

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIX, Number 262

Fullmoon Day of Pyatho 1373 ME

Sunday, 8 January, 2012

Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Educative Show and Contest opened

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—The 4th Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Educative Show and Contest was opened at Aungmyingala Bus Terminal in Pyinmana this morning.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Thant Shin, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee U Saw Hla and Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Major-General Kyaw Kyaw Tun formally opened the show and contest.

Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt and guests visited the booths on traffic rules of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee, Myanmar Police Force, Directorate of Road

Transport, Ministry of Rail Transportation, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Ministry of Industry, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, Information and

Public Relations Department, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.

The prize presentation ceremony was held at Kandaw Mingala Hall. Union

Minister U Thein Nyunt delivered an opening address.

Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory



Our Three Main National Causes

- * Non-disintegration of the Union
- * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
- * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Committee U Saw Hla presented prizes to winners in the high and middle school level essay, poem, poster and primary level painting contests, open level poem and article contests and gave certificates of honour to officials of the ministries, wellwishers who contributed to decoration of the ceremony and members of the panel of judges.

MNA

Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt presents prize to a prize-winner in 4th Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Educative Show and Contest.

MNA

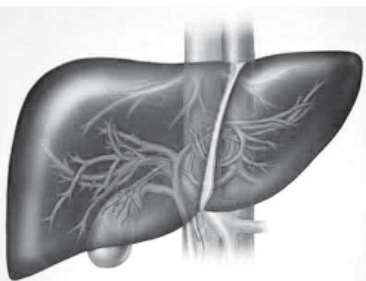
Development of gymnastic sports discussed

YANGON, 7 Jan—Myanmar Gymnastics Federation organized the meeting on development of Myanmar gymnastic sport at its gymnasium in Kyaikkasan Ground of Tamway Township, here, this morning.

Deputy Director-General U Naw Tawng of Sports and Physical Education Department made a speech. President of MGF U Thein Win discussed a topic on turning out outstanding gymnastic athletes, gymnastic enthusiasts, former coaches and former medallists a topic on assistance for enhancement of gymnastic sports and general sector.

Later, gymnastic athletes demonstrated their excellent sport skills.—MNA

Liver drug may cause serious side-effects



OTTAWA, 7 Jan—A drug used to treat some types of liver disease has been found to cause serious side-effects in certain patients, manufacturers of the medication said Monday in a joint advisory with Health Canada.

Ursodiol is also called ursodeoxycholic acid. Sold by several pharmaceutical companies under a variety of brand names, the drug is used to treat patients with a liver disease known as primary sclerosing cholangitis.

Sclerosing cholangitis is a condition marked by swelling, scarring and destruction of the bile ducts inside and outside the liver. The disease may occur in patients with other conditions, including autoimmune disorders, chronic pancreatitis and inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's or ulcerative colitis).

In a clinical study, patients given twice the recommended dose of ursodiol had improved serum liver test results, but overall had more serious adverse events — including swollen veins of the digestive tube, the need for a liver transplant, or death — compared with patients given a placebo.

Primary sclerosing cholangitis may also be associated with these serious events during progression of the disease.

Internet

Elimination of illegal timber extraction, environmental conservation talked in Tamu

TAMU, 6 Jan—A talk on elimination of illegal timber extraction and environmental conservation was held at Pantha Village Basic Education Middle School (Branch) of Tamu Township, Tamu District, Sagaing Region, on 1 January.

Tamu District Forest Department Assistant Director U Kyaw Min Thein explained measures to be taken for elimination of illegal timber extraction and environmental conservation; District Information and Public Information Department Staff Officer U Mana Htan environmental conservation tasks and Township Forest Department Staff Officer U Aye Kyaw facts about forestry laws. Then, educative pamphlets were distributed to the local people.

District IPRD

Talks on anti-human trafficking held

BAGO, 7 Jan—A talk on anti-trafficking in person was organized by Bago District Police Force at the meeting hall of the commander of District Police Force in Bago on 2 January.

Four police officers gave talks on diassemination on prevention against trafficking in person to be undertaken by Bago District Police Force and role of MPF.—Myanma Alin

World's first chimeric monkeys created by fusing six embryos into one



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London Olympics volunteers warned over social media use

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Japan to shut nuke reactors after 40 years of use

PAGE 6

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 8 January, 2012

Well done!

The people of Myanmar paid homage to the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic that was recently conveyed from the People's Republic of China to Myanmar and made donations with great generosity. The cash and kind donations by Myanmar citizens in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay amounted to about US\$ 4 million, 62 kinds of foreign currencies, various items of jewellery worth over K 958 million, gems and ornaments worth over K 1269 million, and five million Euro for carving Buddha image and related items to be kept at Buddha Tooth Relic Temple up to 20 December 2011.

Myanmar people have deep faith in the Lord Buddha. They always take Refuge dedicating to the Lord Buddha in doing meritorious deeds.

Despite paying homage in a short time, all the Myanmar people have been keeping the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic in their hearts and minds forever. Piety of Myanmar people was wonderful and their activities motivated the witnesses to say "Well done!"

Spending the various donations, a plan is underway to build a pagoda whose design is similar to Shwedagon Pagoda in Luoyang of the People's Republic of China. Those people of Myanmar who made cash and kind donations while the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic was conveyed in Myanmar will be donors of that pagoda.

Everybody who pays obeisance to the pagoda would praise the generous donations of Myanmar people and say "Well done!" for their meritorious deeds. All the persons who performed meritorious deeds should maintain the great virtuous actions forever. Paying homage to the sacred tooth relic dedicating to the Lord Buddha as a cause will multiply meritorious activities as an effect for the devotees.

All the people must be dedicated to the Lord Buddha by paying deep homage and respects to the pagoda. As such, their activities will be deepest respects to be paid to the Lord Buddha in performing meritorious deeds in the past, at present and in future.

Community Forest Users' Group meets

MOHNYIN, 7 Jan—The Annual Meeting of Community Forest Users' Group was held in Pinhe Village of Mohnyin Township on 31 December 2011.

Township Administrator U Sai San Win made a speech. An official of Township Forest Department explained rules and regulations of the department.

Project Officer U Moe Moe of Kachin Conservation and Community Forest (KCCF) also explained establishment of communal forests for environmental conservation and for benefiting the local people.

Community forests have been established in three villages of Putao Township, two villages in Waingmaw Township, one village each in Mogaung and Myitkyina townships and three villages in Mohnyin Township, said Project Officer U Moe Moe.

NLM 001

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Union Cooperatives Minister attends meeting of cooperatives development subcommittee

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan— The meeting 1/2012 of the cooperatives development subcommittee for rural development and poverty alleviation, yesterday morning held at the Ministry of Cooperatives' meeting hall, heard an address of Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint.

In his speech, the Union Minister said that monthly endeavours to accomplish the tasks need to be assessed in accord with the laid-out eight plans for the rural development and poverty alleviation; that the trainees who had finished

the two-year diploma course of the cooperatives colleges are favoured so as to serve in cooperatives teams and companies or the Conco shops to be launched in livestock and breeding, forestry and agricultural schools; and that it needs to cooperate with GEC cooperatives teams in upgrading fisheries, breeding of milch cows and poultry farming.

The Union Minister yesterday noon attended the meeting of the subcommittee for livestock and fisheries development, took place at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.—MNA

Chairman of Union Civil Services Board U Kyaw Thu addresses coordination meeting of UCSB.—MNA



UCSB holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan — Union Civil Services Board held its coordination meeting at the office of the board here yesterday.

The meeting was opened with an address by Chairman of the board U Kyaw Thu.

At the meeting, directors-general and rectors of the departments and universities under the UCSB and head of office reported on completion of the work of the board and future plans for 2012.—MNA

Long-distance race organized

TATKON, 7 Jan—To mark the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, Shwethinkha Education Development Foundation and Alin-ein Library jointly organized the men's long-distance race in Anawrahta Ward of Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 4 January.

Township Administrator U Aye Lu presented first, second and third prizes to the winners and members of the library committee, consolation prizes to the respective winners.—Kyemon

4th Horizon Open Table Tennis Tournament 28-29 Jan

YANGON, 6 Jan—Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon), Myanmar Table Tennis Federation and Horizon Sport Academy will jointly hold the 4th Horizon Open Table Tennis Tournament at Horizon International School on Shukhintha Ringroad on 28 and 29 January.

The competition will be categorized as girls' U12, women's U-15 and women's open, boys' U-12, men's U-15, men's 18, men's amateur and men's open individual classes. Applications for the tourney may be taken out from Table Tennis Club of Ministry of Defence, Horizon International School (Po Sein Campus and Shukhintha Campus) and www.horizonmyanmar.com and may be submitted to the federation and the school (Po Sein Campus) not later than 23 January. For further information, dial 543926, 541085, 551795 and 551796.

Myanma Alin

LOCAL SPORTS



Khittaya Myothit wins Pyay Administrator's Cup

PYAY, 7 Jan—The Pyay Township Administrator's Cup Football Tournament reached the final and prize awarding ceremony at Mingala Shwepyithar Sports Ground in Pyay on 26 December afternoon.

Khittaya Myothit Ward beat Hsandaw Ward 7-6 in the final match. The township administrator presented championship shield to the first prize winning team and officials, prizes to respective winning teams.

Township IPRD

DISTRICT NEWS

Broiler breeders group organized

YE, 6 Jan—To be able to develop rural areas and alleviate poverty, the poultry farming production group was organized in Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of Lamaing Sub-Township on 18 December.

Staff Officer Dr Daw Khin Saw Kyi of Ye Township LBVD explained facts about blue-ear pig disease and distributed pamphlets and posters to the people.

Later, broiler breeder group was formed.

Township IPRD



Namhkam gets asphalt road

NAMHKAM, 6 Jan—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, Kyarbyu tarred road was opened in Namhkam on 1 January.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Sai Kyaw Ohn and local authorities formally opened the road.—Township DAC

Three freight trains derail in Indiana, cars burn

VALPARAISO, (Ind), 7 Jan—Three freight trains derailed in northwest Indiana on Friday, leaving several mangled train cars on their sides along the tracks and forcing nearby



The scene of a freight train collision and derailment is seen, on 6 Jan, 2012 near Valparaiso, Ind. Three freight trains derailed after a collision in northwest Indiana, officials said Friday, leaving several mangled train cars on their sides along the tracks and black smoke billowing from burning tankers.—INTERNET

residents to temporarily leave home as smoke billowed from the wreckage.

Two of six crew members were taken to the hospital after the accident that happened about 2:15 pm in an area of rural farmland northeast of Valparaiso, Porter County Sheriff's Sgt Larry LaFlower said. He said their injuries were not considered life-threatening.

A CSX train that had been pulling mostly empty tankers of ethanol stopped on the tracks and was rear-ended by a second train, LaFlower said. A third train on parallel tracks then came up and struck the derailed cars.

CSX said in a statement that there appeared to be no significant leaks or spills of hazardous materials, but that all loaded and empty hazardous materials cars were inspected.

Officials evacuated 50 to 150 homes within about a mile of the tracks as a precaution, LaFlower said, in part because officials were uncertain about the source of the billowing black smoke that lingered for hours after the accident.

"It's unknown what is actually on fire. Once we get it out, we will be able to ascertain that a lot better," LaFlower said.

INTERNET



In this photo released by US Navy, a US Navy SH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter provides support to a visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team in a 7-metre rigid-hull inflatable boat, assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd (DDG 100) in the Arabian Sea on 5 Jan, 2012.

XINHUA

US Navy rescues 13 Iranians taken hostage by Somali pirates

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan—The US Navy said on Friday that it has rescued 13 Iranian hostages held by Somali pirates in Arabian Sea, days after tension escalated as Iran warned against the return to the Gulf by a US aircraft carrier strike group.

The US guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd, part of the USS John C Stennis aircraft carrier strike group which just departed the Gulf days ago, responded to a distress call from the Iranian boat Al Molai, held by Somali

pirates for more than 40 days, the US Navy said in a statement.

A US Navy team from the USS Kidd was taken by a helicopter to board the Iranian boat, used as a "mother ship" by the pirates, and detained 15 pirates, who surrendered quickly without any resistance.

"The Al Molai had been taken over by pirates for roughly the last 40-45 days," said Josh Schminky, a Navy Criminal Investigative Service agent aboard the Kidd. "They were held hostage, with limited rations, and we believe were forced against their will to assist the pirates with other piracy operations."

The Iranians were freed and headed home after the US Navy team gave them food, water and medical care.

The rescue operation came amid rising tension between the US and Iran, whose military chief on Tuesday warned Washington against sending the aircraft carrier back to the Gulf.—Xinhua

10 NATO soldiers killed in Afghanistan since early January

KABUL, 7 Jan—Ten service members with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) have lost their lives in the militancy-plagued Afghanistan since the beginning of this year.

