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Friday, 6 January, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes	* Non-disintegration of the Union	* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity	* Perpetuation of Sovereignty
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President U Thein Sein receives British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Mr William Jefferson Hague and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Residence, here, at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein and departmental heads.

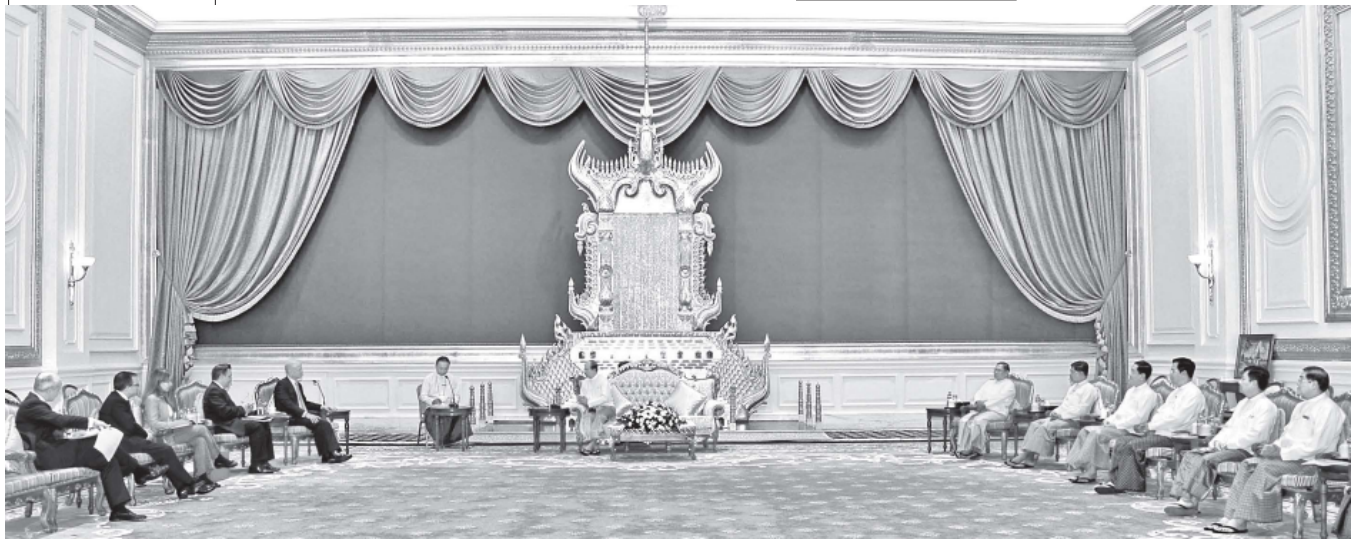
The British delegation was accompanied by British Ambassador to the Republic of the Union Myanmar Mr Andrew Richard Heyn.

They focused on political developments in the two countries and mutual cooperation.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Mr William Jefferson Hague.
MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Mr William Jefferson Hague.—MNA



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win meets the Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army
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David Moyes unhappy with Everton's performance after Bolton defeat
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PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 6 January, 2012

Time and tide wait for no man

Time and tide wait for no man. We all should think of how we spend our times for our whole life, our families as well as our country and our society and how we serve the interests of people, country and family. The year 2011 is said to be a milestone for Myanmar. The country sees unprecedented reforms, which bring a good deal of benefits to people. To establish a good environment and a community, unity and cooperation of the citizens are a must. The already-prevailed circumstances are to be carried forward to the 2012. The people with different views and ideas are to actively engage in nation-building endeavors on the common ground. Because of time, diligence and unity of their people, developed countries achieved successes. To be able to keep abreast of those developed countries, our people are to effectively use precious times with the sense of patriotic spirit in order to hit the development goal in a short period of time.

Types of telephones exchanged daily

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—For ensuring convenient communication of the people, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications exchanges CDMA fixed phone (01-72xxxx) and CDMA mobile phone (09-80xxxx) with GSM, CDMA-450 and CDMA-800 telephones beginning 13 December 2011.

Applications are being accepted daily for exchanging cellular mobile telephones 09-99xxxx and 09-90xxxx with GSM, CDMA-450 and CDMA-800 telephones up to 31 January. Those wishing to exchange telephones must take endorsement on clearance of debt from the Accounts Department of MPT in Yangon and countryside and submit the applications.

To exchange mobile telephones, the applicants must submit telephone bill, original agreement, photo copy and original Citizenship Scrutiny Cards to MPT. The telephones are being exchanged at Economic Sections in Shwegongdine, Pansodan, Ahlon, Yangon Post Office and on 40th Street in Yangon. Exchanging of cellular phones in States and Regions are being carried out at respective MPT offices.

MNA

MPT to install auto-telephones worth K 650,000

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Myanma Posts and Telecommunications has allowed the people to subscribe line auto-telephones as of 2 January.

A subscriber can hire the auto-telephone from the enterprise at cost of K 650,000 initial installation charge. The user must pay K 300,000 for the first installment to the enterprise on the day the contract was signed, K 100,000 for the second installment within five days after two months when the contract has been signed, K 100,000 for the third installment within five days after four months, K 100,000 for the fourth installment within five days after six months and K 50,000 for the fifth within five days after eight months.

Arrangements have been made to install telephones after paying the first installment to the enterprise within three days.

For further information, enquire respective MPT branches.

MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Union Foreign Minister meets British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin receives Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Mr William Jefferson Hague.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and a British delegation led by Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Mr William Jefferson Hague held talk at his office here at 10:15 am today.

Both sides discussed further cementing relationships and bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation members arrived in Nay Pyi Taw at 9:15 am today, and they left for Yangon in the evening by a special flight.—MNA

Myanmar to cooperate with India, Turkey in cooperatives, livestock breeding



Indian Ambassador Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri calls on Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Indian Ambassador Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri called on Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint at his office, here, at 8:30 am today.

They discussed cooperation in cooperatives and livestock breeding tasks between the two countries and sending of a delegation to milk and dairy production industries in India.

The Union Minister also received Honorary Consul General Mr Ercan Aygiin and party of Turkey at his office at 9:40 am today. They discussed cooperation in cooperatives and livestock and fishery tasks between the two countries.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister Than Tun, and departmental heads.—MNA

CEO Classic Golf Tournament commences

YANGON, 5 Jan—The CEO Classic Golf Tournament, jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA with sponsorship of CEO Group, kicked off at Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club in Mingaladon Township this morning.

Chairman of Zaygabar Co Ltd Dr Khin Shwe, Director U Myint Han of CEO Group and Vice-Presidents of Myanmar PGA and MGF, U Aung Kyi and U Min Thein formally opened the tournament.

After the first round, Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) led the professional golfers division with 67, followed by Hla Myo (APPO) with



U Myint Han, director of CEO Group, tees off to open CEO Classic Golf Tournament. MGF

68, Zaw Win Win (Srixon) and Nay Bala Win Myint with 69 each.

In the men's amateur division, Aung Hsan Myo, Maung Maung Oo and

Thein Naing Soe tied at first position with 69 each.

MNA



In this photo released by the Philippine Army, residents search for victims following a landslide that occurred at the small-scale mining community of Pantukan, Compostela Valley in southern Philippines on 5 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Landslide kills 25 in southern Philippines

MANILA, 5 Jan—A landslide buried dozens of people Thursday at a small-scale gold mining site in the southern Philippines, leaving at least 25 dead months after government officials warned miners that the mountain above them was guaranteed to crumble.

The landslide struck around 3:00 am (2100 GMT Wednesday), when most residents were asleep. Aside from those confirmed dead, more than 100 people are believed to be buried in the rubble in Napnapan village in Pantukan township, Compostela Valley provincial Gov Arturo Uy said.

Army Lt Col Camilo Ligayo said about 120 soldiers were heading to the area to help dig for survivors and bodies.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje said he had warned residents and local officials last year of a fissure on a ridge of the mountain that geologists said was "highly susceptible" to landslides that could occur anytime.

"We were absolute that it will give in," he told *The Associated Press*. "It was a 100 percent warning. We told them it's just a matter of time. ... This is it. This is what happened this morning."

Thousands of poor Filipinos dig and pan for gold in the area, hoping to strike it rich despite the dangers of largely unregulated mining. The tunnels are often unstable and landslides and accidents are common.

Saul Pingoy, a local resident, told DZMM radio that he was sleeping in a house about 50 yards (metres) away from the landslide when he felt the ground shake and heard rocks falling on roofs. It wasn't raining at the time, he added.

"The mountain itself was already sending a warning with falling rocks. That's why we were woken up ... and then it collapsed," he said. "Big boulders and the ground from the mountain covered the area."—*Internet*



Blood and shattered glass lie where a booby-trapped motorcycle exploded near a group of day laborers on Thursday in Sadr City. A wave of bombings targeting Shiites in Iraq killed 72 people on Thursday.—INTERNET

Iraq blasts kill at least 72, raise specter of civil war

BAGHDAD, 5 Jan—A wave of bombings targeting Shiites in Iraq killed 72 people on Thursday, deepening sectarian tensions that exploded just after the last American troops left the country in mid-December.

The coordinated attacks targeting Shiites bore the hallmarks of Sunni insurgents linked to al-Qaeda, although there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The bombings began early in the morning when explosions struck two Shiite neighbourhoods in Baghdad, killing at least 27 people.

A few hours later, a suicide attack hit Shiite pilgrims heading to the holy Shiite city of Karbala, killing 45, said provincial official Quosay al-Abadi. The explosions

took place near Nasiriyah, about 200 miles southeast of Baghdad. Hospital officials confirmed the casualties.

The blasts occurred in the run-up to Arbaeen, a Shiite holy day which marks the end of 40 days of mourning that follow the anniversary of the death of Imam Hussein, a revered Shiite figure.

During this time, Shiite pilgrims from across Iraq make their way to Karbala, south of Baghdad.

Baghdad military spokesman Maj Gen Qassim al-Moussawi said the aim of the attacks is "to create turmoil among the Iraqi people." He said it was too early to say who was behind the bombings.

Internet

US undecided on inmate release for Taleban talks

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan—The United States said it has taken no decision to release prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay in order to boost negotiations aimed at ending the 10-year war with the Taleban in Afghanistan.

But State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Washington is "prepared to support" a proposed overseas Taleban office that backs an Afghan-led reconciliation process provided it meets US and Afghan standards.

She said the United States and Afghanistan seek true reconciliation based on the Taleban's renouncing violence, cutting its ties with Al-Qaeda and embracing the Afghan constitution, which

enshrines human rights.

"With regard to Guantanamo... no decisions have been made with regard to any releases," Nuland told reporters. The United States has discussed with Taleban representatives the possibility of releasing or transferring some militants from Guantanamo in return for Taleban concessions, including its breaking with Al-Qaeda, a US official said.

No decisions have been made and the negotiations are still in an early phase, the official told *AFP* on condition of anonymity. The official emphasized the tentative nature of the talks. "We don't know how this is all going to come out," the official said.

The hardline Taleban

announced on Tuesday that they had come to an "initial agreement with relevant sides including Qatar" to set up



their first representative office outside Afghanistan.

The move is seen as a precursor to talks to end the bloody war between the Taleban and the US-backed government of President Hamid Karzai. It is the first

File photo of Afghan Taleban militia at Maydan Shahr in Wardak Province, west of Kabul.—INTERNET

time the militant group has publicly raised the prospect of a negotiated peace after more than 10 years of fighting, always previously insisting they would not talk until all foreign troops had left Afghan soil.—*Internet*

Child bride's torture renews Afghan rights worries

KABUL, 5 Jan—Just 15 years old, Sahar Gul has become the bruised and bloodied face of women's rights in Afghanistan. The teenage bride's eyes were swollen nearly shut as she was wheeled into the hospital seven months after her arranged marriage. Black scabs crusted her fingertips where her nails used to be.

