

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 9 January, 2012

## Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and party leave for Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—A Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing left here by Tatmadaw special aircraft at 9.30 am today to pay a goodwill visit to Thailand at the invitation of Commander-in-Chief General

Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services was

### True patriotism

- \* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- \* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.



*Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win and senior military officers before his departure for Thailand.*

MNA

Tanasak Patimapragorn of the Royal Thai Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy)

accompanied by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Lt-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Chief

of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win, Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay and senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.—MNA

## Initial peace agreement inked between State Level Peace-making Group and CNF

*Chin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Min Oo and Leader of Chin National Front Peace-making Group Dr Shwe Kha exchange notes of preliminary agreement.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—In order to build peace as offered by the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, an initial peace agreement was signed between State level Peace-making Group from the Chin State Government and Chin National Front (CNF) Peace-making Group at the meeting hall of Chin State on 6 January. Present on the occasion were Union Level Peace-making Group Leader Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Min Oo, General Staff Officer (Grade-I) Lt-Col Ko Ko Gyi of North-West Command, State Advocate General U Katpati L and officials and Dr Shwe Kha of CNF Peace-making Group and members.

In the presence of Union Minister U Aung Min, Union Minister U Win Tun, State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai and peace-making groups, the State Level Peace-making Group and CNF Peace-making Group signed some agreements for initial peace talks and souvenirs were exchanged.

Then, State Minister Col Zaw Min Oo and Dr Shwe Kha exchanged the documents and they posed for a documentary photo together with the Union Ministers.

MNA



## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 9 January, 2012

### Role of ICE in youths

In Myanmar tradition, a maxim says youths of today are adults of future. They are defined as human resources of the mankind and good sons of the future. Whatever it may be, today's youths are future generations.

Youth and ICE is playing a crucial role in building a developed nation. Nowadays, every youth must have skills in ICE. Those who have no skill in ICE will be lagged behind the progressive world. Thus, all the youths need to apply ICE at full capacity.

Long time ago, those who had completed in eighteen manly skills were reliable in building the nation. At present, all younger people must have skills of ICEs. In fact, the youths and the ICE are in pairs.

ICE is a compulsory art for the youth. "I" means Internet. All youths must have proficient skills to apply the Internet. Various websites all over the world are posted on the Internet to share information, knowledge, sports and so on to global people. All happenings across the world can be seen on the websites in the real time. The youths may seek general knowledge on the website. Only when they study and analyze various items of knowledge on the website, can they catch up the advancement of the world.

The word "C" means computer science. The youths must be well-versed in applications of e-mail, Gmail, blog, face book, twitter, etc. They all should understand the applications concerning the software and hardware in computer science.

The last word "E" is the most important, defining English language. All youths must have clever in English proficiency with four skills. They must have good command in English as it is a global language. If possible, they should study more languages.

In reality, the youth can enjoy fruits of accomplishments in their life by studying the abbreviation ICE.

### Kachin State to crack down Pirate VCDs

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan — Kachin State Video Industry Scrutinizing Supervisory Committee held its first work coordination meeting at Kachin State General Administration Department in Myitkyina on 6 January.

Chairman of the committee Commissioner of Kachin State General Administration Department U Min Chit Oo clarified the tasks of the committee and measures for prevention of pirate VCDs in Kachin State.

Secretary of the committee In-charge of the Kachin State Branch of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise U Saw Lin Tun reported on organizing the Kachin State video industry group and participants of the meeting discussed works of the committee.—MNA



The opening ceremony of 64th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in progress at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon on 7 January. (News reported)—MNA



53<sup>rd</sup> Kayin New Year was celebrated in Nweni street in ward (e) of North Okkalapa Township in Yangon Region. This year's Kayin New Year, coincided with Christmas was widely celebrated in the whole nation.—MNA

### Development of cooperative stimulated

YAMETHIN, 7 Jan—Staff Officer of Yamethin Township Cooperative Department and inspection team of Cooperative Development Branch met members of Lokthar Saikhtoke Cooperative Society in Inginkan Village of Yamethin Township on 23 December.

The staff officer and party viewed thriving paddy plantation of the society. Next, they micro-credit tasks of Shwe Kan Moe Farming General Cooperative Society.

Myanma Alin

### Best mother and baby contest held

MYAUNGMYA, 8 Jan—In commemoration of the 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day, the Myaungmya Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized the best mother and baby contest at Mya Shwewa Hall in Myaungmya on 4 January morning.

Chairperson of Myaungmya District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Thuza Tun explained scrutiny for prize winners.

Chairperson of the District MCWSC Daw Thuza Tun, Township Association Chairperson Daw Win Win San and wellwisher gave prizes to the winners and special prize and consolation prizes to the respective winners.

District IPRD

### New building for Basic Education Post-primary School opened in Salingyi Township

SALINGYI, 4 Jan—A new building for Basic Education Post-primary School in Mintaw Village, Salingyi Township was opened and handed over to the education department at a ceremony held at the new school building on 23 December.

Sagaing Region Social Affairs Minister made a speech on the occasion and Headmaster U Myint explained the purpose of opening of the new building.

Afterwards, Sagaing Region Forest, Energy and Mines U Than Htaik, Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein, Region Hluttaw

Representatives U Aung Zaw Oo and U Nay Win formally opened the new building.

After that, Sagaing Region Deputy Hluttaw Speaker U Thaug Sein unveiled the signboard of the new building, and Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Paw Khine handed over the related document to Region Education Officer U Myint Soe.

The new facility is 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 12 feet high completed with CI sheetroof and concrete walls. It was built at a cost of over 9.8 million contributed by the State and the people.

Township IPRD

### Mass walk activities organized in Shwegyin

SHWEGYIN, 8 Jan—The mass walk activities in December was held in Shwegyin Township of Bago District on 31 December.

Departmental officials, local authorities, members of social organizations, teachers and students participated in the up and down activities from the monument on Nyazay Road in Shan/Kyay Ward to Shwegyin-Madauk Sittoung Bridge. They then took physical exercises. Later, a lucky draw programme was performed for participants.

Myanma Alin

### Football tourney commences in Tatkon

TATKON, 8 Jan—The Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township Administrator's Cup U-21 Inter-Ward/Village Football Tournament 2012 kicked off at the township sports ground in Tatkon on yesterday afternoon.

First, football teams took positions at the designated places. Township Administrator U Aye Lu made a speech and greeted the football teams.

The footballers took the sports oaths. In the debut, Bayintnaung Ward team beat Myawady Ward team 1-0. Altogether nine football teams are taking part in the tournament.—Zinbo-Kyemon

## LOCAL SPORTS

### Chess tournament opened in Dalla

DALLA, 8 Jan—Dalla Township General Administration Department of Yangon South District organized the chess tournament in commemoration of the 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day at Thiri Zeya Nawrahta Hall in Dalla on 2 January afternoon.

Township Administrator U Tun Tun Win made a speech, and an official explained rules of the tournament.

The administrator launched the tournament. Players from various wards of the township are taking part in the tournament.—Myanma Alin







*In this 5 Jan, 2012 photo, Meristin Florival, a mechanic, centre, stands with friends as they look at portraits of loved ones in the Beaubin camp for people displaced by the 2010 earthquake in Petionville, Haiti.*

INTERNET

## Heavy snow hits Austria, shuts down key rail line

VIENNA, 8 Jan—A major east-west railway route in western Austria was shut Saturday following heavy snow in the popular Alpine skiing region.

Railway operator OeBB

said the line between Oetzal and Bludenz—a part of a route that connects Vienna and Innsbruck with Austria's western tip and Switzerland—was expected to remain closed until Sunday



*Cars getting out of a tunnel on a snowy street near Fiss in Tyrol, eastern Austria, on 6 Jan, 2012. Heavy snowfalls captured Austria and southern Germany and caused traffic problems.*

INTERNET

afternoon. Two other rail lines connecting Tyrol province with southern Germany also were shut down. Overhead wires in the area have been damaged by falling trees.

Heavy snow has blanketed Tyrol and neighbouring Vorarlberg, Austria's westernmost province, over recent days, leading to several road closures and an elevated risk of avalanches.

A military helicopter was brought in Saturday to pick up 52 people who had been stranded for two days at a mountain refuge in Vorarlberg, provincial government official Erich Schwaerzler told the *Austria Press Agency*. Schwaerzler said they had been unable to make the descent from the Lindauer Huette refuge, which is 5,720 feet (1,744 meters) above sea level, by any other means because of the avalanche risk.

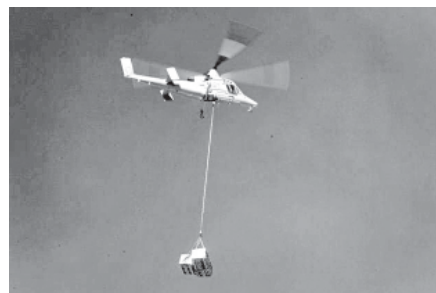
Internet

## Cargo drone makes debut in Afghanistan

KABUL, 8 Jan—The US military is testing a revolutionary new drone for its arsenal, a pilotless helicopter intended to fly cargo missions to remote outposts where frequent roadside bombs threaten access by road convoys.

Surveillance drones for monitoring enemy activity and armed versions for launching airstrikes have become a trademark of America's wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East. But this is the first time a chopper version designed for transport has been used operationally.

Two unmanned models of the Kaman K-MAX helicopters and a team of 16 company technicians and 8 Marines are conducting a 6-month evaluation



*In this 17 Dec, 2011 photo provided by the US Marine Corps, a K-MAX pilotless freight helicopter, a detachment from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1, transports cargo in Camp Dwyer, Helmand Province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan.—INTERNET*

programme for the new craft at Camp Dwyer, a Marine Corps airfield in the Garmsir district of southern Helmand Province.

The craft have flown 20 transport missions since the inaugural flight on 17 Dec,

said Maj Kyle O'Connor, the officer in charge of the detachment. They have delivered nearly 18 tons of cargo, mainly thousands of Meals Ready to Eat and spare parts needed at the forward operating bases.—Internet

## Three militants killed, 11 arrested in Afghanistan

KABUL, 8 Jan—At least three Taleban militants have been killed and 11 detained in cleanup operations launched by Afghan forces and NATO-led troops in Afghanistan over the past 24 hours, the Afghan Interior Ministry said on Sunday.

"Afghan National Police (ANP), Afghan National Army and NATO-led International Security

Assistance Force (ISAF) launched eight joint operations in Helmand, Uruzgan, Khost and Farah provinces over the past 24 hours," the ministry said in a press release. "As a result of these operations, three armed insurgents were killed, one wounded and 11 others arrested by the ANP," it said, adding the joint forces also found and seized a handful of

weapons besides defusing 30 anti-vehicle mines in the same period. "The ANP also discovered and defused six 5 kg drums full of explosives, five anti-vehicle mines, one BM-1 rocket, and one rocket launcher as a result of separate security operations in Kandahar, Logar, Khost, and Herat provinces in the past 24 hours," it added.

Internet

## Record air pollution hammers Calif's heartland

FRESNO, (Calif), 8 Jan—This is the time of year when residents who often live with the nation's worst pollution often can draw a breath of fresh air.

But this winter has not been kind to people who want to play outside in California's Central Valley.

A dry December and January has stagnated air across California, but nowhere is the situation more serious than between Modesto and Bakersfield, where nearly every day dirty air has exceeded federal health standards.

It's the worst air quality recorded in a

dozen years, and it's the unhealthiest kind—microscopic, chemical-laden particles that can get into lungs and absorbed into the bloodstream to create health risks in everyone, not just the young and infirm.

The southern San Joaquin half of the valley stretches 200 miles from Stockton to Bakersfield and is home to 4 million people. It traditionally records the highest level of particulate matter and ozone pollution in the United States and has a rate of asthma three times the national average, according to the American Lung Association.

Internet

## Lightning Kills 165 Cambodians in 2011, up 45%

PHNOM PENH, 8 Jan—Death toll from lightning strikes in Cambodia had increased by 45 percent to 165 deaths in 2011 from 114 deaths in a year earlier. Keo Vy, chief of the Cabinet of National Committee for disaster Management, said on Saturday.

"Among the 2011's deaths, 23 were children," he told *Xinhua* by telephone, adding that besides the deaths, other 139 people were injured. "Most of the victims are in rural areas," he added.

Three provinces with the highest death toll from lightning last year are Battambang, some 300 kilometres Northwest of Phnom Penh, Pursal, some 175 kilometres West of Cambodia and Kampong Cham, about 120 kilometres East of the country.

