensuring rural development and poverty alleviation, maintenance of Monghsat-Mongkhok road section, building of 1600-gallon-capacity water tank in Bahtan Village of Mongkhok Sub-township and construction of Affiliated Basic Education Primary School are being undertaken in Monghsat Township.

Township Administrator U Naing Aye inspected progress of construction tasks and attended to the needs. The township administrator and party gave talks on eradication of poppy cultivation.—District IPRD

DISTRICT NEWS

Control of foot-and-mouth disease performed

TACHILEK, 30 Dec—The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department gave a talk on foot-and-mouth disease at Tachilek Township LBVD on 26 December.

Assistant Director Dr Cho Cho Tun of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Section explained eradication of the disease in upper Mekong region and outbreak of the disease and replied to queries raised by those present.

Officials of the department injected vaccine for foot-and-mouth disease to cattles and organized the local people for control of the disease.—Myanma Alin

New gravel road put back into service

OTTWIN, 30 Dec—Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, Ottwin Township Development Committee commissioned new gravel Shin Saw Pu Road on 27 December morning.

Local authorities formally opened the road that measures 640 feet long and 10 feet wide.—Township IPRD

Bayintnaung Brokerage donates blood

YANGON, 30 Dec—The 13th blood donation was held at Bayintnaung Brokerage in Mayangon Township on 24 December.

Families of the brokerage donated K 1,060,000 to the in-charge of National Blood Centre (Yangon). Next, families of the brokerage donated 320 blood bottles.

The blood donors of the brokerage have so far donated 3917 bottles of blood up to 13th time and over K 22410000 to the National Blood Centre (Yangon).

Shopkeepers of the brokerage donated T-shirts, towels and foods to the blood donors.—Myanma Alin



Loans disbursed to needy farmers



KYAUKKYI, 30 Dec—Kyaukkyi Township Poverty Alleviation Committee of Bago Region disbursed loans to needy farmers at the township administrator's office on 22 December.

Officials presented K 50,000 each to 1000 farmers from 30 village-tracts for six-month term. The loans were provided from the fund of Bago Region Government for agricultural purpose and investment in works of farmers.—Kyemon

Engine fails on United Express flight

SOUTH BURLINGTON, 30 Dec—Engine failure forced the emergency landing of a United Express flight that had just departed from Burlington International Airport, Vermont officials said.

The CRJ-700 aircraft, operated by the regional carrier Mesa Airlines,

departed for Chicago around 6 am EDT Wednesday but turned about minutes later after an engine failed, the *Burlington (Vt) Free Press* reported. "They had an issue with the number one engine,"

Patrick Sharrow, an operations specialist at the airport told the newspaper.

"The number one engine was shut down. Shortly after the engine was shut down, they had an indication of possible smoke in the cargo hold."

The plane, which holds about 70 passengers, landed safely and there were no reports of injuries, the *Free Press* said.—*Internet*

Train-Car collision kills one in east China province

HEFEI, 30 Dec—A train collided with a car at a railway crossing Thursday morning in Ma'anshan, a city in east China's Anhui Province, killing the driver of the car.

Local authorities said the accident happened at about

5 am at the railway crossing on Nanhu Street. The accident left the car stuck on the railroad tracks, blocking railway traffic for two hours. No further casualties have been reported.

Passenger train K432

was heading toward Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province, from Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi Province, when the accident happened in Anhui.

Local authorities are investigating the accident.

Xinhua



Folk artist Xie Yunxian (5th R) introduces the giant flour-made dragons to children in Wangrong County, north China's Shanxi Province, on 27 Dec, 2011. Xie spent 3 days making two 3-meter-long dragons with 125 kilogrammes flours to welcome the coming Chinese traditional lunar new year, the Year of Dragon.—XINHUA

Five dead in Kyrgyz explosion

BISHEK, 30 Dec—An explosion at a bulk oil depot in Kyrgyzstan Wednesday killed five workers, government officials said.

The Interior Ministry said an oil tanker at the Kaında-Oil bulk oil facility exploded, triggering a fire, the *Kyrgyz* news agency 24.kg reported. The news agency said the initial information available was that the oil depot in the northern Kyrgyzstan community of Kaindy belongs to a Kyrgyz-Russian joint company.

China's official *Xinhua* news agency reported Kubatbek Boronov, head of the Emergency Situations Ministry, said the fire had been extinguished.

A government committee ordered by Prime Minister Omurbek Babanov was to investigate the incident, *Xinhua* said.

Xinhua



Zhang Yunxiao carries a Dragon statue he created in his workshop in Xiangyang of central China's Hubei Province, on 28 Dec, 2011. Zhang Yunxiao spent one year to create some one hundred Dragon statues out of wasted foamed plastic for the upcoming Chinese Year of Dragon.

XINHUA

Canadian skydiver died 'swooping'

PERRIS, 30 Dec—An experienced Canadian skydiver was performing a trick called swooping when he fell to his death in a pond in California, a skydiving business operator said.

Michael Ungar, 32, of Ontario, died Tuesday afternoon at the Perris Valley Skydiving facility, east of Anaheim, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld, manager of Perris Valley Skydiving, said the parachuting maneuver involves falling at speeds of as much as 50 mph, and then slowing down and leveling off a few feet above the ground.

He said Ungar's chute was open when he was killed.

"He was a confident skydiver who made a big mistake too close to the ground," Brodsky-Chenfeld said.

Brodsky-Chenfeld said Ungar was a licensed instructor with more than 2,000 jumps to his credit, including several swooping maneuvers Tuesday. *The Times* said more than 140,000 jumps take place yearly at Perris Valley Skydiving. There have been 14 deaths at the facility since 2000, including five this year, the newspaper said.—*Internet*

Truck falls off overpass, hit by train

MONTREAL, 30 Dec—A truck plummeted off a Montreal highway overpass onto railroad tracks where it was hit by a train Wednesday, leaving two people dead, police said.

The accident occurred just after 2 pm on Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Boulevard in Montreal's west

end, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported.

The victims, whose names weren't available, were in the truck, Montreal police said.

Jeremy Nickerson, who was on the Via Rail train that hit the truck, said passengers were notified of the accident via intercom. "It sounded like

we were dragging something under the train," he told the CBC.

"At first, I thought it might have been ice or the like" No train passengers were injured, the network said.

Internet

Fire in US Zinc mine traps three miners, injures two

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—A fire in a zinc mine in the US State of Tennessee trapped three miners and injured at least two others on Wednesday, the AP reported,

quoting local authorities. It was not clear yet how the fire started midday Wednesday, said Sammy Solomon, captain of the New Market Volunteer Fire and Rescue in Jefferson County.

