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True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Preserving fine tradition, government keeps on conferring honorary titles and medals on commendable persons

President Aggamaha Thayaysithu, Aggamaha Thirithudhamma U Thein Sein presents honorary titles and medals

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Aggamaha Thayaysithu, Aggamaha Thirithudhamma U Thein Sein attended the ceremony to confer honorary titles at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) here this morning.

It was also attended by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thein Soe, Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, the Pyithu Hluttaw deputy speaker, the Amyotha Hluttaw deputy speaker, the Union ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Union Auditor-General, the Chairman of Union Civil Services Board,

deputy ministers, departmental heads, title recipients and distinguished guests.

President U Thein Sein said in his address that today, Independence Day, was a memorable day, on which honorary titles and honorary medals were conferred on admirable persons.

He extended greetings making wishes physical and spiritual well-being of the attendees.

The State Peace and Development Council issued Notification No. 48/2009 on 17 December, 2009 to honour those who made all-out efforts in building and defending the country, State leaders, diplomats and persons of foreign countries who fostered friendships and promoted cooperation with the country, those who sacrificed their life upholding Our Three Main National Causes, those who gave their all to ensuring stability and rule of law and to building up a modern and developed nation, those who came up with ingenious inventions in arts, science and other



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein addresses ceremony to confer honorary titles and medals.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein presents Mahathayaysithu title to Daw Khin Lay Myint who accepts the title on behalf of Lt-Gen Maung Bo (Rtd).—MNA

professions and those highly qualified in literature and fine arts, and to confer religious titles on monks, nuns and laymen.

Such ceremony had been held on the auspicious Independence Day. Preserving the fine tradition, the government keeps on conferring honorary titles and medals on commendable persons.

In the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, honorary titles and medals were categorized as Thingaha, title and medal. Thingaha is subdivided into Thudhamma Thingaha titles and Union Sithu Thingaha titles.

Thingaha titles consist of Aggamaha Thiri Thudhamma title, Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma title and Maha Thiri Thudhamma title, and Union Sithu Thingaha of Aggamaha Thayaysithu title, Thadoe Maha Thayaysithu title, Maha Thayaysithu title, Thayaysithu title and Sithu title.

Tatmadaw Gallantry Titles are Aung San Thurir Title, Thiha Thura Title and Thuriya Title and Excellence Performance Titles, Thiri Pyanchi, Zeyakyaw Htin, Wunna Kyawhtin, Alinkakyawswa and Theikpanyawswa Titles.

Every year, the government has been conferring honorary titles and medals on Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force, and Excellence Performance Titles on civil service. A total of 240 honorary Titles for this year are: Thingaha Titles (one Aggamaha Thirithudhamma Title, one Thadoe Thirithudhamma Title and four Maha

Thirithudhamma Titles); Union Thayaysithu Thingaha Titles (nine Maha Thayaysithu, nine Thayaysithu and 30 Sithu Titles); and Excellence Performance Titles (60 Thiri Pyanchi, 44 Zeya Kyaw Htin and 82 Wunna Kyawhtin Titles). In addition, six Thura Titles for Tatmadaw honorary Titles will be awarded.

The reason why the titles are conferred on those is that in the time of the State Peace and Development Council (from 1997 to 30, March 2011), they have been engaging in works like safeguarding of independence and sovereignty of the county, national building endeavours, tasks that shape the country into a democratic country according to Seven-Step Road Map and all-out efforts made in doing their bits. In addition, they could able to handover the new government to a new generation peacefully.

These honorary titles and medals are milestones for excellence performances of those who have achieved success in their life time. It is creditable one not only for their whole life but also for their generations. It is also a driving force for youth, which helps them safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty and engage in the nation's development tasks.

Our government will continue to ensure perpetuation of Independence and sovereignty, make endeavours for ensuring a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

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PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 5 January, 2012

2012, a banner year in the making

The year 2011 is now a thing of the past as 2012 has just started. Everybody has to continue struggling for better future in 2012 under their bounden duty or as any situation of life requires.

Maybe works done in the previous year are succeeded or not. Every cloud has a silver lining. Fixing weaknesses, we should go forward with brilliant creativity. If lost once, we should try twice and thrice. We should try till our last blood to win the goal.

The Lord Buddha says, "Rely on oneself." We need to stand on our own feet. In pursuing education or wealth, we have to help ourselves to achieve success.

Fortune, intelligence and diligence are deciding factors of victory. Some say industriousness goes halfway towards the victory, meaning it is major ingredient of all achievements. With hard work, triumph is right in hand.

Today's world is witnessing developing science. To keep pace with the age, constant learning is a must. Especially, industrial and information technologies are developing with momentum. Lads should learn these know-hows with all their hearts.

Businessmen should try to double their wealth in 2012, compared to the previous year, in pursuit of better life. To earn more incomes, they have to extend their businesses.

Farmers are to seek ways to increase their produce this year in order to make more profits. They should add livestock to their farms. As they plant more crops and breed more livestock, they will begin to enjoy higher living standards.

The year 2012 may become a milestone. Reforms are underway. Adapting the current reality, we should grasp opportunities.

All in all, I would like to suggest everyone to strive to make 2012 a success with fresh attitude.

Literary talks to hail Literati Day

YANGON, 4 Jan—U Yupa (Institute of Economics), Hla Tun (Twantay) and Thanlyin Maung Win Wah gave talks in the literary talks held in commemoration of Literati Day at sportsground in No 12 Ward in Dagon Myothit (East) Township on 27 December.

Township Writers and Journalists Association Chairman Daw Kywe Kywe (aka Ma Kywe Kywe) made clear the purposes of organizing the event and Member U Thein Tun (aka Thein Tun Thit) read out message sent by Myanmar WJA (Central) at the literary.—MNA

LOCAL SPORTS

Senior and novice football tournaments organized in Taunggyi

TAUNGGYI, 4 Jan—The Pa-O Football Committee Chairman's Trophy Senior Football Tournament for 2011-2012 and the Inter-Village Novice Football Tournament are progress in Naungba Ground in Naungba Village of Kyauktalongyi Sub-Township, Taunggyi District.

The tournaments are being held from 16 December 2011 to 8 January 2012. Altogether 11 football teams are taking part in the senior event and 53 teams in the novice events.

One match commissioner and eight referees from Myanmar Football Federation are discharging duties at the tournaments.

Myanma Alin

Yangon Region 64th Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting Ceremony held

YANGON, 4 Jan—Yangon Region 64th Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting Ceremony was held in People's Square in Dagon Township this morning.

It was attended by Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, the Region Hluttaw speaker, the commander of Yangon Command, the Region chief justice, the Region Hluttaw deputy speaker, Region ministers, senior military officers, Region Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, national people, local people from districts and townships.

The attendance accounted for 3300.

After taking position in the square, parade companies and military band saluted the chief minister. The State Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and fallen leaders and Tatmadawmen were saluted and four oaths were taken.

The chief minister read out message sent by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

MNA

Sports competitions and funfairs mark 64th Anniversary Independence Day

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The sports competitions and funfairs in honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day are held at sports grounds/gymnasiums in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, basic education schools, wards, ministries, companies and businesses of entrepreneurs today.

The Ministry of Sports took the responsibilities of sports competitions beginning December 2011. Director-General U Thuang Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department enjoyed the sports events and presented prizes to the winners.

Ministry of Home Affairs secured the first prize in the men's Sepak Takraw event, Ministry of Finance and Revenue the second and Ministry of Construction the third. Ministry of Sports won the



Funfairs in commemoration of 64th Anniversary Independence Day held at basic education high schools in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

first prize in the men's Futsal event, Ministry of SWRR the second and Ministry of Home Affairs the third. Ministry of Defence stood first, Ministry of Sports second and Ministry of

SWRR third in the men's tug-of-war event. Ministry of Defence bagged the first prize, Ministry of Foreign Affairs the second and Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry

the third in the women's tug-of-war event.

Likewise, various ministries and private entrepreneurs organized the sports competitions in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Funfairs in commemoration of 64th Anniversary Independence Day held at basic education high schools in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Winners awarded in Equestrian Contest

YANGON, 4 Jan—Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe enjoyed performances of athletes in the Equestrian Contest organized by Myanmar Equestrian Federation in Dagon Myothit (North) Township this morning.

The athletes actively took part in the dressage, barrel race, target shooting and bare back race events.

The Region Chief Minister presented prizes to the winners in the dressage and bare back race events.

Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint, President of MEF U Pyone Maung Maung and officials also awarded the winners in the events.

MNA

YCDC maternal and child welfare branch donates cash to fire survivors

YANGON, 4 Jan—Patron of Maternal and Child Welfare Association Branch of Yangon City Development Committee wife of Yangon Mayor Daw Khin Aye Nwe and executives donated K 0.5 million to survivors of Mingala Taungnyunt blast receiving treatment in Yangon People's Hospital at the hospital on 2 January. They also met families of five firefighters who sacrificed their lives in the fire outbreak in Tarmway Township Fire Service Department and provided K 0.1 million to each family.

MNA

Britain battered by storms, two dead

LONDON, 4 Jan—Fierce winter storms battered Britain on Tuesday, leaving two men dead and causing widespread chaos for air, sea and rail travellers. Winds of more than 100 miles per hour (160 kilometres per hour) swept in, closing the English Channel port of Dover for several hours and causing major disruption to train services across Britain and flights at Scottish airports.

A van driver in his 50s died after his stationary vehicle was crushed by a falling oak tree in Tunbridge Wells, a town southeast of London, police said.

A second man died after a chemical tanker was hit by a large wave in the Channel amid stormy conditions,

coastguards said. A Navy helicopter evacuated the man, who was unconscious, from the vessel, but he died later in hospital.

The renowned Epsom racecourse, home of the

English Derby in southeast England, was evacuated after part of the grandstand roof blew off, although there were no spectators there at the time. Some of the worst weather was in Scotland, where at least

35 flights were cancelled at Glasgow airport and 40 at Edinburgh airport.

In Dunoon in western Scotland, five people were injured when high winds overturned caravans, while 15 people were rescued from a boat that was blown away as it was being repaired in a west coast shipyard.

Many train services that normally take passengers from England to Scotland were forced to halt their journeys in northern England due to the high winds, while bridges across Scotland were forced to close. In Northern Ireland, 10,000 properties were left without electricity after fallen trees and severe winds damaged power lines.



People stand next to a truck blown over in high winds on the A720 city bypass in Edinburgh, Scotland on 3 January, 2012.—INTERNET



Afghan security forces inspect near the site of a suicide attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on 3 Jan, 2012.

XINHUA

Six killed, 19 injured in bomb attack in Kandahar, Afghan

KANDAHAR, (Afghanistan), 4 Jan— At least six people were killed and 19 others injured Tuesday night in a bomb attack in Kandahar City, the capital of southern Afghan Kandahar Province, an official said.