MNA/Xinhua

*In this 23 Aug, 2011 photo, a stretch of the Calif. State Route 99 corridor in the San Joaquin Valley is shown busy with traffic in Fresno, Calif. This is the time of year when residents of the valley with the nation's worst pollution often can draw a breath of fresh air. But this winter has not been kind to people who want to play outside in California's Central Valley.—INTERNET*



### Belgian doctors carry out country's first face transplant

BRUSSELS, 8 Jan— Belgian surgeons have successfully performed the country's first-ever face transplant, the 19th in the world, doctors announced on Saturday.

Officials at the University Hospital of Ghent said a team of 65 surgeons and medical staff had performed the 20-hour operation a week earlier on a Belgian man with a severely mutilated face.

"He's fine, he's doing very well after six days," surgical team leader Phillip Blondeel told Belgian television. "He's already swallowed a little water."

Blondeel said the patient, whose name was not disclosed, was already able to speak, surpassing doctors' expectations.

"We didn't think he would be able to speak so soon." The patient had been missing skin around the central part of his face, as well as lips, facial muscles and nerves.

The operation brings to 19 the number of face transplants carried out worldwide. The first was a partial face transplant on Frenchwoman Isabelle Dinoire in 2005.

Belgium is the third European country after France and Spain to have carried out the operation.



A person holds a reproduction of a patient's skull with prosthesis at a Press conference on the first facial composite tissue allotransplantation in Belgium, at the Ghent University hospital, in Ghent.

### Bristol to buy Inhibitex for hepatitis C treatment

NEW YORK, 8 Jan— Bristol-Myers Squibb Co has agreed to acquire Inhibitex Inc for about \$2.5 billion to gain access to its promising hepatitis C treatment, the companies said on Saturday.

At \$26 per share, the deal is a huge 163 percent premium to Inhibitex's closing price of \$9.87 on Friday.

Recent years have seen significant advances for

treating hepatitis C— a serious liver disease that afflicts an estimated 180 million people worldwide— while setting off a scramble among large drugmakers to secure the most promising products.

The Bristol-Inhibitex deal comes on the heels of Gilead Sciences Inc's \$11 billion acquisition in November of Pharmasset Inc, which has its own promising hepatitis C therapies. That deal was at an 89 percent premium.



People with cholera wait for relief in a hospital near Port-au-Prince, in 2010. Nearly 7,000 people have now died from cholera in Haiti in an epidemic which has become one of the worst of recent decades, a top health official said Friday.—INTERNET

### China plans to increase nurses to 2.86 mln by 2015

BEIJING, 8 Jan— China will bring its nurse population to 2.86 million by 2015, meaning there will be 2.07 nurses for every 1,000 people, according to a blueprint on nursing issued Friday by the Ministry of Health (MOH).

By the end of 2010, China has registered 2.05 million nurses and there were 1.52

nurses for every 1,000 Chinese.

Even by 2015, the ratio of registered nurses for 1,000 people in China is five times fewer than countries in the European Union and the United States by current standards. By 2015, the ratio of licensed doctors to nurses will climb from 1:1 to 1:1.2,

according to the blueprint.

China also plans to provide more training for head nurses in large hospitals and make nursing services accessible to households and communities, according to the blueprint.

The five-year nursing development plan said the government will further standardize its nurse management system and deepen health care reform in public hospitals over the next few years.

The total number of registered nurses reached 2.05 million in 2010, marking a 52 percent jump from 2005, according to the blueprint.

Inhibitex's lead asset is INX-189, an oral drug in Phase II or mid-stage development. Bristol envisions combining INX-189 with products in its own pipeline to create an all-oral regimen that would eliminate the need for interferons, which often cause flu-like side effects that lead many hepatitis C patients to stop or delay treatment. Bristol expects the transaction to hurt earnings through 2016. That includes an expected hit to earnings per share of about 4 cents in 2012 and 5 cents in 2013.—Reuters

### Red wine may reduce breast cancer risk

LOS ANGELES, 8 Jan— Red wine may reduce one risk factor for breast cancer, challenging the widely-held belief that alcohol increases breast cancer, US researchers say.

Study co-author Dr Chrisandra Shufelt, assistant director of the Women's Heart Center at the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute, said doctors long ago determined all alcohol increases the body's estrogen levels, fostering the growth of cancer cells.

The study, published online ahead of the April print edition of the Journal of Women's Health, found chemicals in the skins and seeds of red grapes slightly lowered estrogen levels while elevating testosterone among premenopausal women who drank 8 ounces of red wine nightly for about a month. The effect was not found in white wine.—Internet



### Aluminum traders to producers: Cut like it's 1994



Pieces of aluminium are pictured after the production process at Aluminium Mostar (Aluminij Mostar) factory in Mostar, on 12 October, 2011.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 8 Jan— To find a precedent for the deep, lasting output cuts that aluminum producers must make to put a floor under prices, traders are looking a lot further back than the last recession.

Three years ago, with the global economy convulsing in the throes of a serious recession, smelters worldwide started cutting back production — temporarily. As prices quickly rebounded, nearly doubling within a year, those companies were just as quick to fire up their furnaces again.

With the overhang of high inventories and a 28-percent drop in prices since May last year, they're responding again, with Pittsburgh-based Alcoa announcing on Thursday plans to shut down 12 percent of its capacity, some of it permanently.

But traders may not be so readily appeased as three years ago. Many say that much deeper, longer-lasting cuts — more akin to the post-Soviet government pact of the mid-1990s — will be required in order to rebalance a market.—Internet



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde (L) greets South Africa's President Jacob Zuma ahead of the upcoming African National Congress (ANC) centenary celebration in Bloemfontein on 7 January, 2012.

### S Africa faces big downside risk from Europe

BLOEMFONTEIN, 8 Jan— The euro zone crisis could hurt South Africa's economy and the country should maintain a supportive monetary policy to ensure growth in the medium term, the head of the International Monetary Fund said on Saturday.

Christine Lagarde, in

South Africa as part of her first tour of the continent since taking the IMF post, said the African economic powerhouse would do well to also moderate wage growth.

Although well integrated into the global economy, South Africa mitigated the worst impact of 2008's recession through a sound

macroeconomic regime, a strong financial sector and a flexible exchange rate, she said. "The ongoing difficulties in the euro area, one of South Africa's main export markets, present significant downside risks to the economic outlook," Lagarde said in a statement after meetings with President Jacob Zuma and senior officials.

### Government, Exxon reach deal on disputed Gulf leases

WASHINGTON, 8 Jan— Exxon Mobil Corp and the government struck a deal on Friday that would allow the company to move ahead with development of a field in the Gulf of Mexico estimated to yield tens of billions of dollars of oil.

Exxon sued the government last year after the Interior Department canceled three of five leases for what is called the Julia field. "The

settlement will allow Exxon Mobil to develop this very large, but technically challenging resource as quickly as possible using a phased approach," Exxon Mobil spokesman Patrick McGinn said in a statement.

In its lawsuit, Exxon argued that the department arbitrarily deprived the company of its rights under the canceled leases and took away Exxon's ability to produce a reservoir believed to hold billions of barrels of

oil. The dispute arose after the government rejected Exxon's October 2008 request for a "suspension of production." Following several appeals, the Interior Department concluded in a decision last May that Exxon lacked a "commitment" to producing oil at the time the leases expired.

The Interior Department said the proposed settlement preserves the "important regulatory progress" made in the decision last May that

was challenged by Exxon.

A view of the Exxon Mobil refinery in Baytown, Texas.



"In this context, we agreed that the challenge now is to ensure that monetary policy remains supportive and competitiveness improves." The country has lost about a million jobs in the past two years, positions analysts say will be difficult to reopen because unions have priced labour out of the market.





science

**GM silkworms spin spider silk strong enough to make parachutes**



*Silk made with spider silk sequences.—INTERNET*

WASHINGTON, 8 Jan—Transgenically-engineered silkworms produce stronger silk, which could possibly be used to make sutures, artificial limbs and parachutes, researchers say.

The silk that exhibits the highly sought-after strength and elasticity of spider silk was produced in the laboratory of Malcolm Fraser, Jr, professor of biological sciences at University of Notre Dame.

"It's something nobody has done before," Fraser said. The project, which used Fraser's piggyBac vectors to create transgenic silkworms with both silkworm and spider silk proteins, was a collaboration of his laboratory with Donald Jarvis and Randolph Lewis at the University of Wyoming.

Jarvis' lab made the transgene plasmids, while Fraser's lab made the transgenic silkworms and Lewis' lab analysed the fiber from the silkworms.

Results showed that the fibers were tougher than typical silkworm silk and as tough as dragline silk fibers produced by spiders, demonstrating that silkworms can be engineered to produce such improved fibers.

Commercial production of spider silk from spiders is impractical because spiders are too cannibalistic and territorial for farming. Researchers have experimented with producing the stronger material in other organisms, including bacteria, insects, mammals and plants, but those proteins require mechanical spinning—a task the silkworms perform naturally.

*Internet*



*Car exhaust pipe.—INTERNET*

**New materials remove carbon dioxide from Smokestacks, Tailpipes and Even the Air**

WASHINGTON, 8 Jan—Scientists are reporting discovery of an improved way to remove carbon dioxide—the major greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming—from smokestacks and other sources, including the atmosphere.

Their report on the process, which achieves some of the highest carbon dioxide removal capacity ever reported for real-world conditions where the air contains moisture, appears in the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

Alain Goepfert, GK Surya Prakash, chemistry Nobel Laureate George A Olah and colleagues explain that controlling emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is one of the biggest challenges facing humanity in the 21st century.

They point out that existing methods for removing carbon dioxide from smokestacks and other sources, including the atmosphere, are energy intensive, don't work well and have other drawbacks.

In an effort to overcome such obstacles, the group turned to solid materials based on polyethylenimine, a readily available and inexpensive polymeric material.

*Internet*

**World's smallest silicon wire brings quantum computers closer to reality**



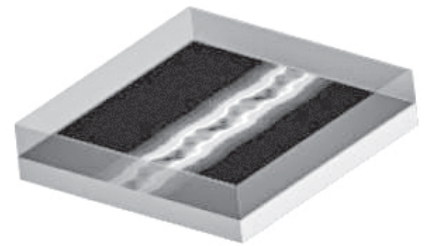
WASHINGTON, 8 Jan—World's thinnest silicon wire, which is just one atom tall and four atoms wide, may play a vital role in developing quantum computers in future, researchers say.

The wire created by a team of researchers from the University of New South Wales, Melbourne University and Purdue University has the same current-carrying capability as copper wires.

Experiments and atom-by-atom supercomputer models of the wires have found that the wires maintain a low capacity for resistance despite being more than 20 times thinner than conventional copper wires in microprocessors.

Bent Weber, the paper's lead author and a graduate student in the Centre of Excellence for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology at the University of New South Wales, was thrilled with the finding. "It's extraordinary to show that Ohm's Law, such a basic law, still holds even when constructing a wire from the fundamental building blocks of nature - atoms," he said.

The innovation of the Australian group was to build the circuits up atom by atom, instead of the current method of building microprocessors, in which material is stripped away, said Gerhard Klimeck, a Purdue professor of electrical



*Wires just one atom tall have been created by inserting a string of phosphorus atoms in a silicon crystal by a team of researchers from the University of New South Wales, Melbourne University and Purdue University.*

*INTERNET*

and computer engineering and director of the Network for Computational Nanotechnology.

"Typically we chip or etch material away, which can be very expensive, difficult and inaccurate," Klimeck stated.

"Once you get to 20 atoms wide you have atomic fluctuations that make scaling difficult.—*Internet*

**Facebook takes action after computer worm siphons 45,000 login details**

LONDON, 8 Jan—Social networking giant Facebook has acted to stop the spread of a new computer worm that has stolen over 45,000 login credentials.

According to computer security experts, the Ramnit worm has been spreading since April 2010, but was only recently adapted to target Facebook details. A "worm" is distinct from a normal computer virus in that it can reproduce itself without needing to attach itself to an existing programme.

The new threat to

Facebook users was highlighted recently by Seculert, an Israeli computer security firm. It said most of the users affected so far are British or French, *The Telegraph reports.*

"Our research lab identified a completely new 'financial' Ramnit variant aimed at stealing Facebook login credentials," the firm said in a blog post.

"It was fairly straightforward to detect that over 45,000 Facebook login credentials have been stolen worldwide, mostly from users in the United Kingdom and

France," it added.

Facebook, that learned of the new attack on its users last week, said it has already taken action to defend them.

It said it had studied the 45,000 stolen login details and concluded that most of them were out of date. However all affected users will be forced to reset their passwords to improve security, the social network said. "Last week we received from external security researchers a set of user credentials that had been harvested by a piece of malware," a Facebook spokesman said.—*Internet*



*A staff member shows how to use a wearable computer designed by a company in southwest China's Yunnan Province, 6 Jan, 2012. The wearable computer, designed and made by a sci-tech company in Yunnan, includes an eyeglasses-shaped mainframe, a mouse and a folding keyboard.—INTERNET*

**New tools help map 3-D world of vision in mice**

WASHINGTON, 8 Jan—Mapping the 3-D world in our brains—the landscape that mimics the outside world, where the objects we see exist as collections of neural circuits and electrical impulses—would be not too far. Scientists at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies are using new tools they developed to chart that world, a key step in revolutionizing research into the neurological basis of vision.