He said that some miners have escaped unharmed. The Tennessee Emergency

Management Agency said that the fire started around 1:10 pm eastern time.

Solomon noted that the fire on a drill rig was about 800 feet deep, adding that he believed rescuers would be able to reach the trapped miners soon.

Xinhua

Monkeys in small groups fight more

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—Small monkey groups may win territorial disputes with larger groups because some members of the larger groups avoid aggressive encounters, US researchers say. Scientists working at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute say individual monkeys in large groups who will participate in defending their home territory often choose not to participate in conflicts in which the larger group is the invader, giving smaller groups a "home field" advantage.

Researchers used recorded vocalizations to simulate territorial invasions into the ranges of wild white-faced capuchin monkey groups at the Smithsonian research station on Barro Colorado Island in Panama. Monkeys responded more vigorously to territorial challenges near the centre of their territories and were more likely to flee in encounters near the borders, they found, and defection by members of larger groups was more common than defection by members of smaller groups. These behavior patterns even the balance of power among groups and may explain how large and small groups are able to coexist, the researchers said.—*Internet*



Will this monkey fight or flee? A study at the Smithsonian research station on Barro Colorado Island in Panama shows that the answer may depend on the size of the group it belongs to.

INTERNET



Philippine Coast Guard and crew from MV Spirit of Mol load sleeping mats and relief goods from government agencies to be shipped to flood-hit Cagayan de Oro City at a pier in Manila.—INTERNET



People look at the paintings of Turkish artist Coptlu in Hong Kong, south China, on 29 Dec, 2011. The art exhibition "Colours of Love" by Turkish artist Coptlu was held in Hong Kong Thursday. The artist expresses his hope and dream for humankind and a bright future through his works.—XINHUA

China executes 12 people in single day

BEIJING, 30 Dec—China has executed 12 people in a single day, including a man who bombed a local tax office.

The official Xinhua News Agency says Liu Zhuiheng was convicted and sentenced to death for detonating explosives outside a tax office in

Changsha City in Hunan Province in July 2010. Four people were killed and 17 others wounded. Xinhua says the 52-year-old was venting anger over business losses.

Xinhua says China's supreme court approved the death sentence of Liu and 11 others Thursday. All death sentences are sent to the

supreme court for review and are usually carried out immediately if approved.

The other 11 people were convicted of crimes including murder and robbery.

China executes more people than any other country — around 4,000 people a year.—Internet

Russia submerges nuclear submarine to douse blaze

MURMANSK, (Russia) 30 Dec—Russia said it had won the battle with a raging blaze aboard a nuclear submarine on Friday by submerging the stricken vessel at a navy shipyard after hours of dousing the flames with water from helicopters and tug boats. There was no radiation leak, authorities said.

Television pictures showed a giant plume of smoke above the yard in the Murmansk region of northern Russia as over 100 firemen

struggled to douse flames which witnesses said rose 10 metres (30 feet) above the Yekaterinburg submarine.

"The fire has been localized," Emergencies Minister Sergei Shoigu told officials who were leading the firefighting effort from an emergencies control room in Moscow more than nine hours after the blaze began at 1220 GMT (7:20 am EDT) on Thursday. Shoigu's comments indicate the fire was still burning but that efforts

to partially sink the submarine at the dock had succeeded in reducing the intensity of the flames.

Russia said the nuclear reactor had been shut down and all weapons had been removed from the 167-metre (550 feet) Yekaterinburg, which launched an intercontinental ballistic missile from the Barents Sea at a firing range thousands of miles away in Kamchatka as recently as July.

"Radiation levels are normal," a spokeswoman for the Emergencies Ministry said. "No one was injured."

After hours of trying to put out the flames, officials decided to partially submerge the hull of the 18,200-tonne submarine at the Roslyakovo dock, one of the main dockyards of Russia's northern fleet 1,500 km (900 miles) north of Moscow.

Local media reports were vague, but the blaze was believed to have started when wooden scaffolding caught

fire during welding repairs to the submarine, which had been hoisted into a dry dock.

The submarine can carry 16 ballistic missiles, each with four warheads. Its nuclear reactor was not damaged in the fire and Russian navy submarine reactors are built to withstand enormous shocks and high temperatures.

"The reactor has been shut down and does not pose any danger," Interfax news agency quoted a source at navy headquarters as saying.

Russia's worst post-Soviet submarine disaster occurred in August 2000 when the Kursk nuclear submarine sank in the Barents Sea killing all 118 crewmen aboard.

President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin have been informed about the incident, said Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who oversees the military.

Reuters



The combined light painting photo taken by Xinhua journalists respectively in China's Hong Kong (top), Britain's London, Belgium's Brussels, France's Paris and Egypt's Cairo (from L to R, bottom) shows a smiling face and the sign of "2012", to greet the coming New Year.—XINHUA



Firefighters work to extinguish fire at the Roslyakovo shipyard in the northern Russian region of Murmansk, in this still image taken from video, on 29 Dec, 2011.

REUTERS

Crash between tanker and bus causes 14 to die in Venezuela

CARACAS, 30 Dec—A tanker and a bus on Thursday collided on the main road linking the Venezuela Capital of Caracas with Los Teques, a southwestern suburb located in Miranda State, killing at least 14 people and injuring indefinite number of others, local authorities said.

The collision occurred at about 14:15 pm local time (18:15 GMT) at kilometer 3 of Pan-American Highway.

Luis Diaz Curbelo, director of the National Civil Protection, said that a large fire happened after the collision due to the tanker fuel's ignition, affecting at

least 10 vehicles which circulated through the highway.

Diaz told state-owned Venezuelan Television that it is difficult to define the number of injured people because many of the people affected were helped by those who circulated near, who

took them to hospitals immediately after the accident. Civil Protection authorities, as well as Caracas' Firefighters and Bolivarian National Police have arrived in the accident's site to help the rescue work.

Local media also reported that as a consequence of the collision, the tanker turned over and a fuel leak occurred, causing the fire.—Xinhua

Reuters

Fisker recalls 239 Karma cars over battery defect

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec.—Fisker Automotive, the electric carmaker backed by actor Leonardo DiCaprio, is recalling 239 Karma plug-in hybrid cars in the United States due to a possible defect in batteries flagged by A123 Systems.

A123 outlined the problem in a 23 Dec memo. In some cases, hose clamps on batteries made for the Karma were not aligned properly, which could lead to a leak of coolant fluid and possibly an electrical short circuit.