According to officials in northeastern Baghlan Province, Gul's in-laws kept her in a basement for six months, ripped her fingernails out, tortured her with hot irons and broke her fingers — all in an attempt to force her into prostitution. Police freed her after her uncle called authorities.

The horrific images, captured by television news cameras last week, transfixed Afghanistan and set off a storm of condemnation. President Hamid Karzai set up a commission to investigate, and his health minister visited her bedside. Police arrested her in-laws, who denied abusing her. A warrant was issued for her husband, who serves in the Afghan army.

The case highlights both the problems

and the progress of women 10 years after the Taleban's fall. Gul's egregious wounds and underage wedlock are a reminder that girls and women still suffer shocking abuse. But the public outrage and the government's response to it also show that the country is slowly changing.

"Let's break the dead silence on women's plight," read the title of an editorial Wednesday in the *Afghanistan Times*.—*Internet*



In this 28 Dec, 2011 file photo, 15-year-old Sahar Gul, is wheeled into a hospital in Baghlan north of Kabul, Afghanistan.—INTERNET

India clears 950 million euro deal to procure 500 missiles from France

NEW DELHI, 5 Jan—India on Wednesday cleared a 950 million euro deal to procure 500 air-to-air missiles from a French firm for the Indian Air Force (IAF)'s Mirage 2000 aircraft fleet, reported *Press Trust of India*.

A Cabinet Committee on Security meeting chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday cleared the deal to procure 490 MICA missiles manufactured by French firm MBDA for 950 million euros, the report quoted Indian Defence Ministry sources as saying.

The missiles would be deployed on 51 Mirage 2000 aircraft, which are already undergoing upgrades at French facilities under a 1.47-billion euro deal signed earlier this year. Under the deal, MBDA would have to do offsets worth 30 percent of the deal meaning that they will have to invest 315 million euros back in the Indian defense sector, according to the report. The Defence Procurement Procedure mandated that foreign vendors bagging deals worth over three billion rupees (60 million US dollars) have to invest back at least 30 percent of the contract's worth into Indian defence, civil aerospace and homeland security sector.

India signed a deal with French companies Thales and Dassault Aviation, which will take 10 years to carry out mid-life upgrade of IAF's 51 Mirage 2000 fighters.

Two aircrafts have already been flown to France for upgrades and the remaining would be modernized in India at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) facilities in India.

Xinhua

New Year road mishaps kill 314 in Thailand

BANGKOK, 5 Jan—Road accidents surged in Thailand around the New Year Festival and killed 314 people in six days, the country's Road Safety Centre said Wednesday.

Another 3,116 people were injured in 2,856 road accidents from last Thursday to Tuesday, the center added. The few days around the New Year is a particularly dangerous period for drivers in Thailand when hundreds of people die in the yearly surge of road accidents. On New Year's Day alone, 76 people were killed and 600 injured in 562 accidents. The numbers showed improvement from last year's 1 Jan when 83 people were killed in 777 accidents. Roads to Bangkok were heavily congested Tuesday, the last of the New Year holidays, when people flocked to the capital for work. Thai traffic authorities stepped up monitoring on main roads to stop drunk, speeding or sleepy drivers and facilitate the flow of traffic. About 70,000 officers at 2,468 checkpoints had stopped 724,752 vehicles and arrested 95,822 offenders, with 30,326 motor cyclists failing to wear helmets and 27,764 failing to produce the driver's license, Silapachai Jarukasemrattana, deputy permanent secretary for the Transport Ministry, said. Still, 312 accidents occurred Tuesday, killing 32 people and injuring 333 others. Drunk driving was blamed for 32.9 percent of accidents around the New Year, and speeding 20.7 percent. More than 80 percent of the accidents involved motorcycles.—*Xinhua*



Photo showing the leading chemotherapy treatments for lung cancer patients displayed at the Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Centre at Johns Hopkins hospital in 2005 in Baltimore, Maryland.

INTERNET

US cancer deaths continue to drop

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan—Steep declines in fatal cases of lung and breast cancer have led the drop in cancer deaths in the United States in the last several years, according to data by the American Cancer Society Wednesday. In all, more than a million deaths have been avoided since cancer mortality first began to decline at the start of the 1990s, said the Cancer Statistics 2012 report based on US government health data and statistical models.

But while deaths from four major cancers—lung,

colorectum, breast, and prostate—continued to drop in the past decade, other potentially lethal cancers have been on the rise, including throat and mouth cancers linked to human papillomaviruses, a common sexually transmitted disease. Cancers of the pancreas, liver, thyroid, and kidney and melanoma of the skin have also been mounting over the past 10 years. Some of those may be tied to the obesity epidemic in the United States as well as better early detection practices for certain cancers, the report suggested.

Health Tip: Physical problems may cause Insomnia

Insomnia is the general term used to mean waking too early, or having difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep.

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute says many factors can lead to insomnia, including:

- * Headache or arthritis.
- * Heart failure or asthma.
- * Hyperthyroidism, the term for an overactive thyroid.
- * Heartburn.
- * Menopause and associated hot flashes.
- * Other sleep disorders, including sleep-related breathing problems or restless legs syndrome.

Internet

Children in child care get little exercise

CINCINNATI, 5 Jan—Three-fourths of US preschool-age children are in child care centres with little opportunity for recommended levels of physical activity, researchers say.

Kristen A Copeland of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre and colleagues said the study involved nine focus groups with 49 child care providers—55 percent African-American—assembled from

34 centres from the inner-city, suburban, Head Start and Montessori in Cincinnati.

Three researchers independently analyzed verbatim transcripts for themes.

The study, published in the journal *Pediatrics*, identified three main barriers to children's physical activity in child care— injury concerns, financial and a focus on academics.

Stricter licensing codes intended to reduce children's playground injuries have resulted in playgrounds less physically challenging and interesting, while at the same time, some parents, who also fear injury, request staff to restrict playground participation for their children, Copeland said.

Copeland also said since child care centers operate on limited income their ability to install abundant playground equipment is also limited.

Internet



First Lady Michelle Obama leads an exercise demonstration for preschool students at the Royal Castle Child Development Centre in New Orleans on 1 Nov, 2011, to promote her 'Let's Move!' campaign for healthy lifestyles among children.—INTERNET



For the most recent four years of the study, 2004-2008, overall cancer incidence rates declined 0.6 percent per year for men and were stable in women. Cancer death rates for that period dropped 1.8 percent per year in men and 1.6 percent annually in women.—Internet

Automakers see slower US sales growth in 2012

DETROIT, 5 Jan—US auto sales rose 10 percent in 2011 but major automakers forecast a slowdown in growth this year because of weak job growth and risks to the American economy from a slowdown in Europe.

Auto sales have been a relative bright spot in the economy since late summer with cash-strapped consumers forced to buy to replace cars that have been on the road for a decade or more.

December US auto sales rose 9 percent to hit an annualized sales rate of 13.6 million vehicles, in line with Wall Street expectations. Full-year 2011 sales totaled 12.8 million vehicles compared with 11.6 million in 2010.

Auto sales are tracked as an early indicator of consumer spending, and analysts said December results were boosted by lower interest rates and a greater selection of vehicles on dealer lots. On a full-year basis, the biggest winners were Chrysler, bouncing back from crisis under the control of Fiat SpA, and Korean powerhouse Hyundai-Kia. Both posted a 26 percent gain in annual sales.

The biggest losers were Toyota Motor Corp and Honda Motor Co, which both saw US sales drop 7 percent after the March earthquake in Japan shut down production and left dealer lots short of popular cars like the Camry and Accord.

Most major automakers forecast 2012 sales of between 13.5 million and 14 million vehicles, implying annual growth of between 5 and 9 percent. Ford Motor Co offered a wider estimate it said reflected the outside chance of another economic setback.—Reuters

China's yuan hits new high on 2012 first trading day

BEIJING, 5 Jan—The Chinese currency Renminbi, or the yuan, rose 8 basis points to a record high of 6.3001 against the US dollar on Wednesday, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System.

In China's foreign exchange spot market, the yuan is allowed to rise or fall by 0.5 percent from the central parity rate each trading day.

The central parity rate of the yuan against the US dollar is based on a weighted average of prices before the opening of the market each business day.—Xinhua

Chrysler 300 cars are displayed on stage during the press day for the North American International Auto show in Detroit, Michigan on 10 Jan, 2011.—REUTERS



Oil rises amid upbeat economic data, euro zone concerns

NEW YORK, 5 Jan—Oil prices continued to rise on Wednesday after a strong rally on previous trading day, as US economic data provided solid support. US Commerce Department said that factory orders in Nov rose 1.8 percent, lifted by strong aircraft orders. The upbeat data helped to stimulate investors' confidence on the US economic recovery and supported the oil price.

However, news from

Europe added new concerns about the euro zone debt crisis. Bank shares were dumped in European stock market as Spanish authorities are considering applying for loans from the International Monetary Fund and Europe's bailout fund. The composite Purchasing Managers Index for the euro zone released on Wednesday rose to a three-month high of 48.3 in December. However, the figure was still in the contraction territory, suggesting weakness of the manufacturing activities in euro zone.—Xinhua



Apple announced on Wednesday that iPhone 4S, its latest smartphone product, will be available in China and 21 other countries as of 13 Jan.—XINHUA

Apple iPhone 4S to hit China market in mid January

SAN FRANCISCO, 5 Jan—Apple announced on Wednesday that iPhone 4S, its latest smartphone product, will be available in China and 21 other countries as of 13 Jan. "Customers response to our products in China has been off the charts," Tim Cook, Apple's chief executive officer, said in a statement.

He noted that with the launch in China next week, iPhone 4S will be available in over 90 countries and regions, making it Apple's fastest iPhone rollout ever.

The iPhone 4S was launched in October last year. Apple is scheduled to report its 2012 first fiscal quarter earnings on 24 Jan. As one of Apple's biggest

revenue sources, the iPhone 4S sales are seen key to the results. In the last quarter, Apple missed projections from the Wall Street as customers had been awaiting the launch of iPhone 4S.

Last October, Apple announced that it had sold more than four million units of iPhone 4S, just three days after the launch. Analysts have been giving rosy estimates on iPhone 4S sales for the first quarter after it hit the stores, saying that the company could have sold more than 30 million iPhones during the period. The iPhone 4S, which looks the same as the iPhone 4, has major hardware upgrade inside, including a faster chip, a higher-resolution camera and Siri intelligent voice control.—Xinhua

science

Lizard tails inspire more agile robots

BERKELEY, 5 Jan—Researchers in robotics say they're looking at leaping lizards and dinosaurs as sources of inspiration in designing robots with "tails" that are more agile. University of California, Berkeley, researchers studied how lizards manage to leap successfully even when they slip and stumble, swinging their tail upward to prevent a forward pitch that could send them head-over-heels into a tree.

Agile theropod dinosaurs like the velociraptor may have used their tails as stabilizers to prevent forward pitch researchers said. The scientists added a tail to a robotic car they named Tailbot and discovered both robots and lizards have to adjust the angle of their tail just right to counteract the effect of the stumble.

Given an actively controlled tail, even robots can make a leap and remain upright, the found. "We showed for the first time that lizards swing their tail up or down to counteract the rotation of their body, keeping them stable," research leader Robert J Full said in a UC Berkeley release Wednesday. "Inspiration from lizard tails will likely lead to far more agile search-and-rescue robots, as well as ones having greater capability to more rapidly detect chemical, biological or nuclear hazards."—Internet



A red-headed Agama lizard stands beside Tailbot, a simple car equipped with an actively controlled tail that can quickly right itself in midair even when dropped nose-down.—INTERNET

Parasitic fly could explain bee die-off

FRESNO, 5 Jan—Northern California scientists say they have found a possible explanation for a honey bee die-off that has decimated hives around the world: A parasitic fly that hijacks the bees' bodies and causes them to abandon hives.