For the first time, they have produced neuron-by-neuron maps of the regions of the mouse brain that process different kinds of visual information, laying the groundwork for decoding the circuitry of the brain using cutting-edge, genetic research techniques only possible in mice. "We've learned a lot about how our eyes feed information to our brains, and a huge portion of our brain is devoted to processing this information," said Edward Callaway, a professor in Salk's Systems Neurobiology Laboratory, whose laboratory conducted the research. "Vision is a terrific system for understanding how the brain works and, ultimately, for studying mental diseases and consciousness," he stated.

Until now, little was known about what areas of the mouse visual cortex - the high-level brain region that computes the meaning of signals from the eyes - were responsible for processing different elements of the visual information. To find this, Callaway and his colleagues set out to chart a map of the mouse's visual processing system. They injected mice with a calcium-sensitive fluorescent dye that glows when exposed to a certain colour of light. The amount of calcium in nerve cells varies depending on the activity level of the neurons, so the scientists could measure the activity of brain cells based on how brightly they glowed.—*Internet*

**Will upcoming Google tablet compete with Apple iPad or Amazon Kindle Fire?**

LONDON, 8 Jan—Google has planned to launch its own-brand tablet, prompting speculations whether the new product would compete with Amazon Kindle Fire or Apple's iPad.

Earlier, Google's chairman Eric Schmidt revealed that the company would be launching its Android tablet in the next six months.

Schmidt said it would be "of the highest quality" with industry experts saying it would challenge Apple's iPad while using its Nexus smartphone strategy that rivalled the iPhone.

But according to Digitimes, the new gadget would include a seven-inch panel, the same size as Amazon's Kindle Fire, and would cost less than 200 dollars to compete with the online retailer.

Digitimes' sources have also predicted the tablet would be unveiled in March or April, *The Telegraph reports.* "Sources from Google's upstream supply chain believe that Google, instead of Apple, may actually be targeting Amazon's 7-inch Kindle Fire as its major competitor," the Digitimes report said.

"However, Google Taipei commented that the company has never heard about the plan of launching an own-brand tablet PC," it said.

"The sources believe that Google will launch the own-brand tablet PC in March-April, featuring a 7-inch panel and Android 4.0 with a price less than US\$199 to compete against Amazon," it added.—*Internet*



Residents row a boat in the flooded area in Campos dos Goytacazes, in northern Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 6 Jan, 2012. —XINHUA

### 2011 was the driest year on record in Texas

FORT WORTH, 8 Jan—It's official: 2011 was the driest year on record in Texas, according to the National Weather Service. It was also the second-hottest ever.

That won't surprise Texans who lived through a year in which wildfires roared through the Lone Star State, cattle went thirsty and many Fourth of July fireworks shows were canceled.

The weather service said the average rainfall in Texas in 2011 was 14.89 inches. The previous record

of 14.99 inches of average rainfall was set in 1917.

The average temperature in 2011 was 67.2 degrees. The warmest year on record was 1921, when the average temperature was 67.5 degrees, the weather service said.

The prolonged Texas drought is to blame for devastating agriculture and livestock losses, estimated in the billions of dollars.

The historic drought has killed as many as half a billion trees, not including those that died in wildfires

that scorched some 4 million acres in 2011, the Texas Forest Service has reported.

While some parts of Texas received substantial rainfall during December, 97.83 percent of the state remained in severe drought this week, according to a Thursday report by the US Drought Monitor.

In addition, 32.4 percent of Texas lingered in exceptional drought, the most extreme category, according to the Drought Monitor.

Reuters

## Iran's leader looks to Latin America for support

CARACAS, 8 Jan—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is courting Latin America on a four-nation tour starting Sunday that will let him tout some of Iran's few friendships while tensions grow over the country's threats to block oil shipments in retaliation for tighter US sanctions.

His government finds itself largely isolated in the standoff over its nuclear program, and the new sanctions targeting Iran's Central Bank and oil industry

have triggered an abrupt drop in the nation's currency.

Iran's growing economic ties with Latin America could give it some breathing space from the sanctions, and by embracing Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his allies, Ahmadinejad also gets a chance to join like-minded leaders in denouncing US foreign policy.

"Iran needs all the friends it can get, and the further away it goes the easier it seems to be for it to be able to find them," said Dan Plesch, director of the University of London's Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy.

Both Iran and Venezuela, he said, "seek to provide

mutual support in the face of perceived US aggression."

It will be Ahmadinejad's fifth visit to Venezuela, to be followed by a trip to Nicaragua for Tuesday's inauguration of re-elected President Daniel Ortega, and then stops in Cuba and Ecuador. Ahmadinejad has been to all the countries before, and the visit seems aimed at reinforcing ties with leaders who speak up for Iran.

Tensions have been rising as Iran has warned that it could retaliate against US sanctions by blocking shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf. A large share of the world's oil tanker traffic passes through the Strait of Hormuz, which runs along the Iranian coast.—Internet

A brown and parched corn field shows the effects of a long Texas drought in Farmersville, Texas in this 12 July, 2011 file photo.

INTERNET



### 77,865 kg of narcotics seized in Pakistan in 2011

ISLAMABAD, 8 Jan—Pakistan's Anti Narcotics Forces (ANF) seized a total of 77,865 kilograms of narcotics from different parts of the country in 2011.

Of all the narcotics seized in the country last year, heroin accounted for 1,502.3 kilograms, opium for 7,875 kilograms, hashish for 6,752.42 kilograms, morphine for 961 kilograms and cocaine for 2.5 kilograms with remaining to be balanced by other types of narcotics, said ANF on Saturday.

In the past year, ANF also organized a variety of activities including lectures, seminars, workshops, free medical camps, speech competitions, stage drama, photo exhibitions and drug burning ceremonies to promote drug-free environment in the country with special focus on the youth, it said.

Xinhua



In this 8 Jan, 2012, photo released by Maritime New Zealand, the cargo ship Rena, grounded off Tauranga Harbour, New Zealand, is seen split into two pieces after being lashed by pounding seas. —INTERNET

### Grounded cargo ship breaks apart on NZ reef

WELLINGTON, 8 Jan—A cargo ship grounded off the New Zealand coast since October has split in two, spilling sea containers and debris and sparking fears of a fresh oil spill, maritime officials said Sunday.

The wreck of the Greek-owned Rena was described as New Zealand's worst maritime environmental disaster even before the rear section of the ship, lashed by pounding seas, broke away overnight. The ship previously spilled heavy fuel oil that fouled pristine North Island beaches and killed up to 20,000 seabirds, and despite salvage efforts nearly 400 tons of oil remain onboard.

Maritime officials said the front section of the wreck remains stuck in its original position, but the stern section slipped at least 100 feet (30 meters) away from the bow and is "moving significantly," pounded by 19-foot (6-meter) swells.

The storm that split the vessel will

continue for another three to four days, Maritime New Zealand spokesman Ross Henderson said. Officials said up to 300 of the roughly 880 containers that had been on board were lost when the ship broke apart. Of those, about 30 percent had been fitted with monitoring devices and some 30 containers had already been located.

Oil has been seen leaking from the broken ship. Alex van Wijngaarden, on-scene commander for the national response team, said oil from the vessel could come ashore around midnight Sunday.

"While reports at this stage indicate there has not been a significant release of oil, with the Rena in its current fragile state, a further release is likely," he said. "While it is unknown at this stage exactly how much oil may be released, teams have been mobilized and will be ready to respond to anything that may come ashore."—Internet

### Thai Govt vows 7% Economic growth in 1012

BANGKOK, 8 Jan—Thai Government is confident that the nation record a 7-percent economic growth this year, according to Saturday's *Bangkok Post* which quoted deputy Prime Minister Kittiratt Na Ranong.

Kittiratt said various projects which have been initiated to increase the purchase and production capacity as well as construction of basic infrastructure in flood prevention projects would help spur the overall economy, according to the newspaper.

The revised masterplans for management of river basins would be implemented with a budget of about 915.41 million US dollars once the 2012 Budget Bill has been approved by Parliament.

Moreover, laws would be issued to mobilize a fund of 11.05 billion US dollars. Of this, 9.5 billion US dollars would be for the management of eight Chao Phraya river basins, 1.3 billion US dollars for the 17 other river basins, and 315.66 million US dollars for the SCRF's long-term development projects.

Virabongsa, meanwhile, stressed the necessity for the government to restore foreign investors' confidence by speeding up flood prevention projects to make sure they would not move their investment and production bases from Thailand.—MNA/Xinhua

### Britain issues alert over terrorist attack fear in Kenya

LONDON, 8 Jan—The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on Saturday issued an alert over fears of terrorist attacks in Kenya, saying that there was "a heightened threat from terrorist attacks in Nairobi." "The Kenyan authorities have alerted the public to a heightened threat from terrorist attacks in Nairobi. We believe that terrorists may be in the final stages of planning attacks," the FCO said in a statement on its website. The statement added that "attacks could be indiscriminate," and thereby

the FCO "strongly advises British nationals to exercise extra vigilance and caution in public places and at public events." The alert came after Kenyan authorities said they feared that the Al-Shabaab Islamist organization was in the final stages of planning terror attacks in the capital Nairobi. Kenyan forces entered Somalia in October to push back Al-Shabaab, which controls large sections of southern and central Somalia and is blamed by Kenya for a series of cross-border kidnappings.

Xinhua



A boy fills tanks of water from a water pump near a water channel in a residential area on the outskirts of northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 6 Jan, 2012. An estimated 250,000 children die annually in Pakistan due to water-borne diseases, reported local media APP on Wednesday. Unsafe drinking water is the source of many diseases including diarrhoea, typhoid, intestinal worms and hepatitis, the report quoted a local health expert as saying.—XINHUA





*In this 10 Dec, 2011 file photo, Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez smiles during her swearing-in ceremony in Buenos Aires, Argentina.—INTERNET*

## Argentine leader's thyroid wasn't cancerous

BUENOS AIRES, 8 Jan—Argentine President Cristina Fernandez didn't have cancer after all.

After having some of Argentina's leading cancer surgeons completely remove her thyroid gland, tests showed no presence of any cancerous cells.

"Tissue studies ruled out the presence of cancerous cells in the thyroid, thus modifying the initial diagnosis," presidential spokesman Alfredo Scoccimarro said Saturday.

Fernandez doesn't even have to swallow the

radioactive iodine that patients usually take after thyroid cancer surgery, to make sure any remaining cancer cells are killed, her spokesman said. But she will have to take hormone medicine for the rest of her life.

Fernandez returned Saturday to the presidential residence in suburban Olivos. She underwent the surgery Wednesday, just 25 days after beginning her second term.

The 58-year-old president, through her spokesman, thanked the medical team led by the

hospital's surgery chief, Dr. Pedro Saco, an expert in cancers of the head and neck. Later Saturday, she added her own thoughts in a tweet, saying: "Now from Olivos, we thank all the people, citizens, activists and personalities, for the signs of affection and concern."

The announcement that she is cancer-free prompted raucous cheers and chants from several hundred supporters holding vigil for days outside the hospital, carrying signs saying "Be Strong Cristina!"

Internet



*A general view of Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport. Police investigating a string of deaths at a hospital caused by contaminated saline drips were Sunday questioning a male nurse on suspicion of murdering three patients.—INTERNET*

## Police quiz male nurse over triple patient murder

LONDON, 8 Jan—Police investigating a string of deaths at a hospital caused by contaminated saline drips were Sunday questioning a male nurse on suspicion of murdering three patients.

Victorino Chua, 46, was initially arrested Thursday on suspicion of tampering with medical records at Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport.

But Greater Manchester Police said late Saturday he had now been arrested on suspicion of three murders and 18 instances of causing grievous bodily harm between 1 June and 15 July last year.

"We have taken the decision to arrest this man on suspicion of murder in close consultation with (prosecutors)," said Assistant Chief Constable Terry Sweeney.

"It is important that no one jumps to any conclusions because of these steps or second guesses where our investigations will take us."

The nurse is being questioned over the contamination of saline drips, which caused patients' blood sugar to fall to unusually low levels. Three patients, all on acute wards for the seriously ill, died shortly after such episodes.—Internet

## Mysterious disease kills 100 people in northern Uganda, leaves scientists perturbed

KITGUM, (Uganda), 8 Jan—Scientists are to launch a series of other investigations after previous ones failed to identify the cause of a mysterious disease that has killed over 100 people and left over 2,000 others infected in several districts in northern Uganda.