The latest casualties for the military alliance in Afghanistan were the killing of four soldiers in the restive southern region on Friday, bringing its casualties to eight since Thursday and ten since the beginning of this year.

"Four service members of International Security Assistance Force were killed in a roadside bomb in south Afghanistan today," the alliance said in a statement released here Friday.

However, it did not reveal the nationalities of the victims and the exact place of the incident.

Earlier, the military alliance in separate statements confirmed losing one and three service members in two separate incidents in the southern region.—Xinhua



Afghan policemen are seen at the scene of Tuesday's night explosion in Kandahar, south of Kabul, Afghanistan on 4 Jan, 2012. Officials say three explosions in a day have killed 13 people in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

INTERNET

Russian warships heading for Syria

MOSCOW, 7 Jan—The Russian Navy's warships patrolling the eastern Mediterranean Sea were heading for a Syrian port, the state-owned Iтар-Tass news agency reported on Friday. The warships were scheduled to arrive in Tartus, a point of logistics supplies of the Russian navy on Saturday, according to preliminary information.

"It is planned that the port of Tartus will be visited by a big anti-submarine ship of the Northern Fleet 'Admiral Chabanenko' and an escort ship 'Yaroslav Mudry'," Iтар-Tass quoted a source with the Russian Navy as saying.

"Our ships are supposed to stay in Syria for several days," the source said, without giving more details about the warships' mission in the country.

Russian Navy dispatched their warships to the Mediterranean sea in November, and claimed the move was part of scheduled exercises and had no connection with the situation in Syria.

The warships, led by "Admiral Kuznetsov", the country's only aircraft carrier, have started their patrol missions in the Northeast Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea since 6 Dec to "ensure the security of the sea navigation and other Russian maritime economic activities," according to Russian Navy.—Xinhua



A man inspects the scene of a bomb attack in Kazimiyah in the north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 6 Jan, 2012. On Thursday a series of bombings targeting members of Iraq's Shi'ite Muslim majority killing and injuring dozens of Iraqis, police said.

INTERNET

Iran plans more naval exercises in Hormuz Strait

BEIJING, 7 Jan—Iran has announced plans for new military exercises in the world's most important oil shipping lane. This is its latest gesture towards the West, as new sanctions threaten Teheran's oil exports.

Real Admiral Ali Fadavi, naval commander of the Revolutionary Guards Corps, said exercises next month would focus directly on the Strait of Hormuz. Leading up to this, Iran held a 10-day drill which ended on Monday in neighbouring seas. Fadavi said Iran has full domination over the region and controls all movements within it.

Iran has threatened in recent weeks to block the strait if new sanctions harm Teheran's oil exports. This week Iran warned they would take action if the United States sails an aircraft carrier through it.

Xinhua

Children, troops, police die in bloody Afghan day

KABUL, 7 Jan—Six children, five soldiers, three policemen and a civilian died in another bloody day in Afghanistan's long war on Friday, officials said.

The children and the civilian man were killed when a bomb planted in a garbage bin exploded in Tirin Kot, capital of Afghanistan's southern Province of Uruzgan, police said.

Four other children who were playing nearby were wounded, said the police spokesman, Farid Ayel.

There was no obvious target for the bombing,

although the home of a local police commander was nearby, he said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but this type of attack is regularly blamed on Taliban militants seeking to overthrow the Western-backed government of President Hamid Karzai.

Karzai condemned the killings, blaming them on "terrorists".

Earlier in a day of violence in the war-weary country, five NATO soldiers were killed in two roadside bomb blasts, also

in southern Afghanistan.

More than 560 foreign troops were killed last year in Afghanistan, where some 130,000 US-led troops are fighting the Taliban militancy alongside the Afghan army and police. Also on Friday, a policeman turned his gun on his colleagues in their headquarters of Shahrak district, central Ghor province, killing two before being gunned down himself, deputy provincial police chief Abdul Rashid said.

INTERNET



Graphic showing location of Uruzgan province in Afghanistan. At least six children and one man were killed when a bomb planted in a garbage bin exploded Friday in Tirin Kot, capital of Afghanistan's southern Province of Uruzgan, police said.

INTERNET

**Health Tip:
Make eating
a family
affair**

It's easier to eat healthy when everybody in the family is practicing the same nutritional habits. The American Academy of Family Physicians offers these suggestions to help the whole family eat healthy:

- * Cook meals at home, together as a family.
- * Encourage your kids to help you plan snacks and meals.
- * Stock up on healthy snacks.
- * Make sure your children understand they should only eat when they're hungry, rather than when they're bored or emotional.
- * Make sure the whole family eats breakfast.
- * Take turns putting down your forks and talking about your day during meals.—Internet



Germans, Czechs warn on French breasts implants

PARIS, 7 Jan—Germany and the Czech Republic advised women Friday to have potentially faulty breast implants made by French firm PIP removed, but Britain said it was not convinced of the need. Germany's Federal Institute for Medications and Medical Products (BfArM) recommended that implants made by the firm at the heart of the scandal should be removed "as a precautionary measure". The Czech health ministry gave similar advice to up to 2,000 women there. And while Britain said there was no evidence requiring a general recommendation to remove the implants of some

40,000 women, it said those who had received them from the state-run National Health Service could have the prostheses removed free of charge. About 300,000 women in 65 countries are estimated to have received implants made by Poly Implant Prothese (PIP), which allegedly used an illegal industrial-grade gel that investigators say has led to abnormally high rates of ruptured implants.

Some estimates of the number of women affected are higher. France has already advised the removal of the PIP implants, while 13 other countries in Europe and in



A woman shows a certificate and a breast implant from French brand PIP, in Caracas. German health authorities on Friday recommended that women with potentially faulty breast implants made by French firm PIP should have them removed.—INTERNET

Latin America have urged women to get regular checkups.

Two of them of them—Bolivia and Venezuela—are offering operations to have the prostheses removed. Australia, however, has said it found no evidence that the implants posed a risk. French police are investigating the now-defunct PIP and its founder Jean-Claude Mas, 72.

Internet



A doctor looks at brain scans at a hospital. Cognitive skills can start to fall from the age of 45, not from around the age of 60 as is commonly thought, according to research published on Friday by the British Medical Journal (BMJ).—INTERNET

Brain power can decline from age 45

LONDON, 7 Jan—Cognitive skills can start to fall from the age of 45, not from around the age of 60 as is commonly thought, according to research published on Friday by the British Medical Journal (BMJ).

Researchers led by Archana Singh-Manoux from the Centre for Research in Epidemiology and Population Health in France and University College London observed 5,198 men and 2,192 women over a 10-year period from 1997.

The volunteers were London civil servants aged

between 45 and 70 who had been enrolled in a long-term health study.

Over the 10 years, the participants were tested three times—for memory, vocabulary, and skills in aural and visual comprehension.

During this time, there was a 3.6-percent decline in mental reasoning in men aged 45-49 and a 9.6-percent fall in those aged 65-70.

The corresponding figures for women were 3.6 and 7.4 percent.

"Cognitive decline is already evident in middle age," says the paper, which defines this as the years from

45 to 49.

The findings should spur further research into spotting and braking cognitive deterioration, the authors hope.

Many societies face an "exponential increase" in the number of elderly people as a result of increases in life expectancy, they note.

"These changes are likely to have a profound influence on individuals' lives and society at large.

Poor cognitive status is perhaps the single most disabling condition in old age."—Internet

Best Buy December sales fall

MINNEAPOLIS, 7 Jan—Best Buy Co says that weaker than expected traffic until the week before Christmas and low demand in Canada and Europe put a crimp in its December sales.

The largest US electronics retailer said Friday that revenue in stores open at least two years fell 1.2 percent. The measure is considered a key gauge of a retailer's financial health because it excludes stores that open or close during the year. That's an improvement from a 4 percent drop in the same period last year.

Still, Best Buy reaffirmed its annual guidance. December is a crucial month for retailers since the holiday period can account for up to 40 percent of annual sales. Best Buy is opening smaller stores and beefing up its online presence as it faces tough competition from discounters and online retailers.

"Based on our performance in December we continue to expect to achieve our annual guidance, despite customer traffic that was lower than expected until the last week before Christmas, which resulted in December revenue that was slightly

lower than our expectations," said CEO Brian Dunn.

Citi Investment research analyst Kate McShane said results likely improved during the second half of the month as "it appeared the company tried to be more competitive on price and shoppers delayed purchases until the last moment."

Tablet computers, smart phones, appliances and e-readers were strong sellers. But TVs, digital cameras and video consoles and games were weaker. Total revenue was flat at \$8.4 billion. Online revenue rose 26 percent. Domestically, revenue edged up less than 1 percent to \$6.5 billion. But revenue fell nearly 2 percent to \$1.9 billion. Revenue in stores open at least two years fell in Canada and Europe.

The company reaffirmed its annual adjusted profit guidance to \$3.35 to \$3.65 per share. Analysts expect \$3.41 per share. Shares rose 78 cents, or 3.3 percent, to close at \$24.22 Friday.

Its shares are still near their 52-week low of \$21.79 in early October. They are down 33 percent from their high of \$36.13 set almost a year ago.—Internet



In this 25 Nov. 2011 file photo, customers shop at a Best Buy store in Burbank, Calif. Best Buy Co said on 6 Jan. 2012, that weaker than expected traffic until the week before Christmas and low demand in Canada and Europe put a crimp in its December sales.

INTERNET



A trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 4 January, 2012.

REUTERS



Investors brace for European hit on earnings

NEW YORK, 7 Jan—Investors are about to find out if the economic woes in Europe are going to deliver a deep wound to US company earnings instead of the mere scratch that many expect.

The fourth-quarter reporting period kicks off next week, and all eyes will be on erosion in sales in Europe, where the debt crisis has propelled the region toward recession. This could dent positive sentiment just as investors start to focus on strong US growth.

Analysts believe that low US stock market valuations already factor in weakness from Europe for the fourth quarter, but there are

concerns that earnings forecasts for 2012 have yet to account for deeper fallout.

"There's some unhealthy optimism that thinks somehow the US can decouple from the rest of the world," said Shawn Hackett, president at Hackett Financial Advisors in Boynton Beach, Florida. "That is highly unlikely."

Companies including tech heavyweights Texas Instruments and Hewlett Packard and others like insurer MetLife have already cited fallout from Europe for reduced expectations. Analyst forecasts for fourth- and even first-quarter earnings have tumbled since

the summer despite steady improvement in US economic demand.

While all 10 S&P 500 sectors have seen profit estimates cut,

materials and financials have been the hardest hit. Other sectors that could get dragged down by Europe's problems include the industrial, consumer and technology sectors.

The overall S&P 500 forecast for fourth-quarter earnings growth has already been slashed, down to growth of 7.9 percent from 17.6 percent previously.

Reuters

Mercury influx into eco-system may have caused extinction 250m years ago



AP Scientists have discovered a new culprit that is likely to have been involved in the Earth's greatest extinction event that took place 250 million years ago when rapid climate change wiped out nearly all marine species and a majority of those on land.—INTERNET

TORONTO, 7 Jan—Scientists have singled out mercury as one of the major factors behind the earth's greatest extinction 250 million years ago, obliterating most marine and land species. "This was a time of the greatest volcanic activity in earth's history and we know today that the largest source of mercury

comes from volcanic eruptions," says Steve Grasby, adjunct professor at the University of Calgary, Canada and study co-author.

"We estimate that the mercury released then could have been up to 30 times greater than today's volcanic activity, making the event truly catastrophic," adds Grasby, also research scientist

at Natural Resources Canada, the journal *Geology* reports.

Benoit Beauchamp, professor of geology at Calgary, says this study is significant because it's the first time mercury has been linked to the cause of the massive extinction that took place during the end of the Permian period. "Geologists, including myself should be taking notes and taking another look at the other five big extinction events," says Beauchamp, also study co-author, according to a university statement.

During the late Permian, the natural buffering system in the ocean became overloaded with mercury contributing to the loss of 95 percent of life in the sea.

"Typically, algae acts like a scavenger and buries the mercury in the sediment, mitigating the effect in the oceans," says lead-author Hamed Sanei, research scientist at Natural Resources and Grasby's counterpart at Calgary university. "But in this case, the load was just so huge that it could not stop the damage."—*Internet*



World's first chimeric monkeys created by fusing six embryos into one



Newborn, genetically-modified monkeys Roku (L) and Hex.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan—US researchers have created the first primate chimeric offsprings by combining six embryos into one, thus paving way for human cloning. Research by scientists at Oregon Health and Science University provides significant new information about how early embryonic stem cells develop and take part in formation of the primate species.

The research, which took place at OHSU's Oregon National Primate Research Centre, has also resulted in the first successful birth of chimeric monkeys—monkeys developed from stem cells taken from two separate embryos. The research was conducted to gain a better understanding of the differences between natural stem cells residing in early embryos and their cultured counterparts called embryonic stem cells.