Scientists say the fly deposits its eggs into the bee's abdomen, causing the infected bee to exhibit zombie-like behavior by walking around in circles with no apparent sense of direction. The bee leaves the hive at night and dies shortly thereafter. The symptoms mirror colony collapse disorder, in which all the adult honey bees in a colony suddenly disappear.

The disease is of great concern, because bees pollinate about a third of the United States' food supply. Its presence is especially alarming in California, the nation's top producer of fruits and vegetables, where bees play an essential role in the \$2 billion almond industry and other crops.

The latest study, published Tuesday in the science journal PLoS ONE, points to the parasitic fly as the new threat to honey bees. It's another step in ongoing research to find the cause of the disease.

Researchers haven't been able to pin down an exact cause of colony collapse or find a way to prevent it. Research so far points to a combination of factors including pesticide contamination, a lack of blooms — and hence nutrition — and mites, fungi, viruses and parasites.

Interaction among the parasite and multiple pathogens could be one possible factor in colony collapse, according to the latest study by researchers at San Francisco State



In this photo provided by San Francisco State University, an Apocephalus borealis fly implants its eggs into the abdomen of a honey bee.—INTERNET

University. It says the phorid fly, or apocephalus borealis, was found in bees from three-quarters of the 31 hives surveyed in the San Francisco Bay area.

The combination of a parasite, pathogens and other stressors could cause die-off, lead investigator John Hafernik said. The parasitic fly serves as a reservoir that harbors pathogens — honey bees from parasite-infected hives tested positive for deformed wing virus and other pathogens, the study found.—Internet

Invasive plants said climate change risk

AMHERST, 5 Jan—Climate change will boost US demand for imported drought- and heat-tolerant plants, at the risk of raising imports of more invasive species, researchers say.

Invaders could overrun native ecosystems in the same way kudzu, Oriental bittersweet and other plant species have in the past, researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst said.

The kudzu invasion of the past few decades saw whole forests overgrown in the Southeast, and Oriental bittersweet, if left unchecked, shades and chokes out native trees, bushes and shrubs along streams, forest and field edges, they said.

Ecologist Bethany Bradley and colleagues recommend US authorities adopt proactive management practices,

especially pre-emptive screening of nursery stock before new plants are imported, to prevent such an explosion of new invasives, a UMA release said Wednesday.

"The [US Department of Agriculture] has tools to reduce import risk and we advocate that now is the time put them in place," Bradley said.

"Pre-import screening has been tested in Australia for about 10 years now and it's not foolproof, but it seems to have done a good job of separating the really bad import ideas from more benign introductions."

About 60 percent of plants considered invasive were introduced deliberately through the plant trade.

Internet

Samsung's new Galaxy Ace Plus announced, looks very familiar

SEOUL, 5 Jan—Not content with enraging Apple with their alleged iPhone 4-alike designs, Samsung has now taken a shine to the previous model.

We can see it, you can see it and it's fairly likely the lawyers can see it too. We're talking about the

distinct design similarity between Samsung's new Galaxy Ace Plus and the Apple iPhone 3G/3GS.

Yes, the camera lens may be in a different spot, but the front and side views along with that grey surround make it uncannily reminiscent of the previous iPhone. Well, we're sure Samsung knows

what it's doing, so let's move on and take a look at the spec of the new device.

The original Galaxy Ace has been a big seller, thanks to a very reasonable price and the Android operating system. The new Galaxy Ace Plus improves in some areas, but decides to play it safe in others.

Samsung has ever-so slightly increased the screen size, from 3.5-inches to 3.65-inches, but has left the resolution the same at 320 x 480. Next is a slight boost in power, with the Ace Plus using a 1Ghz processor instead of the old 800Mhz chip.

Like its predecessor, it uses a 5-megapixel camera with an LED flash and Google Android 2.3 Gingerbread, but adds Bluetooth 3.0 and Samsung's range of apps and services, such as the ChatON service.—Internet



Samsung has given its popular Galaxy Ace an update, releasing the Galaxy Ace Plus. Features include a larger screen, more powerful processor and a very familiar design.—INTERNET



Google adds more IBM patents to tech arsenal

SAN FRANCISCO, 5 Jan—Google on Wednesday confirmed that it has added more IBM patents to its technology arsenal as smartphone rivals increasingly battle in courts over innovations. Google bought 188 patents and 29 patent applications related to mobile phones from IBM but did not disclose how much it paid.

Last year, IBM sold Google 2,000 or so patents ranging from mobile software to computer hardware and processors.

Google has been strengthening its patent

portfolio as the fight for dominance in the booming smartphone market increasingly involves lawsuits claiming infringement of patented technology.

The California Internet powerhouse behind Android mobile device software last year transferred a set of patents to smartphone titan HTC Corp to help the Taiwan-based company in an intellectual property clash with iPhone maker Apple. Technology giants have taken to routinely pounding one another with patent lawsuits. Apple has accused HTC and other smartphone makers using

Google on Wednesday confirmed that it has added more IBM patents to its technology arsenal as smartphone rivals increasingly battle in courts over innovations.

INTERNET

Google's Android mobile operating system of infringing on Apple-held patents.

Some of the patents that HTC got from Google had belonged to Motorola Mobility, which Google is buying for \$12.5 billion in cash. Motorola Mobility's trove of patents was a key motivation for Google, which is keen to defend Android.

"Our acquisition of Motorola will increase competition by strengthening Google's patent portfolio, which will enable us to better protect Android from anti-competitive threats from Microsoft, Apple and other companies," Google chief executive Larry Page said when the Motorola Mobility buy was announced.

Internet



Prince William's wife Catherine takes on royal roles



Prince William, Duke of Cambridge (L), and his wife Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge (R), pictured in 2011.

INTERNET

LONDON, 5 Jan—Prince William's wife Catherine has become the patron of a series of British charities as she takes on a greater royal role less than a year after their marriage, officials said Thursday.

Catherine, who turns 30 on Monday, has become patron of Britain's National Portrait Gallery and drug charity Action on Addiction, and royal patron of East

Anglia's Children's Hospices and art charity The Art Room.

She is also becoming a volunteer with the Scout Association and will privately join some of their activities, especially in north Wales where William is based as a Royal Air Force search and rescue pilot. The couple were married in April in a ceremony watched by billions of people around the world and are now known by

the official titles Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

"The Duchess's first patronages and her volunteer position reflect Her Royal Highness's personal interests in the arts, the promotion of outdoor activity, and supporting people who are in need of all ages, especially young children," their office St James's Palace said in a statement.

"The Duchess's new roles reflect Her Royal Highness's wish to support the Royal Family's work in highlighting important causes in the charitable and voluntary sector and the arts.

"The Duchess has chosen to support organizations that complement the charitable work already undertaken by her husband."

The statement said she would make a number of public and private visits across Britain in the coming months to the organizations she had chosen.—*Internet*

Official says Reno air races on despite deadly crash

RENO, 5 Jan—Officials are moving ahead with plans for this year's National Championship Air Races despite a tragic crash at September's event that killed 11 and injured more than 70, the head of the Reno Air Races said Wednesday. Association President Mike Houghton said it's "way too early" to say whether there will be changes to the format of the event scheduled for 12-16 Sept at Reno-Stead Airport.

But he said the association is enlisting a panel of experts, including former National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Jim Hall, to help ensure its safety.

"In short, we're moving ahead," Houghton told more than 100 supporters, who cheered the announcement at the RenoSparks Convention Centre. "We are absolutely committed to doing everything we can to hold this historic event in 2012."

Race officials said they must secure a number of permits to make sure the competition happens. But as of now, tickets for the event are on sale. The deadly crash at the 2011 races—in which a modified World War II-era racing aircraft climbed, rolled and then abruptly plunged nose-first into spectators—led to calls that officials consider ending the event, the only one of its kind in the country. The NTSB has scheduled



In this 16 Sept, 2011 file photo, a P-51 Mustang airplane approaches the ground right before crashing during an air show in Reno, Nev.—INTERNET

a hearing 10 Jan to examine the safety of air shows and air races in general.

The Reno group's directors said in a 28 Dec letter on their website that they are "committed to preserving this unique and historic aviation event" that began four decades ago.—*Internet*

Police nab Mexican drug boat north of LA, arrest 10

LOS AGNELES, 5 Jan—Police seized a Mexican motorboat loaded with more than a ton of marijuana north of Los Angeles early on Wednesday and arrested 10 people, the latest in a growing number of seizures as smugglers seek to ferry drugs north to market by sea, authorities said.

US Border Patrol agents found the 27-foot (8-metre) vessel packed with numerous bales of marijuana on the coast of Ventura County shortly before dawn, the US Immigration and Customs

Enforcement agency said in a news release. Authorities also seized two vehicles located in the landing area believed to be linked to the smuggling attempt.

Four of those detained arrived on board the boat and the other six arrested were found in the landing area, the agency said. As security has tightened in recent years along the United States' porous border with Mexico, trafficking organizations have increasingly taken to smuggling drugs and illegal immigrants north to the



A boat that contained smuggled bales of marijuana is seen washed ashore on a beach in Ventura County, California north of Los Angeles in this handout photograph taken on 4 Jan, 2012.

REUTERS

United States by sea.

From January to October 2011, authorities recorded 26 maritime smuggling incidents in the greater Los Angeles area, including

seven in Ventura County. Since then there have been 10 further cases, including two in Ventura County and one in Santa Barbara County. *Reuters*

indeed be higher, saying that "men on the ground tell us that there are more than 26 killed and 13 wounded".

The rebels are accused of having taken part in the 1994 genocide in neighbouring Rwanda, where 800,000 were killed according to the UN. They are regularly accused of committing atrocities, including rapes, murders and looting, especially against civilians.—*Internet*

Bangladeshi gets jail term over Facebook status

DHAKA, 5 Jan—Bangladesh's high court on Wednesday sentenced a university lecturer to six months in jail after he posted a Facebook status wishing for the death of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a lawyer said.

Ruhul Khandakar, who was sentenced in absentia because he is studying in Australia, posted the comments after the death of Bangladesh's most famous filmmaker Tareq Masud in a road accident last year.

"Tareq Masud died as a result of government giving licence to unqualified drivers. Many die, why does not

Sheikh Hasina die?" the status said, according to court officials. The status, which Khandakar posted from Australia, has since been deleted.

In August, Khandakar was summoned to appear in court and explain the comments but he repeatedly failed to attend and so was sentenced for contempt, deputy attorney general Altaf Hossain told *AFP*.

The court directed Khandakar's university employers to take action against him according to law, which could result in him losing his job.—*Internet*



Bangladesh's high court on Wednesday sentenced a university lecturer to six months in jail after he posted a Facebook status wishing for the death of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a lawyer said.—INTERNET

Army official says Rwandan Hutu rebels kill 26 in DR Congo

KINSHASA, 5 Jan—At least 26 people have been killed and 13 wounded so far this year in two attacks by Rwandan Hutu rebels in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, an army official said Wednesday.

The attacks—blamed on the Democratic Forces for

the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)—took place on the nights of 1 and 3 January in the Shabunda Region in Sud Kivu Province.

"The first attack targeted the leadership of Luyuyu and killed 18 civilians while six houses were burned," Colonel Sylvain Ekenge,

spokesman for military operations in Nord and Sud Kivu, told *AFP*.

"The second attack in the town of Ngolombe left eight dead." Overall 13 people had been injured, he said. A rights group cited by Radio Okapi said that in total 40 people had died.

Ekenge said the toll may



A Rwandan Hutu rebel of the FDLR (Democratic Force for the Liberation of Rwanda) checks a path in a dense forest in 2009.—INTERNET

31 inmates killed in northern Mexico prison fight

CIUDAD VICTORIA, (Mexico), 5 Jan—A fight among inmates armed with makeshift knives, clubs and stones left 31 people dead in a prison in a drug-plagued state in northern Mexico, authorities said.