In the worst case scenario, the coolant could seep into the battery compartment and cause a fire, Fisker told US safety regulators according a posting on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website on Thursday.

Fisker said fewer than 40 of these vehicles are with consumers and the rest remain in dealer inventories. The vehicles, made for the 2012 model year, were built from July to November of this year. Scrutiny of electric vehicles has intensified recently after battery fires in some NHTSA crash tests of General Motors Co's Chevrolet Volt.—Reuters



Photo taken on 19 Dec, 2011 shows a part of glacier in Purog Kangri, some 560 kilometers away from Nagqu Town in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. The Purog Kangri glacier, whose ice field covers an area of 422 square kilometers, is considered to be the third largest in the world.—XINHUA

5.3-magnitude quake hits Bougainville region, Papua New Guinea

SYDNEY, 30 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Bougainville Region, Papua New Guinea at 22:25:50 GMT on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 505.00 km, was initially determined to be at 4.6515 degrees south latitude and 155.1991 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

5.3-magnitude quake hits Vanuatu

SUVA, 30 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Vanuatu at 20:05:50 GMT on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 40.90 km, was initially determined to be at 18.7813 degrees south latitude and 168.1136 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

Abkhazia releases 2011 census results

TBILISI, 30 Dec—Abkhazians make up 50.71 percent of Abkhazia, over which Georgia claims sovereignty and territorial integrity although the former pronounced independence in 2008.

Abkhazia has a population of 240,705, according to the final figures of the February 2011 census. A 2003 census put the population of Abkhazia at 214,000.

Georgians make up 17.93 percent of Abkhazia's population while Armenians contributed another 17.39 percent of the population.

Russians make up 9.17 percent of the population. There are also Greeks and other ethnic groups in Abkhazia.

The statistics office of Abkhazia released the final result of the census on Wednesday.

Xinhua

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER
TENDER NO. 3(T)AMD-FR(2011-2012)

1. Opened Tenders are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for the supply of following stores which will purchased in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr. No	Description	Quantity
1.	4 Wheel Tractor (90 HP, 75HP, 50HP)	1 Lot
2.	Heavy Duty Combine Harvester (Hold on Type)	1 Lot

2. **Tender closing date (6-1-2012) (Friday) (16:00 HR)**

3. Tender documents are available at the Factory & Research Section of Agricultural Mechanization Department, Building N0.(50), Naypyitaw, during the office hours.

4. For further detail please call 067-431242

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ORIENTAL CROWN VOY NO (015)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORIENTAL CROWN VOY NO (015) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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: SONG WON ENTERPRISE
CO LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

Stricken Russian fishing vessel heads for New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 30 Dec—A Russian fishing vessel which was rescued from pack ice in the Ross Sea this week was now heading for New Zealand, local press reported Friday.

The Sparta was led to open water on Thursday by a South Korean icebreaker, the Araon, whose crew helped repair a hole in its hull after it was pierced by ice on 16 Dec, *Radio New Zealand* reported.

Maritime New Zealand's Rescue Coordination Center said the Sparta rendezvoused with a sister ship, the Chiyo Maru 3, on Thursday night to transfer fuel and provisions. The center said it would continue to monitor the Sparta, which is now sailing to New Zealand for permanent repairs.

Internet

Elephant poaching: 'Record year' for ivory seizures

BEIJING, 30 Dec—More elephant tusks were seized in 2011 than in any year since 1989, when the ivory trade was banned, international wildlife trade group Traffic says. The group said elephants have had a "horrible year", with 23 tonnes of ivory seized — representing at least 2,500 dead animals. Trade in ivory was banned in 1989 to save elephants from extinction. But it has continued illegally because of huge demand in Asia, where it is used to make decorative objects. "The escalating large ivory quantities involved in 2011 reflect both a rising demand in Asia and the increasing sophistication of the criminal gangs behind the trafficking," said a statement from Traffic, which monitors the trade in wildlife products. "Most illegal shipments of African elephant ivory end up in either China or Thailand."

The group said there had been at least 13 large seizures of ivory this year, amounting to more than 23 tonnes, compared to six last year of less than 10 tonnes. "In 23 years of compiling ivory seizure data... this is the worst year ever for large ivory seizures. 2011 has truly been a horrible year for elephants," Traffic's elephant expert Tom



Elephants tusks are in huge demand in Asia.—INTERNET

Milliken said. Traffic said the smugglers appear to have shifted away from using air to sea - in early 2011, three of the large scale ivory seizures were at airports but later in the year most were found in sea freight.

"The only common denominator in the trafficking is that the ivory departs Africa and arrives in Asia, but the routes are constantly changing, presumably reflecting where the smugglers gamble on being their best chance of eluding detection," it said. In six of the large 2011 seizures, Malaysia was a transit country in the supply chain, Traffic said. In the most recent case on 21 December, Malaysian authorities seized hundreds of African elephant tusks worth about \$1.3 million (£844,000) that were being shipped to Cambodia. — *Internet*

25 injured as Bangladesh's police clash with oil, gas protection activists

DHAKA, 30 Dec—At least 25 people were injured in Bangladesh's capital on Thursday as policemen clashed with leaders and activists of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port when they tried to lay siege to the country's Energy Ministry. The committee's leaders

and activists held a rally in front of Dhaka's National Press Club on Thursday morning demanding the implementation of seven-point demand which include cancellation of rental power plant agreements and gas export deal with the American oil company ConocoPhillips. After the rally, the agitating activists brought out a procession to lay siege to Energy Ministry to press home their demands. As the precisionists insisted on marching ahead, police fired a number of tear gas canisters and charged batons on them.

The committee leaders claimed at least 25 activists

were injured during police action. A Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman was not immediately available to comment on the claims. "The demonstrators first hurled stones at police," a senior policeman said, who requested to be unnamed.

But the committee's convener Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah said it was the police that started charging them with batons without any provocation. Shahidullah said his committee demanded cancellation of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) - 2008, adopted by the last unelected caretaker government.—*Xinhua*



A woman writes her wish on a piece of confetti in front of the New Year's Eve Wishing Wall at Times Square Information Center in New York, the United States, on 29 Dec, 2011. All the pieces of confetti, bearing the best wishes for the year 2012 from people around the world, will rain down to revelers during the New Year's Eve celebration on Times Square.—XINHUA

Birth rate plummets in Brazil

BATAN, 30 Dec — Priscila da Silva once asked her grandmother why she had 12 children, and the answer was simple: "Because I wanted to." These days, Silva, like many women in Brazil and the rest of Latin America, has other plans. At 24, she thinks about having one child, if that. "The situation today is different, and raising a child is difficult," said Silva, slicing tomatoes at a restaurant that she founded with four other women, only one of whom has planned a family of any

size. "This is another time, and it's not the same."