This study also determined that stem cell functions and abilities are different between primates and rodents. The research

demonstrated that for reasons yet unknown, chimeric animals can only develop from totipotent cells (cells from the early embryo that have the ability to divide and produce all of the differentiated cells in the placenta and the body of organism) in a higher animal model: the rhesus macaque.

OHSU showed this to be the case by successfully producing the world's first primate chimeric offspring, three baby rhesus macaques named Roku, Hex and Chimero.

"This is an important development - not because anyone would develop human chimeras - but because it points out a key distinction between species and between different kind of stem cells that will impact our understanding of stem cells and their future potential in regenerative medicine," said Shoukhrat Mitalipov, PhD, an associate scientist in the Division of Reproductive and Developmental Sciences at ONPRC.

Internet

Google Chrome 17 pre-renders pages you may visit



Google Chrome 17 pre-renders pages you may visit. INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 7 Jan—First noticed by testers of the most recent beta release of Chrome, Google now starts to pre-render pages as the user types them into the address bar according to the official Google Chrome blog. The feature has many similarities to the Google Instant tweak of the search engine. As Chrome watches what the user types and starts to auto-populate the result, it will choose to pre-render the most likely choice. For instance, a frequent visitor of this site will simply have to type "D" and watch the Digital Trends address autofill in the omnibar as well as watch the site start loading. The quicker page loads are most notable on frequently visited pages as well as bookmarked pages.

According to Peter Kasting, a software engineer

at Google, Chrome isn't analyzing synced data between machines or comparing potential matches against other Chrome user. It only analyzes the local data and makes predictions based on that information. Along with the addition of pre-rendering, Google Chrome 17 will also bring new improvements to the security of the browser. In the past, Google has simply protected users from sites that are frequently reported as offering malware. In Chrome 17, this protection will extend to the download manager.

By protecting users from malicious downloads, Google hopes to halt malicious sites from attempting to convince the user to download a bad file. Chrome will analyze executable files and offer a warning to the user before

they attempt to load the file. Google accomplishes this by matching up downloads with sites that have proven to be malicious or dangerous to users in the past. However, Google recommends that users should be wary of all files that are downloaded and Chrome 17's new security feature won't be able to provide protection from all malicious files that exist on the Internet.—*Internet*

LG to roll out Google TV

SEOUL, 7 Jan—LG Electronics Inc said on Friday it would unveil its first Google TV next week, joining Sony Corp and

Samsung Electronics Co in partnering with the search giant to get a foothold in the emerging Internet TV market. Google hopes to replicate

the success of its Android mobile software in the TV market, but its attempt to conquer the living room has seen limited success so far due to a lack of web content and support from hardware manufacturers.

Google TV allows consumers to access online videos and websites on their TVs, as well as specialized apps such as video games. Currently it comes built-in on certain Sony television models and Samsung is also working with the US firm to launch Google TVs.

LG said on Friday it would introduce its first Google TV next week at the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Google said on its blog that chipmaker Marvell Technology Group, chip designer MediaTek and TV manufacturer Vizio were also new partners for its Google TV service. Grappling with slowing demand and cutthroat competition, TV manufacturers hope forays into the Internet TV market will help cushion squeezed margins.

Research firm DisplaySearch expects the global TV market to grow only 2 percent this year after no growth in 2011 due to soft consumer demand amid a weak global economy.

Reuters



Google Inc CEO Eric Schmidt introduces Google TV in San Francisco, California on 20 May, 2010. REUTERS

Now, control your computer screen with your 'gaze'

MELBOURNE, 7 Jan—A Swedish company has come up with an eye control computer technology, that allows users to operate Windows 8 by looking in the direction they want to click.

The Tobii Gaze sits below a laptop screen and tracks eye movement using a sensor, *Courier Mail* reported.

Tobii business development manager Anders Olsson asserted that the interface uses a combination of eye gaze and touch pad for a better user laptop experience. "Gaze takes away the whole intermediate step of having a mouse or even using touch technology," Olsson told All Things Digital, the online publication that

specializes in technology and start-up company news, analysis and coverage.

"It uses all seven primary touch commands of Windows 8 (eg., activate, select, zoom,

scroll, etc) in a way that is more natural, efficient and precise than any other control when used on laptops and desktops," Olsson added.

Internet



Now, control your computer screen with your 'gaze'.

INTERNET



Mexico nabs key suspect in arson that killed 52

MONTERREY, 7 Jan— Police in Mexico captured an alleged member of the Zetas drug cartel considered the



Baltazar Saucedo Estrada, alias "El Mataperros," is escorted by members of the new Fuerza Civil police force, during a media presentation in Monterrey, Mexico, on 6 Jan, 2012.
INTERNET

mastermind behind a casino fire that killed 52 people in the northern city of Monterrey, authorities said Friday.

Jorge Domene, security agency spokesman for Nuevo Leon state, said Baltazar Saucedo Estrada is a main hitman who was sought on a 15 million peso, or \$1 million, reward because of the casino attack. Saucedo, nicknamed the "Dog Killer," was shown to reporters Friday in Monterrey in what has become usual procedure in drug war captures.

Domene said the suspect acknowledged he was involved in the Casino Royale arson and other high-profile crimes in routine confessions that may be permissible as court evidence.

The suspect told police the cartel targeted the casino because its owners hadn't

paid extortion money, a theory officials confirm. At least one of the casino's owners has denied the claim to reporters.

Saucedo, 38, was arrested Thursday but lied about his identity, Domene said.

He added that Saucedo along with another man were detained by state police in Monterrey because they appeared suspicious. Police ordered the two men to stop their van, but they gave chase and crashed into a car. Saucedo was identified hours later as he was being fingerprinted.

Authorities have arrested 17 of 32 suspects in the 25 Aug casino arson. None have gone to trial.

In October, the Mexican army captured a top drug cartel lieutenant of the Zetas who allegedly ordered the attack.—*Internet*



An aerial view shows the London 2012 Olympic Games Olympic Park in London on 5 December, 2011.—REUTERS

London Olympics volunteers warned over social media use

LONDON, 7 Jan— Volunteers working at the London Olympics have been warned not to give away breaking news about athletes or disclose the location of politicians and celebrities through online comments or pictures posted on social media sites.

Organizers are in the process of recruiting 70,000 unpaid volunteers to help run the Games from 27 July - 12 August.

Britain said last month that it would provide up to 13,500 troops to protect the

Games after organisers said security needed to be doubled. As well as the athletes, many world leaders traditionally visit the Games at some point.

Organizers are also keen to ensure that sponsors who help to fund the Olympics are the only companies able to market their brands at venues.

A spokesman for the London Organizing Committee said that security was one concern, but that it was normal for organizations to explain how workers should use social media.

"We understand that many of our Games Makers (volunteers) will want to use social media to share their exciting experiences at London 2012 with their friends and family," the spokesman said.

"As is standard in most organisations, we have provided some practical guidelines to give basic advice on interacting in a social media environment with the aim of protecting the interests of our workforce and operation," he added.

Reuters

Pilot killed in Indonesian training plane crash

JAKARTA, 7 Jan— A small plane owned by the Indonesian air force crashed on Friday in Central Java, killing the pilot, rescuers said.

The training plane with registration number of LD 3417 fell down on the rice paddy and broke into pieces at about 10:30 am Jakarta time (0330 GMT) at

Karangrejo village of Magelang district, Yudi Kurniawan, a rescuer at the Search and Rescue Office in Central Java told *Xinhua* over phone. The body of the pilot had been evacuated, he said, adding that only one person was on board during the accident.

Nevertheless, it was not

clear yet about the cause of the accident, said Kurniawan.

Indonesia has exited from the European Union travel ban on improved flight safety standard, but small plane accidents have been rampant recently, particularly in remote Papua in the eastern part of the country, killing dozens of people.—*Xinhua*



A fire department ladder truck takes police over the area where a hot air balloon crash occurred in Carterton, some 94 miles (150 kilometres) north of the capital, Wellington, New Zealand, on 7 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Hot air balloon bursts into flames in NZ; 11 dead

WELLINGTON, 7 Jan— A hot air balloon carrying 11 people turned into a horrifying tower of "sheer flame" Saturday after hitting power lines near a rural New Zealand town, police and witnesses said. All aboard were killed in the deadliest air crash in New Zealand in nearly 50 years. Two of those killed jumped out of the basket in desperation before the fiery balloon plummeted to farmland with a loud bang as it hit the ground. The balloon crashed near the township of Carterton, in a region well known for its hot air ballooning, in clear, bright early morning conditions with minimal wind.

The pilot and five couples from the Wellington area, about 95 miles (150 kilometres) south of the crash site, were killed. Some of the bodies were badly burned, said Superintendent Mike Rusbatch, a police district commander in Wellington, the capital. "It's a tragedy as bad as tragedies get," local police commander Brent Register said.

Rusbatch said it appeared the balloon's basket struck power lines that set a fire on board. Witnesses told local media of seeing 32-foot (10-metre) high flames rising from the basket of the dark blue and maroon striped balloon before it plummeted to the farmland below.—*Internet*

28 bodies recovered, 46 still missing in S Philippines landslide

PANTUKAN, (Philippines) 7 Jan— At least 28 bodies have already been recovered as search and retrieval operations continued on Saturday for still missing persons in a landslide last Thursday that hit a mining village in southern Philippines, military and social welfare officials said. Some 23 of the bodies were already identified while the number of missing in the landslide that hit Diat community in Napnapan village here rose to 46 as of Saturday.

Rhona Siojo, municipal social welfare officer, told *Xinhua* that 27 of the bodies were already brought down and given to their families. Five of those killed were children aged four to 16 years old. "Many people came forward to us on Friday and reported they have relatives who were in the area the night before the disaster who could no longer be traced as of now," Siojo said.

The latest update was still below earlier estimates that over a hundred people could be missing and believed buried. A local army commander, Colonel Roberto Domines, said at a press conference on Friday "confusion and chaos" in the height of the incident caused the conflicting reports of casualties.

Philippine Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo flew over the area on Friday and ordered in a talk with local officials the immediate shutting down of mining operations there and the eviction of close to 2,000 residents composed of miners and their families. "We want this implemented within two



Villagers and rescuers search for survivors at the site of the landslide in the village of Napap, Pantukan town on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao. Up to 150 people remain missing a day after the landslide killed 25 people and buried a remote gold mining community.—INTERNET

weeks and the army and police would be mobilized to carry out the forced eviction of settlers and the tearing down of shanties," said Robredo. Compostela Valley Provincial Governor Arturo Uy admitted it would not be easy to implement the order as those who would be affected would lose their livelihood.

"They are stubborn. They would rather die in disasters than starve their families," said the governor, adding he has no other option but to follow the directive and implement it, die in disasters than starve their families," said the governor, adding he has no other option but to follow the directive and implement it.—*Xinhua*

Japan to shut nuke reactors after 40 years of use

TOKYO, 7 Jan— Japan says it will soon require atomic reactors to be shut down after 40 years of use to improve safety following the nuclear crisis set off by last year's tsunami.

Concern about aging reactors has been growing because the three units at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant in northeastern Japan that went into meltdown following the tsunami in March were built starting in 1967. Among other reactors at least 40 years old are those at the Tsuruga and Mihama plants in central Japan, which were built starting in 1970. Many more of the 54 reactors in Japan will reach the 40-year mark in coming years.

The government said Friday that it plans to introduce legislation in the coming months to require reactors to stop running after 40 years. Japan does not currently have a limit on years of operation.—*Internet*

Tanker encounters ice near Bering Sea island



In this file photo from Monday, 2 Jan, 2012, the Renda, a Russian tanker, is shown in Unalaska, Alaska. The Renda left Dutch Harbor on 4 Jan, 2012 and was headed to the iced-in community when a maintenance alarm sounded.—INTERNET

ANCHORAGE, (Alaska), 7 Jan—A Russian tanker carrying fuel for an iced-in Alaska city that without a delivery could run out of crucial supplies before winter's end encountered ice early Friday in the eastern Bering Sea.

The ice was not a surprise. The 370-foot tanker Renda will have to go through more than 300 miles of sea ice to get to Nome, a city of about 3,500 people on the western Alaska coastline that did not get its last pre-winter fuel delivery because of a massive storm.

If the delivery of diesel fuel and unleaded gasoline is not made, the city likely will run short of fuel supplies before another barge delivery can be made in spring.

If the mission is successful, it will be the first time petroleum products have been delivered by sea to a Western Alaska community in winter.

The Coast Guard said the Russian tanker came upon ice about a foot thick very early Friday near

Nunivak Island, a large island in the eastern Bering Sea. The tanker is following the Healy, the Coast Guard's only functioning icebreaker — a ship of special design with a reinforced hull made to move through ice.

The icebreaker should have no problem getting through the ice even if it becomes several feet thick, said Coast Guard Petty Officer First Class David Mosley.