Another 13 prisoners were wounded in the brawl in the penitentiary in the Gulf Coast city of Altamira, Tamaulipas state's Public Safety Department said in a statement.

The fight started when a group of inmates burst into a section of the prison they were banned from and attacked the prisoners housed there, the department said.

Local media said the fight was between members of the rival Gulf and Zetas drug cartels but authorities wouldn't confirm the reports. Tamaulipas state has been the scene of bloody turf battles between the two former allies.

Tamaulipas state officials said many of the dead were killed by makeshift knives. A state official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation said several of the inmates were beaten to death with clubs or stones.

Soldier and marines managed to take control of the prison, the official said.—*Internet*

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—The following are 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 Truong Tan Sang, President of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Your Excellency

On the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the State and people of Viet Nam and in my own name, I have the great honour to extend to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations.

I would like to congratulate the people of Myanmar for their great achievements recorded over the recent years and firmly believe that under your talented leadership, Myanmar shall continue to record greater achievements in their course of national construction and defence.

We are very delighted at the relations of age-long friendship and fine cooperation between our countries which have been continuously nourished over the past decades by generations of leaders and peoples of our countries. I firmly believe that with the contributions of our generation, these relations, will be more fruitful, for the benefit of our people and for the sake of peace, cooperation and prosperous development in the region and the world over.

On this occasion, I wish Your Excellency the best of health, happiness and many successes in your noble position.
From Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and People of Viet Nam, and in my own name, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to you and the people of Myanmar on this joyous occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I would like to congratulate the people of Myanmar for their great achievements recorded over the recent years and hope that under your leadership, Myanmar shall continue to record greater achievements in their course of national construction and defence.

May the traditional relations of friendship and the fine cooperation between Viet Nam and Myanmar be further strengthened and broadened for the interests of our two peoples and for the sake of peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world over.

We are very delighted at the outcomes of our recent official visit to Myanmar and attending the 4th Greater Mekong Summit in Myanmar. We firmly believe that with

these outcomes, the existing relations of our countries will be more fruitful, for the benefit of our people and for the sake of peace, cooperation and prosperous development in the region and the world over.

On this occasion, I wish Your Excellency the best of health, happiness and many successes in your noble position.

From Kim Yong Nam, President, Presidium, Supreme People's Assembly of DPRK
Your Excellency,

I warmly congratulate you, your government people on 64th anniversary of the independence of Myanmar.

I also sincerely wish you, your government and people greater successes in the future work for independent development and prosperity of the country.

I take this opportunity to express my conviction that friendly and cooperative relations between the DPRK and Myanmar will further expand and develop in common interests and desires of the two peoples.

From Raul Castro Ruz, President of the Councils of State and of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba
Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to you cordial congratulations and ratify to you the interest in enhancing the friendly relations between our countries.

I renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mahmood Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
Excellency,

I would like sincerely to congratulate Your Excellency, the government and the nation of your country the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am hopeful that due to our common political will and desire and in line with the interests of the nations of Iran and Myanmar our friendly relation and cooperation will be further expanded and strengthened.

I pray to the Almighty God for Your Excellency's success and good health, and for happiness and prosperity of the government and the nation of Myanmar.

From Field Marshal Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, Arab Republic of Egypt,
Dear Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency my most heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the people and government of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, wishing to you all success and the friendly people of Myanmar evermore progress and prosperity under your wise leadership.

On this occasion allow me to express my full confidence

that the ongoing positive developments witnessed in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will continue towards the transfer to democracy, economic reforms, national reconciliations, and open policy to guarantee evermore development and stability for the friendly people of Myanmar.

I would like to seize this opportunity to praise the distinguished historic relations between Egypt and Myanmar since 1953, and further to assert our political will to enhance and develop the ties of cooperation for the common interest of our two countries and people.

From Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia,
Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the 64th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia join me in conveying our warmest congratulations to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of Myanmar. We would also like to extend our best wishes for Your Excellency's good health and happiness as well as for the peace, progress and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the people.

May I also express my confidence that the traditional relations of friendship and close cooperation between our two countries will continue to grow stronger and deeper for the benefit of our two Buddhist peoples.

Please accept, Mr President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Samdech Akka Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
Excellency,

On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I have the great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency and through you to the Government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, my heartfelt congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I strongly believe that the relations of good friendship and close cooperation between our two countries will be further enhanced and deepened in the years to come for the mutual interests of our two peoples as well as the whole ASEAN family.

May I take this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for your personal good health and greater success in the fulfillment of your noble tasks and for the prosperity of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and my best wishes for a prosperous and Happy New Year 2012.

Application for registration as political party granted

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Union Election Commission issued Announcement No.1/2012 today.

The translation of the announcement is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement No.1/2012
12th Waxing of Pyatho, 1373 ME
(5th January, 2012)

NLD party granted to register as political party

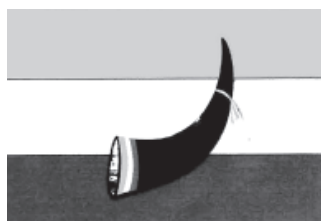
It is hereby announced that National League for Democracy Party, headquartered at No.97/B, West Shwegondiang Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, is granted to register in accord with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, as of 5th January, 2012. Its registration number is 47.

Sd/
Win Ko
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Public notice for remonstrance

1. Kayin Democratic Party, headquartered at No.254, Bogyoke Road, No.9 ward (Yekyaw), Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, applied for registration as a political party on 5-1-2012 in accord with Political Parties Registration Law Section 5. In applying for its registration, the party has

Flag of Kayin Democratic Party



- submitted its name, flag and seal to be used as mentioned hereunder.
2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rule 14 (d) that those who wish to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party name, flag and seal may do so with firm evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

Seal of Kayin Democratic Party



Union Election Commission

Cash and kind provided to fire victims

YANGON, 5 Jan—Yangon Region Fire Relief Camp Control Committee is rebuilding the houses for those who lost housings and damages in the outbreak of fire in Kutohseik Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt

Township. At present, some families of fire survivors are living at the already-rebuilt and-repaired houses.

At the control centre at Maha Wizaya Mingalayaya Monastery in Mingala

Taungnyunt Township, Deputy Commissioner U Hlaing Soe Thant and party of Yangon East District provided 17 items of foodstuffs and personal goods and K 700,000 each to each fire victim family for the first time.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received a British delegation led by Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Mr. William Jefferson Hague at Zabuthiri Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building here at 1:00 am today.

The meeting concentrated on Myanmar current affairs of transition into democracy, arrangements for holding a fair by-election, and progress of cooperation tasks with national races, which is the basic need for stability of the State, and promoting of relationships between the two countries and exchanging views on experiences between Pyithu Hluttaw and British Parliament.

Also present at the call with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen and Secretaries. The British delegation was accompanied by British Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Andrew Richard Heyn.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives a British delegation led by Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Mr. William Jefferson Hague at Zabuthiri Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Football tune-up match held between HEDs

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—A tune-up match between football teams of Higher Education Departments (Upper Myanmar) and (Lower Myanmar) was held at Nay Pyi Taw FC football ground, here, at 3 pm today.

Among the spectators were Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint

Hsan, Deputy Ministers for Education U Aye Kyu and U Ba Shwe, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu.

The sports team representing Myanmar universities stood third in the 14th Asian Universities Games held in Thailand in 2010.

The tune-up match was aimed for emerging out-

standing athletes to take part in the 15th ASEAN Universities Games to be held in Laos in 2012. In the tune-up match, HED (Lower Myanmar) team beat its opponent with a 1-0 win.

After the match, Union Minister Dr Mya Aye and deputy ministers spoke words of encouragement to the players.

MNA

Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2011 reviewed

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—The Central Committee for Organizing the Myanmar Gems Emporium reviewed the Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2011 at the meeting hall of Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, at 2 pm today.

Patron of the Central Committee Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik reviewed tasks of the mid-year emporium and instructed attendees to discuss organizing more gems emporiums on a grander scale based on experiences of the recent emporium.

Responsible persons of work committees reported on progress of tasks in respective committees and preparations to be made for

more emporiums.

The attendees reported on matters related to holding the Myanmar Gems Emporium on a grander scale. Member of the Central Committee Deputy Minister U Htay Aung and members of the Panel of Patrons of the Central Committee Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung gave advices.

In his remarks, Patron Union Minister U Thein Htaik stressed the need to make preparations for the gems emporiums like international level emporiums for enabling the gem merchants from global countries to attend the Myanmar Gems Emporium. A plan is

underway to sell the polished jade lots in the emporiums, he said. He urged those present to make concerted efforts for holding the emporiums to meet the international standards.

Also present at the meeting were chairmen and secretaries of the work committee, vice-chairmen of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association and officials.

The Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2011 was successfully organized at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, from 24 December 2011 to 3 January 2012. A plan is underway to hold the 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium soon.—MNA

Members of German Federal Parliament calls on Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Planning and Financial Development Committee



Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Planning and Financial Development Committee U Soe Tha receives Members of German Federal Parliament Mr. Jurgen Klimke and Dr Bijan Djir-Savai.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Planning and Financial Development Committee U Soe Tha received Members of German Federal Parliament Mr. Jurgen Klimke and Dr Bijan Djir-Savai at No. 1 meeting hall of Hluttaw Building here at 4:00 pm today.

It was attended by the committee members.

The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation between the two Hluttaws of Myanmar and Germany.

MNA

Dy Construction Minister meets staff

YANGON, 5 Jan—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint met service personnel, at the meeting hall of Storage and Distribution (Yankin) of Public Work, Yangon Region on 2 January. He called for systematic storage and distribution of materials, fire drill for fire security measures, serving duties in line with civil service ethics and minimizing losses.

MNA

Lt-Gen Soe Win welcomes Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—A ceremony to extend a welcome to the Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, took place at Zeyathiri

Beikman here this afternoon. Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially welcomed the Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army in front of Zeyathiri Beikman. After that, they took the salute of the guard of honour and inspected it.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief introduced

Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of Commander-in-Chief's Office and senior military officers to the Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army. And the Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army also introduced Indian delegation members to the Deputy Commander-in-Chief.

MNA

Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—A goodwill delegation led by the Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC and wife

arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport here this afternoon. They were welcomed at the Airport by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, Maj-

Gen Maung Maung Ohn of Commander-in-Chief's Office (Army), Indian Military Attaché Colonel Rajesh Kumar and officials.

MNA

Deputy Commander-in-Chief Lt-Gen Soe Win and Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC taking salute of the guard of honour.—MNA



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win meets Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win received an Indian delegation led by Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC at Zeyathiri Beikman here this afternoon.

At the call together with Lt-Gen Soe Win were Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the office of Commander-in-Chief, Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Commander-in-Chief's Office (Army), Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and senior military officers.

The Indian delegation was accompanied by Indian military attaché to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Colonel Rajesh Kumar.

Both sides discussed matters related to mutual relationships between the armed forces of the two countries.

MNA



Deputy Commander-in-Chief Lt-Gen Soe Win meets Indian delegation led by Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC.—MNA

Kayin Democratic Party applies for registration as political party

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Union Election Commission (UEC) has been scrutinizing and granting application for registrations as political party. Kayin Democratic Party applied for registration as a political party to the UEC on 5-1-2012.

MNA

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister attends opening of library in Patheingyi

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung yesterday attended the opening ceremony of Naungyoe Library in the compound of Patheingyi District General Administration Department.

The Chief Minister donated books and publications, Chairman of Region Hluttaw National Races Affairs Committee Daw Khin Saw Mu and Head of Region Settlement and Land Records Department U Kyaw Htin, books,

Naungyoe Family K 1 million, townships of the district K 1 million, Patheingyi Township Administrator U Chit Ko Ko and wellwishers books through the deputy commissioner of Patheingyi District.

Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Ko Ko, Deputy Commissioner U Aye Han and U Aung Kha of Naungyoe Family formally opened the library.

MNA

Detroit police stations to severely cut public hours

DETROIT, 5 Jan—Detroit, which has one of the highest crime rates of large American cities, plans to close its police stations to the public for 16 hours a day — including the critical overnight hours — as the cash-strapped city struggles to slash costs. Public-facing desks at the eight stations that represent the eight precincts or districts of the Detroit Police Department will be closed at 4 pm every day and reopen the next morning at 8 am starting on Monday.

It means residents could have a harder time immediately finding face-to-face help from the police during key hours of the day.

The moves are expected to lead to “virtual precincts” as the police department plans to

redeploy desk-bound officers to more time on the streets during the affected hours. The plan comes as Detroit is seeing a sharp rise in its murder rate, up 14 percent in the first half of 2011 from the same period a year earlier, according to FBI statistics. The administration of Mayor Dave Bing is under intense pressure to cut hundreds of millions in costs. The city estimates it could run out of money within the next 90 days if immediate action is not taken. The state is currently conducting a financial review that could result in a state takeover. The plan to cut public hours at police stations was first reported by Detroit media outlets and confirmed Wednesday by Stephen Serkaian, a spokesman for Bing.—Reuters



Fire fighters put out a fire following a blast at the Xiangyang chemical plant in the Nanhua District of Jiaying, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 4 Jan, 2011. The blast occurred Wednesday night, leaving three workers dead and four others injured, the Nanhua District Information Office said on 5 Jan.—XINHUA

Bushfire threatens residents in Western Australia

SYDNEY, 5 Jan—A bushfire caused by lightning strikes in Perth's northern suburbs in Western Australia (WA) is threatening people's lives and homes in the area, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA) warned on Wednesday.

A bushfire watch and alert is in place for people in Jandabup in the City of Wanneroo, FESA said.

The fire, sparked by lightning strikes on Wednesday morning, has burnt 25 hectares of land and is burning in swamp land near Jandabup Lake, according to FESA. “There is a possible threat to lives and homes as a fire is approaching the area and conditions are changing,” FESA said in a warning issued on Wednesday.

Residents have been urged to leave or be ready to actively defend their homes.

The bushfire is moving slowly in a westerly direction towards Franklin Road and has not yet been controlled, FESA said.—Xinhua



Swimmers attend a new year winter swimming event at the West Lake in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, 1 Jan, 2012.

XINHUA

Police kill Texas student, 15, armed with pellet gun

MCALLEN, 5 Jan—Police fatally shot a 15-year-old student armed with a pellet gun at a middle school in Brownsville, Texas, on Wednesday after he pointed it at officers, police said.

Brownsville police received a call of a student with a handgun at Cummings Middle School about 8 am local time Wednesday, department spokesman J J Trevino said.

The boy, eighth-grader Jaime Gonzalez, aimed at officers after they confronted him in a hallway, police said.

Police ordered Gonzalez to drop the gun, but instead he pointed it at the officers, who shot the boy twice, police said.

“The subject pointed the weapon at officers, which in turn, the officers had to use deadly force,” Trevino said.

The gun, a .177-caliber pellet pistol, resembles a Glock semi-automatic handgun, police said.

The student was rushed to a hospital where he was pronounced dead, said Cameron County Justice of the Peace Kip Johnson Hodge.

A preliminary investigation indicated Gonzalez assaulted a student before officers arrived and told witnesses he was going to “engage officers with the weapon,” a police news release said.—Reuters

Forget passwords! Phones and tablets to identify users by sight and touch

LONDON, 5 Jan — Trawling through possible password combinations could become a distant memory in the future as new smartphones and tablets will allow access to users at the sight of their owners face or a single touch.

According to the *Sunday Times*, software giants Google and Apple are introducing phones that identify users through sight and touch recognition, the *Daily Mail* reported. Last week Apple applied to the US patent office to register facial recognition software, so instead of sliding to unlock the iPhone, iPad, or

iPod Touch, one could simply point it at one's face.

The patent entitled ‘Low Threshold Face Recognition’, was picked up by Apple Insider blog, who said that “using a forward-facing camera to recognise an individual user, future iPhones and iPads from Apple could automatically customise applications, settings and features to a user's personal preferences once they pick up the device.” The website explained that Apple's application stated rather than analysing a user's entire face which can drain the battery,

Apple's concept would rely on a “high information portion” of a human face. It is understood that their system will scale the distance between a user's eyes and mouth and once it has measured that against the image originally captured, it will be able to confirm that it is the same person and unlock. The patent also details that each user could customise their personal profile with unique wallpaper, applications and settings, and that profile would be immediately accessed once the iPad recognizes a user's face.—Internet

More US women having twins; rate at 1 in 30 babies

ATLANTA, 5 Jan—The number of twins born in the US soared over the last three decades, mostly the result of test-tube babies and women waiting to have children until their 30s, when the chances of twins increase.

In 2009, 1 in every 30 babies born in the US was a twin, an astounding increase over the 1 in 53 rate in 1980, according to a government report issued Wednesday.

“When people say it seems like you see more twins nowadays, they're right,” said Joyce Martin, an epidemiologist who co-authored the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention report.

Some increase was expected as more women are delaying starting a family until they are over 30. For some unknown reason, mothers in their 30s are more likely to have twins than younger or older women. As much as a third of the increase can be attributed to that, Martin said.

The rest of the rise is due to fertility drugs and treatments. “You have a double whammy going on. There are more older moms and more widespread use of fertility-enhancing



In this file photo of 19 June, 2009, twins Daniel, left, and Thomas O'Brien, 2, look at books at a Barnes & Noble in New York. The number of twins born in the US has soared over the last three decades.—INTERNET

therapies,” Martin said.

Starting in the early 1980s, couples who had trouble conceiving began to benefit from medical advances like fertility drugs and in vitro fertilization and other procedures. These treatments became fairly widespread in the 1990s but are expensive, and availability and insurance coverage varies.

The twin birth rate rose by more than 2 percent a year, on average, from 1980 through 2004. It leveled off to less than 1 percent annually although the rise from 2008 to 2009 was nearly 2 percent.

In 2009, twin rates increased in all 50 states, though the jumps were highest in lower New England, New Jersey and Hawaii. In Connecticut, twins now account for nearly 5 percent of births.

That's high. Nationally, 3.3 percent of all births were twins in 2009, up from 2 percent in 1980.

Over the last three decades, rates rose for white, black and Hispanic women, but the increases were not uniform. Rates doubled for whites, rose by half for blacks and by about a third for Hispanics. Historically, black moms have twins most often, but white moms have almost caught up.

Internet

Seoul approves Samsung investment in China

SEOUL, 5 Jan—South Korea on Wednesday approved Samsung Electronics' plan to build a new plant in China to produce high-tech memory chips used in tablets and smartphones, the Ministry of Knowledge Economy said. Following the approval, the world's largest memory chip maker will select a site for the plant and seek Chinese government permission with a view to starting production in 2013, the ministry said in a statement. South Korean firms need government approval when they build strategic, key or sensitive factories abroad.

Samsung had requested permission for its planned export of key technology relating to NAND flash memory chips. When completed, the plant will produce 10,000 12-inch wafers per month. The approval comes after a 10-member technology security committee met twice last month to consider Samsung's need to invest in China and the risks of technology leaks.

Jun Dong-Soo, president of memory business at Samsung's device solutions, has said the new plant would



A South Korean walks past Samsung Electronics' main building in Seoul. South Korea has approved Samsung Electronics' plan to build a new plant in China to produce high-tech memory chips used in tablets and smartphones, the Ministry of Knowledge Economy said.—INTERNET

help the company meet growing demand and strengthen its competitiveness in the memory business. Demand is weak for DRAM (dynamic random access memory) chips used in personal computers, pushing prices down and giving makers an incentive to adopt more advanced technology.—Internet

In this Dec 2011 handout photo released by Amada de Chile, US sailor Thomas Louis Corogin is seen on deck of his boat days before sail, in the bay of Easter Island, Chile.

INTERNET



Chile navy locates solo US sailor in South Pacific

SANTIAGO, 5 Jan—An 84-year-old American making his seventh attempt to sail alone around the tip of South America was found tired but

alive by the Chilean Navy on Wednesday after his mast broke far from land in the South Pacific.

The Chilean Navy located Thomas Louis Corogin on his 32-foot sailboat more than 520 miles (850 kilometres) south of Easter Island, stranded but in relatively stable weather, with ocean swells of about 15 feet (5 metres).

Corogin activated his emergency beacon on Tuesday morning, prompting the Navy to send out an Orion search and rescue plane, which searched a vast

expanse of ocean. The plane had to return to Easter Island and refuel before going out again and spotting the tiny boat, Captain Jorge Bastias, the Navy's top spokesman, told *The Associated Press*. The Navy then arranged for a Japanese merchant ship, the "White Kingdom," to pluck Corogin off the vessel and its captain reported that he was in good health. The Navy said the "White Kingdom" with the US sailor on board is en route to Chile and probably will arrive at Valparaiso on Saturday.

Internet



The 2012 Olympics Aquatics Centre. Organizers of the London 2012 Olympics on Wednesday admitted they had mistakenly oversold tickets for synchronised swimming sessions, leading to thousands being offered tickets to other events.—INTERNET

London 2012 tickets mistakenly oversold

LONDON, 5 Jan—Organizers of the London 2012 Olympics on Wednesday admitted they had mistakenly oversold tickets for synchronised swimming sessions, leading to thousands being offered tickets to other events.

Some 10,000 tickets were meant to go on offer in the second round of sales for four of the sessions in the aquatics centre but 20,000 were made available due to human error, organizers revealed.

Officials contacted around 3,000 ticket-holders and offered them access to more prestigious events — including the men's 1,500m athletics final — that they had previously applied for unsuccessfully.

"As a result of finalising the seating configurations in our venues and reconciling the millions of Olympic and Paralympic ticket orders against the seating plans for around 1,000 sporting sessions, we have discovered an error in seats available in four synchronised swimming sessions," said a London 2012 spokesperson.

"In December we contacted around 3,000 customers who had applied for tickets in the four sessions during the second round sales process and we are exchanging their synchronised swimming tickets for tickets in other sports," added the spokesperson.

The extra tickets will come from a batch of one million contingency tickets that will go on sale in May after seating plans for the venues have been finalised.—INTERNET

China launches Asia's largest helicopter in market

BEIJING, 5 Jan—China's largest-ever civil helicopter on Thursday received its certification from the Civil Aviation Administration of China, the country's civil aviation authority.

The move marks the official approval for the 13-tonne AC313, Asia's largest helicopter, to enter the market, said the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), which developed and manufactured the helicopter.

The aircraft focuses on designs of maintainability, life reliability, indemnification and life cycle efficiency, and meets international safety standards, underlining China's abilities in the research and development (R&D) of large helicopters.

After four years of R&D, the AC313 is also world's first civil helicopter to receive an A-category airworthiness certificate at an altitude of 4,500 metres, the AVIC said.

The aircraft can be deployed for emergency rescue operations, forest fire prevention, transport, offshore operations, medical aid, sightseeing and business trips, the AVIC said.

The AC313 made two trial flights to the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in 2010 and 2011, respectively, and set a record of soaring to an altitude of 8,500 metres, making it the first domestic aircraft able to fly in the highlands, the AVIC added.

The state-owned aircraft maker produces civil helicopters weighing from one to 13 tonnes. Its one-tonne AC310 helicopter, the country's first ultra-light civil helicopter, made its debut at the first China Helicopter Exposition held last September, according to the AVIC.—Xinhua

Record \$736k paid for single tuna fish in Japan

TOKYO, 5 Jan—A deep-pocketed restaurateur shelled out nearly three-quarters of a million dollars for a single tuna, the most ever paid for the fish, at Japan's Tsukiji fish market on Thursday.