The disease which was first reported in September 2009 has since been dubbed 'nodding disease' because it leaves its victims nodding. It has since spread to five districts in the region which include Kitgum, Lamwo, Pader, Agago and Amuru.

Richard Nduhura,

minister of state for health in charge of general duties, said that the two previous samples and tests carried out by Centres for Disease Control (CDC) scientists in Atlanta US failed to identify the cause of the disease. Nduhura, who is leading a fact finding mission in the affected areas which are also recovering from a two decade long insurgency, told the residents on Friday that a team of scientists from the ministry of health, World Health Organization and CDC is going to carry out new tests.

Xinhua

*This image provided by the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge shows visitors watching for a male falcated duck at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge, Calif, on 8 Dec, 2011. The bird, common in China, is an extreme rarity for California. Since it was spotted, thousands of visitors from the US and Canada have flocked to the refuge to see it.*

INTERNET



## Rare Asian duck draws bird watchers to Calif

FRESNO, (Calif), 8 Jan—A rare duck normally only seen in Asia has somehow turned up in California, drawing excited bird watchers from all over the US and Canada to a wildlife refuge in the state's Central Valley. Wildlife officials say a male falcated duck, a bird common in China, was first spotted at the refuge on 8 Dec. Since

then, thousands of birders have observed it paddling among mallards, pintails and geese, said Lora Haller, who works at the Colusa Wildlife Refuge's visitor centre. More than 2,000 cars packed with visitors have streamed into the refuge over the last month — double the usual visitor numbers. "It's very exciting," she said. "It's extremely rare

to see this kind of duck in California." Most falcated ducks breed and live in China, and smaller populations live in Japan, North Korea and South Korea. The ducks can also sometimes be found in Alaska's Aleutian Islands, Haller said.

The celebrity bird has a silvery plumage with iridescent green and bronze

on its head. "Falcated" or "curved and tapering to a point" refers to the male duck's long wing feathers near the body that overhang onto the tail.

There have only been a few previous sightings in California: One was spotted in Orange County in 1969 and one in Lassen County in the far northern part of the state in 2002 and 2003.

Internet

## Philippines extends assistance to flood victims in Thailand, Pakistan

MANILA, 8 Jan— The Philippine government has turned over its donations to the flood victims in Thailand and Pakistan, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Saturday.

The department said that 100,000 US dollars and 10,000 US dollars were given to Thailand and Pakistan, respectively, in ceremonies on Friday.

The donations were turned over to Thai Ambassador to the Philippines Prasasvinitchai and Pakistani Ambassador to the Philippines Mohsin Razi.

"The Philippine donation to both countries will be used for rehabilitation programs for the flood victims," the DFA said.

Xinhua

## Hawaii hit by number of endangered seal killings

HONOLULU, 8 Jan—Two Hawaiian monk seals were found bludgeoned to death on a remote coast of Molokai — one was killed in mid-November and the other shortly before Christmas. Earlier this month, a dead seal showed up on Kauai. A fourth possible killing on Molokai is also under investigation.

No one knows who is killing the seals — a critically endangered species — or why. But the deaths are coming as the federal government steps up its efforts to protect the seals, leading to simmering resentment among some fishermen who fear new regulations will trample upon their right to fish. The killings are also happening as the misguided notion spreads that the animals aren't native to Hawaii and don't belong here.

"It's really serious. This attitude, this negative attitude toward the seals has overpowered the concern that this is a species that's going to become extinct," said Walter Ritte, a Molokai resident and longtime activist who has sounded an alarm about the killings.

Like pandas, the seals are adored by many humans for being cute, though their lazy demeanor and pudgy appearance belies the strength of a wild animal. Also like pandas, the animal is dangerously close to disappearing. There are only 1,100 left in the world, and scientists say the seal is on course to vanish in 50 to 100 years.—Internet



*In this 15 Dec, 2011 photo, a nearly blind, endangered Hawaiian monk seal swims at the Waikiki Aquarium in Honolulu. Hoailona, also known as KP2, has spent the past two years at a California research lab. He was first rescued when federal officials found him suckling on a rock three days after his mother abandoned him on Kauai.*

INTERNET

## Union Ministers, Chin State Chief Minister inspect construction of inter-village roads

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan— Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun visited 200-acre commercial teak plantation in Pintaung Forest Reserve in Kani Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region on 4 January.

On 5 January, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min,

Union Minister U Win Tun and Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai inspected the chosen site for construction of 8-mile Talanzawl-Lati inter-village road, and progress in construction of Falam-Kunli inter-village road and Laiva-Layet inter-village road.

On 6 January, the Union Ministers and the State Chief Minister attended the

donation ceremony for rural development and poverty alleviation at Haka Township People's Hospital in which hospital equipment, TV and computers were donated for hospitals, schools and libraries in Haka, Thantlang, Falam, Tonzang Townships and Kyikah and Reedkawdah sub-townships.

MNA



Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint meets members of Mya Sein Yaung Agricultural Production and Micro-Credit Cooperative Syndicate, members of Board of Directors and local people at Maha Wihara Monastery in Pyankapay Model Village of Zabuthiri Township on 5 January. (News reported)—MNA

## Region Chief Minister looks into development tasks in Shwebo District

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan— Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye attended the cornerstone laying ceremony for new building of Affiliated Basic Education Middle School in Ywanan Village of Wetlet Township on 5 January.

Wellwishers donated

cash to the funds for the new building.

In the afternoon, the Region Chief Minister and party looked into harvesting of Shwebo Pyawhsan paddy strain on three-acre model plot in Taganan Village of Shwebo Township, extension of pavement along Shwebo-

Mukangyi road section and construction of Mu River Bridge (Yangyiaung).

After meeting with local farmers in Okshitgyi Village of Ayadaw Township, the Chief Minister inspected construction of Nainggyiaing-Thitkyingyi-Thazi Road.—MNA

Taninthayi Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Kyaw Kyaw on 27 December 2011 inspects the bridge of Dawei Port to be upgraded by Myeik Township Development Affairs Committee.

MNA



## Everybody has responsibility to help curb traffic accidents

Article: Mar Mar Soe (Kyemon): Photos: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)



“Only when the entire people help reduce the number conscientiously, will it be lowered,” says Police Major Myo Nyunt Oo.

Modernization brings increased usage of vehicles on. To cut traffic accidents, Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee is holding fourth Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Exhibition-cum-Contest from 7 to 11 January in Aung Mingala Bus Terminal in Pyinmana.

Departments related to the traffic rules enforcement displayed 13 booths at the five-day event. Quizzes on traffic rules will be organized

for schoolchildren, expectant leaders of the country as the motto goes, “Discipline of the nation has its origins in schools.” Students from Tatkon, Pyinmana, Lewe, Zeyathiri, Pobbathiri, Ottarathiri, Zabuthiri and Dekhinathiri Townships will fight for the first prize in the contests.

The country is

automobiles and electric motorbikes at home, figure of these vehicles on road has enlarged. “The number of accidents has risen, following the increase in vehicle usage. Only when the entire people help reduce the number conscientiously, will it be lowered,” Police Major Myo Nyunt Oo of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Police Corps said.

number of accidents, following lack of traffic knowledge among the public,

the area in its infancy of urbanization, and straight and smooth roads.

accidents.

The danger of traffic accidents is posed not only to Myanmar but to the whole world.

Many global nations adopted 5Es—Education, Engineering, Environment, Emergency Medical Care and Enforcement—system in curbing traffic dangers.

### Figures of accidents in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area from 2009 to 2011

|      | Accident | Injury | Death |
|------|----------|--------|-------|
| 2009 | 279      | 469    | 117   |
| 2010 | 332      | 563    | 178   |
| 2011 | 401      | 935    | 212   |



Students observing booths at fourth Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Exhibition-cum-Contest.

developing with sweeping reforms. With increased manufacturing of

Gathering pace to develop, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is witnessing mounting

outnumbered motorbikes on roads due to comparably lesser number of bus lines in



Schoolgirls taking questions at quizzes on traffic rules.

Accidents by faults of drivers outnumber any other cases. Drivers without driving licences, lack of awareness, and drunken and who have not complete driving training are mostly involved in accidents. In addition to errors of drivers, lack of maintenance contributes to so many

While the respective institutions are taking measures to disseminate traffic rules among the public, the people should in turn do their bits to help wipe out the traffic accidents.

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Translation: HKA  
Kyemon: 8-1-2012



## Regional development tasks supervised in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—The mass walk activities for December was held in Hpa-an of Kayin State on 31 December morning.

Over 10,000 people including Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min, authorities and students participated in the mass walk.

The state ministers and their wives awarded the winners in the sports events.

The Chief Minister and party inspected harvesting of bean and thry

groundnut plantations in Kanni Village of Hlaingbwe Township.

They also viewed road sections, bridges and rubber plantations in the region.

At Paingkyon Station Hospital, the Chief Minister comforted the patients and presented cash assistance to them.

The Chief Minister looked into thriving paddy plantations on 150-acre model plot with the use of irrigated water from Yaybok Dam near Htilon Village of Hlaingbwe Township.

MNA

## Union A & I Minister inspects hybrid sunflower plantation

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited 10-acre model hybrid sunflower plantation of farmers U Than Swe and U Than Ohn near Thitseikbin Village, Kinpontan Village-tract in Pinyinna Township here yesterday.

The cross-bred sunflowers were grown through GAP system and expected to yield over 50 baskets per acre. The Union Minister mentioned financial and health benefits of sunflower oil and called for extended cultivation of sunflower to

meet the domestic edible oil demand. According to the Union Minister, an acre of sunflower can produce over 220 viss of oil, generating an income of nearly K 0.8 million.

The Union Minister then visited 58-year-old Pinyinna Agricultural Science which has so far turned out 3927 agriculturalists. The Union Minister called students for expertise in related subjects, instructing them to form teams and competing with each others in making researches.—MNA

### Seminar on results of group-wise all-round data collection held

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—A seminar on results of group-wise all-round data collection was held at Sittway Hotel in Sittway, Rakhine State, on 6 January morning. It was attended by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, state ministers, officials from related departments and UNICEF. The chief minister gave an opening speech.

At the seminar, sample collection

and data collection of child development, water and sanitation, facts about HIV/AIDS, nutrition, child health, reproductive health care services, child protection, education and child mortality were discussed.

In the evening, the chief minister and State ministers attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Buddha Pujaniya festival opening ceremony of Buddha Pada Cheyadaw Pagoda in Yathedaung Township.—MNA

## Asphalt road inaugurated in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 8 Jan—In honour of the 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day, Kyaukme Township Development Affairs Committee opened the 380 feet long and 12 feet wide asphalt Hkatta Road in Ward 9 on 2 January.

The committee spent K 5,860,000 on construction of the road. Local authorities opened the facility.

Myanma Alin

## Myanmar Fire Brigade helping people at risk to their own life

Article: Ye Bala Ko Ko Hlaing;  
Photos: Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)

As today's State has gathered development momentum, public residences, buildings, factories and workshops of production industry are also improved.

Danger of fire and natural disasters occur across the world at any time. To be able to take preventive measures against the dangers, the Fire Services Department extended its establishment of setup on 14 February 2011.

In so doing, fire stations in Regions and States were also upgraded in the nation. At present, there are 677 fire stations throughout the nation. Of 1981 fire engines, a total of 355 TE vehicles were transferred into the fire engines at the Fire Services Department to save foreign exchange.

Members of the Fire Brigade who were conducted training courses by the training

section (Yangon) of the Fire Services Department (Head Office), Central Fire Fighting Training School in PinyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region, Central Institutes of Civil Service, training schools of the Union Auditor-General's Office and advanced courses from abroad are ready to help the people.

The dangers of explosive equipment, high-rise apartments and closed rooms are posing dreadful threats to property and life of the people.

The research and development section has been formed for applying modern fire extinguishers to put out the fire of chemicals, poisonous gas and dangerous smokes.

Moreover, the department manages its members to pursue technologies of Internet, English language and information technology.

The GPS system and Vehicle Tracking System



People participate in putting out fire in demonstration as fire extinguishing drill.

have been installed in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay so as to effectively and quickly perform fire fighting and rescue works at the occurrences of natural disasters.

Members of the Fire Brigade inspect fire preventive measures and advices to beware of fire in line with the Fire Brigade Law and they give educative talks on danger of fire and exercise fire drills.

The Fire Brigade members are ready to put out fire with full equipment of fuel, fire engine, manpower and water in accord with the work guidelines.

A total of 144 Search and Rescue Teams have been organized in Nay Pyi Taw and townships of regions and states with the aim of carrying out rescue works in outbreaks of storms, earthquakes and explosions in the real time.