"A total of six people including four policemen and two civilians were killed and 19 others injured in an explosion that happened at around 7:15 pm local time in Chaok-e-Madad or Madad square of Kandahar City," spokesman for provincial government Daud Ahmadi told *Xinhua*. He said, initially, there was a small blast in the area, with no casualties, but as police forces arrived at the site and local people gathered at the scene another bomb was detonated that caused the casualties. He said the injured were include 12 civilians seven policeman.

"A big amount of explosives were planted in a tricycle vehicle and the bomb was detonated shortly after the first blast when a unit of police arrived in the area to check the incident," a witness namely Mohammad Akbar told *Xinhua*. "The death toll could further rise as many injured were in critical conditions," Akbar added. This is the second blast in Kandahar on Tuesday. A policeman with Afghan Border Police and four children were killed and 16 others injured when a suicide bomber blew his explosive-laden motorbike up near a police check point in first precinct of the city at around 12:30 local time Tuesday.—*Xinhua*

Eight injured in 41-vehicle pileup on I-75 in Kentucky

DRY RIDGE, 4 Jan—Police say eight people have been injured in a 41-vehicle pileup that shut southbound Interstate 75 for hours on a day when scattered snow showers pelted northern Kentucky.

Kentucky's Kenton County police department issued a statement saying six of the injured were taken to hospitals, but none of the injuries was life-threatening. It said cars and other vehicles collided on southbound lanes at 12:22 pm Monday just north of Crittenden and south of Cincinnati.

Police say 23 vehicles had to be towed before southbound lanes reopened at 2:45 pm. A news photo showed cars sprawled across several lanes and beside a shoulder with accumulated snow. Authorities say the cause is under investigation. Meteorologist John Denman with the National Weather Service in Louisville said snow showers fell around the state Monday.—*Internet*



Emergency crews work the scene after a crash along Interstate 75 that involved about 30 cars during snowy conditions on 2 Jan, 2012 near Dry Ridge, Ky. No life-threatening injuries were reported. The road reopened around 3 pm on Monday after being shut down for about three hours from the pileup.

INTERNET

US military deaths in Afghanistan at 1,741

KABUL, 4 Jan—As of Tuesday, 3 Jan, 2012, at least 1,741 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan as a result of the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001.

At least 1,464 military service members have died in Afghanistan as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Outside of Afghanistan, the department reports at least 104 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Of those, 12 were the result of hostile action. The Defence Department counts three military civilian deaths.

Since the start of US military operations in Afghanistan, 15,157 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department.

Internet

Two die in Australia from Death Cap mushrooms

SYDNEY, 4 Jan—Two people have died in Australia while a third remains in hospital after eating poisonous Death Cap mushrooms, a Sydney hospital said Wednesday.

Four people were initially hospitalised after eating the fungi, unaware of its deadly properties, reportedly at a New Year's Eve dinner party in Canberra.

One recovered and was released from a Canberra hospital but the other three were transferred to Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) for treatment.

"Two people at RPA have passed away. The third, however, is still receiving treatment," a spokeswoman for the hospital said Wednesday.

The hospital said it would not be releasing any details about the patients or their treatments out of respect for their privacy, but state media reported that the victims had been awaiting liver transplants.

It is believed that the deadly poisonous mushrooms were mistaken for an

edible fungi known as the Paddy Straw mushroom, which is commonly found in Southeast Asia and considered a delicacy.

All parts of the Death Cap mushroom are poisonous and eating just one of the silky white-to-greenish-brown capped, white-gilled fungi can be fatal. Eating the mushrooms, an introduced species that



The Sydney Harbour Bridge (R) and the Sydney City skyline. Two people have died in Australia while a third remains in hospital after eating poisonous Death Cap mushrooms, a Sydney hospital said Wednesday. INTERNET

grows in southeast Australia, causes vomiting within hours and is potentially fatal within days because the toxin they contain is particularly

damaging to the liver. "So you will eventually go into a liver failure and that's how these individuals would have succumbed to death,"

director of the New South Wales Poisons Information Centre Dr Naren Gunja told the ABC.

Internet

Two Britons detained in Afghanistan

KABUL, 4 Jan—Two British nationals have been detained in the Afghan Capital in possession of dozens of AK-47 assault rifles with the serial numbers erased, a government official said Tuesday.

"Two British nationals along with their two Afghan colleagues, a driver and an interpreter, were today detained carrying 30 AKs.

The weapons' registration numbers were removed from them," the official, who requested anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to the media, told *AFP*.

Kabul police chief Mohammad Ayoub Salangi confirmed that four people had been detained while carrying weapons.

He would not disclose their nationality and said the case was under investigation.

The government official who spoke to *AFP* said the Britons were arrested in an area of Kabul where foreign

forces have bases and facilities.

The British embassy said it was "aware of reports that British nationals may have been detained in Kabul".

"Our consular officials in Kabul are in touch with the relevant Afghan police authorities to seek further information," a spokesman told *AFP*.

Afghanistan is home to thousands of foreign private security personnel providing services for foreign troops, diplomatic missions and aid organizations.

A US congressional report last year found that the number of private security personnel working for the US military in Afghanistan rose to 18,919 at the end of 2010, the highest level used in any conflict by the United States. Around 95 percent of them were Afghans, it added.

But relations with the authorities have deteriorated. President Hamid Karzai accuses the firms of breaking the law and taking business away from Afghans.—*Internet*

Health Tip: Footcare suggestions for diabetics

Two common complications of diabetes are nerve damage and poor circulation, which make foot problems common among diabetics. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons offers these footcare suggestions for people with diabetes:

- * Avoid walking barefoot to reduce the risk of injury.
- * Carefully wash your feet with warm water and gentle soap each day, making sure the water isn't too hot and that you carefully dry your feet.
- * Moisturize the skin on your feet frequently.
- * Keep toenails trimmed. Cut them straight across to help prevent ingrown nails.
- * Avoid using over-the-counter medications, antiseptic solutions, anything sharp or heating pads on your feet.
- * Keep your feet warm at all times.
- * Don't smoke.—Internet



Arena Pharmaceuticals Inc said on Tuesday it submitted an official response addressing safety concerns of US health regulators over the company's experimental weight loss drug lorcaserin, and believes it will gain US approval. Lorcaserin, which is being developed in partnership with Japanese drugmaker Eisai Co Ltd, is one of three new potential obesity treatments rejected by the Food and Drug Administration over safety issues. New data included in Arena's response to the FDA's complete response letter is intended to alleviate agency concerns over cancerous tumors found in rats in two-year animal studies of lorcaserin.—INTERNET

Hormone linked to dementia in women

BOSTON, 4 Jan—An elevated level of the hormone adiponectin is an independent predictor for all-cause dementia and Alzheimer's disease in women, US researchers say.

Adiponectin is a protein hormone that modulates a number of metabolic processes, including glucose regulation and fatty acid catabolism — a metabolic process in which molecules are broken down into smaller units and release energy.

Adiponectin is exclusively secreted from fat tissue into the bloodstream and the levels

of the hormone are inversely correlated with body fat percentage in adults.

Thomas M van Himbergen of the Lipid Metabolism Laboratory, Human Nutrition Research Centre on Aging at Tufts University in Boston and colleagues measured levels of glucose, insulin, C-reactive protein and other substances.

The 840 patients in the study — 541 women, median age 76 — were tracked for an average of 13 years and evaluated for signs of the development of AD and all-cause dementia. During the study period, 159 patients developed dementia, including 125 cases of Alzheimer's disease.

After adjustment for other dementia risk factors only adiponectin in women was associated with an increased risk of all-cause dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Internet

Extra fat, low protein lead to unhealthy weight, study

BEIJING, 4 Jan—A new research has found that low-protein foods with extra fat leads to unhealthy weight, according to Wednesday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The research, in which 25 participants overate diets containing different levels of protein for a period, found that those who ate low-protein diets gained less weight than the other groups, but the quality of the weight gained was worse, as it came from an increase in body fat.

Everyone gained weight during the period. However, people in the low-protein diet lost 2.2 pounds (1 kilogramme) in muscle mass, while those in the normal- or high-protein groups gained muscle mass. Muscle

weighs more than fat, which is why they gained more weight. The excess calories turned to fat among participants who ate a low-protein diet.

In contrast, the high-protein diets led to changes in lean body mass and helped participants burn calories.

"People on the low protein diet could think they were doing a good thing by gaining less weight, but they gained the same amount of fat and lost lean body mass," said George Bray, a professor at Louisiana State University's Pennington Biomedical Research Centre in Baton Rouge.

Researchers of the study encourage a high-protein, low-fat diet that is rich in colorful fruits and vegetables.

Xinhua



Tata Nano, world's cheapest car, struggles to gain traction

MUMBAI, 4 Jan—To kick sales of its ultra-low-cost Nano into higher gear, Tata Motors needs a lot more buyers like Vijay Govind Pisal, a sugar cane farmer in Ozarde in the western Indian State of Maharashtra.

Unable to afford a big vehicle to haul crops and fertilizer and unwilling to justify paying two or three times the price for a higher-end car given his limited usage, Pisal was sold on the Nano's cost, fuel efficiency and extended warranty.

"Whenever I wanted to visit my relatives I had to rely on public transport or a bike. The car allows me to travel with my family," said Pisal, 36, who bought his Nano in October.

Unveiled four years ago, the "people's car" made headlines as the world's cheapest car, a safe upgrade for the millions of families who crowd four (or more) onto two-wheelers in India.

But the ride for the Nano has been anything but smooth and many company-watchers said Tata Motors, part of India's biggest business house, has a long road ahead of it to lift sales to its targeted 250,000 a year.

Farmer protests disrupted early production and the first buyers did not get their cars until July 2009. Reports of fires scared away customers, would-be buyers had difficulty securing financing, and the price rose well above its initial 100,000 rupees (\$1,878).

Crucially, the car has struggled to find a core market.

"There was just so much media, so much attention, that the wrong kind of buyers started buying the Tata Nano in the beginning," said Ashvin Chotai, managing director of consulting firm Intelligence Automotive Asia in London. "Rather than being a functional step above a motorcycle, it became known as a cut-price car," he said.

Tata has taken numerous steps to spur demand, including extending the warranty, stepping up marketing efforts and financing options and expanding distribution to smaller towns.—Reuters



Tata Nano automobiles are seen parked at the carmaker's plant in Sanand, Gujarat state, on 26 Sept, 2011.
REUTERS



A Ford Motor assembly worker works on the under body of the Ford Focus vehicles for 2012 at the Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne, Michigan, on 14 Dec, 2011.