"In the worst-case scenario, it might stop and back up and ram their way through the pressure ridges, where it gets really thick," he said. The icebreaker is creating a path through the ice for the tanker.

The Renda left Russia in mid-December after the barge delivery of 1.6 million gallons of fuel failed and Nome became iced-in for the winter. The tanker is carrying more than 1 million gallons of diesel fuel loaded in South Korea and 300,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline picked up in Dutch Harbor in southwestern Alaska.

Internet

Chile blames deadly fires on Mapuche Indian terror

SANTIAGO, (Chile), 7 Jan—Chile's government said Friday that many of the wildfires burning out of control in Patagonia were set intentionally, and blamed a Mapuche Indian group that has long struggled to regain its ancestral lands for starting the blaze that killed seven firefighters.

The body of the seventh firefighter killed while trying to contain a blaze on the property of the Mininco Forestry company was recovered early Friday.

Interior Minister Rodrigo Hinzpeter directly named the "Coordinadora Arauco Malleco" group, whose leaders have been accused and in some cases convicted of violent attacks on forestry company property. He noted that only days earlier, the group burned a helicopter that would have fought the deadly fire. "Based on this, one can conjecture and say that the group is behind other fires that could be intentional," Hinzpeter told reporters.

President Sebastian Pinera also said the wildfires appear to be acts of terror: "Behind this premeditated and criminal conduct is hidden activity of a terrorist nature."

Hector Rebolledo, the fire chief whose men were killed, said earlier this week that people were seen making charcoal in the area before the fires broke out, but regional authorities later determined that the deadly blaze appeared to have started simultaneously in 50 places — a clear sign of arson.

The forestry worker's union, which has tried to organize the firefighters, blamed Mininco for their deaths, accusing the company of leaving poorly trained and supported firefighters in unsafe conditions.

Mapuche activists did take responsibility for destroying



A fireman fights a massive forest fire affecting the commune of Ranquil, in southern Chile's Bio Bio region, some 450 Km south of Santiago, on 4 Jan. Six Chilean firefighters died Thursday and four were injured tackling one of a series of wildfires that President Sebastian Pinera says were intentionally lit by criminals.—INTERNET

the forestry company helicopter and several bulldozers, which it said were operating "illegally" on Indian territory.

Much of the area's forests were sold off after Gen. Augusto Pinochet dictatorship expropriated them from the Indians, and governments since then have failed to reach an accord that satisfies all the Mapuche's demands.

"My people also lament these deaths, just as they have destroyed our mother earth!" Mapuche spokeswoman Natividad Llanquileo tweeted Friday in response to an Associated Press request for comment.—Internet

Seven whales die in New Zealand stranding

WELLINGTON, 7 Jan—Conservationists in New Zealand were struggling Saturday to save 18 long-finned pilot whales after a mass stranding in which seven of the animals died.

The surviving whales had been refloated but appeared to lack the energy to swim away, the Conservation Department's area manager John Mason said.

The whales, which beached themselves on Friday afternoon at the top of New Zealand's South Island were from a pod of about 70 that appeared at Golden Bay, where strandings are common.



Rescuers herd a pod of long-finned pilot whales in Australia in 2009. Conservationists in New Zealand were struggling Saturday to save 18 long-finned pilot whales after a mass stranding in which seven of the animals died.—INTERNET

Two months ago, 47 pilot whales died after being stranded on tidal flats in the area near the tourist city of Nelson.

Pilot whales up to six metres (20 feet) long are the most common species of whale seen in New Zealand waters.—Internet

Indian child reported killed in Brazil's north

BRASILIA, (Brazil), 7 Jan—A group associated with the Roman Catholic Church says a child from an isolated indigenous community in northern Brazil was killed and the body burned in a region where loggers operate.

The Pastoral Commission of the Earth on Friday denounced the killing of the child, whose name, age and gender are unknown because communication with remote indigenous groups in Brazil is difficult. The church-associated environmental group says the child's burned body was found by leaders of a neighboring indigenous community in Maranhao state.

The group says the case was presented to the government's National Indian Foundation but no investigation was launched. The foundation says the case was then forwarded to police.

Internet

Green Beret released on bond in airport bomb case

SAN ANTONIO, 7 Jan—An Army demolitions expert who was arrested New Year's Eve for trying to carry explosives onto a commercial airplane in Texas was ordered released Friday on a \$50,000



Police booking photo of Trey Scott Atwater provided by the Midland County Sheriff's Office on 2 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

unsecured bond. Green Beret Sergeant First Class Trey Scott Atwater was arrested at the Midland, Texas, airport after security screeners found 2.5 pounds of C-4 explosives in baggage he was carrying for a return flight to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Magistrate Judge David Counts released Atwater, 30, into the custody of two members of the US Army who were to escort him back to North Carolina. Atwater had been held in federal custody without bond since his arrest six days ago. He faces one count of attempting to board an aircraft while in possession of explosives, a felony which carries a penalty of up to ten years in prison.

Atwater told the FBI he was unaware the explosives were in his bag, which he

grabbed from his North Carolina home when he prepared to fly home to Texas for the Christmas holidays. Airport screeners apparently failed to detect the C-4 on the outbound flight.

Prosecutors said Atwater did not pose a flight risk, and his military escorts agreed to report any bond violations.

"The government has uncovered no information that would suggest that Atwater intended harm to any aircraft, or to the flying public," Assistant US Attorney John Klassen said in a brief court hearing. "The government believes that with close supervision by the court and by the United States Army, Sergeant Atwater will not pose a danger."

Reuters

Semi driver safe after rig sinks in Minnesota pond

MONTICELLO, 7 Jan—A semi driver crawled to safety after his rig ran off a Minnesota interstate and sunk into an ice-covered pond.

The Minnesota State Patrol says the driver was treated and released from the hospital after the Friday crash.

Patrol Lt Eric Roeske says the driver was pulling a Target trailer when his rig left the interstate, crossed over oncoming traffic and skidded onto the pond. It fell through about 6 inches of ice.

Roeske says the semi skidded 100 to 200 yards across the ice before breaking through.

A photo from the State Patrol showed about half the

trailer above the icy water.

A big rig tow truck pulled the semi out of the pond hours later.

Internet



In this photo provided by Minnesota State Patrol, a semi truck is submerged in an icy pond in Monticello, Minn. on 6 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET

Foreign Ministers send message of felicitations to Union Foreign Affairs Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Affairs Ministers to U Winna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Koichiro Gemba
Excellency,

On the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the Independence day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency my warm congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity of your country. I deeply appreciate your heartfelt hospitality during my visit to Myanmar last December. It was a great pleasure for me to have very fruitful discussions with Your Excellency and President U Thein Sein. I sincerely hope that my visit to your country will mark a new chapter in the history of friendship between Japan and Myanmar.

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

From Minister of External Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Prof. G.L Peiris, M.P
Your Excellency,

On this auspicious occasion of the 64th Anniversary Independence day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, it gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency the warm greetings and best wishes.

Relations between Sri Lanka and Myanmar based on our common adherence to Theravada Buddhism could be tracked back many centuries. In more recent times our two countries have broadened our interactions to encompass a wide array of spheres.

I am confident that these relations and bilateral cooperation between our two countries will be further consolidated in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your personal well being and the progress and prosperity of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation S. Lavrov
Your Excellency,

Please accept my sincere greetings on the occasion of the Independence day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am satisfied with the relations of traditional friendship and mutual understanding existing between Russia and Myanmar. I reckon on continuation of constructive interaction between our Foreign Ministries for the benefit of the two countries and peoples, as well as intensification of trusted partnership on the regional and international arena.

I look forward to Your visit to Moscow.

I wish You, Mr Minister, good health and success in Your activities for the benefit of Myanmar.

From Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Surapong Tovichakchaikul
Excellency,

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the Thai people, I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency my

sincere congratulations and warmest wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and her people on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Mr Albert F. Del Rosario
Excellency,

I wish to extend Your Excellency my warm felicitations on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

This year's celebration takes place during a very auspicious and exciting time in Myanmar's contemporary history—the Government's serious implementation of its steadfast commitment to pursue wide-ranging reforms in the country.

I take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of the Philippines' support for Myanmar's reform process.

I hope that the close ties between our nations and peoples will further deepen and that cooperation at the bilateral, as well as in ASEAN and other regional and international for a will grow stronger.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration and personal esteem.

From Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Mr Hor Namhong
Excellency,

On the happy occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend to Your Excellency my cordial congratulations and best wishes of good health, happiness and greater success in fulfilling your noble task.

I have strong confidence that the relations of good friendship and close cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened and developed for the mutual interests of our two nations as well as for ASEAN community building.

While wishing Your Excellency a prosperous and Happy New Year 2012, please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Mourad Medelci, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Excellency,

I am particularly pleased to address to you my sincere and warm congratulations on the occasion of the national day celebration of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I seize this opportunity to assure you of my full availability to work, in concert with you, for the strengthening of the friendship and cooperation ties which unite our two countries.

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

From K Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law, Singapore
Dear Excellency,

My warmest congratulations on the auspicious occasion of Myanmar's 64th Independence Day. I wish the Government and people of Myanmar success in national reconciliation and economic development.

The longstanding and cordial relations between Singapore and Myanmar have strengthened over the past year as we worked closely on the bilateral front and in ASEAN. Singapore supports Myanmar in its Chairmanship for ASEAN in 2014, and I am confident that the cooperation between our two countries will continue as we work towards our vision of an ASEAN Community by 2015. I look forward to working closely with you in the coming year to broaden and deepen bilateral cooperation in various fields.

From Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China
Excellency,

Upon the auspicious occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend to Your Excellency the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

I am very glad to see that the bilateral relations developed comprehensively, the exchanges and cooperations in all areas deepened continuously, and good coordinations and cooperations maintained on related international and regional issues. I am willing to work with Your Excellency to actively implement the consensus reached by our leaders and make unremitting efforts to the constant development of China-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the great prosperity to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and well-being to the people of Myanmar.

District News

Fire drill organized at Saw Mill-38

BAGO, 7 Jan—A talk on fire preventive measures was held in conjunction with the fire drill at No. 38 Saw Mill in Phayagale of Bago Township on 14 December.

Officials of Myanma Timber Enterprise talked preventive measures on danger of fire. The head of District Fire Services Department, members of Fire Brigade and workers participated in the fire drill.

Township IPRD

Loans disbursed for second time

KYAIKTO, 7 Jan—With the aim of ensuring rural development and poverty alleviation, Kyaikto Township Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise formed the Hill Palm Production Association and disbursed loans to the association members.

On 23 December morning, the Township Administrator and officials presented K 12 million to 91 members of the association at the office of MPCE. The township has so far disbursed K 60.85 million to the local people.—Township IPRD

Bringing down of poverty

In a bid to improve the socio-economic life of the rural people and alleviate poverty, the new Myanmar government is now implementing micro saving and credit enterprises out of eight rural development and poverty alleviation tasks. As part of its programme, Township Development Organizations under the Ministry of Border Affairs is disbursing loans to needy vendors and trishawmen across the country.

Recently, I made a field trip to townships in Mandalay Region in order to know how the loan disbursement scheme is working well there. "I run oranges and limes trading since 20 years. I have five family members and have to make investment of over K 1 million in my business. Thanks to a loan of K 0.2 million, I can make more investment in my business and get more profits," said U Soe Aung from Kyaukse Myoma market.

A loan of K 1737.18 million has been disbursed by a total of 179 organizations seven in Kachin State (K 66.10 million), one in Kayah State (K 5 million), eight in Sagaing Region (K 222.68 million), 24 in Magway Region (K 148.60 million), 22 in Mandalay Region (K 158.24 million), 29 in Shan State (K 442.89 million), five in Kayin State (K 24.4 million), five in Taninthayi Region (K 25.20 million), 19 in Bago Region (K 185.55 million), ten in Mon State (K 110.82 million), 11 in Yangon Region (K 118.50 million), 12 in Rakhine State (K 41.90 million) and 26 in Ayeyawady Region (K 187.30 million).

Thanks to the loan disbursement programme, they can run their business well and earn constant income, thereby promoting day-to-day existence, education, social and health status.

Translation: MT
Myanma Alin (7-1-2012)



Vendor Ma San San Yi from Natogyi Market expresses thanks for disbursement of loans.

Byline: Ko Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

Photo: Ko Thant Zin (Htilarmyay)

64th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination commences

YANGON, 7 Jan—Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs opened the 64th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Mandalay Bhamo Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta

Kumarabhivamsa gave a Saraniya Ovadakatha. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay supplicated on religious affairs.

The Region Chief Minister, the deputy minister and region ministers accepted cash donations from wellwishers and gave certificates to them.