The Myanmar National Search and Rescue Committee has

been reconstituted. As such, altogether 50 members of rescue teams from region and state Fire Brigades, totalling 7200

Myanmar Fire Brigade is taking out its tasks as a reserved force of the State with sacrifice of life for the sake of the State and



Members of Fire Brigade putting out oil fire with the use of modern fire extinguishers.

members are ready to discharge their duties.

At present, the

the people.  
Translation: TTA  
Myanma Alin: 8-1-2012



Fire Brigade members fighting fire at a vehicle as skill demonstration.

## Mount Rainier reopens after fatal ranger shooting

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK, (Wash), 8 Jan—Rangers and volunteers somberly embraced as Mount Rainier National Park reopened to the public Saturday for the first time since an Iraq War veteran shot and killed a park ranger there on New Year's Day.

"We're here to take back the mountain today," park spokeswoman Lee Snook

said. Margaret Anderson, who had worked as a ranger with her husband at the park for three years, was shot dead by 24-year-old Benjamin Colton Barnes after he busted through a snow tire checkpoint.

Authorities say Barnes, who showed signs of erratic behavior since returning from war, had fled to the mountain hours after

a house party shooting in the Seattle suburb of Skyway that left four injured.

After killing Anderson and shooting at another ranger, Barnes fled for the woods, triggering a massive manhunt in the rugged terrain. He was found dead in a creek the following day. An autopsy showed he drowned.

On Saturday, small groups of visitors headed to the mountain's freshly powdered trails to snow shoe and cross-country ski. The flag at the ranger's kiosk remained at half-staff, and uniformed rangers wore black bands across their badges.

"This is a place to come to be happy," Allan Evans, a park volunteer from Graham, Wash, said after hugging a ranger who was on duty when Anderson was killed.

"This is what this park is about. This is the first stop to trying to get everything as whole as can be."

Internet



Mount Rainier National Park Ranger Matt Chalup, left, hands park information to one of the first visitors to the park at the Nisqually entrance Saturday morning, on 7 Jan, 2012, near Ashford, Wash.

INTERNET

## Ivory Coast finds remains; may be missing reporter

ABIDJAN, (Ivory Coast), 8 Jan—Authorities in Ivory Coast have unearthed human remains that may be those of a French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004, a government official and a media watchdog group said Saturday.

Justice Minister Jeannot Kouadio Ahoussou said the remains were found in the western region of Issia, but he did not provide further details.

Guy-Andre Kieffer, who was 54 when he disappeared, was working in the commercial capital, Abidjan, as an independent journalist, writing articles about corruption in Ivory Coast. He was a dual citizen of France and Canada.

Reporters without Borders said in a statement that a skeleton was discovered after French judge Patrick Ramael ordered a search in the area to advance the investigation.

The group said DNA results are expected within a week.

Even if the body is confirmed to be Kieffer's, the mystery of his disappearance and death remains.

"If the bones found are those of Guy-Andre Kieffer, confirming that the journalist was murdered and buried after his abduction, it remains to be seen who the perpetrators are. Who exactly abducted the journalist? Who killed him and why?" said the statement the group.

Kieffer's family has maintained he was targeted by the government of former president Laurent Gbagbo for his reporting, and says he spent two days in a jail cell at the presidential palace after he went missing. The former government denied any involvement in his disappearance.

Internet

## Seven teens charged with beating classmate unconscious

MIAMI, 8 Jan—Seven central Florida teenagers were arrested after authorities said they punched and kicked a 13-year-old until she was unconscious while on a school bus.

The victim told authorities that Friday was her first time riding the bus and no one would let her sit down. About 75 children were riding the bus bound for a middle school in Ocala, a rural city north of Orlando. The victim said someone threw a shoe at her and she threw one back, according to an arrest report.

One girl allegedly asked students if they wanted to hit the victim, then instructed the teens to form a circle and began hitting and kicking the victim. Several witnesses said they saw the girl fall to the floor and "appear to have a seizure and pass out," according to the arrest report.

The victim, who is not being identified, was taken to the hospital and diagnosed with a concussion, severe bruising on her head and muscle spasms.

Seven teens, ranging in age from 12 to 15, were charged with battery and disorderly conduct. *The Associated Press* is not identifying the suspects because they are minors.

Internet

Chinese Ambassador to Italy Ding Wei (2nd L) pays a visit to Zheng Liyan at San Giovanni Hospital in Rome, Italy, on 6 Jan, 2012. Zheng's husband and their less than one-year-old daughter were shot dead in Rome late Wednesday during an armed robbery. Zheng was also wounded in the attack but her life is not in danger now.—XINHUA



## Ga motorhome wrecks in Miss; one dies, 11 injured

HATTIESBURG, (Miss), 8 Jan—A motorhome bound for a college football championship game in New Orleans went off Interstate 59 in southern Mississippi and struck a tree, killing one person and injuring 10 others.

WDAM-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/x5O9Hh>) that the motorhome from Georgia was carrying 13 passengers when it left the interstate around 4:30 pm just north of the Evelyn Gandy parkway exit. Some interstate lanes were blocked as the injured

were transported by ground and air to local hospitals.

Forrest County Coroner Butch Benedict told *The Associated Press* late Saturday there had been one fatality, an Atlanta-area man. He was withholding his name pending notification of next of kin. He said at least one other person was critically injured.

He said the group was traveling in a rented recreational vehicle from the Atlanta area. Highway Patrol spokesman Cpl Todd Miller

told the Hattiesburg American that a tire blew on the recreational vehicle. He said two people were ejected.

Miller did not immediately return a call from *The Associated Press*.

Officials said the group was apparently traveling to the Bowl Championship Series national championship game, which will be played Monday in New Orleans.

The extent of the injuries was not immediately known Saturday evening.—Internet



Passengers wait in their compartment before the train pulls out of Chengdu Railway Station in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, 7 Jan, 2012. Starting from 8 Jan, 2012, China's transport system will undergo a 40-day travel rush, which is characterized by a heightened passenger flow around the time of the oncoming Chinese New Year.—XINHUA

## Six killed, two injured after geothermal plant blast in north China

SHUIJIAZHANG, 8 Jan—Six people were dead and two others injured in a geothermal plant explosion in north China's Hebei Province Saturday afternoon, local authorities said.

The blast occurred at

around 3:00 pm in a residential area in the city of Shenzhou. Rescue work was launched right after the accident.

An investigation into the cause of the blast is underway.—Xinhua

## Death toll from S Philippine landslide rises to 31; 44 still missing

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 8 Jan—The death toll from a recent landslide that hit a gold-rich mining township in southern Philippines rose to 31 as search operations continued, officials said on Sunday.

Arthur Uy, governor of Compostela Valley province in Mindanao, said at least 30 bodies had been recovered and rescuers were still looking for 44 people who went missing following the landslide that hit Napnapan village, Pantukan town. "Yesterday (Saturday), three more bodies have been recovered. We will continue the search mission for three more days," said Uy.

Benito Ramos, chief of the country's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), said he was hopeful that there would be more survivors. "I'm not losing hope there are still alive victims," said Ramos, who visited the town. "Only four of the fatalities were residents of Pantukan. The rest came from other provinces," he added.

Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo flew over the area on Friday and ordered in a talk with local officials the immediate shutdown of mining operations there and the eviction of close to 2,000 residents including miners and their families.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 7 Jan, 2012 shows the Gangu section of the Tianshui-Dingxi Highway where three consecutive road accidents took place in Gangu County, northwest China's Gansu Province. Seven people died and another 15 were injured after three consecutive accidents happened here due to slick road early Saturday morning. Local police said the injured have been hospitalized.

XINHUA





Artists of the China Jinling Dance Company perform dance drama "The Peony Pavilion" at David H. Koch theater of Lincoln Centre in New York, the United States, on 6 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

### Snow causes chaos in Bulgaria cuts off power

SOPIA, 8 Jan—Heavy snow caused chaos in Bulgaria on Saturday, leaving hundreds of villages without electricity and stranding cars, buses and trucks, officials and local media said.

More than 300 villages and towns were without electricity and power distributor EVN said it was difficult to restore power in western Bulgaria due to strong gusts of wind.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works warned people to refrain from traveling as snow up to 60 centimeters (2 foot) deep covered parts of the Balkan country and temperatures dropped to minus 10° Celsius (14 Fahrenheit).

Bulgaria's state news agency BTA said authorities evacuated some 100 children from the winter resort of Semkovo in the Rila mountains in southwestern Bulgaria.

Torrential rain has also swept through regions in southeastern Bulgaria, destroying roads and cutting off remote villages.

MNA/Reuters

### Mercedes-Benz to recall 2,424 diesel cars in S Korea

SEOUL, 8 Jan—Mercedes-Benz Korea planned to recall 2,424 diesel cars in South Korea for a defective fuel filter in five diesel models, the transportation ministry said on Sunday.

Voluntary recall would be made for 2,424 diesel sedans with faulty fuel filters that could leak oil on the road, and in turn make dangerous driving conditions for cars that follow behind, according to the Ministry of Land, Transportation and Maritime Affairs.

The cars subject to recall include 549 units of C220CDI model manufactured between 3 Jan, 2007 and 15 Dec, 2008, 717 units of E220CDI produced between 4 July, 2006 and 15 Jan, 2009, 529 units of ML280CDI made between 18 April, 2006 and 18 March, 2009, 554 units of ML300CDI produced between 15 July, 2009 and 6 April, 2011 and 75 units of S350BLUETEC manufactured between 5 Aug, 2010 and 2 Feb, 2011.

Xinhua



A discount sign is seen on a shop window in downtown Rome, Italy, on 5 Jan, 2012.—XINHUA

### Philippines to grow 5-6 pct in 2012, economic managers predict

MANILA, 8 Jan—Economic managers of the Philippine government have said that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) would grow by 5 to 6 percent this year despite uncertainties in the global economy.

According to Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga, this slightly higher GDP growth could be achieved through increased government spending and the full implementation of the public-private partnership (PPP) programme of the Aquino administration.

The government's full-year growth forecast for 2011 is from 4.5 to 5.5 percent although multilateral lending

institutions have pegged the country's growth last year from just 3.7-3.8 percent.

The government is not expected to release the official growth figures for 2011 until the end of this month.

Paderanga, who is also the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), cited the 72-billion-peso (1.64 billion US dollars) stimulus spending program and reforms in project implementation as the major contributing factors to this year's growth.

Earlier, Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the country's central

### UAE to host Somalia conference in February

NAIROBI, 8 Jan—The United Arab Emirates will host an experts meeting in February aimed at seeking a local solution to Somalia's instability, Kenya's ministry of foreign official said on Saturday.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Second Counselor in the Horn of Africa Division, Anthony Safari, told journalists in Nairobi that the one-day technical conference will target all relevant stakeholders in order to find lasting peace in Somalia.

"The UAE sponsored conference will take into account the needs of local

Somalis as part of plans to bring normalcy, especially in regions liberated from the Al-Shabaab militant group," he said.

"The resolutions will be forwarded to the Somali Conference to be held in late February in London," Safari said.

"The world has realized that an unstable Somalia poses a great danger not only to local citizens but also to its neighbors and the rest of the Horn of Africa," the ministry official said.

He added that Kenya assumed the seat to chair the African Union Peace and

Security Council in January this year. "We will use the position to further lead and guide the debate in order to consolidate peace in Somalia," he added.

Safari said that Kenya is waiting for a definite decision on whether or not to be allowed to join the Africa Union Mission in Somalia (AMISON) in January.

The remarks come as the African Union on Thursday asked the United Nations to authorize an increase of its peacekeeping force in war-torn Somalia by 5,700 to 17,700 amid mounting attacks by the rebels.—Xinhua

### 1793 penny fetches \$1.38m at Fla auction

ORLANDO, 8 Jan—A once-cent copper coin from the earliest days of the US Mint in 1793 has sold for a record \$1.38 million at a Florida auction.

James Halperin of Texas-based Heritage Auctions told *The Associated Press* on Saturday that the sale was "the most a United States copper coin has ever sold for at auction." The coin was made at the Mint in Philadelphia in 1793, the first year that the US made its own coins.

Heritage officials said in a news release that the name of the buyer was not revealed but that he was "a major

collector." One of the coin's earliest owners was a well-known Baltimore banker, Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

"Mr. Eliasberg was nicknamed 'the king of coins' because before his death in 1976 he assembled a collection that consisted of at least one example of every coin ever made at the United States Mint, a feat never duplicated," Halperin said in the news release.

The final bid for the coin last week was one of the largest sales at the Florida United Numismatists coin show and annual convention, which runs through Sunday. Halperin said a five-dollar gold

piece from 1829 also was sold.