REUTERS

Manufacturing index hits six-month high

NEW YORK, 4 Jan—Manufacturing grew at its fastest pace in six months in December, capping a late-year upswing, but a European slump and rising oil prices posed threats to the US economy in the new year. The Institute for Supply Management's index of national factory activity hit its highest level since June, coming in above forecasts at 53.9, more evidence that the US economy picked up steam in the fourth quarter. A reading above 50 indicates expansion. A rise in new orders for manufactured goods suggested momentum going into 2012, Tuesday's report showed.

"It's a pretty decent report overall," said Tom Porcelli, chief US economist at RBC Capital Markets in New York. "We're not roaring ahead here, but it's also not collapsing. That's consistent with our overall view of the economy in 2012." The data contrasted with the state of manufacturing in much of the rest of the world. The euro zone's industrial sector ended 2011 with a whimper, posting its fifth consecutive month of contraction. Asian factories also closed out the year on a weak note. In Britain, December capped the worst quarter for manufacturing in more than two years. Economists expect growth in the US economy accelerated between October and December, improving on the 1.8 percent rate recorded over the prior three months. Macroeconomic Advisers forecast a 3.5 percent rate of growth in the fourth quarter.

Reuters

Dollar falls as strong economic data lifts optimism

NEW YORK, 4 Jan—The US dollar fell against major currencies in late New York trading on Tuesday as upbeat economic data showed strong economic recovery and raised optimism in market.

The Institute for Supply Management said on Tuesday its manufacturing index for Dec rose to a six-month high of 53.9 from 52.7 in November. Readings above 50 indicate an expansion.

Also, economic data from China and Britain showed positive signs and helped stimulate optimism. The stock market surged on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the minute of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy meeting in Dec showed that officials will begin disclosing more details about their interest rate forecasts.

The dollar was under pressure as optimism dominated the market. The dollar index fell 0.69 percent to 79.63 on Tuesday.

In late Tuesday trading, the dollar bought 76.67 Japanese yen, comparing with 76.91 from late Friday. The euro rose to 1.3056 dollars from 1.2929.

The British pound also rose to 1.5652 dollars from 1.5501. The dollar fell from 0.9403 Swiss francs to 0.9321, and also fell to 1.0102 Canadian dollars from 1.0202.—Xinhua



science

Quadrantids meteor shower to delight astro buffs

NEW DELHI, 4 Jan—The New Year will start for astro enthusiasts with fireworks as a meteor shower peaks tomorrow night, appearing as bright streaks of light zipping across the sky. The International Meteor Organization (IMO) expects maximum of 120 meteors per hour. Planetary Society of India General Secretary N Sri Raghunandan Kumar said today. However, the number of meteors can vary from 60 to 200 per hour as the Quadrantids meteor shower peaks tomorrow, he said.



The shooting stars can be seen through naked eyes in the East and North-East directions away from city lights and no equipment such as telescope is required, he said.

It is called "Quadrantids Meteor Shower" as the radiant of the meteor shower lies in Bootes constellation which was earlier called Quadrans Muralis. The source of the Quadrantid meteor shower was not known until December 2003 when Peter Jenniskens of the NASA Ames Research Centre found evidence that Quadrantid meteoroids come from 2003 EH1, an "asteroid" that is probably a piece of a comet that broke up some 500 years ago.

The annual meteor shower is visible from 28 December to 12 January.—Internet

Scientists succeed in growing sperm in lab dish

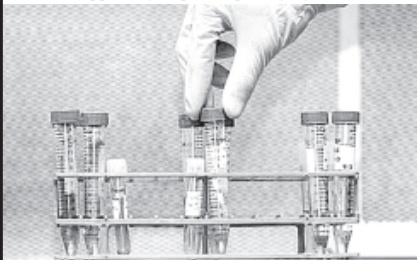
LONDON, 4 Jan—For the first time in the world, researchers have grown mouse sperm from a few cells in a lab potentially paving the way for infertile men to father their own children. Stefan Schlatt, professor at Muenster University in Germany and his team were able to grow sperm by using germ cells - cells in testicles responsible for sperm production. They grew the sperm by surrounding the germ cells in a special compound called agar jelly to create an environment akin to that of the testicles.

Mahmoud Huleihel, professor at Ben Gurion University in Israel, who also grew the sperm, said: "I believe it will eventually be possible to routinely grow human male sperm to order by extracting tissue containing germ cells from a man's testicles and stimulating sperm production in the laboratory."

Now, the scientists who made the discovery have begun experiments that will hopefully lead to the 'Holy Grail' - human sperm grown outside a man's body.

Stephen Gordon, UK based male infertility consultant, praised the breakthrough. "This is an amazing development that could revolutionise fertility treatment and allow every man to be a natural father," he said.

The problem of male infertility has grown over the last 50 years and has been matched by huge decrease in sperm counts in men. Some of this has been attributed to environmental factors such as pollution and female hormones appearing in plastic packaging.—Internet



Sperm being prepared for IVF treatment.—INTERNET

iPhone flashlight helps rescue team save lost hiker

LOS ANGELES, 4 Jan—Wandering through Gambrill State Park northwest of Frederick, Maryland, Christopher Tkacik, a 43-year-old lawyer, and his dog Boo got lost in the woods while on a hike through the park as reported by My Fox DC. After walking in circles for hours, Tkacik eventually resigned himself to the fact that they were lost and used his iPhone to call emergency services. While the Google Maps application was continuing to give him the incorrect location on his iPhone, Tkacik was able to send his wife a text message that he was lost, but in good shape. After the 911 call, the local sheriff dispatched a helicopter to look around

Gambrill State Park to locate Tkacik. Tkacik waited until he heard the helicopter hovering nearby and turned on his iPhone flashlight application to catch the attention of the pilot. Just like a flare, the pilot spotted the iPhone flashlight in the darkness of the wooded area and two rescue workers rappelled 150 feet from the helicopter to help guide Tkacik and his dog Boo to safety out of the woods. The entire ordeal took about four hours and got Tkacik back to his wife in time to attend a New Year's Eve party. Interestingly, Tkacik had recently given his wife the Steve Jobs biography for Christmas and she stated "I started reading it. Steve Jobs with the iPhone—oh my gosh—



Flashlight iPhone

technology's good," during an interview with a local television station. Tkacik didn't let the incident sour him on hiking and returned to the trails on Monday. When asked about the iPhone, he stated "Having a charged phone made a world of difference. If I didn't have a phone, I would have been stuck really bad." In a

much greater disaster in 2010, Apple's iPhone also helped out Haiti earthquake survivor Dan Woolley of Colorado Springs to self-diagnose and treat injuries to his body by using a medical application as well as the glowing light emanating from the iPhone.

Internet

Hackers developing satellite system for 'uncensorable Internet in space'



Hackers in Space! A group of hackers say they want to escape online tyranny by sending up their own satellites to use for communication.—INTERNET

BERLIN, 4 Jan—The threat of Internet censorship has spurred some to seek refuge in space. Hackers at the Chaos Computer Club's Chaos Communication Congress in Berlin this year proposed an initiative called the Hackerspace Global Grid (HGG), which aims to create and freely make available satellite based communication as a fallback or to bypass stuffy legislation.

The bunch of "hobbyist hackers, tinkerers and part time scientists" are predominantly based in Stuttgart, Germany. They say their ultimate goal is to put a hacker on the moon in 23 years, but right now they're keeping their goals small. They want to keep their freedoms safe from threats like the proposed Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), by creating an "uncensorable Internet in space." The project builds

off of an earlier idea by Nick Farr in August for a Hacker Space Programme.

The BBC interviewed 26-year-old Armin Bauer from Stuttgart who is working on the communications infrastructure for the project with his team. Bauer is currently working with Constellation, which is a platform that uses Internet-connected computers for aerospace related research. The team is developing an idea for a network of low-cost ground stations for when the project gets those low-orbit satellites up there. The stations would be there to pinpoint satellites and facilitate sending data back to earth.

Bauer said, "It's kind of a reverse GPS. GPS uses satellites to calculate where we are, and this tells us where the satellites are. We would use GPS coordinates but also improve on them by using fixed sites in precisely-known locations."—Internet

Microsoft awarded patent for DVR on gaming consoles Digital

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan—An old patent recently awarded to Microsoft may shed some light on the company's future ambitions regarding the Xbox. The patent sums up an idea for a gaming console moving towards an entertainment center, rather than simply a gaming machine.

Back in January 2007, around the time when the Playstation 3 first came out, Microsoft was toying with an idea for a gaming console to pack a digital video recorder (DVR). The DVR application "running alongside a television client component [would allow] users to record media content on the gaming console."

The patent points out that the DVR application would integrate itself with the console menu, and would allow users to record media while gaming. Users could also record content while the console is turned off. Media content could mean TV programmes, local or online gaming experiences, music, DVDs and more. Users would have the freedom to switch between various modes while recording.

The example in the patent highlights a gaming device with 60 GB of total space, and a plan to be able to adjust a slider to designate how much space a console would use for a DVR. Also, the patent specifies that the primary focus for the console would be gaming, and assurances would be taken into consideration to preserve the gaming experience.

Why would Microsoft bother with a DVR? The patent points out that, "Gaming consoles provide a rich audio and visual experience that is underwritten by extensive computing resources. However, these computing resources are often times not leveraged for non-gaming uses... In short, it would be advantageous to provide systems, methods, computer readable media and the like that would allow for integrated gaming and media experience."

Internet



Microsoft gets an old patent from 2007 which explored a DVR idea for a gaming console.—INTERNET

Japan PM vows to bring 'rebirth' to Fukushima

TOKYO, 4 Jan—Japan's Prime Minister has pledged to bring "rebirth" to the area around the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda told a new conference Wednesday that authorities would work to decontaminate the region from radioactive fallout, while ensuring compensation and health checks for those affected by the disaster. The nuclear crisis was

triggered by damage from an earthquake and tsunami in March and has dislocated about 100,000 residents. The region around the plant remains off-limits.

Government officials have said it may be many years before residents can return.

On 16 Dec, the government declared that the plant had achieved "cold shutdown conditions," and was essentially stable.

Internet



A view of Tokyo Electric Power Co's tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima prefecture in this 12 Nov, 2011 file photo. Japan declared the Fukushima nuclear power plant to be in cold shutdown on 16 Dec, 2011 in a major step toward resolving the world's worst nuclear crisis in 25 years.

INTERNET

Mali to give 40,000 tonnes of food to drought victims

OUED GUEDARA, 4 Jan—Mali's government on Tuesday announced a plan to distribute 40,000 tonnes of food in emergency aid to drought victims and those lacking food security. A government statement obtained by AFP said that drought threatened the harvest for 2011-12 in the whole Sahel Region. "To deal with this, 40,000 tonnes of food will be distributed to people in need," the text added.

According to the agriculture ministry, "more than 100 districts" of the 703 in the west African country will get this free food, consisting of millet and sorghum and also fodder for cattle in the most drought-hit regions.