Fertility rates have dropped in many parts of the world in recent decades, but something particularly remarkable happened to the once-prolific family across Latin America. From sprawling Mexico to tiny Ecuador to economically buoyant Chile, fertility rates plummeted, even though abortion is illegal, the Catholic Church opposes birth control and government-run family planning is rare. A frenzied migration to the cities, the expansion of the female workforce, better health care and the example of the small, affluent families portrayed on the region's wildly popular soap operas have contributed to a demographic shift that happened so fast it caught social scientists by surprise. In 1960, women in Latin America had almost six children on average. By 2010, the rate had fallen to 2.3 children.— *Internet*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man 'stalked' UK pop star's mum

A man has appeared in court after allegedly stalking the mother of 'X Factor' winner Joe McElderry. Eileen Joyce complained to police that she was followed at Asda in South Shields, UK, on Christmas Eve. Ennis McBride (52), of Rostrevor Road, Stockport, Greater Manchester, was arrested and charged with harassment

Woman gave out cash after robbery

A woman suspected of robbing a Boston bank was caught a short time later handing out dollar bills to children at a park. The court heard she walked into the Citizens Bank, passed the teller a note demanding money and warned she had a gun. She got an undisclosed amount of cash and left in a taxi. Jasmin Rivera was ordered to undergo a mental health evaluation when she appeared in court on Thursday.

Officers banned from charging up

A British police force has banned officers from charging their mobile phones and MP3 players at work as it tries to save £50m (+60m). Sussex Police said the new rule had the support of staff as it tries to save the cash by 2015. But the ban will save only thousands a year for the force, which has around 5,000 staff.

Thief proposed with stolen ring

A man proposed to his girlfriend with a stolen engagement ring — she said 'yes', but the ring landed him in custody. Police in Vermont, US, said Ryan Jarvis (25) had been charged with stealing the +2,379 solitaire ring from a jewellery store, after officers viewed a facebook post by his girlfriend.

Fire breaks out at Moscow University, 500 evacuated

Some 500 people were evacuated after a fire broke out at the Moscow University early Friday, the *Itar-Tass* news agency reported. The fire was later extinguished, and there has been no report of casualties from the incident, said the report.



Before military radar was invented, soldiers used these equipment to detect the enemy planes during the wars.—XINHUA



Amateur Yan Donglong, a fire in a petrol blaze, sprints through the SenBhola Forest Theme Park, Fogang county, South China's Guangdong Province on 25 April, 2011. Yan, 32, also known as "Fire King," is challenging the Guinness World Record for "Running the longest distance while on fire" and "Man plays the most items with fire." The previous record holder is a British amateur Keith Malcolm, who ran 295 feet (about 80 metres) while on fire. Yan can perform a 30-minute stunt showing more than 20 fire playing items, including "swallowing fire," "puffing fire" and "stamping on fire." The park is contacting the Guinness China office to help Yan declare two records.

2011 name changes include Pink Nice

Officials said the 10,000 Britons who had their names legally changed this year include a woman who dubbed herself Pink Nice. The Legal Deed Poll Service said a Nottingham, England, mother of three changed her name from Charlotte Price to Pink Nice. *The Independent* reported Monday.

Other name changes in 2011 included a pair of best friends who are now believed to have the longest names in Britain. Daniel Knox-Hewson, 23, changed his moniker to Emperor Spiderman Gandalf Wolverine Skywalker Optimus Prime Goku Sonic Xavier Ryu Cloud Superman Heman Batman Thrash, while his best friend, Kelvin Borbidge, 22, became Baron Venom Balrog Sabretooth Vader Megatron Vegeta Robotnik Magneto Bison Sephiroth Lex Luthor Skeletor Joker Grind.

Singer catches dive-bombing pigeon

A New York opera singer who moonlights as a wildlife rehabilitator said she is helping a dive-bombing pigeon get rid of his bad habits. Jennifer Dudley, a mezzo-soprano who has worked at the Metropolitan and City operas, said she became interested in Fred the pigeon when she read a *New York Post* article about the bird dive-bombing police officers and dropping his feces on visitors to the 11 Sept. 2001, memorial. The *New York Post* reported Monday.

Dudley said she studied the bird and determined he was suffering from depression, a symptom of illness for the bird. She said she spent 10 days building up the bird's trust by feeding him before she was able to catch him Tuesday.

"I took him home in a cab, and he was extraordinarily friendly," she said. "He insisted on perching either on my hand, shoulder or head."

Man pays parking ticket 58 years later

Parking ticket payment and procrastination just go together, but a man took 58 years to pay Houston the \$1 citation he received the day he joined the US Army. Dale Crawford, now 79, said he found the citation while going through memorabilia, KHOU-TV, Houston, reported. He said he didn't know the ticket existed, but when he saw the date — Feb. 3, 1953 — he remembered he "became a member of the United States Army on that day."

Crawford went off serve his country and left the 1946 Nash at a parking meter for his dad to pick up. But dad was late. Hence, the \$1 parking fine. City officials say parking tickets now cost \$35, plus \$1.50 for every hour they're late.

"We are so impressed with him coming forward that we have waived penalties and interest," Mayor Annise Parker told KHOU 21 Dec. "No, it will not make any dent in the city's budget problems, but I hope his example is one other Houstonians will follow." It's a matter of personal responsibility, Crawford said, explaining, "It's only a dollar. But it's still a debt."

Man crashed into station wall

Chicago Police said no one was injured when an intoxicated man crashed his vehicle into the wall of the Gresham District police station. Police said there was only minor damage to the building early Monday when Andrew Walker, 36, drove his 1987 Chevy Caprice onto the sidewalk and struck the concrete wall before driving away from the scene, the *Chicago Tribune* reported

Monday. Chicago Police News Affairs Officer Amina Greer said Walker was pulled over about a block away from the police station and arrested on charges of driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident where property damage occurred.

News Album

'Forrest Gump,' 'Bambi' included on film registry

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — "Forrest Gump," "Bambi" and "Stand and Deliver" are to be included in the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress in Washington.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington Wednesday announced the titles of the films to be



Tom Hanks arrives for the "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" premiere at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York on 15 December, 2011.
INTERNET

preserved as "cultural, artistic and historical treasures."