Halperin said there remain a few hundred 1793 coins in different condition,

*This undated photo provided by Heritage Auctions shows the front and back of one of the first pennies struck at the United States Mint in Philadelphia.*  
INTERNET



but that the one auctioned off Wednesday night is rare because it wasn't in circulation. Officials say it

shows no wear on its lettering, its Lady Liberty face or the chain of linking rings on its back.—Internet

### Euro hit as investors fret over Europe's banks

LONDON, 8 Jan—Renewed fears over Europe's shaky banking sector sent the euro skidding to a near 16-month low against the dollar Thursday, while stock markets failed to get much of a boost from another round of upbeat US economic data.

For a second day running, market concern has centered on the state of the banks following UniCredit's announcement Wednesday

that it was selling new shares at a 69 percent discount to Tuesday's closing price.

UniCredit, Italy's biggest bank, is trying to raise euro 7.5 billion (\$9.7 billion) to meet new European requirements for banks to thicken their financial cushions against possible losses. UniCredit's share price slid over 10 percent for the second straight day.

Italy, the recent focus of the debt crisis, must borrow to cover euro 53 billion (\$69 billion) in expiring debt in the first quarter alone in debt auctions beginning 13 Jan. That will test whether the government of new Prime Minister Mario Monti is

making progress in regaining market confidence through budget cuts and efforts to improve weak economic growth.

Banks are an integral part of the debt crisis because they hold government bonds. A default or steep fall in the value of government bonds could inflict heavy losses on banks and choke off credit to the European economy. That's why regulatory authorities want Europe's banks to raise their buffers by euro 115 billion (149 billion) over the next few months. The worry in the markets is that banks will have to offer sharp discounts.—Internet



A passenger has her train ticket and identification certificate checked at the Beijing Railway Station in Beijing, capital of China, on 8 Jan, 2011.  
XINHUA

Xinhua



Couples wave during a group wedding ceremony as part of the 28th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province on 6 Jan, 2012. The wedding was organised by the city government and 18 couples from Nigeria, Russia and China participated in the ceremony, local media reported.—INTERNET

## Palestinians' Hamas, Fatah hurl recriminations weeks after shaking hands

GAZA, 8 Jan—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Party and its rival Islamic movement Hamas recriminated each other on Saturday over Hamas' bar against a Fatah delegation from entering the Gaza Strip.

Fatah Party said in an email to reporters that the security forces of Hamas, which rules the coastal enclave, prevented a high-ranking Fatah delegation from entering Gaza on Friday, adding that Hamas behaved like gangs and don't want the reconciliation deal to work.

On Friday, four senior Fatah leaders from the West Bank city of Ramallah bound for the enclave were stopped by Hamas security forces stationed near Erez border crossing in northern Gaza.

Hamas ministry of interior said in a press release that one of the Fatah leaders cursed Allah in front of the security officers.

"There is no objection to the arrival of Fatah

movement's delegation to the Gaza Strip, but the head of the delegation Sakher Bseiso must prepare himself to stand before the court in Gaza for violating the law and cursing the name of Allah," said the Press release.

Bseiso said in an earlier statement on Saturday that he didn't curse the name of Allah, adding that "the Hamas security officers at the crossing humiliated the Fatah senior officials by keeping them waiting for a long time."

Fatah and Hamas have been on rocky terms since the latter seized control of the Gaza Strip and routed Fatah forces out from the enclave.

The two rival movements signed an Egyptian-brokered reconciliation agreement in Cairo last May, and Hamas chief Khaled Meshal and President Abbas agreed to set up separate committees to clear way for the implementation of the agreement.—INTERNET

## Indian FM to visit Israel, Palestinian territory

NEW DELHI, 8 Jan—Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna is to embark on a visit to Israel and Palestinian territory from Sunday, said official sources here on Saturday.

The foreign minister will first visit Tel Aviv till 10 Jan, during which two agreements, Extradition Treaty and Transfer of Sentenced Persons, are likely to be inked between the two countries, the sources said.

Krishna's visit will also mark the 20th year of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

He would also meet Israeli President Simon Peres

and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Apart from anti-terror cooperation, issues like defence and agriculture would also be discussed," the sources said.

Krishna would also visit the Palestinian territories in the later part of his tour.

The visit to Israel will be the first by any Indian Foreign Minister in a decade.

India-Israeli relations are regarded as "sensitive" because of New Delhi's support of the Palestinian cause. India has lately backed at the UN an independent Palestinian statehood.

INTERNET



A VW Passat, left, and a Golf Cabrio car wait in the storage building of the Volkswagen company in Wolfsburg, Germany. Volkswagen says its worldwide sales were up more than 13 percent in 2011, with sales a record 5.1 million.—INTERNET

## Iran to launch Fordo enrichment facilities soon

TEHERAN, 8 Jan—Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Fereidoon Abbasi said Saturday that the subterranean Fordo enrichment facilities will start operating in the near future, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported.

"The Fordo facilities will be launched soon and will be able to produce 20 percent, percent and 4 percent enriched uranium," Abbasi said during the opening ceremony of an exhibition displaying the country's nuclear achievements in the port city of Bandar Abbas in the southern province of Hormozgan.

In August, Abbasi said that the Islamic republic had started transferring the nuclear enrichment centrifuges of its Natanz nuclear facility to the Fordo atomic site.

In June, Abbasi said that Iran is going to install new generation of centrifuges in its uranium enrichment sites and will increase its 20-percent uranium enrichment output by three times.

XINHUA



A volunteer guides passengers to their train at Chengdu Railway Station in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 7 Jan, 2012. Starting from 8 Jan, 2012, China's transport system will undergo a 40-day travel rush, which is characterized by a heightened passenger flow around the time of the oncoming Chinese New Year.—XINHUA

## Venezuela, Peru in pacts on oil investments, trade

CARACAS, 8 Jan—The presidents of Venezuela and Peru have reached an agreement for the Peruvian state oil company to invest in development of Venezuela's eastern Orinoco oil belt.

Venezuela's state oil monopoly will study a possible role in developing a petrochemical complex in Peru as well as helping Peru increase its production of heavy and extra heavy crude oil.

The formal agreement

came during a Saturday meeting between Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Peruvian leader Ollanta Humala.

Later, representatives of the two governments signed agreements establishing mechanisms for transportation, storage, refining and marketing of hydrocarbons. Other pacts cover the sale in Peru of tractors and other farm implements made in Venezuela.

INTERNET



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, left, Peru's President Ollanta Humala, front centre, and Venezuela's Minister of Energy and Petroleum Rafael Ramirez, right, looks at documents during a visit to oil installations in the faja petrolifera del Orinoco, or Orinoco oil belt, in the state of Monagas, Venezuela, on 7 Jan, 2012. Chavez and Humala reached an agreement for the Peruvian state oil company to invest in development of Venezuela's eastern Orinoco oil belt. Venezuela's state oil monopoly will study a possible role in developing a petrochemical complex in Peru as well as helping Peru increase its production of heavy and extra heavy crude oil.—INTERNET

## 36 swim across Yellow River in freezing cold

GUIDE, (Northwest China), 8 Jan—Thirty-six swimmers from China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan braved the cold to swim across the Yellow River, the second largest river in China, at Guide County in Northwest China's Qinghai Province on Saturday. The water temperature was just 3 degrees Celsius Saturday morning, but the amateur swimmers all successfully swam about 500 meters in the frigid river.

The top eight finishers of each group win a cash reward ranging from 1,000 yuan to 10,000 yuan (about 158 to 1,580 U.S. dollars). The annual challenge is billed one of the world's highest-altitude winter swim races. Guide is about 2,200 metres above the sea level.—XINHUA



Men dressed as "La Befana", an imaginary old woman who is thought to bring gifts to children during the festival of Epiphany, row boats down the Grand Canal in Venice, on 6 January, 2012.—INTERNET

## Nepal sets to make Visit Lumbini Year 2012 successful

KATHMANDU, 8 Jan—Nepali government has started various works to make the Visit Lumbini Year 2012 successful, Minister for Culture Gopal Kiranti said.

"President Ram Baran Yadav would inaugurate the Visit Lumbini Year with the conclusion of Nepal Tourism Year 2011 at a special function on 14 January in Lumbini," Kiranti told a press conference here on Saturday.

The focus of the Visit Lumbini Year Secretariat is aimed at bringing in more than 1 million tourists, and promoting Nepal as the country of Lord Buddha's birthplace, he said.

Moreover, Kiranti briefed media on other preparation for the Visit Lumbini Year, such as establishment of memorial pillar of the Buddha, publication of postal stamp, Boudha circuit in the concerned districts, special discount in the airlines, and the renovation of Ashok pillar.—XINHUA



## Man calls 911 after gluing plastic cups to head

A man who “accidentally” glued five plastic cups to his head put in a desperate call to 911 seeking medical attention. But that’s just one of the more ridiculous non-emergency calls being highlighted in the Shields region of England.

The Shields Gazette has posted a list of the more unusual Northeast Ambulance Service (NEAS) calls the region has recently experienced. The glued cups to the head takes the ribbon, but some of the other contenders include:

— One woman dialed

999 because she had the hiccups  
 — A rabbit owner called because her pet had a sore leg  
 — A caller phoned in because a contact lens had become stuck in his eye.

It’s also worth noting that unlike in America, but perhaps to the delight of Herman Cain, British emergency calls are placed to “999.”

“All 999 calls are treated as an emergency. That means a call-taker has to go through a series of questions to establish the facts of an

incident,” said a NEAS spokesperson.

“Handling requests which are clearly not an emergency means a call-handler is tied up, when they could be dispatching an ambulance to someone genuinely in need.”

The NEAS said they received nearly 1,200 emergency calls on “Black Eye Friday,” a 20 percent increase over the usual caller traffic. The NEAS has been publicizing the non-emergency calls to help educate the public on when it is appropriate to request immediate medical assistance.

## Cat rescued from atop 50-foot tree

The Animal Rescue League of Boston said a member used a rope to hoist himself up and save a cat stranded atop a 50-foot tree.

Chrystal Jones said her 6-month-old cat, Fendi, ran up the oak tree around 10:30 pm Wednesday and was still on a high branch the following

morning, when she contacted the ARL, the *Boston Herald* reported Friday. “I was scared,” Jones said. “My kids were saying the cat’s going to die.” Police shut down traffic on the street about 1 pm and rescuer Bill Tanguay used a rope to hoist himself up the tree and coax the cat down

with a can of Fancy Feast.

“Wereally fill in a critical gap,” ARL spokeswoman Jennifer Wooliscroft said. “The Fire Department is very busy handling the human side of things.”

“Those guys are really good at what they do,” Jones said. “I’m very relieved.”



“Only call this number in case of emergency”

“Speed is of the essence when dealing with a true emergency, and we need to make sure that people in need can get the help they require,” the spokeswoman said.

## Judge falls asleep during trial — twice

A prosecutor in Sweden questioned the acquittal of a defendant after a judge fell asleep twice during a fraud trial.

The trial involved one of Stockholm’s top civil servants, who was charged with signing off on fake invoices totaling nearly \$36,000, the daily newspaper *Metro* reported, Sweden’s TT news agency said.

“I don’t know if the [judge] in question was particularly tired or something to that effect. This just simply

## Manager arrested for keeping lost iPad

Police in Florida said they arrested a store manager who falsely told a customer she did not have her lost iPad.

The Collier County Sheriff’s Office said the victim told deputies she left her iPad at the Family Dollar store in Gulfgate Plaza in East Naples and store manager Veronica Damaso, 23, was acting suspicious when she returned

to the store and asked if it had been turned in, the *Naples Daily News* reported Friday. The victim said Damaso claimed not to have the iPad, although the victim saw an object she believed to be her tablet computer behind the counter.

Deputies said Damaso confessed to having the iPad when they asked her for the store’s surveillance footage and told her the device had a GPS tracker. Damaso was charged with a felony count of grand theft.



Police in Florida said they arrested a store manager who falsely told a customer she did not have her lost iPad.

## News Album

## “Melancholia”, Dunst, Pitt win film critics awards



Cast member Kirsten Dunst poses for photographers as she arrives at a screening of the film “Melancholia” during AFI Fest 2011 in Hollywood on 6 November, 2011.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 8 Jan—The apocalyptic psychological drama “Melancholia” was named the year’s best film on Saturday by the

National Society of Film Critics, which chose its star Kirsten Dunst as best actress and Brad Pitt as best actor for the baseball drama “Moneyball” as well as “The Tree of Life.”

Lars von Trier lost out on the best director award for his work on “Melancholia” to Terrence Malick for “The Tree of Life,” a mystical period piece which also won the best cinematography prize.

But the big win by “Melancholia” bolstered the offbeat film’s chances for the upcoming Academy Awards, which will announce nominees later this month.