In his New Year's address, President Amadou Toumani Touré put the cost of needed food aid at 19 billion CFA francs (29 million euros, \$38 million).

Mali, Niger, Chad, Mauritania and Burkina Faso are Sahel desert nations threatened with famine in 2012, according to UN agencies and non-governmental organizations, with between five and seven million lives at stake.—Internet



A photo shows a woman pointing at the dry land in Oued Guedara, west Africa. Mali, Niger, Chad, Mauritania and Burkina Faso are Sahel desert nations threatened with famine in 2012, according to UN agencies and non-governmental organizations, with between five and seven million lives at stake.—INTERNET

150 children lose parents in South Sudan violence

NAIROBI, (Kenya), 4 Jan—Red Cross volunteers are trying to reconnect 150 young children with their missing parents after tens of thousands of residents of South Sudan ran into the bush while fleeing a massive wave of tribe-on-tribe violence, an official said Tuesday.

Many of those parents, though, are feared to be dead. Violence broke out late last month between two South Sudanese tribes in the town of Pibor, sending tens of thousands of residents into the surrounding countryside. A death toll is not known because officials cannot gain safe access to the region. One community leader believes the toll is in the hundreds.

Save The Children said Tuesday that up to 25,000 women and children fled the violence and are living in the bush. The UN reported last week that 6,000 armed men were marching on Pibor. "Children in the area already live in continual fear of violence and are often abducted in raids. If fighting continues thousands more could be killed, maimed, abducted or recruited to fight," the group said. The UN Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan estimated Tuesday that the death toll could be in the hundreds. Speaking via video link from South Sudan's Capital, Juba, Lise Grande said she saw five corpses outside of Pibor.

"The situation on the ground now, in humanitarian terms, is grim," Grande said. "Because people fled town, they didn't take anything with them. They've been in the bush for up to a week. They haven't had food, they haven't had access to clean water, in a number of cases their people are wounded."

She said the South Sudan government had promised to reinforce troops with 3,000 infantry soldiers 800 police officers who were beginning to arrive.—Internet

Storms kill seven, force 52 towns to declare emergency in southeastern Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 Jan—The storms starting in December over southeastern Brazil have already caused seven fatalities and led 52 towns to declare state of emergency, official statistics showed Tuesday.

The situation is particularly critical in Minas Gerais State, where 108 towns were affected by the storms.

Six of the seven deaths occurred in the state and some 9,300 people had to flee their homes due to floods.

Several towns reported mudslide and damage to highways and bridges, as well as to water and energy

networks. In Minas Gerais' capital City of Belo Horizonte, it rained on Sunday and Monday much more than it was expected, according to the local Civil Defence. In Rio de Janeiro state, one person died in the small Town of Laje de Muriae. In several towns, entire neighbourhoods were flooded, and people had to leave their homes due to the risk of landslide. The towns most affected by the storms in Rio State are the same where, a year ago, a major storm caused over 900 deaths and left thousands of people homeless.—Xinhua

BP sues Halliburton for full cost of Gulf disaster

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan—British oil giant BP is pushing US energy services firm Halliburton to pay for all the costs BP incurred in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, the worst environmental disaster in US history.

In a US federal court filing, BP said that it was seeking full repayment of damages from Halliburton, alleging it

fraudulently putting a defective cement seal on a deepwater well, causing a deadly explosion and pollution of the Gulf and neighbouring states.

BP filed suit Monday with the US district court in New Orleans seeking damages from Halliburton including "the amount of costs and expenses incurred by BP to clean up and remediate the oil spill" and "all other costs and damages incurred by BP" related to the Deepwater Horizon rig blowout and resulting oil spill.

The latest court filing marked an expansion of the scope of BP's April 2010

lawsuit, in which the British company had sought reimbursement from Halliburton "for all or a part of the damages, costs and expenses."

BP has spent more than \$40 billion on the disaster and could still be liable for billions in fines, compensation and restoration costs.

A BP spokesman declined to comment on the case. In October the US government slapped BP, Transocean — the Swiss owner and operator of the drilling rig — and Halliburton with citations for violating oil industry regulations in what is expected to lead to massive fines.—Internet

Aussie surfer survives shark attack

SYDNEY, 4 Jan—An Australian surfer was recovering Wednesday after being attacked by a shark at a popular beach north of Sydney, a hospital spokesman said.

The man was surfing at North Avoca Beach at dusk on Tuesday when he felt his arm being dragged under his surfboard, the New South Wales Ambulance service said. He immediately paddled back to the beach to raise the alarm.

"A 28-year-old man was bitten in the right forearm and wrist area," and was suffering from puncture wounds, a spokesman for the nearby Gosford Hospital told AFP.

"He is in a satisfactory

condition."

Witnesses told local media the shark was brown and about 1.8 metres (six feet) long, meaning it could have been a bronze whaler — a large, coastal animal prone to over-exploitation by fishing.

Sharks are a common feature of Australian waters but fatal attacks are rare.

Another surfer had a lucky escape last month when a shark rammed his surfboard and bit off a huge chunk. Stephen King, 51, managed to make it to shore with only minor puncture wounds to his leg.

Shark attacks in Australia have left at least 27 people dead in the past 22 years.—Internet



An Australian surfer was recovering Wednesday after being attacked by a shark at a popular beach north of Sydney, a hospital spokesman said.—INTERNET

179 kg heroin seized in northwestern Turkey

ANKARA, 4 Jan—The Turkish police seized 179 kilogrammes of heroin in an operation conducted in the northwestern area on Tuesday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. The heroin was found hidden in a truck at the Kapikule Border Gate of the Edirne Province, said the report, adding that the driver of the truck was detained in connection with the illicit drugs.

Turkey is a key transit route for drug smuggling from Asia and Middle East to Europe.—Xinhua



A US Coast Guard image of fire boat response crews battling the blazing remnants of the BP-operated offshore oil rig Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico, on 21 April, 2010. British oil giant BP is pushing US energy services firm Halliburton to pay for all the costs BP incurred in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, the worst environmental disaster in US history.

INTERNET

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

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

From Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of Australia

Your Excellency

On the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's Independence Day on 4 January 2012, I wish to convey to you and the people of Myanmar my congratulations and those of the Government and the people of Australia.

Myanmar stands at an historical turning point. The Australian Government welcomes positive developments which have taken place in Myanmar in recent months, including the ongoing dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the release of some prisoners of conscience, and amendments to the political party registration law, which provides the basis for more inclusive political party participation. I appreciate your personal role in this reform process and hope that Myanmar will continue to pursue further change across the board, including the speedy release of all remaining prisoners of conscience, promoting the rule of law, ensuring free and fair elections and seeking peaceful solutions to long-standing ethnic armed conflicts.

I welcome the increased commitment of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to address poverty and implement economic reform. Australia remains committed to improving the lives of the people of Myanmar through our assistance program of nearly \$50 million per year. This commitment was reinforced during the visit to Myanmar by Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP.

The Australian Government firmly believes that global challenges such as climate change, international development and disarmament require broad-based global solutions. Multilateral institutions, particularly the United Nations, provide the best means for us to meet these challenges collectively. The Australian Government stands ready to work with Myanmar in the year ahead both bilaterally and through the multilateral system to address these challenges.

May I express my confidence that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to prosper in the coming year.

From D. Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation Esteemed Mr President,

I would like to congratulate You on the National Holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar—the Independence Day.

I note with satisfaction the progressive development of Russia-Myanmar relations. I am confident that traditionally friendly ties, experience of interaction between Russia and Myanmar constitute a good basis for activation of the whole complex of bilateral cooperation.

I suppose important to continue coordination on the international arena as well, for the benefit of our States, in the interests of maintaining stability and security in the

Asia-Pacific region.

I wish You, esteemed Mr President, health and success, and to the people of Myanmar—progress and prosperity.

From Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India

Excellency,

On behalf of the people of India and on my own behalf, I extend sincere felicitations and warm greetings on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

India and Myanmar enjoy traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation spanning over centuries. Your State Visit to India in October 2011 has further deepened and strengthened our multifaceted and deep rooted relationship. We look forward to continue working with you and your Government to take our bilateral ties to new heights in a mutually beneficial manner.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your personal well-being and for the continued prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

With the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Benigno S. Aquino III, President of Philippines, Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines, I extend my warmest greetings to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the 64th Anniversary of Myanmar's Independence.

At this important juncture in Myanmar's history, I convey the Philippines' continuing support for Myanmar's efforts in promoting national reconciliation, equitable progress, and lasting prosperity. I am confident that the positive developments in your nation would accelerate the realization of our ASEAN Community.

Indeed, I look forward to the strengthening of our regional bonds in ASEAN, our bilateral ties, and our continuing partnership on issues of common concern for the mutual benefit of our peoples.

From Heinz Fischer, Federal President of the Republic of Austria,

Excellency,

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I convey my sincere congratulations to your country. I seize this opportunity to extend my best wishes for a happy future of the people of Myanmar.

From Traian Basescu, President of Romania,

Excellency,

The occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar awards me the opportunity to convey to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Romanian people and on my own behalf, a message of congratulations as well as wishes of peace, progress and prosperity for your people.

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

From Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel,

Your Excellency,

The Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar offers me the opportunity to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the people of Israel and myself, warm and sincere wishes for your personal well-being and for the continued progress

and prosperity of your country and its people.

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

From His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Kingdom of Thailand,

His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes for your happiness and well-being as well as for the welfare and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and her people.

From Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of Singapore

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the Republic of the Singapore, I extend my warmest wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the 64th anniversary of the Independence of Myanmar.

The past year had been remarkable in Myanmar's transition to a parliamentary democracy. We wish Myanmar well in its ongoing efforts to achieve national reconciliation and further integration with the International community. Singapore will continue to cooperate closely with Myanmar, both bilaterally for the mutual benefit of our countries, and multilaterally within ASEAN to achieve our common goal of a prosperous ASEAN community by 2015. Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Singapore, I congratulate Your Excellency and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of Myanmar's 64th Independence Day.

Myanmar has made remarkable strides over the past year in its transition to a parliamentary democracy, and I wish Myanmar well in its national reconciliation and economic reforms. Singapore supports Myanmar's 2014 ASEAN chairmanship, and I am confident that our countries will continue to strengthen our longstanding and friendly relations, bilaterally and within ASEAN, for mutual benefit. I look forward to meeting Your Excellency again during your visit to Singapore in January 2012. Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From His Royal Highness Nayef Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Excellency,

I am pleased to extend to your Excellency on behalf of the People, Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and on my own behalf, the Best Regards and Joyful Wishes associated with Health and Happiness and to the friendly people of Myanmar most progress and prosperity on the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day.

Accept, Your Excellency, my compliments and considerations.