Spanning 1912-1994, the films named to the registry include Hollywood classics, documentaries, animation, home movies, avant-garde shorts and experimental motion pictures.

This year's selections bring the number of films in the registry to 575.

The other films selected to the 2011 National Film Registry are "Allures," "The

Big Heat," "A Computer Animated Hand," "Crisis: Behind a Presidential Commitment," "The Cry of the Children," "A Cure for Pokeritis," "El Mariachi," "Faces," "Fake Fruit Factory," "Growing Up Female," "Hester Street," "I, an Actress," "The Iron Horse," "The Kid," "The Lost Weekend," "The Negro Soldier," "Nicholas Brothers Family Home Movies," "Norma Rae," "Porgy and Bess," "The Silence of the Lambs," "Twentieth Century" and "War of the Worlds." "These films are selected because of their enduring significance to American culture," Billington said in a statement.—*Internet*

'Tarzan' co-star Cheetah the chimp dead at 80

TAMPA, 30 Dec — Cheetah, the chimpanzee who starred in several Tarzan movies in the 1930s, has died of kidney failure, said the Suncoast Primate Sanctuary in Palm Harbor, Fla. He was 80. Cheetah had been at the sanctuary since 1960. Before that, he lived on his co-star Johnny Weissmuller's estate in Ocala, the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune said. Weissmuller died in 1984 at age 79.

"He wasn't a chimp that



Photo of Cheetah, the film star chimp, from the Suncoast Primate Sanctuary's Web site.

INTERNET

caused a lot of problems," sanctuary spokeswoman Debbie Cobb told the newspaper about the faci-

lity's most famous resident. "He was very compassionate," Cobb said. "He could tell if I was having a good day or a bad day. He was always trying to get me to laugh if he thought I was having a bad day. He was very in tune to human feelings."

The average chimp survives about 25 to 35 years in the wild and 35 to 45 years in zoos, the Tribune noted.

Internet

Donna Hanover joins 'Best Man' cast

NEW YORK, 30 Dec — Television personality and former first lady of New York Donna Hanover has joined the cast of the Broadway revival of Gore Vidal's "The

Best Man." Producers Jeffrey Richards and Jerry Frankel said Wednesday former Mayor Rudy Giuliani's ex-wife had signed up for a role in the play along with Jefferson Mays and Dakin Matthews.

They join previously announced stars James Earl Jones, Angela Lansbury, John Larroquette, Candice Bergen, Michael McKean and Eric McCormack.

The ensemble is to begin rehearsals 30 Jan, with the first preview performance planned for 6 March and opening night set for 1 April at Manhattan's Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre.

The play is about "power, ambition, political secrets, ruthlessness and the race for the presidency," a synopsis said.

It "is set at the national convention where two candidates are vying for their party's nomination during the



Donna Hanover, former wife to Rudy Giuliani and TV celebrity.—INTERNET

primary season.

It's an inside look at the dirt-digging, double-dealing, triple-crossing chicanery of presidential electioneering and what could be more fun in a presidential campaign season than these theatrical fireworks.—*Internet*

'Christmas' No 1 on US album chart

LOS ANGELES, 30 Dec — Michael Buble's "Christmas" is No 1 on the US album chart for a fifth consecutive week, *Billboard.com* reported Wednesday.

Coming in at No 2 on the *Billboard* 200 is Adele's "21," followed by Young Jeezy's "TM 103: Hustlerz Ambition" at No 3, Justin Bieber's "Under the Mistletoe" at No 4 and Drake's "Take Care" at No 5.

Rounding out the top tier are Lady Antebellum's "Own the Night" at No 6, Rihanna's "Talk That Talk" at No 7, Nickelback's "Here and Now" at No 8, the Black Keys' "El



Canadian singer Michael Buble attends a signing of his illustrated memoir "Onstage, Offstage" at Waterstone's, Piccadilly in London on 14 Oct, 2011.—INTERNET

Camino" at No 9 and "Now 40" compilation CD at No 10.
Internet



Hollywood comedian Jim Carrey

Jim Carrey dates Russian student

NEW YORK, 30 Dec — Hollywood comedian Jim Carrey has been spotted dating Anastasia Vitkina, a student from Russia, the *New York Post* daily reported.

The daily reports, the 49-year-old actor, known for his roles in "Ace Ventura," "The Mask," and "Dumb and Dumber", among many other US blockbusters, could be dating Vitkina since last year, after he broke up with Playboy magazine playmate Jenny McCarthy.

Vitkina, who is a student in New York, used to date Carrey's friend David Schoonmaker before she started going out with the Hollywood star, the daily said. The Russian is now busy flying between New York and California and she was last spotted together with Carrey at a Guns N' Roses concert in Los Angeles earlier this month.

Internet

English Premier League Table

Team	GP	W	D	L	Pts	GF	GA	GD
Manchester City	18	14	3	1	45	53	15	38
Manchester United	18	14	3	1	45	47	14	33
Tottenham	17	12	2	3	38	34	19	15
Chelsea	18	10	4	4	34	36	21	15
Arsenal	18	10	3	5	33	34	26	8
Liverpool	18	8	7	3	31	21	14	7
Newcastle United	18	8	6	4	30	25	22	3
Stoke City	18	7	4	7	25	18	28	-10
West Brom	18	6	4	8	22	19	26	-7
Everton	17	6	3	8	21	18	20	-2
Norwich City	18	5	6	7	21	27	33	-6
Aston Villa	18	4	8	6	20	19	23	-4
Fulham	18	4	7	7	19	19	24	-5
Swansea	18	4	7	7	19	17	22	-5
Sunderland	18	4	6	8	18	22	22	0
Queens Park Rangers	18	4	5	9	17	18	32	-14
Wolverhampton	18	4	4	10	16	20	33	-13
Wigan Athletic FC	18	3	5	10	14	15	35	-20
Bolton	18	4	0	14	12	22	41	-19
Blackburn	18	2	5	11	11	25	39	-14

Lille's Joe Cole says Chelsea should never have let go of Jose Mourinho

PARIS, 30 Dec — Lille midfielder Joe Cole has said that former club Chelsea should still be under the stewardship of Jose Mourinho and that the club made the wrong decision by letting him go. The 30-year-old is also confident that the Real Madrid boss will achieve the greatest managerial feat should he go on to win La Liga with the Spanish giants. The midfielder won six trophies under Mourinho at Stamford Bridge before the now 48-year-old left the club in 2007 after just three years at the helm. These included two Premier League titles, the FA Cup, two League Cups and the Community Shield.