The examination will last 33 days up to 18 February.—MNA



Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win unveiled signboard of Kanbawzathadi Mingala Hall at Shwewahtun Hotel in Bago on 3 January.—MNA

DISTRICT NEWS

BEMS upgraded to BEHS branch

SHWEGYIN, 7 Jan—A ceremony to upgrade Basic Education Middle School to BEHS Branch in Thanseik Village-tract was held in conjunction with the handing over of new building donated by U Kyaw Min Naing-Daw Le Le Win and family of Shwekyungyi Co at the school in Shwegyin Township on 31 December.

The wellwisher handed over document related to the school building to the township education officer. The township administrator accepted K 622,000 donated by nine wellwishers for the school.

Myanma Alin

Nutritious refreshments presented to expectant mothers

YANGON, 7 Jan—Yangon North District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee provided nutritious refreshments and cash to funds for construction of fly-proof latrines at the hall of Bawle Village Basic Education Primary School in Htantabin Township on 2 January.

Chairperson of the committee Daw Sein Sein Soe and Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Pauk Pauk presented nutritious refreshments to expectant mothers and 11 older persons and cash to the funds for construction of three fly-proof latrines worth K 48,500 through officials.

Myanma Alin

Myaungmya gets new repaved street



MYAUNGMYA, 7 Jan—In honour of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the Myaungmya Township Development Affairs Committee opened the repaved 6th street in Ward 2 of Myaungmya on 30 December.

Local authorities formally cut the ribbon to open the new repaved street.

The 310 feet long and 27 feet wide street was placed with three-inch thick asphalt and it was cost K 5.4 million.

District IPRD

EP-2 Ministry concludes training courses

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—The Spoken English and Proficiency Course No. 9/2011 and the Basic Storekeeping Course No. 1/2011 concluded at the Ministry of Electric

Power No. 2 at the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Khin Maung Soe awarded the outstanding trainees.

Officials presented completion certificates to the leaders of the trainees. Altogether 60 trainees attended the courses.

MNA

Ceremony to mark 64th Independence Day held in Loikaw, Kayah State

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan — A ceremony to mark the 64th Independence Day was observed in Loikaw, Kayah State, on 4 January.

During the ceremony, Chief Minister of Kayah State U Khin Maung Oo read out the message sent by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Baby contest and model mothers competition organized by Kayah State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory

Committee was held in Loikaw to mark the 64th Independence Day.

Kayah State School Family Day for the 2011-12 academic year was held at No.2 Basic Education High School in Loikaw on 3 January and State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo and regional ministers, departmental officials, teachers and students visited the festival.

MNA

Sumitomo Golf Classic on 11-14 January

YANGON, 7 Jan—Sumitomo Golf Classic golf tournament will be held at Yetagun Taung Golf Club in Mandalay from 11 to 14 January.

The tournament is organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar GPA and mainly sponsored by Aung Hein Min Co Ltd and Sumitomo Heavy Machinery.

The tournament has invited professional, senior professional and amateur (H'Cap 0-10) golfers

Entrance fee is K20,000 and those golfers who want to participate in the tournament may contact Ph:09-2037671, 09-73130474, 651374 and enlist at Yetagun Taung Golf Club not later than 2 pm, 9 January.—MNA

Fire drill at Auto Exchange Office in Loikaw

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan — Talks on preventive measures against fire and fire drill were held at the exchange office of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications Loikaw,

Kayah State, on 2 January.

Head of Kayah State Fire Services Department Yethura U Thawdar gave talks on fire preventive measures and extinguishing fire. Firemen

demonstrated the drill.

It was attended by Kayah State Transport Minister U Chit Hla, departmental officials and employees of the office.—MNA



Fire drill at Loikaw Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications Auto Exchange.—MNA

New school building opened in Singaing Township

SINGAING, 7 Jan—The new building of Kyetsha Village Basic Education Primary School was opened in Singaing Township on 16 December.

Pythu Hluttaw representative U Kyi

Pyone of Singaing Township, Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Sein Thuang of Singaing Township Constituency No. 2 and officials formally opened the new school building.—Myanma Alin





This photo, taken in 2006, provided by operationmigration.org shows Brooke Pennypacker along with juvenile Whooping cranes along a new migration route in Gordon County, Ga. Ten young whooping cranes and the small plane they think is their mother are grounded after running afoul of federal regulations. The Federal Aviation Administration rules prohibit pilots from getting paid to fly the bird-like plane that guides the endangered cranes on their first migration from Wisconsin and to their winter home in Florida. The plane, along with the birds, are currently grounded in Alabama.—INTERNET

Bird plane runs afoul of federal regulators

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan—Federal regulators are trying to decide whether to issue a waiver allowing a salaried pilot to continue to fly a bird-like plane that 10 young whooping cranes think is mama to the birds' winter home in Florida.

Operation Migration, a conservation group that guides the young birds on their first 1,285-mile fall migration, says it voluntarily grounded the plane and the birds in Alabama last month after FAA officials notified them the agency had opened an investigation.

FAA regulations say only pilots with commercial pilot licenses can fly for hire. The Operation Migration pilots are licensed to fly sport planes. The regulations also prohibit sport aircraft—which are sometimes of exotic design—from being flown to benefit a business or charity.—Internet

Three men arrested for violating weapons import laws

LOS ANGELES, 7 Jan—Authorities arrested three Philippine nationals on charges of violating arms import laws by selling a grenade launcher, mortar launcher, rocket propelled grenade and other weapons to an undercover officer.

The men were charged in a criminal complaint unsealed Thursday with importing weapons to the US without a license in violation of the Arms Export Control Act. The case is part of a federal investigation of Asian organized crime groups involved in the illicit trafficking of firearms.

Suspects Sergio Santiago de Leon Syjuco, Cesar Paolo Inciong Ubaldo and Arjyl Reverera appeared Friday in US District Court in Los Angeles. It could not be immediately determined if they had lawyers or entered pleas.

During a period of eight months beginning in 2010, an undercover agent in the Philippines gained the trust of the men who eventually sold him military-grade firearms.

said Dennis Lao, a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"The premise for these introductions was that the (undercover agent) was interested in purchasing high-powered weapons and explosive devices to be used by the Mexican drug cartel in the United States and Mexico," an affidavit states. Beginning in October 2010, the agent was sold 12 fully automatic Bushmaster caliber rifles, Lao said.

Ubaldo later offered to introduce the agent to other suppliers of high-powered firearms and eventually provided the agent with a detailed inventory of weapons for sale, the document states.

Internet



Stocks in London rose slightly at the close on Friday on better-than-expected US jobs data.

INTERNET

5.3-magnitude quake hits New Britain region, Papua New Guinea

BEIJING, 7 Jan—An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted New Britain region, Papua New Guinea at 04:30: 31 GMT on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 113.10 km, was initially determined to be at 4.3666 degrees south latitude and 152.5318 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua

Nevada's largest casinos lose \$4 billion in 2011

CARSON CITY, 7 Jan—Nevada's largest casinos suffered a combined \$4 billion loss in 2011. A report released Friday by the state Gaming Control Board shows 256 casinos grossed \$1 million or more in gambling revenue for the fiscal year that ended 30 June. Combined, they had total revenue of \$22 billion and posted a net loss of \$3.9 billion from the previous year.

In 2010, the largest casinos had a net loss of \$3.4 billion on total revenues of almost \$20.9 billion. Total revenue includes money spent by patrons on gambling, rooms, food, beverages and attractions. The report says revenue from gamblers accounted for nearly \$10.2 billion, or 46 percent, of total revenue. Casinos paid \$792 million in taxes and fees, equating to 7.8 percent of gambling revenue.—Internet



Photo taken on 6 Jan, 2012 shows the dried-up lake bed of the Yinshan Section of the Poyang Lake in Duchang County, east China's Jiangxi Province. There are few fish nowadays in the lake's Xingzi and Yinshan sections in the Duchang County, and 120,000 residents in the county are even in the struggle for tackling drinking water shortage. The lake's water level monitored by the Hydrometric Station of Duchang County on 6 Jan stood at a record low of 7.95 metres, 0.04 metres lower than the previous record low in 2009. Figures also showed that the surface area of the Poyang Lake, China's largest freshwater lake, has shrunk to less than 200 square kilometers. Persistent drought caused by lack of rainfall in the lake area and in the upper reaches of its tributaries is blamed for the lake's shrinkage, according to local authorities.—XINHUA

SC missing boy's mom told cops she had no children

COLUMBIA, 7 Jan—The mother of an 18-month-old South Carolina boy missing for more than a month initially told investigators she didn't have a son, then gave conflicting statements about what she did with him, authorities said. Questioned after a Christmas Eve car wreck, Zinah Jennings told police that she did not have a son before saying the boy, Amir, was in Atlanta, according to warrants provided to The Associated Press by Columbia police.

Jennings also took investigators to a Columbia apartment complex where she said she had dropped off her son. She later said she didn't know the apartment number or location within the complex, police said. Authorities planned a noon news conference Friday. In early



In this 25 Nov, 2011 photo provided by the Columbia SC, Police Dept, 18-month-old Amir Jennings is shown near Columbia, SC. Investigators might have had no leads on a missing mother and child if the woman hadn't crashed her car on Christmas Eve.—INTERNET

December, Amir's grandmother contacted police, saying she was worried about the boy and her daughter. Jocelyn Jennings Nelson told authorities that her daughter was a former Winthrop

University student who struggled with depression and started acting erratically after her son's birth, according to Chief Randy Scott. Police said they began looking for Jennings, 22, but

also considered that relatives said she had repeatedly left town for days at a time, taking her son to visit friends in neighbouring states. Several weeks later, on Christmas Eve, police investigating a one-car wreck just blocks from Jennings' home were surprised to find the driver was the young mother they'd been looking for. Interviewed at a hospital, police say Jennings gave conflicting statements about where the boy was, telling authorities the boy was with friends and family in cities from Atlanta to Charlotte, NC.

Police spoke with Amir's father, who told them he had seen the boy during Thanksgiving but generally has had little contact with him. The father was not identified by police.—Internet

London investors await Bank of England next week

LONDON, 7 Jan—London investors will likely take their leads from events in the eurozone and United States next week in the absence of major British news, with the Bank of England set to keep interest rates on hold. London's FTSE 100 index of top shares closed at

5,649.68 points on Friday, up 1.39 percent from a week earlier.

The benchmark index grew strongly on Friday in the wake of positive US jobs news, which helped to offset losses caused by fresh tensions over the debt crisis gripping the eurozone.

Britain does not use the euro but relies on the eurozone for half of its trade.

Next Thursday, the Bank of England is widely expected to hold its key interest rate at a record low 0.50 percent, where it has stood for almost three years.

The nation's economy showed unexpectedly strong growth of 0.6 percent in the third quarter but the country still faces possible recession in the new year.

Internet

Anti-elephantiasis campaign launched in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 7 Jan—The Nepalese Government on Friday launched its annual anti-elephantiasis campaign in 46 out of 75 districts of the nation. Mass Drugs Administration (MDA) programme has mobilized more than 20,000 health workers and volunteers to administer medications against the disease to people above the age of two years.

It does not, however, include women under pregnancy and patients of any diseases. According to a Press release issued by the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD), the campaign in all the districts will be launched in two different phases in January and February.

Elephantiasis is amongst the major diseases in Nepal which leads to permanent disability to its victims.

It is caused by mosquitoes and although the risk is high during summer season where the availability of mosquitoes are high, the campaign has been launched early this year.

According to the Ministry of Health, some 26.1 million people from 60 districts of Nepal including the capital Kathmandu are at a high risk of disease. More than 600,000 people are to benefit from the present campaign.

In 2011, the campaign had drawn a negative attention after five deaths reported due to wrong medications by inexperienced volunteers.

EDCD is a department under the Ministry of Health in Nepal.—MNA/Xinhua

Oddly mild winter leaves much of US on thin ice

CONWAY, (Mass), 7 Jan—Unusually mild winter weather is spoiling the fun for hockey players, skaters and ice fisherman across the Northeast and Midwest as officials warn of uncommonly thin ice.

Fish and game officials in several northeastern states have issued advisories in recent days, saying ice conditions were unsafe on lakes where ice typically reaches 10 inches thick.

In Minnesota, officials warned ice was unreliable in the southern part of the state, where temperatures topped 60 degrees for the first time on record in the first week of January.

With no ice yet recorded on Lake Erie, organizers of

Buffalo's public hockey tournament of 1,000 amateur players say they may have to cancel the 10 February event for the first time in its 5-year history.

An extraordinarily mild December and early January failed to deliver the cold needed to freeze most lakes and ponds.

Meteorologists say December temperatures in the region were the warmest in five years. Massachusetts recorded 12 days when the temperature was more than 10 degrees above normal, said Mark Paquette, meteorologist with AccuWeather in State College, Pennsylvania.

As a result, winter sports enthusiasts who

flock to frozen lakes and ponds are at risk, said Lieutenant Robert Bryant of New Hampshire Fish and Game.