Sri Lanka scraps visa on arrival for 78 countries

COLOMBO, 4 Jan—All short-term visitors and transit passengers to Sri Lanka have to obtain online visa, the Immigration and Emigration Department announced here on Monday.

Except for visitors from Singapore and Maldives, the two countries that reciprocate the facility with Sri Lanka, the new system will scrap the previously implemented "on arrival visa" at the ports of entry.

The Electronic Travel Authorization has been introduced to grant prior

approval for visa via online for foreign nationals from 78 countries.

Controller of the Immigration and Emigration WA C Perera told media that foreign nationals visiting the country on purposes of tourism affairs, medical treatment, sports, cultural shows, business conferences, training programmes and seminars can apply for the Electronic Travel Authorization via www.eta.gov.lk established by the department. Sri Lanka, which is experi-encing a

tourist boom since the end of a three decade war in 2009 is expecting 950,000 travellers this year. The government has ambitious plans to increase this to 2.5 million tourists by 2016. Already top resorts including Sheraton, Shangri-La and in its latest attraction Sun City of South Africa have pledged nearly 2 billion US dollars for large scale hotels. Approval is also being processed for over 100 smaller hotels that are expected to commence construction in 2012.

Xinhua

Hackers disclose Israelis' credit card information

JERUSALEM, 4 Jan—Hackers claiming to be Saudis posted credit card information of thousands of Israelis on the Internet, credit card companies said Tuesday, in what appeared to be a politically motivated attack. One expert played down its scope.

The Israeli Ynet news website said the hackers, identifying themselves as Group-XP, called the cyber attack a "gift to the world for the New Year" that they hoped "would hurt the Zionist pocket."

They claimed to have compromised 400,000 credit-card holders, but Israel's central bank said only about 15,000 active cards were affected. "Group-XP is a known Saudi hacking group that seeks to propagate Wahhabism," the strict form of Islam practiced in Saudi Arabia, said Gadi Aviran of Terrogen Ltd, an Israeli web intelligence company.

"The fact that the hackers offered the

credit card details for free and admitted to using the cards in order to expand their activity and cause more damage to Israelis in the future shows that they were not motivated by criminal intent or greed," he said. "This event is less cyber warfare than cyber terrorism."

Another cyber expert, Gadi Evron, told *The Associated Press* that it would be almost impossible to verify the attackers were Saudi.

Evron, who once oversaw security for the Israeli government Internet provider, said the attack was "nothing special" technically and was mundane, given the millions of credit card numbers stolen online daily.

"Potentially, such att-acks could be devastating," he said. "This is not one of them." It focused attention again about potential dangers for consumers in using electronic commerce services, he said, and demonstrated how relatively simple attacks could affect an entire country.—*Internet*

Preserving fine tradition, government...

(from page 1)

Unity of political parties and making eternal peace with national races armed forces are the top priority of the government. Now, special emphasis is placed on it for the peace and stability of the country. The government is making attempt to develop agriculture sector while trying to build up a modern industrialized nation. Those recipients are urged to extend a helping hand to the government.

In conclusion, conferring awards on those who deserve praise is the way to auspiciousness. I wish those recipients may have physical and mental well-being. Those recipients are urged to pass their good habits and attitude on to new



President U Thein Sein presents Thayaysithu title to Daw Khin Phyu Win who accepts the title on behalf of Maj-Gen Thura Thiha Thura Sit Maung (deceased).—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein presents Sithu title to Dr Khin Maung Nyunt.—MNA



generation, he added. After that, President U Thein Sein conferred titles. After the ceremony, the President took documentary photo together with those title recipients.

A total of 246 honorary titles— six Thudhamma Thingaha Titles, 48 Union Sithu Thingaha Titles, six Gallantry Titles and 186 Excellence Performance Titles were awarded.

MNA

President U Thein Sein presents Sithu title to Daw Tin Tin Mya.—MNA

President U Thein Sein presents Sithu title to Daw San Yin (San Shar Tin).—MNA



President U Thein Sein presents Thiri Pyanchi title to U Min Thein.—MNA



President U Thein Sein presents Thiri Pyanchi title to U Ohn Gyaw.—MNA

IMAGES OF
CONFERRING
HONORARY
TITLES AND
MEDALS ON
COMMENDABLE
PERSONS

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win...

(from page 16)

U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greeted diplomats and their wives led by Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert.

Also present at the dinner were Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thein Soe, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and their wives, Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, chairmen and secretaries of Hluttaw affairs committees, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and their wives, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental heads, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert and diplomats and

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win greet diplomats and their wives at reception to mark 64th Anniversary Independence Day, 2012.

MNA



their wives of the foreign embassies, resident representatives of UN agencies and their wives, members of the Central Committee for Observing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, chairmen of subcommittees and guests.

At the reception and before and during the dinner, the vocalists presented songs to the accompaniment of the Myanmar Radio modern music band.

MNA

Funfairs and sports activities to mark Independence Day

YANGON, 4 Jan—Families of staff of Yangon City Development Committee held funfair and sports activities to mark the 64th Anniversary Independence Day for 2012 at the YCDC stadium on Setyon Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning.

Secretary of YCDC U Kyaw Soe and officials presented prizes to winners of the festivities

MNA



President U Thein Sein awards Wanna Kyaw Htin title to Dr Tin Aung Aye. (News on page 1)—MNA



President U Thein Sein presents Wanna Kyaw Htin title to U Tint Swe. (News on page 1)—MNA

25 literati and artistes among 30 Sithu Titles recipients

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar conferred honorary titles and honorary medals with Notification No. 2/2012 issued by the Office of the President on 4 January 2012 (the Independence Day).

Sithu Title was conferred on 25 literati and artistes of 30.

The Sithu title winners were Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award winners U Hla Kyaing (Paragu), U Htin Hpatt (Maung Htin), U Htay Maung (Htay Maung), U Lay Myaing (Lay Mying), Daw Yin Yin (SawMon Nyin), Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan), U Kyi Aye (Hsinbyukyun Aung Thein), Dr Kyaw Sein, Dr Khin Maung Nyunt and Dr Thaw Kaung who are steadfastly striving for improvement of Myanmar literature along their life and taking out development of

the nation and national cause dutifully, U Myat Thu (Tekkatho Myat Thu) and U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) who are focusing on uplift of Myanmar literature and national interest dutifully, music and theatrical drama experts Bogale U Tint Aung, U Shwe Nann Tin, U Maung Maung Gyi, U Min Naung, Daw Tin Tin Mya, Daw Thin Thin Myat, Daw Tin Tin Aye (Htar), Daw Nwe Nwe San, U Sein Ba Maw and Daw San Yin (San Shar Tin) who have carried out tasks at Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 17 times for perpetuity and strengthening of Myanmar cultural fine arts and traditional heritage and film artistes Daw Myint Myint Khin, U Aung Myint Myat and U Kyi Soe Tun who are serving interest of the State and the national with film performing arts.—MNA

Union Minister demands preparedness for unprecedented obstacles

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Unprecedented difficulties and quality control were among the topics Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing underscored in his instructions to officials of Irrigation Department implementing Salu Dam Project on his inspection tour to the facility yesterday.

He called for preparedness for overcoming hardly predictable problems and quality control tests in each stage of the project, including architectural designs, for

durability of the dam.

The project lies near Wun Thaik Sho village in Bago Township and is intended for preventing Bago, Kawa and Thanatbin Townships from flood.

He inspected several machinery at the site in operation and urged staff to care of natural forests in watershed area and jobsite safety. 55 machinery and a huge workforce are working day and night to complete the project ahead of monsoon.—MNA

School family day festival held in Ayeyawady Region

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung attended school family day festival of the region held at No (1) Basic Education High School in Patheingyi yesterday.

He delivered an address at the ceremony and presented prizes to outstanding students.

The chief minister viewed booths at the festival. The chief minister met local people at No (208) Basic Education Primary School in Patheingyi in the afternoon. Wellwishers donated cash to BEPSs at the meeting.

He also visited NO (210) BEPS in Patheingyi.—MNA



State Flag Hoisting...

(from page 16)

people saluted the Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Meanwhile, the Band of the Guard of Honour played the National Anthem.

Next, the Guard of Honour paid tribute to the fallen leaders and comrades and recited four oaths.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham read the message sent by President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the ceremony to mark the 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012.

After taking the salute of the Guard of Honour, the Vice-President left the square. Next, the people together with the Guard of Honour left the square.

Yesterday and this nights, ministries, Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, Thabyegon Roundabout, Lotus Roundabout, Razathingaha Roundabout, Ingyan Flower Roundabout, Gangaw Roundabout, Myanmar Gems Museum, Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Jade Park, Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market, Thabyegon Market, public residences and staff quarters were illuminated in honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012.

MNA



A flag-hoisting ceremony in progress on the occasion of 64th Anniversary Independence Day, 2012.

MNA

Gallantry medals of MPF conferred on five members...

(from page 16)

Ma 13884 Fire Sergeant U Zaw Htay, Ma 20078 Fire Pvt U Myo Kyaw Kyaw, Ma 20854 Fire Pvt U Thaw Zin Myo and Ma 20855 Fire Pvt U Aung Aung won Ye Thura titles.

As a token of dutiful sacrifice of lives, the Government immediately conferred gallantry medals on five members of Fire Brigade of the Fire Services Department who sacrificed their lives for the State and the people while bravely discharging their duties in the scene of fire that recently broke out in Kutohseik Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

MNA

Gov't staff need to maximize utility of resources, Union Minister says

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Service personnel of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism would be trained to improve their ability to manage workforce and materials in order to extract their maximum utility, Union Minister U Tint Hsan said in second day session of coordination meeting held in the ministry here yesterday.

The director-general of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and the managing director of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services reported the Union minister on future plans.

Deputy Minister U Htay Aung's review and the Union minister's concluding remarks wound up the meeting.

MNA

Model plot harvested in Thanatpin

THANATPIN, 4 Jan—A model plot on 13.82 acres of farmland under Manawthulha paddy strain was harvested in Auksupaing Ward of Thanatpin Township on 12 December.

Local authorities supervised harvesting of paddy, and local farmers participated in the task. The model plot produced 68.75 baskets of dried paddy per acre.

Township SLRD



Colourful lights at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall hail to mark anniversary of 64th Independence Day, 2012.—MNA

Winter's first Great Lakes effect snowstorm hits

NEW YORK, 4 Jan—Frigid air blasting over the Great Lakes blew in the season's first major lake effect snowstorm on Monday, blocking visibility and causing massive pileups on icy roads from Michigan to Kentucky.

As much as 2 feet of snow was expected to fall on upstate New York by Tuesday as the storm moves eastward from Michigan, where over 1 foot of snow fell by Monday afternoon, said meteorologist Bernie Rayno on Accuweather.com.