The 269-kilogramme (592-pound) bluefin — caught off the coast of Japan's northern Aomori

prefecture — topped an eye-popping 56.49 million yen (\$736,500) when the hammer came down in the first auction of the year.

The figure dwarfs the previous high of 32.49 million yen paid at last year's inaugural auction at Tsukiji, a huge working market that also features on many Tokyo

tourist itineraries.

Thursday's winning bidder was Kiyoshi Kimura, president of the company that runs the popular Sushi-Zanmai chain.

At around 210,000 yen per kilogramme, a single slice of sushi could cost as much as 5,000 yen, but the firm plans to sell it at a more regular price of up to 418 yen, local media reported.

"I wanted to win the best tuna so that Japanese customers, not overseas, can enjoy it," Kimura said, referring to a Hong Kong sushi restaurant owner who bought the previous year's record tuna.

Internet



Kiyoshi Kimura (R), the owner of Sushi-Zanmai, a restaurant chain, poses next to a 269 kilogramme bluefin tuna he purchased on the first trading day of the new year at Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market on 5 January, 2012.—INTERNET

Colorado woman accused of damaging \$30 million painting

DENVER, 5 Jan—A 36-year-old woman was accused of causing \$10,000 worth of damage to a painting by the late abstract expressionist artist Clyfford Still, a work valued at more than \$30 million, authorities said on Wednesday.

A police report said Carmen Tisch punched and scratched the painting, an oil-on-canvas called "1957-J no 2", at the recently opened Clyfford Still museum in Denver and pulled her pants down to slide her buttocks against it.

Tisch was charged with felony criminal mischief on Wednesday and has been held on a \$20,000 bond since the incident in late December, said Lynn Kimbrough, spokeswoman for the Denver District Attorney's Office.

Kimbrough said Tisch urinated after she rubbed up against the canvas, but whether urine got on the painting was still under investigation, she said. Born in North Dakota in 1904, Still was considered one of the most influential of the American post-World War Two abstract expressionist artists, although he was not as well known as others such as Jackson Pollock.

Still died in 1980, and the city of Denver worked for years with his widow, Patricia, to secure the single-artist museum. She died in 2005, and her husband's collection was bequeathed to the city. Four of Still's works were auctioned by Sotheby's last year for \$114 million to endow the Denver museum, which opened with much fanfare in November.—Reuters

Wolf that crossed into Calif likely photographed

GRANTS PASS, 5 Jan—A young male gray wolf that wandered hundreds of miles across Oregon and eventually crossed into California as he searched for a mate has apparently been photographed for the first time.

The black-and-white photo shows a wolf sniffing the ground in a stand of dense forest. It is likely the animal known as OR-7, said Roblyn Schneider Brown, an Oregon state biologist.

The photo was taken 14 Nov by an automatic trail camera set up by a hunter tracking blacktail deer on public land east of Butte Falls.

Brown said the wolf in the photo appeared to be wearing a tracking collar, and GPS data showed that OR-7 was in the same area of the Cascades in southern Oregon around that time.

Though the 2-year-old wolf was captured and fitted with the collar by a state biologist last spring, OR-7 was not photographed. The animal made headlines last

month when it wandered into the southern Cascade Range, becoming the first wolf in southwestern Oregon since 1946. Last week, he crossed into California, which has not seen a wolf in more than 80 years.

Tracking data on Wednesday showed the wolf was staying out of trouble in a forested section of the Cascade Range in Northern

California and appeared to be heading south, said Mark Stopher of the California Department of Fish and Game.

"From Google Earth, it looks like it is habitat he can find both cover and food in," Stopher said. "A lot of people would like to see OR-7 become an Oregon wolf again. To me, it's a coin toss now what he is going to do."

Internet



This 14 Nov, 2011 photo from a trail camera appears to show OR-7, the young male wolf that has wandered hundreds of miles across Oregon and Northern California looking for a mate and a new home.

INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (333)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (333) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.1.2012 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

Physical activity, academic performance may be positively related

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan — A systematic review of previous studies suggests that there may be a positive connection between physical activity and children's academic performance, according to a report published on Monday in the *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*. A group of scientists at the Vrije Universiteit (Free University) Medical Centre in the Netherlands reviewed evidence on the relationship between physical activity and academic performance because of concerns that pressure to improve test scores may often mean more instructional time for classroom subjects with less time for physical activity.

The authors identified 10 observational and four interventional studies for review, 12 of which were done in the United States, one in Canada and one in South Africa. Sample sizes ranged from 53 to about 12,000 participants between the ages of eight years and 18 years old. Follow-up varied from eight weeks to more than five years. "According to the best

evidence synthesis, we found strong evidence of a significant positive relationship between physical activity and academic performance. The findings of one high-quality intervention study and one high-quality observational study suggest that being more physically active is positively related to improved academic performance in children," the report said.

Background information in the article suggests that exercise may help cognition by increasing blood and oxygen flow to the brain, increasing levels of norepinephrine and endorphin to decrease stress and improve mood, and increasing growth factors that help create new nerve cells and support synaptic plasticity. "More high-quality studies are needed on the dose-response relationship between physical activity and academic performance and on the explanatory mechanisms, using reliable and valid measurement instruments to assess this relationship accurately," the report concluded. — *Xinhua*



A 3D body painting work on the back of three models is seen in Fuzhou, capital of southeast China's Fujian Province, on 2 Jan, 2012. Artists performed a 3D body painting in Fuzhou on Monday, aiming to call for the protection of endangered animals. — *Xinhua*

A proactive approach to luck

BEIJING, 5 Jan — Superstitions live on in China because, as many doubters say, better safe than sorry. Li Yao reports. Imagine leaving a 12-year-old at home an entire day with doors and windows tightly closed, only to open them exactly at midnight with the child struggling to stay awake. Mao Weiwei, now 26, spent just such a day in the summer of 1997, supposedly for her own good. She needed to avoid the evil spirits and bad luck that were predicted to befall her on that particular day in the Year of the Ox.

"I dressed in pajamas, watching TV and eating a lot that day. The superstitious precautions followed word-by-word the advice of a fortuneteller my aunt had

visited." Mao's parents were indifferent to fortunetelling but wanted to be on the safe side for their only child. That makes them fairly typical in China. But her aunt, now 57, has always gone to great lengths to pursue good luck and dodge ill fortune. She invited Buddhist monks in Tibet to pray for Mao when she sat for college and graduate school entrance exams in 2004 and 2008.

"It cost about 2,000 yuan (\$320) each time for the service. My aunt would like to think my success in both exams was thanks to her efforts to ask for Buddha's blessings on my behalf. I know it is due to my own hard work," Mao said. She teaches at an English training centre in Beijing. — *Xinhua*



Passengers line up to buy tickets at a railway station in Hefei, capital of Anhui Province, on Sunday. The online ticket booking system was made to spare travelers the discomforts of buying tickets at stations during peak seasons, but it has been challenged by problems, including high demand. — *Xinhua*

Rail e-ticket sales get off-track

BEIJING, 5 Jan — People planning trips home for the upcoming Spring Festival, which begins on 23 Jan, may have been pleased to learn of the railways' new online ticket booking, but excitement has turned to frustration as huge Web traffic paralyzes the system, which at times cannot issue tickets already paid for. In Shanghai, a college student named Yang wrote in an online forum that he paid more than 200 yuan (\$32) for a ticket, but the booking website failed to place his order. He tried a second time and was successful, but he had to pay again, and he will have to wait to get that extra money back.

At least a dozen posts on online forums detail experiences similar to Yang's. Many other posts said the railway's telephone ticket hotline is easier to use and more reliable. Meanwhile, the crowds at train stations are growing. The number of people waiting to buy tickets at stations in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, has dramatically increased in re-

cent days, according to Chinese media. China Railway Customer Service Centre told *China Daily* on Monday it is trying to solve the problems and will return any extra payments within 15 working days.

A *China Daily* reporter logged onto the booking website, www.12306.cn, on Monday afternoon and tried without success to buy a ticket. — *Xinhua*



A university student (left) waits for her turn of fortunetelling in downtown Jinan, capital of East China's Shandong Province, in March. More and more Chinese who have a university education are turning to fortunetelling and divination. — *Xinhua*

Mount Rainier ranger shooting: Iraq veteran found dead

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan — The body of an Iraq war veteran wanted over the killing of a park ranger in Washington state has been found, officials have said. Officials found the suspected gunman, Benjamin Colton Barnes, in Mount Rainier National Park. The park has been closed since Margaret Anderson, 34, was shot dead while trying to stop a vehicle on Sunday morning. Barnes, 24, had also been linked to an earlier shooting at a New Year's party.

The body of Barnes, reported to have been suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, was found face down in the snow. Mount Rainier National Park Chief Ranger Chuck Young said that they were seeking to establish the exact cause

of death. "He was wearing a T-shirt, a pair of jeans and one tennis shoe. That was it," Pierce County Sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said. Police said they had also recovered his vehicle, which had weapons, body armour and survivalist gear inside.

The gunman sped past a park checkpoint that was monitoring vehicles for tyre chains, sometimes required in snowy conditions. As one ranger gave chase, mother-of-two Mrs Anderson blocked the road with her vehicle to stop the driver. Both of them were fired on, but only Mrs Anderson, who was married to another ranger, was hit. Response teams could not reach the wounded officer for nearly an hour-and-a-half because the gunman continued to shoot, the *Seattle Times* newspaper quotes officials as saying.

Police said Mr Barnes was also wanted for questioning over an early-morning shooting at a party in Skyway, just south of Seattle, which left four people injured, two critically. Witnesses said a number of revellers at the gathering had been armed and that gunfire broke out following an argument over a weapon.

Internet



Benjamin Barnes had been wanted for questioning before the manhunt began. — *INTERNET*

Philippine kidnappers demand \$2m for Australian

MANILA, 5 Jan — An Australian kidnapped by suspected Muslim extremists in the Philippines said his captors were demanding US\$2 million in ransom as he pleaded for his life in a video released Thursday.

A distressed-looking Warren Rodwell, who was seized from his home in the town of Ipil, on the troubled southern island of Mindanao, on 5 December, urged authorities to do all they can to secure his freedom.

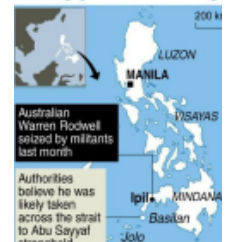
"To my family, please do whatever to raise the two

million US dollars they are asking for my release as soon as possible," the 53-year-old former soldier said in the video obtained by the Sydney Morning Herald.

"To the Australian embassy here in the Philippines, this is your constituent appealing for his life, his safety. Please help facilitate. "I was former army of my country but it's different here, particularly the terrain. The only solution to ensure my safety is to go with whatever they need.

Internet

Philippines kidnap



Map showing Mindanao in southern Philippines where a search is on for an Australian man kidnapped by an armed group at the beginning of December.

INTERNET

'Largest Aussie snake weighs 302 pounds

Workers at an Australian reptile park said Atomic Betty, a reticulated python believed to be the country's largest snake, weighed in at 302 pounds.

Staff at the Australian Reptile Park in Gosford said the 21-foot reptile weighed in Wednesday at 4 1/2 pounds heavier than at last year's total, *Sky News* reported Tuesday.

Tim Faulkner, the park's operations manager, said getting Atomic Betty out of her enclosure and to the scales area is a delicate operation, which this year took six reptile keepers a half hour. "The scary thing is that she has the ability to crush us," Faulkner said. "You've got about a second to grab (her head) because as we go down they've got extremely good vision and she is going to strike."