"We've had some tragedies over the years with ice skaters," Bryant said. "Ice fishermen tend to get close to their holes and stay in one place and skaters sometimes roam about."

Reuters



Melting ice on a lake is seen on Sunapee Lake in New Hampshire on 6 January, 2012. INTERNET

Nation adds 200,000 jobs in December hiring surge

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan—Four painful years after the Great Recession struck and wiped out 8.7 million jobs, the United States may finally be in an elusive pattern known as a virtuous cycle — an escalating loop of hiring and spending.

The nation added 200,000 jobs in December in a burst of hiring that drove the unemployment rate down two notches to 8.5 percent, its lowest in almost three years, and led economists to conclude that the improvement in the job market might just last.

"There is more horsepower to this economy than most believe," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University, Channel Islands. "The stars are aligned right for a meaningful economic recovery."

It was the sixth month in a row that the economy added at least 100,000 jobs, the longest streak since 2006. The economy added jobs every month last year, the first time that has happened since 2005.

And the unemployment rate, which peaked at 10 percent in October 2009 and stood at 9.1 percent in August, has fallen four months straight. It was 8.7 percent in November.

If economics textbooks and the best hopes of millions of unemployed Americans are confirmed, the virtuous cycle may be under way, which would suggest the job market will continue to strengthen.

When people are hired, they have more money to spend. The means greater demand for goods and services and results in businesses hiring even more people. That results in even more spending and leads to even more hiring.—Internet



A construction worker guides a rafter into position at a construction site, on 5 Jan, 2012, in Dayton, Ohio. A burst of hiring in December pushed the unemployment rate to its lowest level in nearly three years, giving the economy a boost at the end of 2011. INTERNET

London Boat Show diversifies into art and jewels

LONDON, 7 Jan—The grey-haired men stood admiring the line of luxury cars at London's ExCel centre while at a nearby stand a woman handed over money for a silver cigarette case — not the usual things you would expect to buy at a boat show.

But London's International Boat Show, one of the biggest in Europe, is looking to tap into other high-end markets to attract new

customers during a recession that has priced out mid-range sailors.

"It's like any industry — it's looking to diversify," said Michael Enser, head of marketing at the British Marine Federation, which represents businesses from makers of canoes to super yachts.

"It is bringing in high-net worths, and they are reasonably insulated from the economy. If we invite

those people into the show who have not been exposed to boats in the past it is a new audience for manufacturers to engage in, to sell their products, and eventually a new boater."

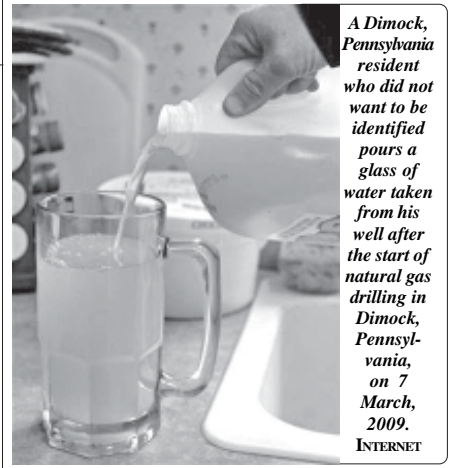
Numbers of people passing through the turnstiles at London's Boat Show have not recovered from pre-recession levels, while exhibitor numbers are down by about 10 percent.

Among the biggest

absentees are French boat builder Beneteau along with Dufour and Elan. "It's still a very sizeable show," said Murray Ellis, managing director of National Boat Shows. "It is not a reflection of the show, that is purely a reflection of the UK economy and the UK marine market."

Taking the place of boat builders are luxury cars, watches, a contemporary fine art gallery, jewellery and a home cinema. A rare diamonds investment company has also moved effortlessly alongside the champagne bars.

Reuters



A Dimock, Pennsylvania resident who did not want to be identified pours a glass of water taken from his well after the start of natural gas drilling in Dimock, Pennsylvania, on 7 March, 2009. INTERNET

Aussie police: 'Stolen car' proves to be a runaway

ADELAIDE, (Australia), 7 Jan—Police say a car reported stolen from an Australian shopping centre parking lot has been found more than two weeks later in the closed garage of a nearby home where it had apparently rolled unaided.

Police said in a statement Friday that the owner of the station wagon had reported it stolen from outside a shop in a suburb of Adelaide city on 18 Dec. The car was found parked in the home's garage Wednesday when the residents returned from vacation.

Police concluded that the car's owner had failed to leave its gear in park. The car then rolled across the parking lot, across a street and then down a driveway. It then bumped under the garage door by knocking it off its tracks. The door then closed behind it.—Internet



A chef with a restaurant enjoys fireworks to celebrate the fifth day of Chinese New Year in Beijing, China, on 7 Feb, 2011.—INTERNET

New Year celebrations cause 194 Beijing fires

BEIJING, 7 Jan—State media are reporting that people celebrating the Lunar New Year by setting off fireworks in Beijing caused 194 fires in the Chinese capital, double the number from last year.

The official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday that the fires were not serious, but added that 388 people were hurt by fireworks during the first six days of the holiday period.

The tradition of setting off fireworks to ward off evil spirits results in injuries and fires every year, with the biggest fire during this year's holiday period gutting a five-star hotel in northeast China. There were no casualties.

Xinhua said Beijing mobilized a force of 840,000 police and civilians to help prevent firework-induced disasters during the holiday.—Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (051)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAN JIANG VOY NO (051) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.1.2012 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.

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Members of the Russian Royal Corps de Ballet perform "Swan Lake" at the opening ceremony of the Fifth "Winter of Heilongjiang" International Culture and Art Festival in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 4 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

200 million use illegal drugs: Lancet estimate

PARIS, 7 Jan — About 200 million people around the world use illicit drugs, according to a study published on Friday in The Lancet. It estimates that in 2009 between 149 and 271 million people used an illegal drug.

Cannabis users comprised between 125 and 203 million; users of opioids (heroin and morphine), amphetamines or cocaine totalled 15 to 39 million; and those who injected drugs numbered between 11 and 21 million.

Drug use is more prevalent in rich economies and in drug-producing regions of poor countries and is often a major health burden, the paper adds.

"Cannabis use is associated with dependence and mental disorders, including psychoses, but does not seem to substantially increase mortality," it says. "Illicit opioid use is a major cause of mortality from fatal overdose and dependence," it says, adding that injecting drug users faced specific threats of catching HIV and hepatitis by sharing needles.

Internet



Artists from Cirque Du Soleil: Totem perform at Royal Albert Hall on 4 January, 2012 in London, England.

INTERNET

Hundreds flee home as volcano activity rises in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 7 Jan—More than 500 scared people have fled home on the slopes of a volcano in East Nusa Tenggara in eastern Indonesia as it emitted strong smell of sulfur, officials said on Friday. The Mount Lewotolok activity has risen to the second highest alert level since 2 December last year and the people took initiative by themselves to flee despite of no recommendation for evacuation from the authorities, said Anton Hali, secretary of disaster management and mitigation agency in Lembata District. "People took shelter in evacuation centre or their relatives houses for fear that the mount would erupt at any time as the smell of sulfur becomes stronger and stronger," he told Xinhua by phone. Should the volcano erupt, about 20 villages located on the slopes of the mount were to be affected.—MNA/Xinhua



Photo taken on 7 Jan, 2011 shows a snow view in Beijing, capital of China. A snowfall hit Beijing Saturday morning.—XINHUA

Beijing receives 2012 first snow, flights delayed

BEIJING, 7 Jan—The first snow for 2012 falling down in China's capital late Friday night continued into Saturday morning, with roads slippery and some flights delayed.

By early Saturday morning, light snow has brought about more scraping traffic accidents in Beijing. But the traffic remained normal in all major highways as the snowfall was not heavy, said local traffic control authorities.

As of 9 am, ten flights have been delayed in the Beijing Capital International Airport.

The snow fell down in Beijing on Friday on the Slight

Cold, the 23rd solar term according to the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, ushering in the coldest period in China.

From 9 am Friday to 9 am Saturday, the maximum temperature in Beijing was minus 2 degrees Celsius, according to statistics released by the municipal meteorological bureau.

The light snow is expected to continue in daytime Saturday. And the municipal meteorological bureau has issued a yellow alert of iced road, the lowest level in the country's three-scale ice alert system.

MNA/Xinhua

AIDS kills 2,608 Cambodians in 2011, down 11 pct

PHNOM PENH, 7 Jan—Cambodia estimated that about 2,608 people were killed by HIV/AIDS in 2011, a decrease of 11 percent from 2,943 people in a year earlier, Dr Teng Kunthy, secretary general of National Aids Authority (NAA), said Thursday.

He said among the 2,608 deaths last year, some 2,484 were over 15 years old and 124 were children, whilst in 2010, among the 2,943 deaths, 2,783 were over 15 years old and 160 were children.

He continued to say that the last year's new infection rate was also declined by 12 percent to 1,517 people including 191 children from 1,726 people including 256 children in a year earlier.

"We see a good result in our efforts to fight against HIV/AIDS; however, we still not satisfy with it and hope to see further decline in years to come," he told Xinhua.

Currently, an estimated 75,000 Cambodian people in 60,000 households are living with HIV/AIDS, according to a 2011's survey on the Socioeconomic Impact of HIV in Cambodia conducted by the United Nations Development Programme. About 96.7 percent of them have received antiretroviral therapy. The impoverished Southeast Asian nation needs about 58 million US dollars a year to fight against HIV/AIDS, said Dr Kunthy.

More than 90 percent of the fund comes from external donors.

Xinhua



Bullet trains' depot in E China disclosed. XINHUA

Asia to face difficult year, has ample policy space: IMF economists

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan. — Events unfolding far from Asia's shores could shape the region's economic outlook for 2012, but Asia's policymakers still have the room to respond aggressively to a deteriorating global economic scenario, say economists with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Despite the prevailing global uncertainty, Asia has until now, proven to be very resilient. It has boasted strong domestic demand, low unemployment, and factories working at near-full capacity. While credit growth has slowed from the torrid pace of early 2011, it remains robust in most economies," IMF economists note in an article on the IMF blog on Thursday.

However, Asia's heavy reliance on trade is likely to make 2012 a difficult year. Asia is one of the world's most trade-dependent regions, exporting everything from commodities such as metals and rice to sophisticated electronic products and cars, caution IMF economists.

Xinhua

Free library opens door to knowledge

BEIJING, 7 Jan— It was a brisk and sunny morning in late December. Like every other day in the town of Wanfu, Jiangxi province, a man stooped over laying out newspapers and magazines on a table in the market, his face wrinkled into a half-smile.

His table was soon surrounded by adults and children flipping through the papers and magazines. They were reading at the little bookstand for free, or to borrow favorite books at the bookstand without giving any deposit. Liu Mulei, 76, taught primary students Chinese for 40 years. Since retiring in 1996, he has collected about 6,000 albums of newspapers, magazines and books.



Liu Mulei talks to pupils in his free library near the Tangdong Primary School in Wanfu town, East China's Jiangxi province.—XINHUA

With this considerable collection, Liu opened his first library in 2006 when he began to take care of the activity room for elderly people in the town. Now he runs four libraries, including this famous one set up in the market in 2009. "For the first five years after retirement I spent about 1,000 yuan (\$160) on newspapers and magazines every year, and more and more people came to read them," Liu said. "So in order to satisfy their needs, since 2001 I spend about 4,000 yuan a year on buying reading material."—Xinhua

Utah woman uses fake mustache to rob neighbours

A 31-year-old woman in Salt Lake City has been charged with two counts of burglary after she allegedly used a fake mustache to disguise her appearance as she robbed her neighbours.

The Salt Lake Tribune reports that the unnamed woman's neighbours first noticed that several thousand dollars were missing from a security box



An Utah woman allegedly donned a fake mustache to rob her neighbours.

inside their home. A later review of the box revealed that an additional \$9,000 was missing.

In response, the neighbours then decided to set up a trap for the repeat robber, placing cash out as bait and setting up security cameras to catch it all on tape.

That's when a woman, dressed in a "very large men's suit," a beanie hat and fake mustache was caught on tape using a key to enter the house and steal the cash.

Town resists billionaire's Zeus temple bid

The mayor of Agrigento, Italy, says the town's Temple of Zeus isn't for sale — not even for as much money as it took "to save Italy's finances."

Russian precious-metals billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov recently showed interest in purchasing the ruins in Agrigento's famous Valley of the Temples.

"I wouldn't sell the Temple of Zeus even for 40 billion euros (\$51.2 billion), the figure Premier Mario Monti had to find to save Italy's finances," Mayor Marco Zambuto said.

Zambuto said he is interested in attracting foreign investment in the UNESCO World Heritage site, ANSA reported Thursday.