"You can see all of the snow showing up from the upper Peninsula of Michigan through western New York state, all the way through western Virginia and Kentucky," Rayno said.

"It's this west-northwest flow over the lakes that's causing this lake effect," he said.

Strong gusting winds and close to zero visibility was blamed for highway crashes such as a 30-car pileup south of Cincinnati that closed parts of Interstate 75 on Monday, police said.

Near Indianapolis, Indiana State Police were working to clear 80 crashes in just over four hours that were caused by slick road conditions which shut sections of Interstates 70,

465 and 65. "People are sliding into barrier walls and on slick ramps," said Sergeant Rich Myers of Indiana State Police.

Reuters



Debbie Weber digs out her driveway in Hays, Kansas, after a winter storm dumped more than 8-inches of snow on the area, on 20 Dec, 2011.

INTERNET

France announces multi-bln-dollar programme to beef up nuclear safety

PARIS, 4 Jan—The French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) on Tuesday announced a multi-billion-dollar investment programme to strengthen nuclear safety in a bid to boost confidence in the country's prized nuclear energy industry. In a report released on Tuesday, the ASN said the accident in Japan's Fukushima power plant in March 2011 following a strong earthquake and tsunami had prompted the French nuclear watchdog to examine 79 of the country's nuclear facilities. These facilities included 58 reactors operated by French state-owned electricity provider EDF, one new EPR nuclear power plant in construction, and 20 nuclear fuel and nuclear waste processing plants.

The ASN assessment report said "those installations ... have a sufficient level of safety to warrant it not to request any immediate shutdown." "At the same time, the ASN believes that the continuing operations require existing safety margins to be strengthened as swiftly as possible," the report said.

According to the ASN, the French agency planned to increase investment—some tens of billions of dollars—on nuclear safety control measures. In the nearly 400-page report, the ASN called for stepped-up measures to beef up nuclear safety in the country, such as adopting more stringent standards for nuclear facilities, and provide emergency response training for the staff.—Xinhua

Arkansas blackbirds intentionally targeted

BEEBE, 4 Jan—The Apocalypse may not have arrived in Arkansas on New Year's Day after all.

State wildlife officials now say it appears that the 200 or so blackbirds that fell from the sky in the small town of Beebe on New Year's Day were deliberately spooked by fireworks.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission spokeswoman Ginny Porter says it appears fireworks were deliberately set off in a large roost outside of town where the blackbirds gather among the trees and scrub brush. "On New Year's Eve, we had wildlife officers and local police officers patrolling the area," Porter told CTVNews.ca by phone.

"...While they were on another call, someone came in and put a large firework in the area of the roost and set it off."

Within minutes of the

fireworks going off, dozens of red-winged blackbirds began falling from the sky.

The first reports of the dead birds came around 7 pm. In all, about 200 birds are thought to have died, says Porter, who notes that wildlife officers are still retrieving bodies. "It's around 200 birds. That number may change, but as of yesterday, it was 200 birds," she said.

Porter says officers heard the explosions and soon found fireworks debris inside the roost. Beebe, Ark, is the same town where about 3,000 blackbirds rained from the skies last New Year's Day. The birds landed on sidewalks and fields and even dropped onto one woman who was out walking her dog.

The blackbird die-off was quickly followed by the sudden deaths of tens of thousands of drum fish that



A dead bird lies on Skylark Street in Beebe, Ark on 1 Jan, 2011. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission said Saturday more than 1,000 dead black birds fell from the sky in Beebe.—INTERNET

washed up on the shores of the Arkansas River.

The two incidents together grabbed headlines and had conspiracy theorists and doomsdayers abuzz.

While some worried that the events portended the end was nigh, Porter says a logical explanation for the bird deaths was soon determined.

"It was not the apocaly-

pse; it was fireworks. There was an extensive investigation," she says.

Biologists discovered that the loud explosions of the New Year's Eve fireworks spooked the birds out of their roosts. Blackbirds "don't do well at night," Porter explains, and have trouble seeing in the dark.

Internet



File photo shows a mother watching television with children in Beijing. China's satellite broadcasters have cut the number of prime time entertainment shows they air by more than two-thirds, the state Xinhua news agency said, as Beijing seeks to stem Western influences. INTERNET

Indonesia allocates 10 bln USD for poverty eradication programme in 2012

JAKARTA, 4 Jan—An Indonesian senior minister said on Tuesday that the country would allocate a total of 99 trillion rupiah (about 10 billion US dollars) in 2012 to help eradicate the country's poverty.

The allocation consisted of health insurance for the poor and banks' loans to help finance for poor people intending to start their businesses, Coordinating Minister for the Economy Hatta Radjasa said.

According to the minister, the funds were jointly provided by state-run firms, neighbourhood stewardship

and partnership program (PKBL), state and private sector's budgets.

Hatta said that assistance programmes for the poor were divided in several groups that comprised of among others health insurance programme, school tuition assistance (BOS) and direct cash giveaway (BLT).

"Funds allocated for those programmes amounted 69 trillion rupiah this year," Hatta said here.

Besides that, government also provides assistance to empower the poor through National People Empowerment Programme (PNPM) and

particular bank loans for the poor (KUR). At least 30 trillion rupiah has been allocated to finance those programmes, the minister said.

"The KUR in 2011 has reached 26 trillion rupiah from the initial estimation set at 11 trillion rupiah. So we raise the target up to 30 trillion rupiah this year," the minister added.

According to the data released by the national statistic agency of BPS, people categorized in very poor condition accounted for 4.17 percent, or 10,098 families from the country's 240 million population as of September last year.—Xinhua

Beijing's neighbour to invest heavily in protecting water resources

SHIJIAZHUANG, 4 Jan—Northern China's Hebei Province will invest over 25.25 billion yuan (about 4 billion US dollars) by 2020 in protecting water resources in over a dozen of its cities and counties surrounding Beijing, the local water resources department said.

The multi-billion-dollar project aims to protect water resources, increase supply and ensure drinking water safety in the Capital Economic Circle — an economic zone covering 14 of the province's cities and counties, which Hebei plans to build around the Chinese capital, according to a statement

released by the department on Tuesday. The province launched the economic zone in late 2010, aiming for remarkable social and economic development in the region surrounding the capital.

According to the statement, 13.4 billion yuan of the investment will be used to improve the water supply, 9.36 billion yuan to protect water resources, 660 million yuan to ensure drinking water safety, 1.75 billion yuan for water conservation efforts and 110 million yuan for water resources management.—Xinhua

Luxury carmaker Bentley sees sales surge in 2011

LONDON, 4 Jan—German-owned British luxury carmaker Bentley said Tuesday that its sales surged last year on the back of strong performances in China and the United States, the world's two biggest auto markets.

Total sales soared 37 percent to 7,003 vehicles last year, said Volkswagen's upmarket British-based division in a results statement.

Bentley, which is headquartered in Crewe, northwestern England, said sales rocketed by 69 percent in December alone to 1,059 cars, compared with the same month in 2010.

The United States remained the group's number one market with a total of 2,021 car sales in 2011 — 32 percent higher than in 2010.

But demand was also particularly strong in China,



A Bentley pictured outside the Bentley Motors factory near Crewe, northwest England, in 2009.—INTERNET

where sales almost doubled to a record 1,839 — making it the company's second-largest market. Sales in continental Europe increased 53 percent to 1,187 vehicles led by strong demand in Germany where sales jumped 88 percent.

In domestic market Britain, where the company

said conditions were particularly challenging, Bentley sold 1,031 cars in 2011, up five percent.

"It has been a tremendously good year for Bentley," Bentley's chairman and chief executive Wolfgang Durheimer said.

Internet

Cat survives two euthanasia attempts at Utah shelter



Janita Coombs plays with her cat, Andrea, at her Syracuse, Utah home, on 16 Oct, 2011.—INTERNET

WEST VALLEY CITY, 4 Jan—A stray cat that survived two trips to a Utah animal shelter's gas chamber now has a new home.

Officials at West Valley

City's animal shelter in Utah say the cat named Andrea hadn't been adopted for 30 days when shelter officials tried to put her to death in October. She survived, so

they gassed her again.

Shelter officials detected no vital signs and presumed she was dead after the second try, so they put her in a plastic bag in a cooler. But when they checked the bag, they saw she had vomited on herself and had hypothermia but was alive.

The shelter then decided to stop trying to kill her. "It was just one of those things where they thought this cat obviously really wants to live," West Valley City spokesman Aaron Crim told the Salt Lake Tribune (<http://bit.ly/yivSDw>). "Let's give it a chance to find a permanent home."—Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (617)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (617) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (290)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (290) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Americans buy record numbers of guns for Christmas

LOS ANGELES, 4 Jan — According to the FBI, over 1.5 million background checks on customers were requested by gun dealers to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System in December. Nearly 500,000 of those were in the six days before Christmas.

It was the highest number ever in a single month, surpassing the previous record set in November. On 23 Dec alone there were 102,222 background checks, making it the second busiest single day for buying guns in history.

The actual number of guns bought may have been even higher if individual



Americans bought record numbers of guns last month amid an apparent surge in popularity for weapons as Christmas presents. — INTERNET

customers took home more than one each. Explanations for America's surge in gun buying include that it is a response to the stalled economy with people fearing crime waves. Another theory is that buyers are



Crossrail's giant tunnelling machines unveiled

LONDON, 4 Jan — Engineers are getting ready to start tunnelling beneath London in what has become Europe's biggest construction project. Crossrail will cost almost £15bn and by linking areas east and west of the capital, will increase the city's rail capacity by 10%.

The company has just unveiled the giant tunnelling machines which will start work in March, and has started production of the tunnel liners at a factory in west London. Richard Lister went to see them. — Internet

Vietnam launches plan on traffic safety in 2012

HANOI, 4 Jan — The Vietnamese government decided to make 2012 a "year for traffic safety" during which traffic regulations and orders will be strictly reinforced nationwide.

The instructions were made by Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, who is also chairman of the National Committee for Traffic Safety (CTS), at the ceremony to launch plans for the year 2012 here on Tuesday.

Capital Hanoi should take the lead in the national campaign in handling traffic jams.

Despite great efforts, traffic accidents and jams continue to occur and become an urgent, concerned social problem. The government's

decision proves determination of people nationwide to improve traffic disciplines and orders against traffic jams, especially in big cities, said the deputy prime minister. Authorities at all levels have to enhance education on the laws and raise the public awareness about traffic safety, considering this an important task both at schools and in families. At the same time, strict punishment to violators should be done properly, he added. In respond to the

national year for traffic safety 2012, capital Hanoi set targets to reduce at least 10 percent of the traffic accidents and 20 percent of the traffic jams in the city. At the same time, local authorities will strictly prevent illegal motorbike races and violations of streets and pavements for private use, said Hanoi People's Committee Chairman Nguyen The Thao.