Cole is adamant that Mourinho should still be at the London club, telling talkSPORT: "Of course they should have carried on [with Mourinho]. It's plainly obvious he should still be there. He was a big, big influence on my career. "I remember the first meeting, he got the

lads together and said 'listen guys, you haven't won anything, you have done nothing in the game, if you stick with me we are going to win this league by April'. "He was just great to play for; you knew where you stood. Looking back I played my best football under him. I won my most trophies under him."

"He used to get on my back so much but I can't thank him enough for it. He saw something in me that maybe I didn't see in myself. If someone tells me I can't do something, I want to show them I can do it. That's why he's a great manager and he's a good guy as well."

Internet



Lille midfielder Joe Cole

Wigan's Sammon wins red card appeal

LONDON, 30 Dec — Wigan Athletic striker Conor Sammon has won his appeal against the red card he received at Manchester United on Boxing Day. The 25-year-old was shown a straight red card by referee Phil Dowd after a clash with United's Michael Carrick on the halfway line during the first half. The



Conor Sammon has earned a regular starting berth for Wigan Athletic this season.

score was 1-0 at the time of the dismissal, with Wigan—18th in the Barclays Premier League—going on to lose the match 5-0 as Dimitar Berbatov scored a hat-trick. Sammon will now be available for Wigan's crucial match at Stoke City on Saturday 31st December, which has come as a boost to their manager Roberto Martinez.

"We thank the panel for their decision, which is the correct one," said Martinez. "We now need to draw a line under the matter and move on. I am delighted to have Conor available for the next three matches. "It would have been really unfair for him to share the frustrating feeling that he had on Monday for another three matches after doing nothing wrong." Sammon joined Wigan for £600,000 from Scottish side Kilmarnock in January and has made 13 Barclays Premier League appearances this season.— Internet

Djokovic beats Monfils in Abu Dhabi exhibition



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Gael Monfils from France during the Mubadala Tennis Championship, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on Thursday.—INTERNET

ABU DHABI, 30 Dec — Top-ranked Novak Djokovic began his preparations for the 2012 season with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 win over No. 16 Gael Monfils at the World Tennis Championship exhibition event on Thursday. Djokovic is coming off three Grand Slam wins during a 70-6 season. The 24-year-old Serb ended his best season with two tired losses at the ATP World Tour Finals last month. Djokovic will face

Roger Federer in the semifinals on Friday, and Rafael Nadal will meet fellow Spaniard David Ferrer. Ferrer earlier beat Jo Wilfried Tsonga of France 2-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2 in the six-man final of the \$250,000 winner-takes-all exhibition.

Djokovic said he's not in top form and probably needs another week or two to be match ready. But he said he doesn't plan to play any other warm-up tournaments ahead of the Australian Open, which runs 16-29 January. "I was working on some things throughout the match. I was trying to find a good rhythm and I think I was playing really well for this stage," Djokovic said. "I am saying that as I am not yet 100 percent ready to perform at this level." Djokovic said he looked forward with his match with Federer, who received a bye to reach the semifinals.

Internet

Real Madrid return to training after Christmas break

MADRID, 30 Dec — Spanish first division league giant Real Madrid returned to training on Thursday after an eight-day Christmas break. Real said in a statement that Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo and the rest of the squad all returned to training. The squad divided into two groups and practised passes and changes in position in a closed door session.

Ricardo Carvalho, the Portuguese fullback, returned to training for the first time from a ligament injury in his right knee suffered in early December. Real now sits at the top of the league table with 40 points, three more than nearest rivals Barcelona. They will face four matches in 11 days during the first half of January.

Their first match after the Christmas break will be at home against Malaga on Tuesday in the King's Cup.

Xinhua

England manager Fabio Capello calls for end to 'stealing' of young stars

LONDON, 30 Dec — England manager Fabio Capello has hit out at an apparent theft of talent in national sides and has called on governing bodies to put a stop to the "stealing" of players at club level. The Italian has questioned Germany's use of footballers with Turkish origin, especially at last year's World Cup in South Africa, suggesting that players shouldn't be able to acquire new passports to pick and choose which country they can play for.

He told The National: "A line needs to be drawn. Richer clubs are talent-scouting and stealing players by bidding higher and not thinking about the consequences for those countries. "These



England manager Fabio Capello

players are acquiring new passports. Germany had five of Turkish origin who opted to represent them and we all know what happened. "Problems need to be addressed. Decisions need to be made. Players can be bought, especially when they come from poorer backgrounds, where their families need the financial resources.

"I do not accept that, having trained as a player, a different team can pop up and steal the player from me. Uefa should pass new rules allowing people to reap the seed that's been sown instead of having talents leave when they receive a major offer. "I've spoken to Michel Platini and he's resolute. In future, clubs will be forbidden to steal players from abroad at a very young age."

Capello is worried about the development of younger players and is adamant that he made an ethically correct decision in picking Danny Welbeck for England, despite his links to Ghana.

Internet

International Sports

Nadal plans to rest shoulder injury in February

ABU DHABI, 30 Dec — Rafael Nadal plans to take several weeks off after the Australian Open to recover from a nagging shoulder injury. The second-ranked Nadal said on Thursday the injury surfaced before the ATP World Tour Finals in November and that he was still "not 100 percent." He only decided three days ago to defend his title at the World Tennis Championships, a two-day exhibition tournament in Abu Dhabi.

"I had a problem before London with my shoulder and I had to stop for about 10 days before the (ATP) finals," Nadal said on Thurs-

day in Abu Dhabi. "It felt better but again it resurfaced. In December, I did not have enough time to practice because of that." Nadal will play the winner of a match between Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and David Ferrer in the semifinals on Friday.

He is hopeful his shoulder will hold up in Abu Dhabi where he will attempt to win the tournament for the third year in a row and in Doha, where he plans to play at the Qatar Open next week. After competing at the Australian Open beginning on 16 January, the 25-year-old Spaniard said he would take February off to rest and practice.