Set against the backdrop of a country wedding, the dark film explores the strained relationship of two sisters, one a bride played by Dunst, while a strange planet threatens to collide with Earth, wiping out all traces of human existence.—Reuters



This 20 Nov, 2011 file photo shows Selena Gomez during arrivals to the 2011 American Music Awards, held at Nokia LA Live in Los Angeles. INTERNET

## Judge orders man to stay away from Selena Gomez

BURBANK, 8 Jan—A civil judge on Friday granted Selena Gomez a three-year restraining order against a man accused of threatening to kill the singer-actress and of travelling from Illinois to try to meet her. Superior Court Judge William D Stewart granted the order, which requires Thomas Brodnicki to stay away from the “Wizards of Waverly Place” star and not attempt to contact her. Another judge dropped a felony stalking charge against the Brodnicki, 46, last year after determining prosecutors hadn’t proven he had caused fear in the star. Stewart twice delayed issuing a civil order until Brodnicki had an opportunity to respond.

Gomez, 19, did not appear at Wednesday’s hearing. She wrote in a declaration filed in October that she was in extreme fear after learning that Brodnicki had threatened to kill her while he was on a psychiatric hold. Prosecutors later alleged he stalked the actress between July and October. Stewart noted that Brodnicki filed a declaration in December essentially consenting to the protective order and that the man with a history of mental illness had received “due process.”—Internet

## Golden Age screenwriter Maas dies at 111

SAN DIEGO, 8 Jan—Frederica Sagor Maas, a feisty screenwriter from Hollywood’s silent-movie era, died in California this week at the age of 111.

Maas, who lived in San Diego, wrote for bygone stars such as Clara Bow, Greta Garbo, Norma Scherer and Betty Grable.

Although Maas made the transition from silents to talkies, she and her husband and writing partner, Ernest Maas, walked away from Hollywood on bad terms.

The *Los Angeles Times* said the couple had grown weary of seeing their work plagiarized and re-written into what they saw as shallow tripe.

The Times said Maas

didn’t exactly mellow with age.

“It’s my only consolation to think, ‘All you lousy so-and-sos are all 20 feet under, and I’m still here,’” she told the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 1999.

She wrote a book called “The Shocking Miss Pilgrim: A Writer in Early Hollywood” when she was 99, which blasted the cutthroat culture of Hollywood in the 1920s.

The title referred to “The Shocking Miss Pilgrim,” a 1947 film that started out as a serious look at the treatment of women but was released as a fluffy musical starring the bombshell Grable.

Maas was the third-oldest person in California when she died.

Internet

## Natasha Giggs says Ryan is terrified she’ll tell all about affair on Big Brother

LONDON, 8 Jan—Natasha Giggs, who entered the famous doors of ‘Celebrity Big Brother’ on its opening night to become a housemate, has revealed that her brother-in-law Ryan will be “terrified” if she’ll tell all about their affair on the show.

Despite not actually being famous in her own right, the 29-year-old walked through the doors on opening night alongside ‘The X Factor’ reject Frankie Cocozza, former ‘EastEnders’ Natalie Cassidy and Kirk Norcross from ‘TOWIE’.

Prior to signing up for the fly-on-the-wall series, the footballer’s sister-in-law was married to his brother Rhodri, until her eight-year affair was exposed. “Ryan will be seething when he sees I’ve gone in the house. He’s terrified what else I could say,” the *Daily Mail* quoted her as telling the *Daily Star* during a pre-series interview.

“I was one of two people who did the same thing. It’s hardly fair that his reputation has hardly been affected. “Everyone sees me as some sort of football-hungry idiot. It would be nice if people saw me in a different light. I’m just a normal person,” she said. The truth about her affair surfaced only after Ryan took out a super-injunction against his other fling with Imogen Thomas.—Internet



Producer Jane Lipsitz, Executive Producer Rick Ringbakk, Macy’s Caprice Willard, (Bottom Row) Executive Producer/Host Elle Macpherson, Executive Producer Ben Silverman and Celebrity Mentor Jessica Simpson speak onstage during the “Fashion Star” panel during the NBCUniversal portion of the 2012 Winter TCA Tour at The Langham Huntington Hotel and Spa on January 6, 2012 in Pasadena, California. INTERNET

## Henry: My playing style has changed



Thierry Henry is the third all-time leading goalscorer in the Premier League with 174.—INTERNET

LONDON, 8 Jan — Thierry Henry says Arsenal fans should expect to see a different style of player to the one they are accustomed to when the striker makes his first appearance for the Gunners since signing on a two-month loan deal. The Frenchman is

set to play in Arsenal's third-round FA Cup match against Leeds on Monday night, his first match since his temporary switch from MLS team New York Red Bulls.

He scored a record 226 goals for the north London club during a trophy-filled

nine-year period between 1999 and 2007 and was feared by opposition defenders for his abundant pace. However, Henry concedes he is "not 25 any more" and cannot use speed to beat defenders, but says he has adapted his game to become a more all-round footballer. "I remember Dennis [Bergkamp] and he used to be the main front guy," he told Arsenal's official website. "Suddenly he was playing behind the striker and if you have the awareness to see things before players, you can get away with not having your legs. "If you look at Ryan Giggs [now], it is not the same Ryan Giggs who used to take the ball from the wing and dribble past everyone and deliver a great cross.

Internet

## Swindon Town boss Paolo Di Canio wants to honour FA Cup win

LONDON, 8 Jan — Swindon manager Paolo Di Canio called for the League Two club to honour his players for their FA Cup third-round victory over Premier League Wigan. Goals from Alan Connell and Paul Benson earned a 2-1 win for Di Canio's side after Callum McManaman put Wigan ahead. "My lads today deserve something from the club - to do something and put their names in the stadium forever," said Italian Di Canio.

"I don't want a big statue. Maybe just a small plaque with all their names." Former West Ham forward Di Canio insisted his team were worthy victors, despite Wigan complaints that Benson was in an offside position when Matt Ritchie's long-range shot deflected in off the striker's legs. "There is no doubt we deserved to win," he said. "It is the best moment of my life." Today they did show the dream can come true. We needed to limit Wigan's chances to get through and we did that well apart from the accident for the penalty.

"This is something special - an amazing



Di Canio's side have lost only once in their last 10 games in all competitions.

performance against a team three divisions above us. The players have been fantastic because to play under me is difficult." Wigan boss Roberto Martinez praised Swindon in the aftermath of an embarrassing defeat for the Latics, who started the afternoon 53 places above their hosts in the Football League pyramid.—Internet



## Australian Open: Kim Clijsters should be fit, Serena hopeful

BRISBANE, 8 Jan — Kim Clijsters has revealed her injury scare is not as bad as initially feared ahead of her defence of the Australian Open title. The Belgian retired midway through her Brisbane International semifinal against Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova with a hip injury on Friday. Clijsters underwent an MRI scan and was relieved to learn she had suffered a muscle spasm rather than a tear.

"With this one I kind of have an OK feeling," said the 28-year-old. "If everything

comes out OK it should take a little less than a week to get completely healed. "I felt my left hip was getting tighter and tighter to the point I couldn't move forward with my upper body. The smartest choice was not to let it get any worse and try to be right for Melbourne." The scan revealed a muscle spasm to the tensor fascia lata, a muscle on the outside of the hip, according to a report on the Australian Open website.

The four-time Grand Slam champion will continue to receive intensive treatment



Clijsters receives treatment on the injury that forced her retirement in Brisbane.—INTERNET

over the next few days ahead of a second check-up on Wednesday. Clijsters, who beat Li Na to win her first Australian Open last year, has only just returned after spending four months on the sidelines with an abdominal injury towards. World

number one Serena Williams is also hoping to win a fitness battle in time to compete in Melbourne after her withdrawal after the second round of the Brisbane International with an ankle problem.

Internet

## Amir Khan - Lamont Peterson: Promoter says WBA orders rematch

LONDON, 8 Jan — The World Boxing Association has ordered an immediate rematch between Amir Khan and Lamont Peterson, according to Khan's promoters. Khan lost his WBA and IBF titles to Peterson in December but has questioned a number of aspects of the fight. One claim is that an unknown man, who has now apparently been identified, was seen "interfering with" a WBA official.

"The WBA... will order an immediate rematch," said Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer. "We received a verbal confirmation today [Saturday] and we will get a written confirmation by next Tuesday." That means that no fighter can take an interim fight, that the next fight for Peterson would be a rematch. "We hope that the IBF will follow because that's the least they can do. The ruling of the WBA to order an immediate rematch should put additional pressures on the IBF. Earlier, WBA president Gilberto Mendoza told BBC Sport: "It generates a lot of controversy. There should be a rematch. "The [Washington DC] Commission did not behave properly in this fight." Olympic silver medalist Khan lost his light-welterweight titles on a split decision after being deducted two points for pushing but has appealed against the verdict.—Internet

## Murray flattens Dolgoplov in Brisbane final

BRISBANE, 8 Jan — World No. 4 Andy Murray laid down a marker for the Australian Open with a 65-minute demolition of Alexandr Dolgoplov in the final of the Brisbane International on Sunday. Murray, runner-up at Melbourne Park for the past two years, showed no mercy against the world No. 15 from Ukraine as he cruised to the title 6-1, 6-3 in the Pat Rafter Arena. The Scotsman was lethal in all departments as he dominated Dolgoplov, a player who had pushed him to four close games in the Australian Open quarterfinals last year.



Andy Murray holds the trophy after beating Alexandr Dolgoplov in the Brisbane International final.

He broke Dolgoplov twice in the first set and did not lose a point on his first three service games to claim the opener in just 26 minutes.

Murray went on a run of nine consecutive games from 2-1 in the first to 4-0 in the second before the Ukrainian finally stemmed the flow by holding serve for only the second time in the match. That signalled a slight comeback from Dolgoplov, who then surprisingly got a service game

## Tsonga beats Monfils to win misty Qatar Open

DOHA, 8 Jan — Jo-Wilfried Tsonga defied treacherous conditions to defeat French compatriot Gael Monfils 7-5, 6-3 on Saturday to win the 20th edition of the Qatar Open.

Third seeded Tsonga claimed his eighth career title and a third win in four meetings with Monfils on a day when the final had to be halted early in the first set because of fog and a slippery court.

"It was difficult. The surface was very slippery especially on the 'Qatar' sign painted on the court," said the 26-year-old Tsonga.

"It was dangerous but they did enough to make it OK. This is a good win for me going into the Australian Open, it's just amazing." Monfils broke Tsonga in the opening game of the match, handing his compatriot just his third break of serve in the tournament. But after Tsonga won the first point on Monfils' serve, the match was suspended for a little over a half hour as fog caused slippery conditions on the baseline.

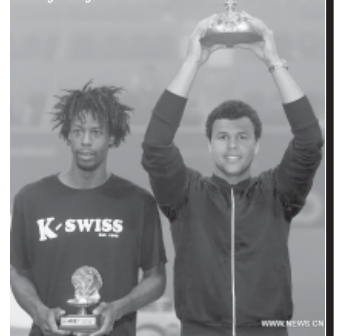
When the final resumed, Monfils consolidated the break, and kept his advantage until 5-3, when Tsonga wrestled the momentum away from his countryman. Tsonga won 16 of the final 19 points, winning four straight games to clinch the set. World number six Tsonga continued at this level, despite

tumbling at the end of the fourth game of the second set.

But Murray held his next serve then broke Dolgoplov to love to clinch his 22nd title on the ATP tour.

Murray had started the week slowly and struggled to win his first two matches, against Mikhail Kushkin and Gilles Muller. But he hit top gear from then on, easily accounting for Marcos Baghdatis in the quarterfinals and Bernard Tomic in the semis before his impressive display against Dolgoplov. He now heads to Melbourne where his only outing before the Australian Open will be an exhibition match at the Kooyong Classic.—Internet

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (R) of France poses with the trophy as he celebrates after winning the final match against Gael Monfils of France.



tumbling at the end of the fourth game of the second set.

He shook it off and on the next point, ran down a Monfils lob before stumbling at the back of the court. His efforts drew a smile from Monfils and roaring applause from the crowd.

Trailing 2-3, Monfils gifted Tsonga the lone break of the set with a forehand unforced error. Tsonga went on to close out the entertaining encounter in one hour and 57 minutes. Tsonga is the third Frenchman to lift the Doha trophy, following triumphs by Nicolas Escude in 2004, and Fabrice Santoro in 2000.—Internet



## Manchester United's Wayne Rooney scores twice to beat Manchester City

MANCHESTER, 8 Jan— Wayne Rooney scored twice and Manchester United held off a dramatic fightback from 10-man Manchester City to win a pulsating FA Cup derby at the Etihad Stadium this afternoon.

United thrillingly led 3-0 after a remarkable first half in which Rooney headed the opening two goals. Danny Welbeck added another and City captain Vincent Kompany was sent off.



The United striker sees his penalty saved before following up to score a re-bound header

City hit back after the break with goals through Aleksandar Kolarov and Sergio Aguero, but United, for whom Paul Scholes came out of retirement to make a substitute appearance, held on to end City's cup defence in the third round.