In 2011, about 30 people were killed per day by traffic accidents in the country.

Xinhua

Waiting for a baby

BEIJING, 4 Jan — Dreams of childless couples are difficult to fulfill as egg donations strictly limited, report Yang Wanli from Beijing and Tang Yue from Tianjin. It is 6 am in a Beijing winter, and dozens of people are waiting outside Peking University Third Hospital to make appointments. "We've seen many doctors in Hebei but got nowhere. This is our final hope, and we have to line up earlier to see a chief physician," said a young man from Hebei province who was lining up outside the hospital for the first time with his wife. He had been there since 4 am. Unlike at other hospitals, couples here are all lining up for one thing - help getting a baby. This is an increasingly common scenario as the incidence of sterility in China has grown from 3 percent in the 1970s to about 15 percent in 2009.

As China's renowned hospital for treating sterility, Peking University Third Hospital receives more than half of Beijing's couples with fertility problems seeking help, as well as from many from other provinces. More than a thousand couples visit the medi-

cal reproductive center every month and about 8,000 tried in-vitro fertilization in the hospital last year. Some couples, though, will have to rely on a third person to realize their dreams. "About two or three in 100 couples we received need to get another's sperm or egg," said Liu Ping, deputy director of the hospital's reproductive center. "Although there are several sperm banks nationwide, most of them fall short of demand." Five hundred couples are still on the center's sperm waiting list. Liu said that they have to politely refuse more patients, who would just end up hopelessly waiting. — Xinhua



Top: Egg traders negotiate through agencies in a hotel lobby in downtown Beijing on 22 October. The black market for eggs target girl students from famous universities and pay good money. Bottom: A doctor checks a frozen egg in a Petrie dish at the Peking University Third Hospital. XINHUA

Human remains found in Norfolk woodland

LONDON, 4 Jan — Police have launched an investigation after human remains were discovered in an area of woodland in Norfolk. A member of the public is said to have made the discovery at Anmer near King's Lynn on New Year's Day.

The area is about three miles from Sandringham House on the 20,000-acre (8,000 hectare) Sandringham Estate, the Norfolk retreat of the Queen. The area was sealed off and police and forensic science experts are carrying out a detailed search. The incident was reported to police shortly after 16:00 GMT on 1 January. No further details have been released by Norfolk Police. — Internet

River turtles hatch and then head off to 'nursery'.

INTERNET



Aretha Franklin announces engagement



Aretha Franklin celebrated turning 69 last year.

NEW YORK, 4 Jan — Aretha Franklin has become engaged to her long-term friend William "Willie" Wilkerson. The 69-year-old soul legend and Grammy award-winner said she was hoping to marry over the summer. She told AP that she and Mr Wilkerson were considering Miami Beach, Florida, as a possible location, followed by a reception on a private yacht.

Franklin, whose latest album is called Aretha: A Woman Falling Out of Love, has been married twice before. "We're looking at June or July for our date, and no, I'm not pregnant, LOL!" she said in a statement. The singer returned to performing in May last year after being admitted to hospital for an undisclosed ailment.

Internet

South African mother suspected of murdering 3 children

CAPE TOWN, 4 Jan — A pregnant mother living in South Africa's Western Cape is being investigated for allegedly murdering three of her children, authorities said on Sunday. The 36-year-old woman, whose name was not given, has confessed to murdering her two-year-old son, but she might be connected with the deaths of at least two more of her children, Western Cape police said. "I can confirm we are looking at the deaths of two or more (of her children)," said Warrant Officer November Filander. The woman, who is due to give birth to another child, confessed to the murder of two-year-old Tariq Jacobs, after being arrested on Saturday. — Internet

International Sports

Japan striker Havenaar teams up with Vitesse

TOKYO, 4 Jan — Japan striker Mike Havenaar has completed a medical and joined up with his new team mates at Dutch first division club Vitesse Arnhem, local media reported on Wednesday.

The beanpole 24-year-old, who left relegated J.League side Ventforet Kofu to join Vitesse, had also been linked with German club Wolfsburg before opting for the Netherlands.

Havenaar, whose Dutch father Dido is the goalkeeping coach for Japan's Shimizu S-Pulse, was born and raised in Japan.

He has signed a two-year-plus contract with Vitesse, who also have Japanese defender Michihiro Yasuda on



Ventforet Kofu striker Mike Havenaar will be purchased by Dutch team Vitesse in the winter transfer period.—INTERNET

their books, to run until the end of the 2014 season.

"Moving to the Netherlands is an opportunity for me to mature as a player," Havenaar told Vitesse's official website (www.vitesse.nl). "I hope I can meet the club's expectations."

Internet

Beckham set to stay in LA after rejecting PSG

DOHA, 4 Jan —David Beckham is set to stay with the Los Angeles Galaxy after turning down a chance to join Paris Saint-Germain, the French club said Tuesday.

After weeks of negotiations with PSG, the 36-year-old midfielder and former England captain decided he doesn't want to move his

family from the United States.

"David Beckham is not coming." PSG President Nasser al-Khelaifi said at the Qatar Open tennis tournament. "We feel a little disappointed. But both sides agreed it would be better that we not do the deal ... maybe in the future."

Beckham's five-year contract with the Galaxy ended after he won his first MLS Cup in November. He was wooed by several clubs across Europe. "David Beckham is (with) Los Angeles," al-Khelaifi said. "And he's going to stay there."

Beckham will try to finalize a new, rolling one-year contract this week with the Galaxy, which was paying him an annual base salary of \$6.5 million.

Internet



David Beckham is staying in L.A. after weeks of negotiations with French club PSG

Defoe gives Tottenham 1-0 win over West Brom

LONDON, 4 Jan — Tottenham consolidated third place in the English Premier League on Tuesday after Jermain Defoe's goal secured a 1-0 victory over West Bromwich Albion.

West Brom's stubborn resistance took until the 63rd minute to be broken down when Spurs slickly produced the goal that pushed them five points above fourth-place Chelsea with a game in hand.

Fed by Rafael van der Vaart, Gareth Bale crossed from the left to Defoe, who found space in a crowded penalty area to shoot on the turn into the net.

"It was a hard night," Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp said. "They set up to be difficult to beat ... it was hard work breaking them down."

"I couldn't see (a Spurs win) at halftime. They were

sitting in deep there was no space. We like to hit teams on the counterattack but if they aren't coming out it is very difficult." Tottenham endured a nervy end to the match after being disrupted by injuries.—Internet



Internet

Madrid rallies to beat Malaga 3-2 in Copa del Rey

MADRID, 4 Jan—Defending champion Real Madrid staged a second-half fightback to beat Malaga 3-2 on Tuesday in the first leg of their Copa del Rey round-of-16 match.

Sergio Sanchez and Martin Demichelis gave visitors Malaga a surprise early lead with almost identical headers inside the first half-hour but Sami Khedira got Madrid's comeback started with a goal in the 68th minute and Gonzalo Higuain hauled Madrid level two minutes later.

After relentless pressure, Karim Benzema slid home the winner in the 78th. Madrid rallies to beat

Malaga 3-2 in Copa del Rey.

The team didn't start the game as it should have," said Madrid coach Jose Mourinho. "The second half was completely the opposite. The team wanted to clean out the trash it had made in the first half. The attitude, the concentration of the team changed."

Malaga coach Manuel Pellegrini, Mourinho's predecessor at Madrid, was disappointed at his side's collapse.

"Giving goals away to Madrid on their own pitch makes it very difficult," he said. "The tie is still open, but we deserved more."

Internet



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema from France, center, celebrates after scoring against Malaga during the first leg of a round of 16 Copa del Rey soccer match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on Tuesday. INTERNET

Nadal, Tsonga win 1st-round matches at Qatar Open

DOHA, 4 Jan—Rafael Nadal struggled past Philipp Kohlschreiber while defending Qatar Open champion Roger Federer routed Nikolay Davydenko in their season openers on Tuesday.

The second-ranked Nadal overcame Kohlschreiber of Germany 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-3 in a match that lasted 2 1/2 hours. Federer, who lost

badly to Nadal and No. 1-ranked Novak Djokovic over the weekend at an exhibition tournament in Abu Dhabi, showed he had shaken off the rust by overwhelming the injury-plagued Davydenko 6-2, 6-2 in just 54 minutes.

Also, No. 6 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga beat Tunisian wild card Malek Jaziri 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 6-1 and fourth-ranked Gael Monfils defeated Rui Machado of Portugal 7-5, 6-3.

Nadal, who has struggled with a sore left shoulder since the end of last season, started well and looked headed for a routine victory. But the 43rd-ranked Kohlschreiber stepped up his net play in the second set and jumped to a 4-1 lead on his way to evening the match.

Internet

Tottenham Hotspur's Sandro, left, challenges for the ball with West Bromwich Albion's Peter Odemwingie during their English Premier League soccer match at Tottenham's White Hart Lane stadium in London on Tuesday.—INTERNET



Manchester City's James Milner celebrates scoring a penalty against Liverpool during their English Premier League soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, on 3 Jan.—INTERNET

Manchester City move three points clear with Liverpool victory

LONDON, 4 Jan — Premier League leaders Manchester City put their recent run of poor form behind them to beat Liverpool 3-0 on Tuesday, while Tottenham Hotspur maintained their title push with a 1-0 win at home to West Bromwich Albion.

Despite having Gareth Barry sent off in the 73rd minute, first-half goals from Sergio Aguero, Yaya Toure and a second-half penalty from James Milner helped City, who had lost to Sunderland only two days ago, to a comprehensive victory.

They move to 48 points from 20 games, three clear of rivals Manchester United who have played one match fewer and six clear of Tottenham who had Jermain Defoe's clinical finish to thank for their victory at White Hart Lane.

City, who had gone two games without a win, were gifted the lead after only 11 minutes when Liverpool keeper Pepe Reina let a snap shot from Aguero dip under his body and Toure added a second with a header before the break.

Liverpool, who have struggled for goals this season, were without striker Luis Suarez as he was beginning his eight-game suspension for racially abusing Manchester United defender Patrice Evra during a Premier League match in October.

The visitors were once again guilty of squandering opportunities with Stewart Downing failing to convert a one-on-one with City keeper Joe Hart and Dirk Kuyt unable to volley past City defender Vincent Kompany who made a good block to deny the Dutchman.

Internet

World number two tennis player Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber during the Qatar ATP Open Tennis tournament in Doha, Qatar, on Tuesday.

INTERNET



Kuznetsova wins 1st round match in Auckland

AUCKLAND, 4 Jan—New Zealand (AP) Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova beat Alison Riske of the United States 6-3, 6-3 in the first round of the ASB Classic on Tuesday. Kuznetsova, a former French and US Open winner, was playing her first match since straining her groin in November. The third seed hit eight aces to beat Riske in 75 minutes.