While praising the dominance of No. 1-ranked Novak Djokovic, who won three Grand Slams, Nadal blamed himself for allowing his play to become "too predictable" at times. But he insisted he wasn't going to overhaul his game despite losing to Djokovic in six finals.—Internet



Rafael Nadal

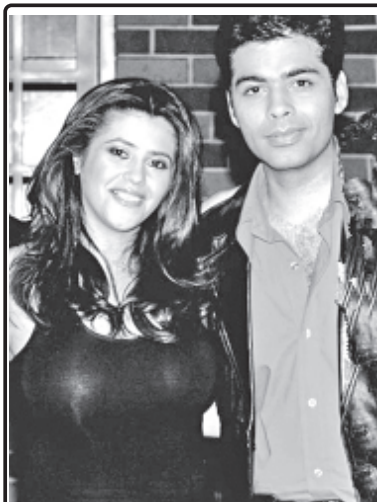
GWAA Player of the Year

NEW YORK, 30 Dec — And the honors just keep coming for Luke Donald. The Golf Writers Association of America announced Donald as its 2011 Player of the Year. Donald was given 88 percent of the votes, with two-time winner Keegan Bradley picking up most of the remainder of the votes. Webb Simpson and Rory McIlroy also received votes.

Tom Lehman was the runaway winner for GWAA Champions Tour Player of the Year, as was Yani Tseng for GWAA LPGA Tour Player of the Year. It's the third time in four years a European-born player has won the GWAA award. As is the custom, Donald will receive his award at the GWAA's Annual Awards Dinner on 4 April, 2012 in Augusta.— Internet



Luke Donald



Ekta Kapoor, Karan Johar to co-produce film!

NEW DELHI, 30 Dec—He is known for his candyfloss movies and designer dramas, and she excels at making experimental and real life-inspired stories. Together, Ekta Kapoor and Karan Johar, once rumoured to be a couple, are now ready to co-produce a movie. "Ekta and I are super excited about the script we are producing together... will announce details as we cast the film and title it!!!" Johar posted on his Twitter page Wednesday.

According to reports, the film will be a "love story with a twist", and it will be directed by Akshay Roy.

It will be interesting to see what Johar's Dharma Productions and Ekta's Balaji Motion Pictures will have to offer considering their different styles of filmmaking.

The rumour about Johar and Ekta's romance had reached its peak when news of their wedding started doing the rounds three years ago.

But they have been good friends since childhood, and have been looking forward to working together for a long time.

Ekta Kapoor and Karan Johar

Internet

Cyclone "Thane" lashes India's south coast

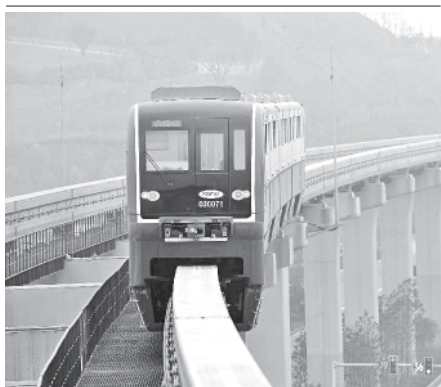
CHENNAI, 30 Dec—Lashing rains and gale force winds bore down on India's southeastern coast on Friday, disrupting power supplies and communication lines as Cyclone Thane landfall near the industrial city of Chennai, officials and witnesses said.

Packing wind speeds of up to 125 kmph (77 mph) and accompanied by tidal surges of up to 1.5 metres (5 feet), Thane hit Tamil Nadu State, close to the former French colonial town of Pondicherry on Friday morning, as coastal villagers moved to relief shelters.

"Under the influence of this system, rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy falls at a few places and isolated extremely heavy falls would occur," said the Indian Meteorological Department in its latest bulletin. "Gale winds speed reaching 120-130 kmph gusting to 145 kmph is likely along and off north Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry coasts during next 3 hours and then decrease gradually."

Witnesses in Chennai and Pondicherry said trees had been toppled and there had been power outages throughout the night and disruptions in phone and Internet services in some areas. There have been no reports of casualties. Hundreds of people from fishing communities along north Tamil Nadu's coast, and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh state, have moved to schools set up as relief centres until the weather system passes.

MNA/Reuters



A light rail train runs on the track of the Rail Transit Line 3 in Chongqing, southwest China, on 29 Dec, 2011. The entire line of Chongqing Rail Transit Line 3 opened to traffic on Friday as part of it had operated since September this year. The 39.1-kilometre Chongqing Rail Transit Line 3, built since 2007, linked the north to south of main urban zone of Chongqing with total investment of 13.8 billion Yuan (about 2.183 billion US dollars).

XINHUA

NLM-ner Joke

The top ten reasons why the television is better than the World Wide Web

1. It doesn't take minutes to build the picture when you change TV channels.
2. When was the last time you tuned in to "Melrose Place" and got a "Error 404" message?
3. There are fewer grating color schemes on TV—even on MTV.
4. The family never argues over which Web site to visit this evening.
5. A remote control has fewer buttons than a keyboard.
6. Even the worst TV shows never excuse themselves with an "Under Construction" sign.
7. Seinfeld never slows down when a lot of people tune in.
8. You just can't find those cool Health Rider infomercials on the Web.
9. Set-top boxes don't beep and whine when you hook up to HBO.
10. You can't surf the Web from a couch with a beer in one hand and Doritos in the other.

Winning Nobel prize

A man is driving down a country road, when he spots a farmer standing in the middle of a huge field of grass. He pulls the car over to the side of the road and notices that the farmer is just standing there, doing nothing, looking at nothing.

The man gets out of the car, walks all the way out to the farmer and asks him, "Ah excuse me mister, but what are you doing?"

The farmer replies, "I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize."

"How?" asks the man, puzzled.

"Well, I heard they give the Nobel Prize... to people who are out standing in their field."

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(31-12-11 09:30 am ~ 1-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

- * News
- * Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation (Information & Communication)
- * Skilful Marionette Performance of New Generation Artists
- * News
- * Exotic Kha-Yin-Khwa Island
- * News
- * Be A Gorgeous Myanmar Belle (Part - I)
- * News
- * Be A Gorgeous Myanmar Belle (Part - II)
- * News
- * Venerable Kolon Monk
- * News
- * Myanmar Classic Song
- * News
- * A Visit To Kayah State
- * News
- * A Fever of Korean Excitement (Part-1)
- * Myanmar Movies "Servant of Love"

MYANMAR TV

(31-12-2011) (Saturday)

- 7:00 am Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:30 am Morning News
- 7:50 am Health Programme
- 8:40 am International News
- 11:00 am Martial Song
- 1:00 pm TV Drama Series
- 2:00 pm 64th Anniversary Independence Day Programme
- 2:40 pm Songs of National Races
- 5:20 pm Beautiful "ASEAN"
- 7:00 pm 64th Anniversary Independence Song
- 7:00 pm TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm News
11. Monthly Weather Report
13. Cartoon Series
14. TV Drama Series

DISTRICT NEWS

Teak, hardwood plants nurtured

Hsipaw, 30 Dec—Hsipaw Township Forest Department of Shan State (North) and Township Environmental Conservation Committee jointly motivated the local people of Hsutlan Village in Hsipaw Township to participate in weeding, watering and substituting teak and hardwood plantations and commercial teak plantations on 6 December.