"It's a different matter if we are talking about turning over management [of sites] for events or initiatives, or even



The remains of the Agrigento Temple of Zeus, via Clemensfranz on Wikimedia Commons.

the sponsorship of renovations and maintenance of the temples and sanctuaries in the valley," he told ANSA. "I don't rule out this option."

Thief drops stolen coin collection into Coinstar machine

Police in Oregon are searching for a suspect who allegedly stole a rare coin collection from his own father and traded it in for pennies on the dollar at a local coin-counting machine.

On Christmas day, Dan Johnson Jr and two friends allegedly broke into a shed on his father's property, where the coin collection was stowed. The burglars also reportedly stole tools and two safes, which had approximately 50 to 60 pounds of silver and jewelry inside.

So what explains the colossal miscue? Authorities say that the simplest explanation is the most persuasive one. "The obvious answer is that the crooks were idiots," Dan Johnson Sr told local affiliate Fox 12. "To not know the value of what they had taken, just to get pocket change for it. Just really a stupid person. Makes me feel good he was a stupid person and didn't realize what he had."



Not an authorized rare coin dealer

Police: Man sold moonshine near Gator Bowl

Florida police said they arrested a man accused of selling moonshine from a barbecue stand near the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville.

The Jacksonville

Sheriff's Office said state alcohol agents observed Michael Freeman, 44, of Jacksonville, selling Grey Goose Vodka, Canadian Whiskey, Absolute Vodka and moonshine whiskey

without a state beverage license near EverBank Field, First Coast News,

Jacksonville, reported Thursday.

Freeman, who was also found to be in possession of 60 prescription Lortabs without a prescription on the bottle, said he purchased the two gallons of moonshine for \$70 during a trip to Macon, Ga.

News Album



Guitarist Eddie Van Halen performs during a private Van Halen show to announce the band's upcoming tour at Cafe Wha? in New York on 5 January, 2012. INTERNET

Van Halen to kick off tour, album in February

NEW YORK, 7 Jan—Veteran rockers Van Halen said on Friday that they will kick off a North American tour with original lead singer David Lee Roth in mid-February, shortly after the release of the band's first full album with Roth in nearly 30 years.

"A Different Kind of Truth" will be released in the United States on Feb 7 but the first single, "Tattoo," and its accompanying video, will debut on 10 Jan. Roth's last album with the group was the popular "1984," released on 31 Dec, 1983.

The band will be joined by Kool & The Gang for select dates on the 40-plus city tour, which opens at the KFC Yum! Centre in Louisville, Kentucky on Feb 18 with over four months of dates through the New Orleans Arena announced so far. Tickets go on sale on 14 Jan.

Van Halen's relationship with Roth has been a stormy one over the years. Roth left the band in a bitter breakup in 1985, only to rejoin for a performance at the MTV Video Music Awards in 1996, then quickly departed in another bitter split.

He returned to Van Halen for a tour in 2007-2008.

The band, whose early hits include "Runnin' with the Devil" and "Dance the Night Away," was among the leading rock acts of the late 1970s, 1980s and into the 1990s, when Sammy Hagar replaced Roth as singer.—Reuters

James Franco in talks for starring role in "The Game"

LOS ANGELES, 7 Jan—James Franco is in early talks for a starring role in "The Game," the MGM movie based on Neil Strauss' New York Times bestseller about picking up women. The Wrap has confirmed.

Strauss documented his experiences in "The Game: Penetrating the Secret Society of Pickup Artists," which was released by Regan Books in 2005. Franco's role would be as Mystery, who taught Strauss how to become a pick-up artist.

"The Game" is directed by Brian Koppelman and David Levien, both of whom worked on the screenplay. Writers D.B. Weiss (HBO's "Game of Thrones"), and Lee Eisenberg and Gene Stupnitsky — the Emmy-nominated writer-producers of NBC's "The Office" — also worked on the project.

Gary Barber, Roger Birnbaum, Andrew Miano, Chris Weitz and Paul Weitz are producing "The Game." INTERNET

Warner Bros planning 56-day release window delays

LOS ANGELES, 7 Jan—For the past year, studios have been flirting with stretching out the delays on when Netflix, Redbox and Blockbuster can rent new releases, but it looks like Warner Bros is going to be the first to take the plunge. The studio plans to make the home entertainment companies wait 56 days from when new releases go on sale to offer DVDs and Blu-rays, according to a report from AllThingsD.

The move is seen as part of an ongoing effort by the industry to prop up a DVD market that has struggled to keep pace with plunging disc sales and a shift among many consumers to digital streaming.

A spokesman for Warner Bros. declined to comment on "speculation." Netflix,

Redbox and Blockbuster did not respond to requests for comment.

AllThingsD reports that the new pacts will be announced at next week's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Warner Bros.' distribution contracts with Netflix and Redbox are due up at the end of this month, according to an individual with knowledge of the deals. It is not clear when the pact with Blockbuster expires.

Under the current agreement, Netflix and Redbox are giving discounts on discs in return for honoring a 28 day delay on when they offer new releases.

The news comes as Time Warner subsidiary HBO said that it will no longer provide discs to Netflix.—INTERNET

Cast members (L-R) Rupert Grint, Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson arrive for the premiere of the film "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" in New York on 11 July, 2011. INTERNET



"Harry Potter", "Hangover 2" among Warner hits in 2011

LOS ANGELES, 7 Jan—Thanks to the final Harry Potter film and the raunchy comedy "The Hangover Part II," Warner Bros racked up \$4.7 billion worldwide in 2011, the studio announced on Friday. That's a lordly sum, but Warner Bros. did have to surrender its box-office crown to rival Paramount, which grossed \$5.17 billion this year.

It also falls short of the \$4.8 billion the studio generated in the previous year. However, in a release touting the announcement, Warner's notes that 2011's gross makes it the first studio to ever exceed \$4 billion globally for three consecutive years.

Domestically, the studio made north of \$1.83 billion.

Foreign markets continued to be a source of strength for Warner Bros, with the studio earning \$2.87 billion

internationally last year on a tentpole heavy slate that included new installments of its Final Destination and Sherlock Holmes franchises.

"Our 2011 slate saw a broad range of hits that encompassed comedy, action, suspense, and, of course, a little magic," Jeff Robinov, president of Warner Bros. Picture Group, said in a statement. "We share these successes with our production partners, as well as all those who worked so hard, not only to make the movies but to bring them to a worldwide audience."

Leading the pack for the studios was its farewell to the mega-grossing boy wizard saga, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows — Part 2," which earned more than \$1.33 billion worldwide.—INTERNET

Monfils tops Nadal, faces Tsonga in Qatar final



Gael Monfils

DOHA, (Qatar) 7 Jan—Gael Monfils upset Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-4 Friday in the semifinals of the Qatar Open to line up an unexpected all-French final against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga after Roger Federer pulled out of the tournament with back spasms.

Monfils, who had only beaten Nadal once before in nine meetings, used a strong first serve and chased down nearly every shot.

"I just played my game," said Monfils, who defeated Viktor Troicki of Serbia to reach the semifinals. "I think last night I played a good match and felt very good

about it. I knew today if I did it in same spirit against Rafa, it would be great."

Monfils broke Nadal to go up 4-2 in the first set. Nadal recovered to lead 4-1 in the second set but Monfils stepped up his game. He won 16 of 21 points—including several jump volleys—to go 5-4 up before closing out the match when Nadal hit a return wide.

Monfils said the key was not getting rattled, even when down in the second set.

"It was just a break, so I was just trying to adjust the way I played," he said. "I was just thinking, 'it's one break and I know I can break him.'"

Nadal praised Monfils for his performance, saying he had "fantastic shots with very good backhands, good forehands, his movements were fantastic."

The match was overshadowed by Federer withdrawing only 30 minutes before his match against Tsonga. The 16-time Grand

Slam winner said his back had not improved since beating Andreas Seppi in three sets on Thursday.

Federer, who was looking for his fourth title in Doha, apologized to organizers but said he didn't



Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France

want to risk further injury ahead of the Australian Open, which starts on 16 Jan.

It is only the second time the 30-year-old Swiss has pulled out of a tournament due to injury in his illustrious career. He withdrew from the quarterfinals at the 2008 Paris Masters, also because of a back injury.

"I don't feel a whole lot of improvement for today, and I just don't think it's the right time to risk anything more right now," said Federer, who has tried several treatments. "I still have pain and that's why it was the only right decision, a difficult one for me... so it's a sad moment for me and for the tournament and for the fans, but health goes first."

Federer said he felt the injury Wednesday in the first set against qualifier Grega Zemlja.

"Then I wasn't able to serve properly anymore," Federer said. "Had the same thing yesterday. I was really playing, you know, with the hand brake on, and I was just trying to manage the situation, really. So it wasn't very easy to deal with."

Federer plans to fly out of Doha on Saturday as scheduled and is hopeful he will recover by the end of the week with rest and more treatment.

"For Australia, I'm optimistic, just because it's not very good but it isn't crazy bad," Federer said. "I have had bad backs in the past. This is definitely not very good, otherwise I would be playing. But I feel without play and the right treatment, I will get through it in the next few days."

Nadal dismissed suggestions that the loss was a setback to his preparations for the Australian Open.

"I go to Australia very



Roger Federer of Switzerland



Rafael Nadal of Spain

happy about what I did here. For sure I would love to win the tournament, win today, have another match tomorrow," Nadal said. "The only negative thing of today is to lose. For the rest of the things, I am satisfied."

Tsonga has won two out of three matches against Monfils. "It's really always tough to play against Jo because he has a powerful game and kind of game, you know, it's tough to manipulate him from the baseline," he said. "So I need just to focus also on my game and focus on my mind."

Internet

Rooney, United deny striker will quit Old Trafford

MANCHESTER, 7 Jan—Wayne Rooney issued a joint statement with Manchester United denying he's set to leave the Premier League champions.

The action was prompted by a story in Saturday's edition of the Independent claiming that there are cracks in the relationship between Rooney and United manager Alex Ferguson.

The statement says "any suggestion that Manchester



Wayne Rooney

United and Wayne Rooney are to part company is complete nonsense" and that the England striker and Ferguson "have always had and retain the utmost respect for each other and look forward to working together in the coming seasons." The 26-year-old Rooney tweeted: "The independent are talking absolute rubbish," before reiterating his commitment to United.—Internet

Gerrard returns to lead Liverpool Cup romp

LIVERPOOL, 7 Jan—Steven Gerrard helped Kenny Dalglish celebrate his first anniversary back in charge of Liverpool with a 5-1 FA Cup win over Oldham at Anfield on Friday.

Gerrard, starting for the first time since October, netted from the penalty spot after Oldham, who play in the third-tier, had threatened a shock.

Robbie Simpson stunned the Premier League hosts by firing Oldham into the lead from 25-yards before Craig Bellamy equalised.

Gerrard made it 2-1 before teenager Jonjo Shelvey's first senior goal for Liverpool sealed Dalglish his 25th win in 48 games in all competitions since taking over for a second time last January.

Substitutes Andy Carroll and Stewart Downing also found the net in the closing stages to give the scoreline an emphatic look.

Liverpool, who have a two-legged League Cup semifinal against Manchester City to also look forward to, now advance to Sunday's fourth round draw.

This was Liverpool's first domestic cup tie at Anfield since they were embarrassed by lowly Northampton in the League Cup last season.

They have not secured major silverware since their 2006 FA Cup triumph, the seventh-time they have won the competition yet they had only advanced past the third round only twice in five attempts since.

Liverpool have succumbed to second-tier clubs Barnsley and Reading in recent seasons while 12



months ago, in Dalglish's first game back, they lost 1-0 to Manchester United after Gerrard was sent off at Old Trafford.

Internet

Answer for yesterday's crossword puzzle

1	P	2	S	4	S	6	A	7	L	8	B	9	10	S	11	12	13	P
14	A	D	A	G	E	15	L	I	E	U	16	T	E	A	L			
17	R	E	C	O	M	B	I	N	E	D	18	A	G	R	A			
20	A	S	T	U	T	E	21	G	R	I	D	22	I	R	O	N		
23																		
25	E	L	I	X	I	R	26	S	I	R								
28	A	N	A	29	D	I	A	S	30	G	O	T	T	A				
32	D	O	U	B	L	E	E	N	T	E	N	D	R	E	S			
40	O	L	D	I	E	41	S	T	O	P	42	O	A	K				
43	R	O	E	44	N	O	M	A	D	S								
48	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	E	N	E	R						
53	P	R	O	T	E	G	E	E	54	Y	A	M	M	E	R			
58	L	A	S	T	C	A	L	U	M	N	I	A	T	E				
61	I	L	I	A	62	U	S	E	R	63	I	N	C	A	N			
64	T	A	N	S	65	P	E	N	N	66	E	G	E	S	T			

Stosur to face Schiavone in 1st round at Sydney



Grand Slam champion Samantha Stosur

SYDNEY, 7 Jan—Grand Slam champions Samantha Stosur and Francesca Schiavone will meet in the first round of the Sydney International—a rematch of their 2010 French Open final won

by Schiavone.