"I missed playing for one and a half months and obviously I was a little bit slow, but I was calm and in the end it was a good game," Kuznetsova said. Kuznetsova's next opponent, American Christina McHale, has beaten her in their two previous matches.

In other matches, second-seeded Peng Shuai of China dropped a set before beating French qualifier Aravane Rezaï 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, while defending champion Greta Arn of Hungary was beaten 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 by fifth-seeded German Julia Goerges.

Peng, China's No. 2 player, struggled with early season rustiness before overcoming Rezaï in two hours. "It's been a long time since I last played and it was my first match of the year so I was a little nervous," she said. "I was tired and so slow and it was hard to get into the match because she hit the ball so well. It was like boom, boom, boom."—Internet

Angelina gifts Brad a waterfall!

LOS ANGELES, 4 Jan—Actress Angelina Jolie reportedly bought partner Brad Pitt a waterfall for his birthday last month.

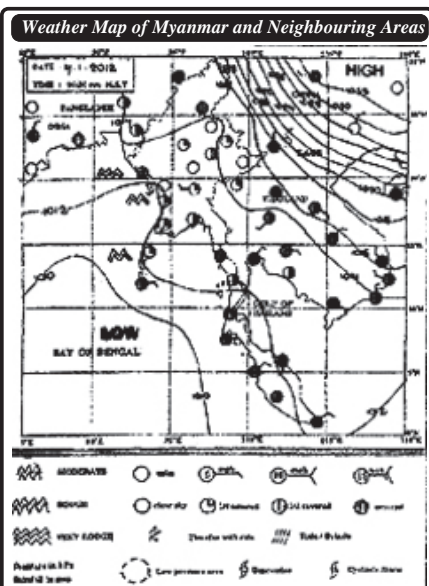
The 36-year-old star purchased the land above and around a waterfall in rural California when it hit the market last year, so Pitt could recreate his hero Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Fallingwater estate in Pennsylvania, reported *New York Post*.



Pitt and Jolie attend the premiere of 'In the Land of Blood and Honey'. REUTERS

Pitt and Jolie visited the 1935 home, built over a waterfall, in 2006.

"Brad has dreamed of a home with the sound of a waterfall cascading under the house and he has always wanted to design his own house. He wants to pull all aspects of nature, light, glass and varying levels into the concept," a source said.—*Internet*



Weather forecast for 5th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	23/73	14/57	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	27/81	14/57	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayah	35/95	20/68	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	18/64	09/48	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	21/70	13/55	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	20/84	15/59	Partly cloudy	
7	Tamithayi	34/93	22/72	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
8	Bago	32/90	20/68	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	30/86	20/68	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	30/86	19/66	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	30/97	22/72	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	35/95	21/70	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	31/88	18/64	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	22/72	13/55	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	25/77	10/50	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	29/84	15/59	Likelihood of isolated rain	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	33/91	21/70	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	32/90	19/66	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	35/95	21/70	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	30/86	19/66	Partly cloudy	

During the past (24) hours, rain has been scattered in Mandalay, Tamithayi Regions and Shan State, isolated in Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Regions and Chin State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were about January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, (7°C) above January averages temperatures in Chin State, (5°C) to (6°C) above January averages temperatures in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States and (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Loilein, Kaiba, An and Manauang (8°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Pank (0.59) inch, Kyanse (0.43) inch and Yama (0.39) inch.

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

Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated light in the Northern Myanmar Areas.

January transfer window: Top 50 players who could move

We, the *NLM-ner* profiles the most likely transfer targets during the January window - at home and abroad.

Last January, the headlines were made on deadline day when Chelsea spent £50m on Fernando Torres and Liverpool replaced the Spaniard with £35m striker Andy Carroll.

Here are our top 50 suggestions for high-profile moves this time.

CARLOS TEVEZ (aged 27, forward) Manchester City The Argentine is on his way out and, although City want a permanent deal, they may be prepared to initially loan him to AC Milan.



WAYNE BRIDGE (31, left-back) Manchester City Pocketing a reported £90k-a-week but not in manager Roberto Mancini's plans and looks certain to leave. Possible Arsenal target.

CHEICK TIOTE (25, midfielder) Newcastle United Despite signing a new long-term contract in February, the Ivory Coast star has created a lot of interest prior to leaving for the Africa Cup of Nations.



MAROUANE CHAMAKH (27, forward) Arsenal After a blistering start to his Arsenal career, went dramatically off the boil. He will not want to sit on the bench for too much longer.

JACK RODWELL (20, midfielder) Everton The Toffees are desperate for a striker but David Moyes needs to sell before he can buy. Everton could be tempted if a high enough offer comes in.



GARY CAHILL (26, centre-back) Bolton Wanderers The England international's contract expires at the end of the season and Bolton will sell him. Chelsea are the front-runners.

CHRIS SAMBA (27, centre-back) Blackburn Rovers Unhappy at the club and has made that clear for a while now. A big asking price may put off any potential suitors from making a bid.



JUNIOR HOILETT (21, winger) Blackburn Rovers Rovers's top performer in their despairing situation. Contract ends in the summer so Rovers may take the money for the Canadian.

FLORENT MALOUDA (31, winger) Chelsea Has been sidelined since Juan Mata's arrival at Stamford Bridge. He may return to France and join ex-Blues boss Carlo Ancelotti at Paris Saint-Germain.



DARRON GIBSON (24, midfielder) Manchester United Almost joined Sunderland but injury problems at Old Trafford might result in him being given further first-team opportunities.

TOMASZ KUSZCZAK (29, goalkeeper) Manchester United Another whose contract expires at the end of the season, but the reserve keeper may move earlier having stated his desire to quit United.



To be continued . . .

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

- MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**
(5-1-12 09:30 am ~ 6-1-12 09:30 am) MST
- MYANMAR TV**
(5-1-2012) (Thursday)
- 7:00 am 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
 - 7:15 am 2. Dhama Puja Song
 - 8:00 am 3. Dance Of National Races
 - 8:20 am 4. Teleplay (Forest)
 - 8:40 am 5. International News
 - 4:00 am 6. Martial Song
 - 4:45 pm 7. One Village & One Product
 - 5:10 pm 8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
 - 5:15 pm 9. Teleplay (Traffic)
 - 5:35 pm 10. Science and Environment
 - 5:50 pm 11. Documentary
 - 6:20 pm 12. Myanmar Series
 - 6:40 pm 13. Approaching Science Discovery World
 - 7:00 pm 14. TV Drama Series
 - 8:00 pm 15. News
 - 8:00 pm 16. TV Drama Series
 - 8:00 pm 17. TV Drama Series
- Oversea Transmission**
- * News
 - * Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation (Transportation)
 - * News
 - * "Youth & Career" Director....Video Editor (Part -2)
 - * News
 - * Towards A Brighter Future (GMS)
 - * News
 - * A Strength of the Country: Carriage & Wagon Workshop (Mytinge)
 - * News
 - * "Myanma Culture Profile" Myanma Longyis & Changing Fashion Trend (Part-1)
 - * Record Album
 - * News
 - * Bago; A City With A Historic Legend
 - * News
 - * Culture Stage
 - * News
 - * Hazards of Smoking (Part-1)
 - * Myanmar Movies "Regretful Game"

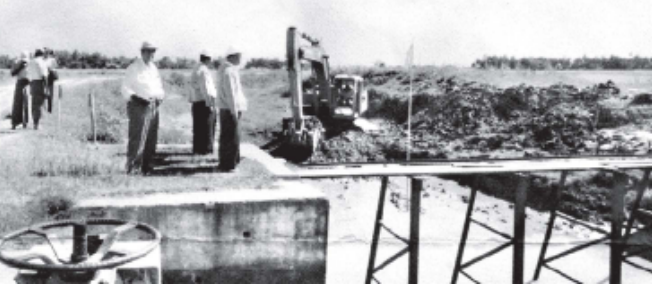
Students' skill contests held

TAUNGUP, 4 Jan—Basic Education High School Branch in Hsabyin Village of Taungup Township organized the mathematics and English skill contest and story telling contest at the school hall on 26 December.

The headmistress made a speech. Then, students enthusiastically participated in the skill contests.—*Township IPRD*

DISTRICT NEWS

Better water supply for summer paddy discussed



TOUNGOO, 4 Jan—A meeting on cultivation of summer paddy was held at Toungoo District Myanma Agriculture Service on 11 December.

Bago Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Tin Soe and District Summer Paddy

Cultivation Coordination Committee discussed supply of water for cultivation of summer paddy. The minister inspected improvement of tributary canals for better water supply at summer paddy fields in Yedash Township.

Township IPRD

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win host reception and dinner to mark 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012



NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Aungmye Thaw, Aungmye Thaw Thaw Kyi and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted the reception and dinner in commemoration of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012 on the lawns of the Presidential Residence, here, this evening.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Aungmye Thaw Kyi, Aungmye Thaw Thaw Kyi and wife Daw Khin Khin Win arrived at the lawns of the Presidential Residence at 6.30 pm and they together with Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (See page 9)

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win cordially greet diplomats and their wives led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert at reception and dinner to mark 64th Anniversary Independence Day.—MNA

State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony 2012 observed in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012 State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony was held in the square in front of the City Hall, here, this morning, attended by over 2900 people.

They took the designated positions at the square at 6 am. Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, Chairman of the State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Subcommittee the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, members of the Union Election Commission, deputy ministers, the deputy attorney-general, members of the Union Civil Services Board, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, senior military officers, departmental

heads, members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, officials, social organizations and national race representatives.

At 4.20 am, the State Flag was hoisted by the flag hoisting platoon.

The Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Guard of Honour took the position in the square.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Observance of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012 Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham took the position on the dais.

After taking the salute of the Guard of Honour, the Vice-President together with the Guard of Honour and (See page 10)



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham reads message sent by President U Thein Sein to the ceremony in commemoration of 64th Anniversary Independence Day 2012.

MNA



Gallantry medals of MPF conferred on five members of Fire Services Department who bravely sacrificed life for State and people

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar conferred titles of honour and medals with the Notification No. 2/2012 issued by the President Office on 4 January 2012 (the Independence Day).

Gallantry medals of Myanmar Police Force were conferred on five Fire Brigade members of Fire Services Department who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the State and the people while bravely discharging their duties in

putting out fire that broke out in Kutohseik Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, on 29 December morning.

A total of nine persons were conferred the gallantry medals of Myanmar Police Force such as Ye Thiha, Ye Thura and Ye Bala titles. Of them, the aforementioned five members of Fire Brigade of the Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement also won the medals.

Among five members of Fire Brigade, Ye Thiha was conferred on Ma 17231 Fire Corporal U Tin Soe.

(See page 10)