Local people grew three teak saplings and 20 hardwood plants per household in last rainy season.—Kyemon

Signboards put up at plantations

YANBYE, 30 Dec—The Head of Yanbye Township Forest Department and staff of Rakhine State put up signboards of the department at commercial ironwood plantations in Kuncheintaung protected public forest, west of Yanbye, on 20 December.

The signboards were put up for cutting of fuel-wood and extraction of poles from the plantations.

Kyemon

Free clinic opened

DAIKU, 30 Dec—A ceremony to open MyittaU free clinic was held in conjunction with cash donation to medical fund at the clinic on Aungchantha Street in Daiku on 27 November.

After opening the clinic, local wellwishers donated cash and medical equipment amounting to over K 6 million to the fund of the clinic.—Kyemon



A mechanic works on a vehicle of BMW Monster team in the Dakar Village, located at the Apostadero Naval de Mar del Plata, property used by the organization of the Dakar 2012 Argentina-Chile-Peru for checks of cars participating in the Rally, in Mar del Plata City, 400 km from Buenos Aires City, capital of Argentina, on 29 Dec, 2011. The Dakar 2012 Argentina-Chile-Peru will begin on 1 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

UEC announces date, vacant constituencies for by-elections

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—The Union Election Commission issued Announcement No. 61/2011 dated 29-12-2011.

The translation of the announcement is as follows:-

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. 61/2011**

**5th Waxing of Pyatho, 1373 ME
(29 December, 2011)**

Announcement on date to hold by-elections for constituencies of vacant Hluttaw representatives at respective Hluttaws

The Union Election Commission, exercising the duties and powers prescribed in the Section 8 of the Union Election Law and in accord with the Section 34 (c) of the respective Hluttaw Election Laws and Rules 16 (a), announced that the by-elections will be held for the following constituencies of vacant Hluttaw representatives on 10th Waxing of Tagu, 1373 ME (1 April, 2012) on Sunday.

Vacant Pyithu Hluttaw Constituencies

1. Phakant Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
2. Mogaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
3. Bhamo Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
4. Sagaing Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
5. Pale Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
6. Mingin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
7. Kyunsu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
8. Launglon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
9. Toungoo Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
10. Htantabin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
11. Thanappin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
12. Letpadan Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
13. Magway Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
14. Yezagyo Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
15. Myaing Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
16. Pakokku Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
17. Pwintbyu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency

Townships

- Phakant
Mogaung
Bhamo
Sagaing
Pale
Mingin
Kyunsu
Launglon
Toungoo
Htantabin
Thanappin
Letpadan
Magway
Yezagyo
Myaing
Pakokku
Pwintbyu

18. Zabuthiri Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
19. Pobbathiri Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
20. Dekkhinathiri Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
21. Ottarathiri Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
22. Kyaukpadaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
23. Natogyi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
24. Mahaangmye Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
25. TadaU Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
26. Meiktila Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
27. PyinOoLwin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
28. Mawlamyine Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
29. Kawhmu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
30. Thongwa Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
31. Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
32. Mingala Taungnyunt Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
33. Hlegu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
34. Mayangon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
35. Kalaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
36. Patheingyi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
37. Maubin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
38. Myaungmya Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
39. Wakema Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency
40. Myanaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency

- Zabuthiri
Pobbathiri
Dekkhinathiri
Ottarathiri
Kyaukpadaung
Natogyi
Mahaangmye
TadaU
Meiktila
PyinOoLwin
Mawlamyine
Kawhmu
Thongwa
Dagon Myothit (Seikkan)
Mingala Taungnyunt

- Hlegu
Mayangon
Kalaw
Patheingyi
Maubin
Myaungmya
Wakema
Myanaung

Vacant Amyotha Hluttaw Constituencies

1. Sagaing Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 3
2. Sagaing Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 7
3. Bago Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 7
4. Magway Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 4
5. Shan State Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 3
6. Ayeyawady Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 10

Townships

- Kanbalu, Kyunhla, YeU, Taze
Banmauk, Kawlin, Wuntho, Pinlebu
Ottwin, Htantabin
Taungdwingyi
Lashio, Tangyan, Mongyai, Hsenwi, Kunlong
Pyapon, Dedaye

Vacant Region Hluttaw Constituencies

1. Kawa Township Region Hluttaw Constituency No. 2
2. Yekyi Township Region Hluttaw Constituency No. 2

Townships

- Kawa
Yekyi

Sd/Tin Aye
Chairman

Union Election Commission

UEC announces dates for nomination, scrutinizing, revocation and announcement of Hluttaw representatives for vacant seats

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—The Union Election Commission issued announcement No.62/2011 dated 29-12-2011. The translation of the announcement is as follows:-

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. 62/2011**

**5th Waxing of Pyatho, 1373 ME,
29 December, 2011**

Announcement of dates for nomination, scrutinizing, revocation and announcement of Hluttaw representatives for vacant seats in constituencies of respective Hluttaws

Exercising the powers prescribed in the respective Hluttaw Election Rules (16), Union Election Commission has designated the following dates for nomination, scrutinizing,

revocation and announcement of Hluttaw representatives for vacant seats in constituencies of respective Hluttaws.

- Starting date for nomination of Hluttaw representatives for constituencies of respective Hluttaws 8th Waning of Pyatho, 1373 ME (16th January, 2012)
- Last date for nomination of Hluttaw representatives for constituencies of respective Hluttaws 8th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1373 ME (31st January, 2012)
- Last date for revocation of Hluttaw representatives for constituencies of respective Hluttaws 11th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1373 ME (3rd February, 2012)
- Date for scrutinizing the nomination of Hluttaw representatives from 14th Waxing of Tabodwe to 3rd Waning of Tabodwe, 1373 ME (from 6th to 10th February, 2012)

Sd/Tin Aye
Chairman

Union Election Commission



LPDR delegation leaves Yangon after attending 10th Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities

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Severe cyclonic storm "THANE" crosses Tamilnadu Coast in Southern India

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Fire breaks out at BEHS No. 2 in Kamayut Tsp

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Djokovic beats Monfils in Abu Dhabi exhibition



PAGE 14



England manager Fabio Capello calls for end to 'stealing' of young stars

PAGE 14