Divers perform dragon dance at an aquarium during an event to welcome the Year of Dragon in Beijing, capital of China, 5 Jan, 2012.

Mom gives birth on New Year's Day again

A Canadian woman gave birth for the second New Year's Day in a row, officials say.

Grace Olivia Ketcheson was born at the Medicine Hat, Alberta, hospital at 12:46 am Sunday, exactly 365 days and 4 minutes after her brother Jack was born at a Regina hospital, the *Medicine Hat News* reported. The daughter of Bobbi Joe and Kurtis Ketcheson weighed in at 4 1/2 pounds and she's 16 inches long, the newspaper said.

Because Grace was having trouble arriving, doctors were just about to perform a Caesarean section. But when a doctor went to grab a pen for her to sign a consent form, Bobbi Jo decided that wouldn't be necessary.

"That's when I just said screw it, I don't have time for a C-section," she said. "Somebody lift up the blanket and catch. She was born right there on the operating table."

The Ketchesons now have four children under the age of 4, the *News* said.

All four of her pregnancies apparently came despite some form of birth control, the newspaper said.

"We're like the two most fertile people in Canada," the mother joked. "It's like we don't even have to be in the same city."

World's oldest twins celebrate 102nd birthdays

The world's oldest twins celebrated their 102nd birthday together on Wednesday. Born on January 4, 1910, Ena Pugh and Lily Millward have spent each of their birthdays together.

They were presented with copies of the *Guinness World Records* book, which includes their entry. More from the *Daily Mail*: Lily's proud daughter Dianne Powell, 65, told Wales News Service: "My mum's recovering in hospital after she

slipped and fell just before Christmas. But she's in good spirits and enjoying the attention of being one of the world's oldest twins.

"Ena pops in to see her in hospital when she can - they are very close. And despite the terrible weather she made a special effort to get together on their birthday."

The English twins were born before the beginning of World War I, and they still meet up for weekly shopping trips and talk on the phone nearly every day. Lily Millward said "laughter and having a joke with each other" has been the secret to their longevity. "We used to work on the farm all day, but we would enjoy ourselves," Millward said. "It was a lot of fun and sociable. We've been very lucky and we have always had good health."

And the twins manage to get by without some modern technological innovations, including central heating. "Until my mum's accident, they would jump on a bus on



Family life: Sisters Ena Pugh, right, and Lily Millward have celebrated their 102nd birthday today, making them the world's oldest twins.

their own every Friday so they can go shopping together and have a chat over a cup of tea." Powell said. "And they ring each other almost every evening although they are both very hard of hearing—they can't really always know what the other is saying but just enjoy talking to each other."

News Album

'Paranormal Activity 4' in the works

LOS ANGELES, 5 Jan—Paramount Pictures plans to release a fourth low-budget "Paranormal Activity" movie this year, *The Hollywood Reporter* said.

No specific release date has been disclosed. Last year's "Paranormal Activity 3" cost \$5 million and took in \$202.2 million in box-office receipts worldwide.

The first entry in the spooky movie franchise, which opened in limited release in late 2009, cost \$15,000 to produce, then went on to gross \$193.4 million worldwide.

"Paranormal Activity 2" cost \$3 million and raked in \$177.5 million globally in 2010, *The Hollywood Reporter* said.—Internet



Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman arrive for the "Paranormal Activity 3" screening at Regal Union Square Stadium 14 in New York on 18 October, 2011.

INTERNET



Martial arts experts take part in a 'Legend of Bruce Lee' DVD Launch Flash Mob supported by JKD London outside Shepherd's Bush Tube Station on 4 January, 2012 in London, England.—INTERNET

Conrad Murray's license suspended

LOS ANGELES, 5 Jan—The California medical license of Conrad Murray, the cardiologist convicted in the death of singer Michael Jackson, has been suspended, officials said Tuesday.

Murray is serving a four-year prison sentence for involuntary manslaughter. He was found guilty of

administering lethal amounts of anesthesia and sedative to Jackson in his home to help the pop star sleep, then failing to come to Jackson's aid when he was in distress.

The cardiologist also was criticized during his trial for not having emergency equipment on hand or keeping records of his

treatment of the recording artist. TMZ said the Medical Board of California Tuesday ordered Murray to turn over his medical certificate within 15 days. The celebrity news Web site said a medical license is automatically suspended when a doctor is convicted of a felony and sent to prison.—Internet



Dr Conrad Murray sits in court during his trial in the death of pop star Michael Jackson in Los Angeles on 7 October, 2011.—INTERNET

'21' tops US album chart

LOS ANGELES, 5 Jan—Adele's "21" is No 1 on the US album chart for a 14th non-consecutive week, Billboard.com reported Wednesday.

Coming in at No 2 on the Billboard 200 is Drake's "Take Care," followed by Young Jeezy's "TM103: Hustlerz Ambition" at No 3, Lady Antebellum's "Own the Night" at No 4 and LMFAO's "Sorry for Party Rocking" at No 5.

Rounding out the top tier are Florence + the Machine at No 6, The Black Keys' "El Camino" at No 7, Coldplay's "Mylo Xyloto" at No 8, Rihanna's "Talk a Talk" at No 9 and the "Now 40" compilation CD at No 10.—Internet

Apes, wizards, robots make the cut in Oscar VFX race

LOS ANGELES, 5 Jan—Superheroes will square off against wizards and apes will do battle with pirates in the next round of the Academy Awards' Visual Effects race. The Academy announced on Wednesday that the field has been narrowed from 15 films to 10 by the Visual Effects Branch's Executive Committee. The remaining films include all of the presumed favorites, including "Rise of the Planet of the Apes," "Hugo," "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2" and "Transformers: Dark of the Moon."

Terrence Malick's "The Tree of Life," which has a 20-minute effects sequence early in the film, also moved on to the next round, a "bakeoff" in which clips from the 10 semifinalists will be shown to voters at the Academy on 19 January. After that presentation, branch members will vote and the field of 10 will be cut

in half to produce the final five nominees.

The most surprising cut from the list of 15 is probably "Super 8," with its spectacular train-crash sequence. Other films that were eliminated are "Cowboys & Aliens," "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," "Sucker Punch" and "Thor."

The shortlist: "Captain America: The First Avenger" "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2"

"Hugo" "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol" "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides"

"Real Steel" "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" "The Tree of Life" "X-Men: First Class".—Internet

2nd Beijing Int'l Film Festival to open in April

BEIJING, 5 Jan—The 2nd Beijing International Film Festival is scheduled to run from 23 to 28 April, organizers have announced. There will be no competition section this year, and the festival will select a number of nominated or award-winning flicks from last year's international film festivals. Highlights will include a film market for producers and buyers, a film carnival that brings filmgoers and filmmakers together, and a seminar of major global studios' executives. The film market at last year's festival sealed deals worth nearly 3 billion yuan (476.7 million US dollars).

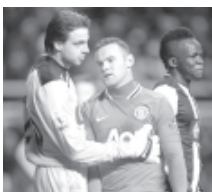
Internet



Guests wear "Transformers Cine-Mask 3D Masks" as they prepare to watch a special preview from the new "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" movie during the Transformers Hall of Fame inductions ceremony at Hasbro's 2011 Transformers "BotCon" Convention in Pasadena, California, on 4 June, 2011.

INTERNET

United's title hopes hit by 3-0 loss at Newcastle



Newcastle United's Dutch goalkeeper Tim Krul (L) reacts after stopping Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (C) from scoring next to Ivorian midfielder Cheik Tiote (R) at St James' Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, England.—INTERNET

NEWCASTLE, 5 Jan — Newcastle conceded Manchester United to a second straight loss in the English Premier League by thrashing Alex Ferguson's side 3-0 at St James' Park on Wednesday.

United slipped three points behind league leader

Manchester City after sublime strikes by Demba Ba and Yohan Cabaye either side of halftime were added to by a calamitous own goal by Phil Jones in the 90th minute.

Coming four days after a shock 3-2 upset at the hands of Blackburn, United's latest defeat also left the reigning champions just three points above third-place Tottenham in what is shaping up to be a three-horse race for the title.

Newcastle United's Ryan Taylor (R) vies with Manchester United's South Korean midfielder Park Ji-Sung (L) at St James' Park, Newcastle upon Tyne. INTERNET



"We have had our opportunity and it's advantage to Man City," said Ferguson, whose team's next game is against its cross-town rival in the third round of the FA Cup on Sunday.

Newcastle's strike pairing of Ba, who grabbed his 15th goal of the campaign, and Shola Ameobi bullied United's defense all night while the returning Wayne Rooney had a frustrating game before being substituted in the 74th.—INTERNET

Williams withdraws from Brisbane with injury

BRISBANE, 5 Jan — One thought entered Serena Williams' mind as she sprawled across the baseline after injuring her ankle: "Not again!"

Yet another Australian Open campaign is in doubt due to injury—she missed the 2002, 2004 and 2011 editions because she was hurt. In between, she has won five Australian titles and lost only twice at Melbourne Park.

In her first tournament since losing the US Open final in September, Williams was serving for the match with a 6-2, 5-3 lead against Bojana Jovanovski of Serbia on Wednesday when she twisted her left ankle and crashed heavily to the court.—INTERNET

David Moyes unhappy with Everton's performance after Bolton defeat

LIVERPOOL, 5 Jan — Everton boss David Moyes insisted his side got what it deserved in its 2-1 loss at home to Bolton Wanderers.



Everton's Argentine forward Denis Stracqualursi (L) and Bolton Wanderers' English defender Gary Cahill compete during the English Premier League football match at Goodison Park, Liverpool. INTERNET

Everton led thanks to goalkeeper Tim Howard's clearance which looped over opposite number Adam Bogdan in the windy conditions, but fine finishes from David Ngog and Gary Cahill handed Bolton its fifth victory of the season, lifting the club off the bottom of the Premier League.

"We didn't deserve to be in front and Bolton deserved to win the game so I've got no qualms with the result because you can't perform like that and expect to win," said Moyes.

"The conditions are never good to play in like that but both teams have to play in it. I think it's easier to play away from home when it's like that because you have to make a bit of play but we didn't make any play tonight.—INTERNET

Suarez apologizes if racial slur caused offense

LONDON, 5 Jan — Liverpool striker Luis Suarez issued a conditional public apology for the first time on Wednesday for racially abusing Manchester United defender Patrice Evra, while maintaining he felt he had done nothing wrong. Suarez was banned for eight matches and fined 40,000 pounds (\$62,000) for calling Evra "Negro" or "Negros" seven times in October during a 1-1 draw at Anfield.

The Uruguay international said on Tuesday he would reluctantly accept the punishment while stressing that his comments, in Spanish, during the confrontation had been lost in translation. The 24-year-old forward has conceded that his conduct might have caused offense but said it was not intended to do so.

"I admitted to the (English Football Association) commission that I said a word in Spanish once, and only once and I told the panel members that I will not use it again on a football pitch in England," Suarez said Wednesday in a statement provided by Liverpool. "I never, ever used this word in a derogatory way and if it offends anyone then I want to apologize for that."

Suarez, though, did not apologize directly to Evra, the black France international whose conduct has been questioned by Liverpool. Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish is still incensed by the verdict last month by the disciplinary panel.—INTERNET

Lisicki bows out in Auckland with back injury

AUCKLAND, 5 Jan — Top-seeded Sabine Lisicki retired from her quarterfinal match in the ASB Bank Classic on Thursday because of a back injury, compromising her preparation for the Australian Open.

Lisicki, ranked 15th, trailed unseeded German compatriot Angelique Kerber 6-4, 4-3 when she withdrew. The 22-year-old player left the court after the first set to receive treatment.—INTERNET

Nadal, Federer reach quarterfinals at Qatar Open



Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to Denis Gremelmayer of Germany during their ATP Qatar Open tennis match at the Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex in Doha.—INTERNET

DOHA, 5 Jan — Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer eased into the Qatar Open quarterfinals in rare cool and windy conditions in Doha on Wednesday.