The game, played on a greasy surface in continual drizzle, more than lived up to all the pre-match hype.

At one stage it seemed United were on course to avenge their 6-1 thrashing last October in the most incredible fashion but City's recovery left them to settle for a narrow win.

Nevertheless, it was Premier League leaders City's first home defeat since December 2010 and reminded them that United remain in the way of their bid for domestic dominance.

Internet

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 . . .

**NILMAR** (27, forward) Villarreal: The Brazilian striker initially flopped at Lyon but has impressed since arriving from Internacional. Roma and Barcelona are monitoring but would need to find £25m.



**ESTEBAN GRANERO** (24, midfielder) Real Madrid: Has been limited to a handful of minutes as a sub this season. Arsenal have a long-standing admiration, as do Malaga.

**CARLOS KAMENI** (27, goalkeeper) Espanyol: The Catalans are keen to sell to generate transfer funds and the Cameroonian stopper is one of their big assets. Moneybags Malaga are especially keen.



**JOSE ANTONIO REYES** (28, midfielder/forward) Atletico Madrid: The ex-Arsenal utility frontman was set to rejoin Sevilla before the arrival of Diego Simeone as Atletico coach. Sevilla and Zenit St Petersburg are keen.

**DANIELE DEROSI** (28, midfielder) Roma: His contract expires in the summer and has not yet signed a new deal. Manchester City have repeatedly denied an interest in the Italian.



**RICCARDO MONTOLIVO** (26, midfielder) Fiorentina: The Italian looks likely to move away from the Viola with Arsenal potential suitors. AC Milan and Liverpool are also in the frame.



### Focus Myanmar TV Programme

#### MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(9-1-12 09:30 am ~ 10-1-12 09:30 am) MST

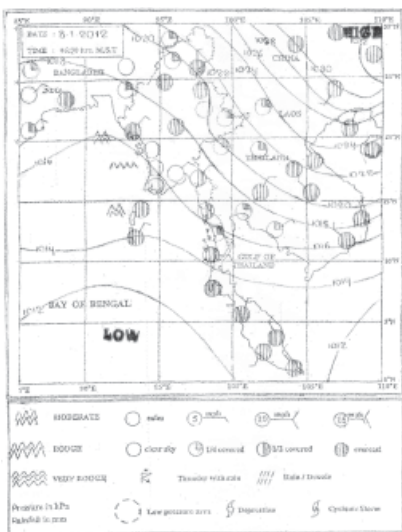
- Oversea Transmission**
- \* Opening
  - \* News
  - \* "Travelogue" Kyauk Pyu Township
  - \* "New Roads and Bridges" Bringing us closer through fairer journey
  - \* News
  - \* Topic on Journal "Natural Beauty"
  - \* Life Style of Toddy Palm Chimbers
  - \* News
  - \* Educative Puppet Show for the Students
  - \* News
  - \* Live Concert
  - \* Myanmar Martial Arts (Part 5)
  - \* News
  - \* Kayah Traditional Museum
  - \* Culture Stage
  - \* News
  - \* Mya Setkyar Pure Silk Fabric From Inlay Lake
  - \* Music Gallery
  - \* Myanmar Movie Impact "Come on Kissie, Kissie"
  - \* News
  - \* Myanmar Customs & Naming System
  - \* News
  - \* History of Wishfulfilling Malamu Pagoda
  - \* Myanmar Movies "Due to this True Hatred"

#### MYANMAR TV

(9-1-2012) (Monday)

- 7:00 am  
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw - Uppatasanti Paritta
- 7:30 am  
2. Morning News
- 7:50 am  
3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am  
4. Health Programme
- 8:05 am  
5. Song of National Races
- 8:30 am  
6. Documentary
- 8:40 am  
7. International News
- 9:00 pm  
8. Martial Song
- 9:10 pm  
9. Teleplay (Industry)
- 5:00 pm  
10. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 5:15 pm  
11. Myanmar Language
- 7:00 pm  
12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm  
13. News
14. World's Stars
16. TV TV Drama Series
17. India Drama Series

### Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



### Weather forecast for 9th January, 2012

| Sr. No. | Regions/States           | Temperature (°C/F) |         | For Tomorrow                                       |         |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------|--|---------|
|         |                          | Maximum            | Minimum | Forecast   | Percent |
| 1       | Kachin                   | 26/9               | 14/57   | Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms | (60%)   |
| 2       | Kayah                    | 28/82              | 09/48   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |
| 3       | Kayah                    | 35/96              | 17/63   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |
| 4       | Chin                     | 16/61              | 07/45   | Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms | (60%)   |
| 5       | Upper Sgungay            | 25/77              | 15/59   | Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms | (60%)   |
| 6       | Lower Sgungay            | 28/82              | 17/63   | Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms | (60%)   |
| 7       | Tanintharyi              | 35/96              | 20/68   | Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms | (60%)   |
| 8       | Bago                     | 31/86              | 15/59   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |
| 9       | Magway                   | 30/86              | 18/64   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |
| 10      | Mandalay                 | 28/82              | 15/59   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |
| 11      | Mon                      | 34/93              | 18/64   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |
| 12      | Yangon                   | 33/91              | 18/64   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |
| 13      | Rakhine                  | 28/82              | 17/63   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |
| 14      | Southern Shan            | 26/79              | 09/48   | Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms | (60%)   |
| 15      | Northern Shan            | 27/81              | 08/46   | Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms | (60%)   |
| 16      | Eastern Shan             | 29/84              | 09/48   | Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms | (60%)   |
| 17      | Ayeyawady                | 32/90              | 18/64   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |
| 18      | Neighbouring Nat Pyi Taw | 32/90              | 15/59   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |
| 19      | Neighbouring Yangon      | 33/91              | 18/64   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |
| 20      | Neighbouring Mandalay    | 28/82              | 15/59   | Partly cloudy                                      |         |

During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Sgungay, Mandalay and Bago Region, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Region and States. Night temperatures were (°C) above January average temperatures in Lower Sgungay and Magway Region, Chin State, 1 (°C) to (°C) above January average temperatures in Mandalay Region, Kachin and Rakhine States, (°C) below January average temperatures in Tanintharyi Region and about January average temperatures in the remaining Region and States. The significant night temperature were Holo (°C), Nyaung-U and Pyaw Oo (°C) each.

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

Strong easterly wind with maximum to gale force are likely to occur in Chin, Gail of Malacca, off and along Mta-Tanintharyi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of light rain or thunderstorms in Northern Myanmar Area.

### Teaching aids provided to students

YANGON, 8 Jan—Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization held a ceremony to provide teaching aid and materials to students at Basic Education High School branch in Bawle Village of Htantabin Township on 2 January.

Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint made a speech. Chairperson of Yangon North District WAO Daw Sein Sein Soe presented exercise books and stationery to the students.—*Myanma Alin*



### DISTRICT NEWS

#### Mawlamyinegyun gets tarred road

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 8 Jan—A ceremony to inaugurate section 1/2 of No. 5 tarred road was held in Mawlamyinegyun on 2 January. Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Zaw Hlaing, Township Administrator U Htay Maung and Township Engineer U Aung Soe formally opened the new road section.

The road section, 840 feet long and 20 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of over K 21.1 million by Township Development Affairs Committee.—*Township IPRD*

#### Fire drill exercised at Myoma Market

EINME, 8 Jan—Einme Township Development Affairs Committee organized the fire drill at Myoma Market on 27 December 2011 with participation of staff of Fire Services Department and Auxiliary Fire Brigade members.

They inspected fire extinguishers, maintenance of fire engines and water tank under the supervision of township level departmental officials.—*Township IPRD*



Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint fixes golden nut at iron frame of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan).—MNA

## Golden nut fixed at Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan)

NAYPYI TAW, 8 Jan—A ceremony to fix golden nut was held at the iron frame of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) being built by Special Project Group (2) of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction near the second defile of Ayeyawady River in Sinkhan Village of Bhamo District in Kachin State yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai, Kachin State Minister

for Transport U Kaman Du Naw and State Minister for Forestry and Mines U Aung Naing fixed the golden nuts at the iron frame of pier No. 3 and sprinkled scented water on them.

The Union Minister presented gifts to the engineers, skilled workers and supporting groups who actively participated in installation of iron frames.

They inspected progress in construction of motor roads on Katha bank and Bhamo bank.

A y e y a w a d y Bridge (Sinkhan), the railcum-two-way road facility, is of steel frame type. On completion, local people will have easy access to other regions and states in addition to the regions in Bhamo District and Katha District in a short time. Thanks to the bridge, the Bhamo Township and regions in Katha District can enjoy fruits of development in economic, social, education, health and administrative sectors.

MNA

## Scholes makes shock return Midfielder comes out of retirement to rejoin United

MANCHESTER, 8 Jan—Paul Scholes has sensationally come out of retirement to rejoin Manchester United on a short-term deal until the end of the season.

Scholes announced his retirement from playing at the end of last season to take up a coaching role at Old Trafford.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson always felt

Scholes could prolong his playing career and now the 36-year-old has come out of retirement to help ease United's injury problems.

Scholes has come straight onto the bench for Sunday's FA Cup third round tie against Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium.

Ferguson hailed Scholes' return to the fold and feels the midfielder still

has a lot to offer.

"It's fantastic that Paul has made this decision. It's always sad to see great players end their careers, but especially so when they do it early," said Ferguson.

"But he has kept himself in great shape and I always



Paul Scholes

felt that he had another season in him. It's terrific to have him back."

Scholes admits he has missed playing since hanging up his boots and he is happy the club have allowed him to rejoin the team.

"I've been pretty clear since I stopped playing that I miss it," noted Scholes. "I'm delighted the manager feels I can still make a contribution to the team and I'm looking forward to playing my part in trying to bring more success to this great club."

Internet

## Mon State ABLSC holds coord meeting

YANGON, 8 Jan—A work coordination meeting of Mon State All Bus Lines Supervisory Committee took place at the committee office in Mawlamyine yesterday morning.

It was attended by responsible people from 10 township supervisory committees and State Supervisory Committee Secretary U Chit Maung explained traffic rule enforcement. —MNA

## Foodstuff, personal goods provided for fire victims

YANGON, 8 Jan—Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein and officials provided the families of fire victims from Kutohseik Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township with food stuff and 20 items of personal goods for each household yesterday. —MNA

## Preparation for summer paddy cultivation inspected

THAYAWADY, 8 Jan—Preparations are being made for cultivation of summer paddy in village-tracts of Thayawady Township.

Deputy Commissioner U Hla Myo of Thayawady District and District Agricultural Coordination Committee met local farmers on 26 December 2011 and urged them to grow summer paddy in time, use good agricultural patterns for high yield of paddy and minimize loss and waste in harvesting of paddy.

They inspected ploughing for cultivation of summer paddy in North Panswe Village-tract in Thayawady Township. —District IPRD



Thompson has set 25 records while racing over the past two decades.

LONDON, 8 Jan—British sailor Brian Thompson has broken the record for the fastest circumnavigation of the world in a yacht as a member of the crew on board

## Briton Brian Thompson breaks round the world record

Banque Populaire V. The 14-man crew clocked 45 days, 13 hours, 42 minutes and 53 seconds, more than two days inside the old mark. Thompson became the first Briton to circle the globe non-stop four times. "This has been an incredible trip, almost a dream ride," he said after crossing the line in Brest, France.

Praising a crew that had already set four world records during the journey, the 49-year-old, who is based in Southampton, described his fellow sailors as "talented,

industrious, dedicated, fun and welcoming to an English guy with schoolboy French". Banque Populaire V, a 40-metre maxi-trimaran skippered by Loick Peyron, crossed the Jules Verne trophy finish line at 2214 GMT on Friday to easily beat the former record, despite losing almost two days on the journey because of bad weather. Thompson, who has sailed more than 100,000 miles with the late American adventurer Steve Fossett, admitted the delay was one of the low points of the voyage, as was missing

Christmas and the New Year with family and friends. However, after finishing a journey that included seeing a comet on Christmas Day and an iceberg "half as big as the Isle of Wight", he added: "To achieve my dream of finally holding the Jules Verne trophy feels absolutely fantastic.

"At the same time, to become the first Briton to sail around the world non-stop four times is just amazing and feels very special."

Internet

## Union A & I Minister inspects hybrid sunflower plantation

PAGE 9

## Chess tournament opened in Dalla

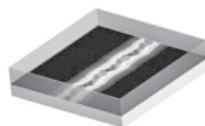
PAGE 2



## Red wine may reduce breast cancer risk

PAGE 4

World's smallest silicon wire brings quantum computers closer to reality



PAGE 5

## Facebook takes action after computer worm siphons 45,000 login details

PAGE 5

Murray flattens Dolgoplov in Brisbane final



PAGE 14