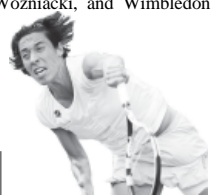
The high-profile encounter is a byproduct of the strength of the field—nine of the top 10 players in the WTA rankings are entered in tournament which begins Sunday.

Stosur, who won the US Open last year, is seeded fifth, while the 11th-ranked Schiavone is unseeded.

Top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki, and Wimbledon champion and second-seeded Petra Kvitova have first-round byes.

Juan Martin del Potro, top-seeded in the men's draw, No. 2 John Isner, third-seeded Richard Gasquet and No. 4 Feliciano Lopez have first-round byes.

Internet



Grand Slam champion Francesca Schiavone.

Wawrinka knocked out in Chennai Open quarterfinals



Go Soeda dispatched defending champion Stanislas Wawrinka to advance to the semifinals of the Chennai Open.—INTERNET

CHENNAI, 7 Jan—Japanese qualifier Go Soeda upset defending champion Stanislas Wawrinka 6-4, 6-4 in the Chennai Open quarterfinals on Friday.

Soeda will play top-seeded Janko Tipsarevic in the semifinals after the Serbian beat Belgian wild card entry David Goffin 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

Second-seeded Nicolas Almagro of Spain and fourth-seeded Milos Raonic of Canada will play in the other semifinal.

Almagro labored to 4-6, 7-6 (8), 6-4 win over Japanese qualifier Yuichi Sugita, while the big-serving Raonic had 15 aces to defeat Israel's Dudi Sela 7-6 (4), 6-3.—Internet

International Sports

Continued from yesterday...

January transfer window

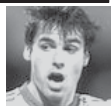
We, the *NLM-ner* profiles the most likely transfer targets during the January window - at home and abroad.

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.

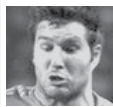
Here are our top 50 suggestions for high-profile moves this time.

Potential European Movers . . .

YOANN GOURCUFF (25, midfielder/forward) Lyon: Disappointing since his £18m move from Bordeaux, Lyon are ready to cut their losses on the playmaker and may even consider a loan.



ANDRE-PIERRE GIGNAC (26, forward) Marseille: His move to Fulham collapsed at the last minute in August but could be back on after a falling out with coach Didier Deschamps.



EDENHAZARD (20, winger/forward) Lille: The exciting Belgian is a tasty prospect for Arsenal, Chelsea and Man City fans, but is also being targeted by wealthy domestic rivals Paris Saint-Germain.



BENJAMIN CORGNET (24, midfielder/forward) Dijon: Hugely impressive in his first Ligue 1 season, the dynamic attacking midfielder is reportedly attracting interest from Chelsea and Liverpool.



OLIVIER GIROUD (25, forward) Montpellier: His strength and aerial prowess make him an attractive prospect but it would take a large bid to sway the title hopefuls.



MODIBO MAIGA (25, winger/forward) Sochaux: Unhappy with Newcastle's decision to withdraw interest following a medical, the Malian would be open to offers from other Premier League clubs.



PAPA 'BABA' DIAWARA (23, forward) Maritimo: The Senegalese striker nearly moved to Celtic last summer and could be on his way this time via imminent receipt of a Portuguese passport.



ALVARO PEREIRA (26, left-back) FC Porto: The attacking full-back is strongly linked with Chelsea. The Portuguese champions have a replacement in Brazil's Alex Sandro and may be ready to haggle.



EWERTON (22, centre-back) SC Braga: The defender has impressed while on loan from Corinthians Alagoano, but his fate is not in Braga's hands. Porto and some Premier League sides are keen.



NICOLAS GAITAN (23, midfielder) Benfica: The Argentine sparkled in the Champions League group stage, but the extent of Manchester United's interest is the subject of some debate.



HULK (25, forward) Porto: Few clubs in the world have a realistic chance of luring the burly Brazil striker, who has an £83m buy-out clause - but Chelsea or Paris Saint-Germain might be tempted to break the bank.



KAKA (29, forward) Real Madrid: The Spanish giants are keen to offload a player earning £8.5m-plus per year. Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and a return to Brazil have all been mooted but the £25m price tag is too high.



MARTINACERES (24, full-back) Sevilla: Selling the cultured Uruguayan would raise funds for Sevilla. He has attracted admiring glances in La Liga and abroad. Juventus are keen and £8m might do it.



To be continued . . .

NLM-ner Joke

Just cut your hair first

A young man comes home and says "Dad, just got my driver's license and would like to use the family car."

Father replies, "OK, son. But, first, you have to get good grades in school, keep your room clean, make the yard is neat, and cut your hair. Come back in a few months and then we'll see."

Well, several months pass and the young man comes into the house with his report card in his hand. "Dad, I got great marks on my report card. I've been keeping my room as neat as a pin, and the yard is always ship-shape. How about letting me use the car?"

Father replies, "That's all true, but son you didn't cut your hair."

Son says, "But, dad, Jesus had long hair."

Father replies, "Yes, son, you're perfectly right. And he walked everywhere he went."

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(8-1-12 09:30 am ~

9-1-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

- * News
- * Towards a Peaceful and Disciplined Democratic New Nation (Border Areas)
- * News
- * "Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes" Eggplant Curry
- * Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham's Visit to Mingalar Taung Nyunt Victims Relief Camp
- * IT Youths & Knowledge Age
- * Song
- * "MI People's Celebrities" Who Moe Hay Ko is ...
- * National Literary Award Presenting Ceremony
- * Moe Hnyin Than Buddha, The Unique Pagoda in Monywa
- * Shopping with Torch-Light
- * 100 Shuttle Silk Fabric and its Key Notes
- * Let's Sing Together
- * Myanmar Customs & Naming System
- * Beautiful Choreographic of Maid of Honour Dance and Female Spirit Dance
- * Banana
- * Myanmar Movies
- * "One Precept-2"

MYANMAR TV

(8-1-2012) (Sunday)

7:00 am

1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- Uppatasanti Paritta

7:30 am

2. Morning News

7:50 am

3. Nice & Sweet Song

8:40 am

4. International News

11:00 am

5. Martial Song

11:30 am

6. TV Drama Series

12:30 pm

7. Myanmar Movies

4:20 pm

8. Dance of National Races

4:40 pm

9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

4:50 pm

10. Teleplay (Agri)

5:20 pm

11. Sing & Enjoy

6:20 pm

12. Cartoon Series

7:00 pm

13. TV Drama Series

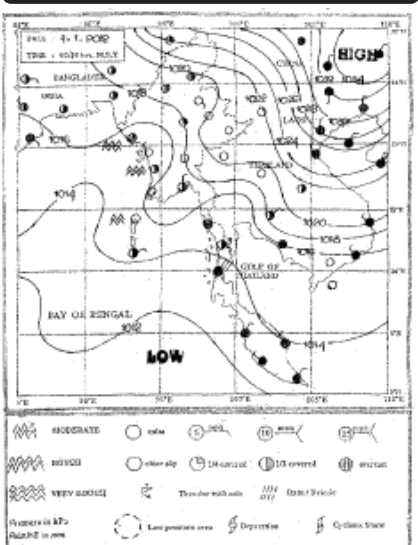
8:00 pm

14. News

15. Cartoon Series

16. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 8th January, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	29.84	12.54	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
2	Kayah	28.82	09.48	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	33.91	18.64	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
4	Chin	16.61	09.48	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	27.81	14.57	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	30.86	16.61	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
7	Tamuhay	33.91	21.70	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
8	Bago	31.88	15.59	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	29.84	15.59	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	28.82	16.61	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	33.91	18.64	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
12	Yangon	34.93	18.64	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	28.82	17.63	Likelihood of isolated light rain	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	23.73	09.48	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	25.77	07.45	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	27.81	11.52	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	32.90	18.64	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	33.91	18.61	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	34.93	18.64	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	28.82	16.61	Partly cloudy	

During the past (24) hours, rain has been isolated in Tamuhay Region and weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing, Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Eastern Shan and Rakhine States, (5°C) above January average temperatures in Chin States and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperature were Patheingyi (5°C), Puna, Hsibo and Mogoke (6°C) each and Pyaw Oo (7°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.11) inch.

Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman sea and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of decrease of night temperature in the Eastern Myanmar Areas.

Pyapon gets repaved road



PYAPON, 7 Jan—The repaved Myawady Road was inaugurated in Ward 17 of Pyapon on 2 January.

Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Soe Win and officials formally opened the road.

The road, 2300 feet long and 12.5 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of K 24.89 million contributed by World Vision (Myanmar) and local people.

Myamma Ailin

DISTRICT NEWS

Fire preventive measures taken

PAUNGDE, 7 Jan—For prevention against danger of fire at State-owned factories and workshops, a fire drill was organized at No. 93 Saw Mill in Paungde Township on 20 December. Officials and members of Fire Brigade demonstrated fire drill with the participation of local people and use of fire fighting extinguishers.



Township IPRD

Vaccine of foot-and-mouth disease provided

MANSI, 7 Jan—Mansi Township is striving for alleviation of poverty in rural areas. Officials of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department injected vaccine of

foot-and-mouth disease to 58 buffaloes and 76 cows in Pinyin Oo Lwin Ward of Mansi Township on 25 December.

Township IPRD

Rice Reserve Supervisory Committee holds meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—A coordination meeting of Rice Reserve Supervisory Committee took place at the Ministry of Commerce here this morning with an address by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

In his speech, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint said after taking control of rice trading in successive eras, the State gave a green light to private sectors to trade rice freely and openly beginning 24 April, 2003. In the interests of farmers, the State will purchase rice from local farmers at a profitable price after forming the Rice Reserve Supervision Committee. Moreover, necessary subcommittees will be formed and they need to take systematic measures to be able to deal with purchasing, storage, quality and money matters in rice trading.

Afterwards, the deputy ministers and officials took part in the round of discussion.

At the meeting, the committee was formed with 10 members including chairman, vice-chairman and secretary.

MNA



Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint speaking at the coordination meeting of Rice Reserve Supervisory Committee held at the ministry.—MNA

Man City boss disputes Ferguson's claim over who is playing best



MANCHESTER, 7 Jan—Roberto Mancini has refuted Sir Alex Ferguson's claim that Tottenham are playing the best football in the Premier League, insisting Manchester City are.

Just before the New Year, Ferguson insisted Harry Redknapp's men were title contenders and they 'play the best football in the country and their current form is the best in the country.'

But Mancini believes his Premier League table-toppers are the current best as he prepares to renew rivalries with Ferguson's side in the FA Cup on Sunday.

"It is difficult to say your neighbour is playing better football," he said.

"Tottenham can win the title. They have done a fantastic season until now and in the next four months, I don't know.

"But, for now, we are playing the best football in the Premier League."

Mental strength

But the Italian does concede Manchester United are still the best team in England because of their renowned mental strength.

"If you want my opinion, Manchester United are the best team in England," he said.

"Maybe not now because they have six or seven important players injured.

"But they have a strong team with a strong mentality and they are at the top."

The former Inter Milan boss also stressed the differences between what he has managed in two seasons at City and what Ferguson has created in 25 with United.

"We can't be like them in two years," he said.

"They have had this mentality for 25 years.

"We can improve if we continue to win, if we win the championship or other cups. We started it last season. But in two years it is impossible."

Hat-trick

Mancini's side beat United in last season's FA Cup semi-final before going on to lift the silverware and then in October came that staggering 6-1 triumph at Old Trafford that sent shockwaves around the world and leaves City on the brink of a hat-trick of derby victories for the first time since 1969.

"It was important to beat them in the semi-final last year and it was important to beat them at Old Trafford," said Mancini.

"It was not the 6-1, they played for 40 minutes with 10 players, which is very difficult. It was important because it was a good performance.

"We played very well away from home."—Internet

Community-based domiciliary care provided in Dawbon Township

YANGON, 5 Jan—A coordination meeting on providing community-based domiciliary care was held in Dawbon Township, Yangon Region on 26 December.

Township medical officer Dr Moh Moh Aung gave talks on health care services by means of domiciliary care.

Afterwards, Leader of Yangon West District TB Control Group Dr Swe Swe Than and party provided medical check-up to chronic patients in Dawbon Township and presented medicines and nutritious foods to them.

Myamma Alin

Significant night temperature (7-1-2012)

Pinlaung	(5° C)
Putao	(6° C)
Heho	(6° C)
Mogok	(6° C)
PyinOoLwin	(7° C)



Brain power can decline from age 45

PAGE 4

Mercury influx into ecosystem may have caused extinction 250m years ago



PAGE 5

Rooney, United deny striker will quit Old Trafford

PAGE 14



Wawrinka knocked out in Chennai Open quarterfinals

PAGE 14