Nadal routed German qualifier Denis Gremelmayer 6-2, 6-2, while Federer overcame Slovenia qualifier Grega Zemlja 6-2, 6-3.

Federer won his 19th straight match dating to his US Open semifinal loss to top-ranked Novak Djokovic. Federer and Nadal were joined by the sixth-ranked Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who saved two set points in the first set before defeating Flavio Cipolla of Italy 7-6

(8), 6-3. Nadal will face Mikhail Youzhny of Russia, while Federer will play Andreas Seppi of Italy. Tsonga will face Albert Ramos of Spain. Also, sixth-seeded Alex Bogomolov Jr. of Russia withdrew from the tournament with a right ankle injury, becoming the first seeded player not to advance.

In the late match, 15th-ranked Gael Monfils of France got past Benjamin Becker 7-5, 4-6, 7-5. He'll play Viktor Troicki of Serbia in the quarterfinals.

Monfils hit his left knee with his racket in the second set, fell to the ground and sought medical attention. He said he had slight pain but expected to play on Thursday.—INTERNET



Barcelona beats Osasuna 4-0 in Copa del Rey



FC Barcelona's Cesc Fabregas, right, reacts after scoring his second goal against Osasuna during the first leg of a round of 16 Copa del Rey soccer match at the Camp Nou stadium, in Barcelona, Spain.—INTERNET

BARCELONA, 5 Jan — Lionel Messi recovered from a flu quicker than Barcelona expected and netted a brace as a substitute in a 4-0 win over Osasuna in the first leg of their Copa del Rey series on Wednesday.

With Messi starting on the bench and David Villa out with a broken leg, Cesc Fabregas launched the rout by scoring off passes from Xavi Hernandez in the 14th and 19th minutes to take his goal tally to 13 goals in all competitions this season.

Showing no signs of illness, Messi, who was a last-minute inclusion in the squad, went on after halftime.

Switzerland's Roger Federer returns the ball to Grega Zemlja of Slovenia during the Qatar ATP Open Tennis tournament in Doha, Qatar, on Wednesday.—INTERNET

ness, Messi headed in Fabregas' cross in the 72nd and capped the win in stoppage time.

"They first said Messi had a fever and was going home, (then) he comes out and scores two goals. What can we do?" said Osasuna coach Jose Mendilibar, whose team entered the night undefeated in its last seven matches. "It would be a miracle to make it to the next round now. We are going to forget about the Copa and focus on the league."

Even though earlier in the day Barcelona had said Messi would miss the match

because of the flu, he was included after "responding well to treatment," according to the club. Barcelona's latest win added to its more than impressive numbers on the season. Guardiola's team has outscored opponents 37-1 in eight straight victories since losing 1-0 at Getafe and hasn't conceded a goal in 12 straight home games while scoring 53 times.

"A 4-0 win is an excellent result," Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola said. "But the knockout series is not over. We have to go to Pamplona and play for 90 more minutes.—INTERNET

Osasuna's Brazilian defender Roversio Rodrigues de Barros (L) vies with Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (R) during the Spanish Cup football match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona. INTERNET



Omar Gonzalez and George John pull out of January USA camp

NEW YORK, 5 Jan — Both Omar Gonzalez and George John have withdrawn from the upcoming January US national team camp. A Press release issued by US Soccer cited "club-related matters," with loans or transfers away from Major League Soccer probable.

Gonzalez won the 2011 MLS Defender of the Year award and, at 23, anchored the LA Galaxy's run to the Supporters' Shield and MLS Cup. The Galaxy confirmed via Twitter that he is pursuing an off-season loan opportunity. John, 24, helped lead FC Dallas to the 2010 MLS Cup final and was close to joining Blackburn Rovers last summer.

Neither is tied to the United States internationally. Gonzalez, despite two US caps, qualifies to play for Mexico as a dual citizen. John was called up by Greece in May 2011, but turned down the invitation.—INTERNET

Yahoo names PayPal President Thompson as its CEO

NEW YORK, 5 Jan—Yahoo Inc has named Scott Thompson, president of eBay Inc's PayPal division, as its new CEO.

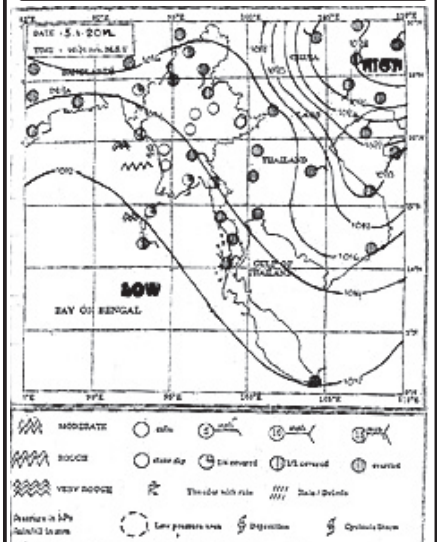
The struggling Internet company, which announced its choice Wednesday, has been without a permanent CEO since early September. It fired Carol Bartz after losing patience with her attempts to turn around the company during her 2 1/2 years on the job. Tim Morse, Yahoo's chief financial officer, has been interim CEO since Bartz's ouster.

Thompson has served as president of PayPal, eBay's online payment service, since January 2008. He previously served as PayPal's senior vice-president and chief technology officer. Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Yahoo said Thompson's new job starts from 9 Jan. Morse will return to his CFO post. Yahoo chairman Roy Bostock said Thompson's track record of building on existing resources "to reignite innovation and drive growth" is "precisely the formula we need at Yahoo."—Internet



In this photograph taken by AP Images for PayPal, PayPal President Scott Thompson demos upcoming technologies at the PayPal Shopping Showcase on 2 Nov, 2011, in New York.—INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 6th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	24/75	13/55	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	26/82	14/57	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayah	34/93	19/66	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
4	Chin	16/61	09/48	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sgawng	24/75	13/55	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
6	Lower Sgawng	32/90	16/61	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
7	Tanintharyi	34/93	23/73	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	32/90	20/68	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	31/88	18/64	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	20/64	16/64	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
11	Mon	34/93	21/70	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
12	Yangon	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	30/86	21/70	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	23/73	12/54	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	25/77	10/50	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	26/79	13/55	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
17	Ayeyarwady	33/91	20/68	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	32/90	20/68	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	34/93	20/68	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	20/64	16/64	Partly cloudy	

During the past (24) hours, rain has been scattered Kachin State, isolated in Upper Sgawng, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Regions, Shan, Chin and Mon States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Lower Sgawng, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kayah and Kayah States, (5°C) to (6°C) above January average temperatures in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, (7°C) above January average temperatures in Chin and Mon States and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature was An (8°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Putao and Myit (0.16) inch each.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman sea and Bay of Bengal.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperature in the Upper Myanmar Areas.

Continued from yesterday...

January transfer window

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.

Potential Football League and SPL Movers

JAMESTOMKINS (22, centre-back) West Ham United: Talented England Under-21 central defender who could be snapped up by a top-flight club should they be looking to strengthen their backline.



ROBERT SNODGRASS (24, winger) Leeds United: Had appendix surgery at Christmas but wants to cement his place in the Scotland team. A Premier League club could target him.



JORDAN RHODES (21, forward) Huddersfield Town: Has already scored 19 League One goals and West Ham have declared a strong interest in the English-born Scottish international.



LEWIS MCGUGAN (23, midfielder) Nottingham Forest: With Forest struggling, he may be sold by Steve Cotterill to bring in more players. His thunderbolt shooting is his greatest asset.



LIAM RIDGEWELL (27, centre-back) Birmingham: The defender had a transfer request rejected in August. Nothing has changed for him to rethink his decision about leaving.



WILFRIED ZAHA (19, forward) Crystal Palace: Impressed against Manchester United in their Carling Cup win, the England Under-19 man possesses all the qualities to be a top striker.



NICKY MAYNARD (25, forward) Bristol City: After refusing to sign a new contract, he has been told he can leave Ashton Gate. There won't be any shortage of managers wanting him.



NIKICA JELAVIC (26, forward) Rangers: Nearly moved to Leicester in the summer, the Croatian will be looking to test himself in England and plenty of clubs will be lining up for him.



To be continued . . .

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(6-1-12 09:30 am ~ 7-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

- * News
- * Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation (Roads & Bridges)
- * 5th Day of Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium (2011)
- * News
- * A Famous Festive Feature (Shwe Maw Daw Padoga Festival) (Part-II)
- * Royal Beauty
- * Myanma Culture Profile Myanmar Longyi & Changing Fashion Trend (Part-2)
- * News
- * Herbal Medicines By Thurein (Ta Bin Tine Mya Nan) Vitis
- * Distinct People Different Lifestyles (Pan Pack Village)
- * Record Album
- * Hazards of Smoking (Part-2)
- * Myanmar Movies "Only Mom... Can"

MYANMAR TV

(6-1-2012) (Friday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. Dhama Puja Song
- 8:00 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:30 am
- 4. Teleplay (Health)
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 4:00 am
- 6. Martial Song
- 4:20 pm
- 7. Song of National Races
- 4:25 pm
- 8. Myanmar Language
- 5:15 pm
- 9. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 5:20 pm
- 10. Sport Highlight
- 5:30 pm
- 11. Documentary
- 7:00 pm
- 12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. Traffic Song
- 15. Just for Laughs (Gags Asia)
- 16. TV Drama Series
- 17. Song Lovers

Loans disbursed to pig breeders

DISTRICT NEWS



LAUNGLON, 5 Jan—The Livestock Breeding and Meat and Fish Production Development Subcommittee disbursed loans for livestock breeding task, which is a point of Taninthayi Region Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Committee, at the Dhammayon of Theindawya Monastery in Thabyeshaung Village of Launglon Township on 22 December. Departmental officials presented K 6.55 million to 29 members of two pig breeding groups of Thabyeshaung and Thakyettaw villages.—Township IPRD

Winners awarded in extempore talks

YANGON, 5 Jan—Dagon Myothit (North) Township Information and Public Relations Department and Township Education Office jointly organized the middle and high school level extempore talks at Basic Education High School No. 2 in the township on 22 December.

Altogether 11 students participated in the contest. Representatives of Region Hluttaw and officials awarded the winners.—Township IPRD



President U Thein Sein receives Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army and party



President U Thein Sein and Indian goodwill delegation led by Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh have a documentary photo taken.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a goodwill delegation led by Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh of India at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Residence, here, at 4 pm today.

Present on the occasion together with President U

Thein Sein were Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Hla Min, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and departmental heads.

The Indian delegation led by the Chief of the Army

Staff of the Indian Army was accompanied by Indian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri.

They cordially discussed matters on friendly relations and cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries.—MNA



President U Thein Sein receives a goodwill delegation led by Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army General Vijay Kumar Singh.—MNA

6656 prisoners granted amnesty, 38964 get clemency

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—A total of 6656 prisoners—569 women and 6087 men—enjoyed amnesty as from 3 January, 2012, after the President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar had announced the Order No. 1/2012 on 2 January, 2012.

The order was issued as a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day and for the sake of State peace and stability, the rule of law, national solidarity and on grounds of humanitarian and the President has granted an amnesty for the prisoners from various jails in accord with

Section 204 (b) of the Constitution.

Besides, the death sentences of 33 prisoners—31 men and two women—were commuted to life imprisonment, over 30-year sentences of 1118 prisoners—988 men and 130 women—were reduced to 30-year sentences, from 20 year sentences to 30-year sentences of 2702 prisoners—2300 men and 402 women—were commuted to 20-year sentences and under 20-year sentences of 35111 prisoners—29855 men and 5256 women—were reduced by a quarter of their prison terms.—MNA